



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **2027 and 2028 Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship game sites.**
 - a. Recommendation. To conduct the 2027 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship game at Johnny Unitas Stadium on the campus of Towson University in Towson, MD, and the 2028 championship game at Subaru Park in Philadelphia as part of the joint championship with Divisions I and III both years; further, to amend the date formula to move the semifinal games to the Saturday prior to the championship in those years (see Attachment).
 - b. Effective date. The 2027 and 2028 championships.
 - c. Rationale. The Division I Women's Lacrosse Sport Oversight Committee invited Divisions II and III to participate in a joint championship in 2027 and 2028, which offers several benefits, the most important of which is to grow the sport nationally. In addition, a joint championship will enhance attendance for all three division's championships, provide additional operational support from NCAA staff to enhance the Division II and Division III championship games, and add venue and hosting support for all three divisions.

A joint championship also provides an elevated venue and experience for Division II and Division III while being fiscally responsible in the distribution of expenses and revenue during championship weekend. With the Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship generally occurring at professional, semi-professional, or at minimum 10,000 seat venues, the combination of championships allows all three championships to be played in a city with ample full-service hotels, and within proximity to a major airport for student-athletes and fans.

The overall goal for a joint championship is to provide a destination event for fans of women's lacrosse, with three days full of the highest level of women's lacrosse within their respective divisions. The women's lacrosse community has been able to observe the success of the joint men's lacrosse championship over time in the same format. The men's championships have experienced success with this championship format, and the women's lacrosse community wants to continue growing their game by providing the same opportunity for their student-athletes and fans.

(Note: The divisional women's lacrosse committees have created joint bid specifications as part of the 2029-31 bid process, and determinations about future sites and championship structure will be made later in conjunction with the bid process.)

- d. Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$63,000 each year to hold the championship game at the sites specified and move the semifinal games to the prior weekend at campus sites.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The joint championship will provide an enhanced experience for the two teams participating in the championship game.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 3. **Welcome and review of the agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and previewed key agenda items.
- 1. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its June 23-24, in-person meeting as presented.

Staff also informed the committee that the Division II Management Council during its July meeting did not support the committee's recommendation to establish minimum in-region, nonconference contest requirements by sport. The recommendation was made after lengthy discussion and review with sport committees to enhance the championship selection process, but the Management Council cited concerns about the requirement's potential cost impact on institutions in conferences with large geographic footprints and the fact that the division has not yet experienced the effects of adopting the NCAA Power Index (NPI) that is being implemented in 2026-27. Accordingly, the council advised that the Championships Committee continue monitoring this issue for the coming year to determine the NPI's impact on institutional scheduling.

The Division II Executive Board also discussed this recommendation and noted initial support for a policy that restricts institutions in conferences that play only a closed-conference schedule in a given sport (rather than seeking in-region nonconference opponents) to be eligible only for automatic qualification for selection purposes and not for at-large bids. The Championships Committee will discuss this matter further during its September meeting.

- 2. **Budget review.** As it does for every meeting, the committee reviewed whether the agenda includes any items with a potential budget impact and noted the ongoing review of the triennial budget process as a priority.
- 3. **NCAA Power Index implementation and sport dial recommendations.** The committee reviewed and approved NPI dial recommendations from sport committees for baseball, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, softball, men's tennis and women's tennis as reflected in the [NPI Division II Weights, FAQ and Guide](#).
- 4. **2027-30 triennial budget process.** The committee continued evaluating potential allocations for the next triennium and reached consensus on a final slate after further discussion on select

items for which the committee had requested additional information. Staff will make final adjustments to the budget impact for those items affecting more than one championship and bring the final chart for approval at the committee's September meeting. Once finalized, those recommendations will proceed to the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, and ultimately Management Council and Executive Board, for approval at their October meetings.

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. Men's and women's cross country.** The Championships Committee revisited a concept created by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association to modify the preliminary round of the Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships from an eight-regional, all-comers approach to a specified selections-based model with only one first-round site. The Championships Committee reviewed the idea during its February 2024 meeting but was not supportive, stating the one-site regional proposal would reduce participation opportunities and likely increase institutional travel costs. The Championships Committee acknowledged the interest within the cross country community to move away from regionals as an all-comers meet but did not consider the one-site model as a viable option at that time.

As a result, the sport committee surveyed the Division II cross country membership (athletics directors, conference commissioners, and men's and women's cross country head coaches) regarding other potential formats and advancement procedures, though that survey did not include questions related to the one-site first round concept. The coaches association continues to support that model and provided additional information to the sport committee for consideration. Accordingly, the sport committee is now requesting updated feedback on the concept and whether the Championships Committee supports continued consideration of this model.

After lengthy discussion, the Championships Committee did not reach consensus regarding the one-site model but felt it was important to resurvey the cross country membership to ask the question specifically since it was not addressed in the previous survey. The committee also acknowledged that any move away from the current all-comers meet would likely require some level of travel reimbursement to be consistent with other team/individual sport championships. The committee agreed that a follow-up survey is the most prudent step at this time, and if either the one-site model or an alternative approach to the current all-comers meet is clearly supported, then the committee can request a budget analysis on a given model to inform a decision, noting of course that any model with a budget impact could not be submitted until the next budget triennium beginning in 2030. Staff will work to draft potential survey questions for the committee to consider during a future meeting.

- b. Women's lacrosse.** The committee supported the sport committee's recommendation for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship game sites in 2027 and 2028, as specified in the Nonlegislative Action Item above.

- c. **Men's golf.** The committee approved Fairmont State University hosting the 2027 East/Atlantic Regional at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV.

6. Other business.

- **Recognition of outgoing members.** Championships Committee members reiterated their appreciation for the contributions of Neil Duval and Cade Smith, whose terms on the committee conclude at the end of August. The committee also acknowledged the enormous impact that Regan McAthie has made as chair during her term and thanked her for her service as well. Terrie Beattie will succeed McAthie as chair beginning Sept. 1.

7. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- Sept. 14-15 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Oct. 1, 2-3:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- Nov. 5, 2-3:30 p.m. (videoconference).

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

Division II Championships Committee August 6, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
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.	
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.	
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.	
Absentees:	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	

Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Chelsea Hooks, Micaela Kapsalis and Karen Kirsch.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Antonnio Cannavaro, Donisha Carter, Lindsey Eldred, Leslie Havens, Dante Jones, Maritza Jones, Maya McEwen, Ryan Rea, Angela Red and Alyssa Rice.