



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 2, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Noncontroversial legislation – Bylaw 18.4.3.1 – Criteria for Selection in Team Sports – Rowing Exception.**
  - a. Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to specify that the use of the NCAA Power Index (NPI) is not required for championship selections in the sport of women’s rowing.
  - b. Effective date. August 1, 2026.
  - c. Rationale. During the 2026 NCAA Convention, the Division II membership adopted NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-15 specifying that Division II team sports shall use the NPI for championship selections beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. As the Division II Championships Committee reviewed the NPI, there was no discussion about women’s rowing using it for selections and the sport committee was not consulted for feedback. The assumption was that women’s rowing would continue using the current selection criteria that do not apply any of the metrics that are factored into the NPI (i.e., overall win/loss record, strength of schedule). However, the current legislation would require women’s rowing to use the NPI as a Division II team sport. Division III, which adopted the NPI for selections in teams sports last year, has also exempted women’s rowing from this legislation.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. The recommended exception retains the most appropriate selection criteria for women’s rowing.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Use of NPI when reseeding at the championship finals site.**
  - a. Recommendation. Require, as championships policy, that sport committees that reseed teams advancing to the championship finals site (or, in football the semifinals) use the updated NCAA Power Index (NPI) that includes all postseason results to date.
  - b. Effective date. September 1, 2026.
  - c. Rationale. Given the adoption at the 2026 Convention of using the NPI for selections in team sports, the Championships Committee discussed how sport committees that reseed teams at the finals site should incorporate the NPI. The committee believes that among the advantages of the NPI is its ability to factor in daily results and that for the

purposes of reseeding, postseason results provide a compelling data point, rather than simply relying on an NPI that includes only teams' regular-season results. Accordingly, and for the sake of consistency across sports, the committee agreed that all sport committees that reseed at the finals site use the updated NPI that includes postseason results to best inform the reseeding process.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. Using the entirety of a team's results helps ensure the most accurate reseeding at the finals site to protect the integrity of the championship and provide the most competitive experience for participants.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group to the videoconference and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the reports from its February 19-20 in-person meeting and March 5 videoconference as presented.
3. **Budget review.** As it does for every meeting, the committee reviewed whether the agenda includes any items with a potential budget impact and noted there were none for this meeting.
4. **Gulf South Conference AQ waiver request.** The committee considered a request from the Gulf South Conference to retain its automatic qualification (AQ) for the 2026 Division II Football Championship despite falling below the minimum requirements due to conference roster attrition. The Championships Committee granted the conference a one-year waiver last year when the conference dropped to four football-playing members, but now with West Florida's announced intention to reclassify to Division I, the conference will have only three members for 2026 with no indication that any new members that sponsor football are in the queue. The Division II Football Committee considered the request previously during its annual meeting, which was before the West Florida announcement, and did not support extending the waiver for 2026. While understanding the conference's circumstances, the Championships Committee was not supportive of granting an exception for a conference that will only have half of the members required for an AQ and thus voted to deny the request.

*(Note: Cade Smith, who represents a member of the conference in question, recused themselves from the vote.)*

5. **NPI implementation.**
  - a. **Fall sport dial recommendations.** The committee reviewed and approved NPI dial recommendations from sport committees for field hockey, football, men's soccer, women's soccer, and women's volleyball as reflected in the [NPI Division II Weights, FAQ and Guide](#).

*(Note: The committee's approval for volleyball included an amendment to remove the recommended five-set win/loss weight. The committee did not support an "overtime" element*

*for volleyball when no such weight is being applied for sports that actually have overtime contests.)*

The dials will be posted on the respective sports' landing pages on ncaa.org on April 6 and the membership will be notified accordingly. The dials are effective for 2026-27. Given the newness of the NPI, the committee agreed previously to retain the ability to review and potentially tweak the dials after the first year of implementation. However, subsequently, the dials will be treated like selection criteria and be placed in a three-year review process.

- b. Exception for women's rowing.** The committee noted circumstances surrounding women's rowing related to the adoption of the NPI and recommended noncontroversial legislation to exempt the sport from the legislated requirements. (See Legislative Action Item)
  - c. Finals site reseeding process.** The committee discussed how to consistently manage reseeding for the finals site with the NPI across sports and agreed to recommend establishing as policy requiring sport committees to reseed using updated NPI data that include postseason results. (See Nonlegislative Action Item)
6. **Commercial logos update.** Staff updated the committee regarding the commercial logo status given Division I's adoption of rules that expand the use of logos on equipment, uniforms and apparel effective Aug. 1. The Division II Legislation Committee began discussing options during its March meeting and will work to formalize recommendations at a future meeting.
7. **Future meetings and videoconferences.**
- May 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
  - June 23-24 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
  - August 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
  - September 14-15 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

*Committee Chair: Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul*  
*Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances*  
*Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances*  
*Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services*

<b>Division II Championships Committee April 2, 2026, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).	
Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	

Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.
Rebekah Gasner, Montana State University Billings.
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.
Ahleasha McNeal, Lincoln Memorial University.
Emma Neal, Maryville University of Saint Louis.
Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University (Management Council vice chair).
Christina Paone, Walsh University.
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Stan Wagnon, University of Central Oklahoma.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Corey Bray, Eric Breece, Randy L. Buhr, Zach Christopher, Jess Gaumer, Leslie Havens, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Angela Red, Ryan Richardson and Liz Suscha.