



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 7, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Football super region alignment.**

- a. Recommendation. Approve the football super region alignment, as specified, for the 2025 season when Conference Carolinas begins sponsoring football. (See Attachment.)
- b. Effective date. 2025 season.
- c. Rationale. Fifteen conferences currently sponsor football, but this will increase to 16 in the 2025 season when Conference Carolinas begins sponsoring the sport. The alignment recommendation ensures having four conferences aligned in each of the four super regions; reduces the range of the number of institutions in each of the four super regions (from 32 to 46 institutions to 36 to 47 institutions); and keeps most institutions within a specific super region more closely aligned to each other geographically than is the case in the current super regional alignment. Historical or perceived strength of conferences did not factor into this recommendation.

[Note: The Division II Championships Committee acknowledges the potential ramifications on counting opponents that were scheduled before this super region alignment was developed as in-region for the purposes of selections but does not believe this should detract from supporting the recommendation at this time. The committee has asked staff to consult the football-playing commissioners to provide information for each of their institutions to ensure the committee has an accurate list of institutions that may be affected in this regard (i.e., schools that have contracts already in place for 2025 with opponents that would have been considered in region under the current alignment but not under the new alignment) and whether the contiguous state principle in the regionalization model would mitigate those concerns. The commissioners are being asked to provide this information for the Championships Committee to consider during its February meeting.]

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Nathan Gibson welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its November 2 videoconference, as presented.
3. **Golf date formula review.** The Championships Committee revisited but decided to table until January, a recommendation from the Division II Men's and Women's Golf Committees to modify the deadline by which conferences determine their automatic qualifiers to 12 days prior to the date of regional competition, and to modify the selection date to 10 days prior to the practice date of regional competition, effective September 1, 2025. The Championships Committee had asked staff to seek additional input from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and will consider that feedback during either its January videoconference or February meeting.
4. **Softball date formula recommendation.** The committee revisited its support and the Division II Management Council's subsequent approval in October of a date formula change in softball that moves the championship finals to the week after Memorial Day Weekend (Thursday-Wednesday) in light of feedback received from the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The Management Council in taking its action to approve the proposal also asked for the Division II SAAC to weigh in on the matter, particularly because of how the proposal would affect softball student-athletes and the Division II National Championships Festival for spring sports (i.e., eliminating softball from the festival). The Division II SAAC discussed the proposal at its November meeting and unanimously agreed that the date formula should revert to its current format during festival years. The SAAC believes the festival experience is a key element of the Division II experience, and committee members shared the overwhelmingly positive feedback they heard from their peers about the festival experience. SAAC members in fact referred to the festival as being a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and that removing it for softball student-athletes would take away an opportunity that student-athletes who compete in it look forward to, enjoy and value.

While the Championships Committee appreciated the SAAC's input, the committee decided to stand by its original position on the matter. The committee noted the positive experiences the festivals provide but also noted the negative impact on softball student-athletes of essentially losing a week of their season during festival years. The committee also reiterated that the Division II Softball Committee upon submitting the proposal affirmed that it had been thoroughly vetted through the coaches association and the Division II Coaches Connection, as well as with other stakeholders. Feedback indicated that while people understood the impact on the festivals, they thought the benefits gained by aligning the softball season not only with Divisions I and III softball but also with Division II baseball in all years was in the best interests of the experience for Division II softball student-athletes. The Championships Committee also vetted this proposal at length during its September meeting and stands by its rationale.

The Championships Committee acknowledged that the Management Council will receive the input from the SAAC during its January meeting at the NCAA Convention and has the purview of adjusting the proposal if desired.

5. **Football super region alignment.** The Championships Committee reviewed and supported the recommendation from the Division II Football Committee to align the super regions as specified beginning in 2025 when Conference Carolinas begins sponsoring the sport. (See Nonlegislative Action Item.)
6. **Regionalization review.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on an updated discussion document for sport committees to use during their annual meetings in 2024 regarding the Division II regionalization model and opportunities to revise the current approach to bracketing. The committee also discussed the timeline and approach to gathering feedback in winter and spring of 2024 in advance of the committee's June meeting during which the committee is expected to determine concepts and recommendations for further review. Committee members suggested that the liaisons to sport committees (and potentially other members as needed) should participate in the portions of sport committee meetings during which the regionalization document is discussed in order to clarify issues and hear the deliberations. The committee believes that participation will help inform its final recommendations. Staff will notify sport committees to invite the Championships Committee liaisons to their meetings.
7. **Sport committee liaison openings.** Due to Kristy Bayer being selected to serve on the Division II Management Council at the conclusion of the 2024 NCAA Convention, staff invited committee members to express their interest in filling the resulting liaison openings for football and volleyball by December 15. If multiple members are interested, seniority on the committee will be the determining factor.
8. **Other business.**
 - a. **Update on the Hudl initiative.** Committee members asked for an update during a subsequent meeting on Hudl and its streaming of more than 200 NCAA Division II championship contests in 2023-24, including live and on-demand coverage of the Division II Football and Women's Volleyball Championships this fall and the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships this winter. The committee will receive an update from staff at its February meeting on the fall championships results. The review will include comparative data of viewership from the previous two years when these championships were not behind a paywall.
 - b. **Division I initiatives.** The committee noted the December 5 email NCAA President Charlie Baker sent to a collection of Division I stakeholders regarding modernizing the division and providing a forward-looking framework to better serve NCAA institutions and student-athletes. The project is multifaceted and involves membership classification issues within Division I. As was the case with recommendations from the Division I Transformation Committee, the Division II governance staff will monitor these discussions in Division I and

track any potential impact on the Division II membership for review within the Division II governance structure and by affiliate groups.

9. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- January 4, 2024, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- February 13-14, 2024 (meeting conducted virtually).
- June 17-18, 2024 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- August 29, 2024 (site selection meeting).

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 December 7, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Kristy Bayer, Rockhurst University.	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Karen Haag, The College of Saint Rose.	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Carrie Michaels, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Jerry Wollmering, Truman State University of Pennsylvania (Management Council vice chair).	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	

Randy Buhr, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Kendee Hilliard, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Angela Red and Alyssa Rice.

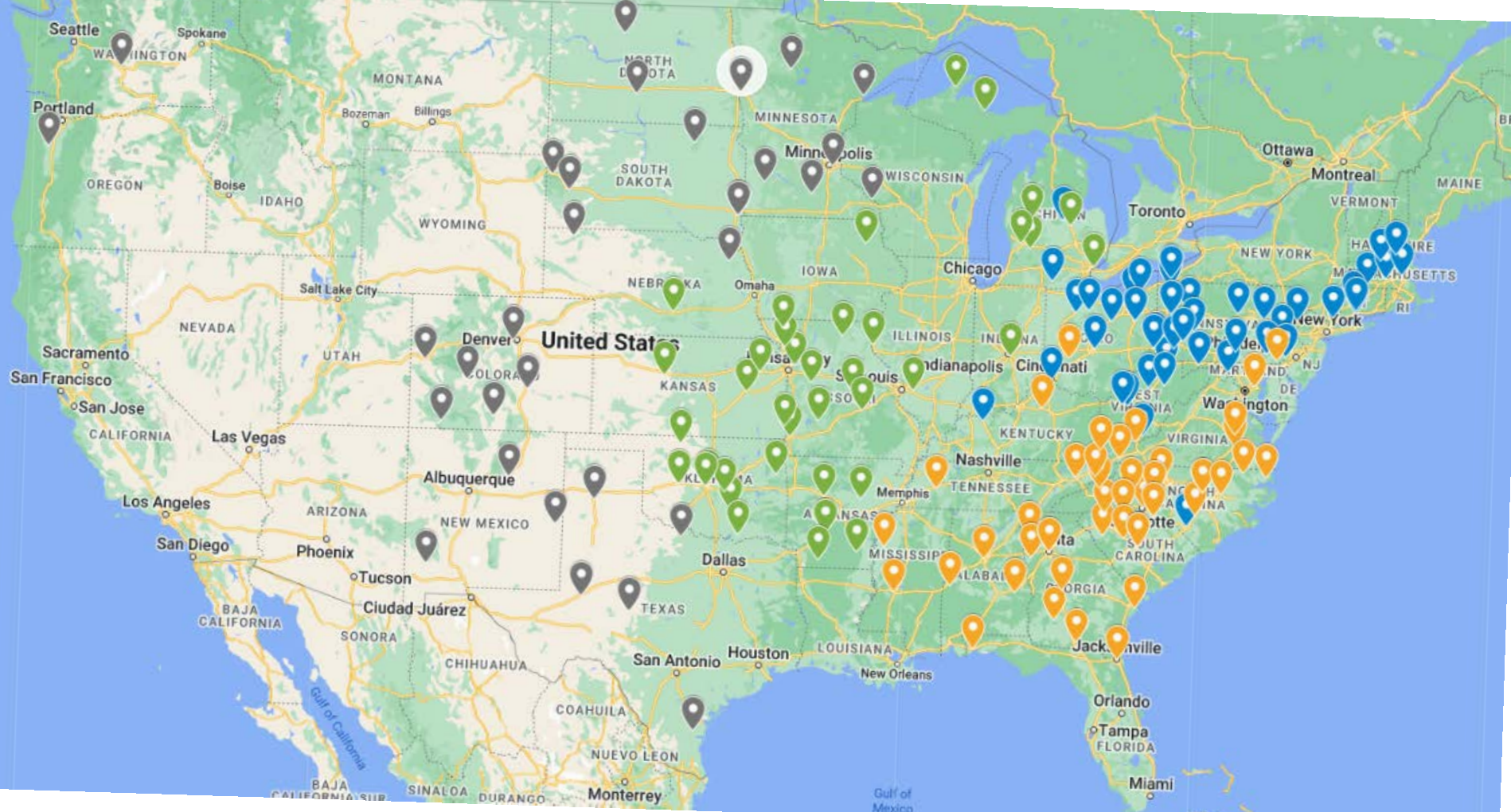
2023 Division II Football Super Regional Alignments

Super Region 1	<u>Great Midwest Athletic Conference (10)</u>	<u>Mountain East Conference (11)</u>	<u>Northeast-10 Conference (9)</u>	<u>Pennsylvania St. Athletic Conference (16)</u>
46	Ashland Findlay Hillsdale Ky. Wesleyan Lake Erie Northwood Ohio Dominican Tiffin Thomas More Walsh	Charleston (WV) Concord Fairmont St. Frostburg St. Glenville St. Notre Dame (OH) UNC Pembroke West Liberty West Va. Wesleyan West Virginia St. Wheeling	American Int'l Assumption Bentley Franklin Pierce New Haven Pace Post (Independent in 2023) Southern Conn. St. St. Anselm	Bloomsburg California (PA) Clarion East Stroudsburg Edinboro Gannon Indiana (PA) Kutztown Lock Haven Mercyhurst Millersville Seton Hill Shepherd Shippensburg Slippery Rock West Chester

Super Region 2	<u>Central Intercollegiate Athletic Assoc. (12)</u>	<u>Gulf South Conference (9)</u>	<u>South Atlantic Conference (12)</u>	<u>Southern Intercollegiate Ath. Conf. (13)</u>
46	Bluefield St. Bowie St. Elizabeth City St. Fayetteville St. Johnson C. Smith Lincoln (PA) Livingstone Saint Augustine's Shaw Virginia St. Virginia Union Winston-Salem	Chowan Delta St. Mississippi Col. North Greenville Shorter Valdosta St. West Ala. West Florida West Ga.	Barton Carson-Newman Catawba Emory & Henry Erskine Lenoir-Rhyne Limestone Mars Hill Newberry Tusculum UVA Wise Wingate	Albany St. (GA) Allen Benedict Central St. (OH) Clark Atlanta Edward Waters Fort Valley St. Kentucky St. Lane Miles Morehouse Savannah St. Tuskegee

Super Region 3	<u>Great American Conference (12)</u>	<u>Great Lakes Intercollegiate Ath. Conf. (7)</u>	<u>Great Lakes Valley Conference (8)</u>	<u>Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Assoc. (12)</u>
39	Ark.-Monticello Arkansas Tech East Central Harding Henderson St. Northwestern Okla. Okla. Baptist Ouachita Baptist Southeastern Okla. Southern Ark. Southern Nazarene Southwestern Okla.	Davenport Ferris St. Grand Valley St. Michigan Tech Northern Mich. Saginaw Valley Wayne St. (MI)	McKendree Missouri S&T Quincy Southwest Baptist Truman St. UIndy Upper Iowa William Jewell	Central Mo. Central Okla. Emporia St. Fort Hays St. Lincoln (MO) Missouri Western Mo. Southern St. Neb.-Kearney Northeastern St. Northwest Mo. St. Pittsburg St. Washburn

Super Region 4	<u>Lone Star Conference (9)</u>	<u>Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conf. (13)</u>	<u>Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (10)</u>
32	Angelo St. Central Wash. Eastern N.M. Midwestern St. Tex. A&M-Kingsville Tex. Permian Basin West Tex. A&M Western N.M. Western Ore.	Augustana (SD) Bemidji St. Concordia-St. Paul Mary Minn. Duluth Minnesota St. Minot St. MSU Moorehead Northern St. Sioux Falls Southwest Minn. St. Wayne St. (NE) Winona St.	Adams St. Black Hills St. Chadron St. Colo. Sch. of Mines Colorado Mesa CSU Pueblo Fort Lewis N.M. Highlands South Dakota Mines Western Colo.



2025 Division II Football Super Regional Alignments Under Consideration by the Division II Football Committee

Super Region 1	<u>Central Intercollegiate Athletic Assoc. (12)</u>	<u>Mountain East Conference (10)</u>	<u>Northeast-10 Conference (9)</u>	<u>Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (16)</u>
47	Bluefield St. Bowie St. Elizabeth City St. Fayetteville St. Johnson C. Smith Lincoln (PA) Livingstone Saint Augustine's Shaw Virginia St. Virginia Union Winston-Salem	Charleston (WV) Concord Fairmont St. Frostburg St. Glenville St. Notre Dame (OH) West Liberty West Va. Wesleyan West Virginia St. Wheeling	American Int'l Assumption Bentley Franklin Pierce New Haven Pace Post Southern Conn. St. St. Anselm	Bloomsburg California (PA) Clarion East Stroudsburg Edinboro Gannon Indiana (PA) Kutztown Lock Haven Mercyhurst Millersville Seton Hill Shepherd Shippensburg Slippery Rock West Chester

Super Region 2	<u>Conference Carolinas (6)</u>	<u>Gulf South Conference (6)</u>	<u>South Atlantic Conference (11)</u>	<u>Southern Intercollegiate Ath. Conf. (13)</u>
36	Barton Chowan Erskine North Greenville Shorter UNC Pembroke	Delta St. Mississippi Col. Valdosta St. West Ala. West Florida West Ga.	Anderson (SC) Carson-Newman Catawba Emory & Henry Lenoir-Rhyne Limestone Mars Hill Newberry Tusculum UVA Wise Wingate	Albany St. (GA) Allen Benedict Central St. (OH) Clark Atlanta Edward Waters Fort Valley St. Kentucky St. Lane Miles Morehouse Savannah St. Tuskegee

Super Region 3	<u>Great Lakes Intercollegiate Ath. Conf. (7)</u>	<u>Great Lakes Valley Conference (9)</u>	<u>Great Midwest Athletic Conference (10)</u>	<u>Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conf. (13)</u>
39	Davenport Ferris St. Grand Valley St. Michigan Tech Northern Mich. Saginaw Valley Wayne State (MI)	Lincoln (MO) McKendree Missouri S&T Quincy Southwest Baptist Truman St. UIndy Upper Iowa William Jewell	Ashland Findlay Hillsdale Ky. Wesleyan Lake Erie Northwood Ohio Dominican Tiffin Thomas More Walsh	Augustana (SD) Bemidji St. Concordia-St. Paul Mary Minn. Duluth Minnesota St. Minot St. MSU Moorehead Northern St. Sioux Falls Southwest Minn. St. Wayne St. (NE) Winona St.

Super Region 4	<u>Great American Conference (12)</u>	<u>Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Assoc. (11)</u>	<u>Lone Star Conference (9)</u>	<u>Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (10)</u>
42	Ark.-Monticello Arkansas Tech East Central Harding Henderson St. Northwestern Okla. Okla. Baptist Ouachita Baptist Southeastern Okla. Southern Ark. Southern Nazarene Southwestern Okla.	Central Mo. Central Okla. Emporia St. Fort Hays St. Missouri Western Mo. Southern St. Neb.-Kearney Northeastern St. Northwest Mo. St. Pittsburg St. Washburn	Angelo St. Central Wash. Eastern N.M. Midwestern St. Tex. A&M-Kingsville Tex. Permian Basin West Tex. A&M Western N.M. Western Ore.	Adams St. Black Hills St. Chadron St. Colo. Sch. of Mines Colorado Mesa CSU Pueblo Fort Lewis N.M. Highlands South Dakota Mines Western Colo.

