



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 8, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and roster update.** Championships Committee Chair Nathan Gibson welcomed the group and introduced Neil Duval, associate director of athletics at Saint Anselm College, as the committee's newest member.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved reports from its June 17-18, in-person meeting and July 10 electronic vote as presented.
3. **Broadcast updates.**
 - a. **Streaming Platform.** The committee discussed the creation of a national platform for hosting livestreams of preliminary rounds for team championships. The committee will continue its discussions at a future meeting.
 - b. **ESPN.** Staff also updated the committee on the terms in the new agreement with ESPN and next steps, including the process of determining the production vendor(s) that will produce select contests. This year the contracted games in football, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball will be broadcast through ESPN+. DII Men's Basketball Championship game will remain on CBS. Preliminary-round games for women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball will be broadcast through host institution/conference networks.
 - c. **Football date formula.** The committee continued discussing the feasibility of a date formula in football that would move the championship game off its current third week in December to the first full weekend in January (and thus allow for a Week 12 to be inserted into the regular season, which the membership has expressed interest in doing). However, ESPN has indicated there are no programming windows available through their linear platforms in the January timeframe – ESPN would prefer that the Division II championship game remain in its December schedule. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the situation, including whether having the game on a linear platform outweighed the other issues surrounding the sport (e.g., the Week 0 and a potential Week 12). After discussion, the committee agreed to ask the Division II Football Committee to revisit the issue and provide feedback. The football committee talked about this during its February meeting and expressed a desire to remain on a linear platform as much as possible, but the Championships Committee believes enough time has passed for the football committee to revisit the matter and determine if the group feels otherwise now.

4. **Sport committee reports.**

a. **Men's golf.**

- **Regional sites.** The Championships Committee approved the following recommended sites for 2025 and 2026.

Year	Region	Host/Venue
2025	South/Southeast	Greater Orlando Sports Commission and Rollins College/Mission Inn Resort and Club
2026	South/Southeast	University of North Georgia/Chattahoochee Golf Club

(The Championships Committee noted that the Division II Men's Golf Committee has been accepting regional bids since September 2022 and has extended the bid deadline on multiple occasions to secure enough bids to provide a recommendation. The lack of bids occurs most in the South/Southeast and East/Atlantic Regions. Over the last several months, the golf committee has reached out to the golf membership through multiple channels (Coaches Connection, NCAA Newsletter, coaches association convention, etc.) to garner enough bids to make a recommendation. At this time, the committee is still deferring on making a recommendation for the 2026 East/Atlantic regional in order to determine the best opportunity.)

b. **Men's lacrosse.**

(1) Peach Belt Conference AQ request. The Championships Committee approved the recommendation to accept the Peach Belt Conference as an automatic qualifier for the 2025 Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship. With this recommendation, there will be nine conferences with automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year. Because that constitutes more than half of the 16-team bracket, the Peach Belt Conference and the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference champions will compete for the final AQ berth. Between the two conferences, there are nine institutions that sponsor men's lacrosse.

(2) Bench size limit. The Championships Committee also approved the recommendation to allow institutions to have 72 individuals in their team bench area. The committee discussed this at length (along with the recommendation from the women's committee below) and ultimately supported the lacrosse committees' recommendations. However, the Championships Committee asked staff to arrange a broader review of bench size across all team sports after the committee's September meeting.

(The committee noted that all team sport committees had been asked to determine their preferred bench size two years ago and that the football and lacrosse committees were the ones that came back with allowing institutional discretion. Those committees subsequently were asked to determine a specific number to give game management a firm commitment on what to expect. However, the Championships Committee still believes a follow-up review

of bench size is warranted, if for no other reason than to double check whether a more standardized formula that could apply to all sports is feasible.)

c. Women's lacrosse.

- **Bench size limit.** The Championships Committee approved the recommendation to set the maximum bench size for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship at 50 individuals. In addition to the factors cited above in the discussion about the bench size request from the men's committee, the Championships Committee also discussed whether the difference in bench size (72 for men and 50 for women) constituted an inequity between genders. Committee members noted, however, that the two sports are different enough (particularly in roster size) to warrant the discrepancy.

5. **Preliminary-round housing policies.** The committee reviewed a draft document staff prepared that includes recommendations all three divisional championships committees are being asked to consider. The concepts address potential hotel location requirements, high room rate policies, permissible lodging options, and hotel release policies. Committee members briefly reviewed each concept and provided initial feedback. The committee also reviewed the current policies across divisions, which vary. The committee will review this document in greater detail during its August 29 videoconference.

6. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- August 22, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Eastern time – Regionalization Bracketing Concepts (Men's Basketball) *optional for those available.*
- August 23, Noon-3 p.m. Eastern time – Regionalization Bracketing Concepts (Softball) *optional for those available.*
- August 29, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time – Review of 2026-28 site recommendations.
- September 10-11 – in-person meeting in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances

Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances

Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee August 8, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College of Saint Rose.	

Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.
JJ Hayes Jr., Palm Beach Atlantic University.
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University (via videoconference).
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.
Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Absentees:
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Antonio Cannavaro, Brooke Dixon, Nate Flannery, Julie Kimmons, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Angela Red, CJ Sowards, Lynda Tealer and Mikaela Topper.