



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 5, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Women's basketball championship date formula for 2028.**

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the date formula for the 2028 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship as follows: Wednesday – quarterfinals, Friday – semifinals.
- (2) Effective date. 2028 championship only.
- (3) Rationale. In 2028, the Division II Women's Basketball Championship will be played in conjunction with the Women's Final Four. In the traditional schedule, the women's quarterfinals would be played Monday, with the championship game Friday. Since the championship game will not take place during the Elite Eight, shifting the rest of the schedule back two days will allow for games to be played during the latter half of the week, which may maximize attendance opportunities. This is similar to the rationale for the 2026 date formula change recently approved by the Division II Management Council due to Division II men's basketball participating in a joint championship that year. There is no impact on the broadcast partner as the semifinals and women's championship game will be streamed on ESPN+.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would have two additional days of rest between regionals and Elite Eight.

**b. Women's lacrosse championship bracket expansion, date formula and format.**

- (1) Recommendation. Modify the date formula as listed below for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship and approve the top two seeds in each region hosting first- and second-round games (rather than only the top seed in each region). (See Attachment.) Further, approve funding to expand the championship bracket from 16 to 24 teams to cover the additional costs not included in the original projections approved as part of the triennial budget process.
  - Selection announcement: Sunday prior to first and second rounds.
  - First and second rounds (eight sites; top two seeds in each of the four regions hosting): Thursday and Saturday prior to quarterfinals.

- Quarterfinals: Saturday prior to semifinals and final.
- Semifinals and final: Thursday-Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

(2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the championship format from the start of the first round to the conclusion of the national championship game is to be completed in 11 days. The Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship is currently the only lacrosse championship to be played over two weekends. The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee sought feedback from the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee, which supported the concept of a three-weekend format as the additional time would promote mental and physical recovery and reduce injury risk for student-athletes. The Division II Conference Commissioners Association also supported the proposed format change, as it will align with the date formula currently in place for Divisions I and III lacrosse.

Regarding the additional funding for the bracket expansion beginning in 2025, the women's lacrosse committee was notified that the anticipated cost of the expansion will be \$58,414 more than originally projected. This accounts for the necessary additional days of per diem for officials, committee/site representatives and teams.

Regarding the format recommendation, the women's lacrosse committee's original proposal was that only the No. 1 seed in each region host the first and second rounds as is currently done. However, the Championships Committee discussed the option of the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds in each of the four regions hosting, which could increase attendance and alleviate the lodging requirements for a host securing hotels for five visiting teams. The Championships Committee asked for a financial analysis of the Nos. 1 and 2 seed option, which revealed a potential cost savings. Accordingly, both the sport committee and the Championships Committee believe this format is in the best interests of the championship.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$81,586 for the date formula change (this will be allocated in advance from funds devoted to the next budget triennium); and \$58,414 for the bracket expansion (this will come from unallocated dollars from the current triennium).

(5) Student-athlete impact. A three-weekend format will positively impact the student-athlete experience by promoting mental and physical recovery and reducing the risk of injury between games. The additional funding for bracket expansion will ensure a fully funded experience for participating teams and student-athletes, and allowing the additional hosts will create an enhanced championship atmosphere at all sites.

**c. Delayed implementation of track conversion chart for indoor track and field.**

(1) Recommendation. Delay implementation of the new conversion chart for use in Division II men's and women's track and field until the 2025-26 season.

(2) Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The Division II Championships Committee previously approved a proposal from the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee to establish a new conversion chart for indoor track and field championship qualification. However, the sport committee is requesting delayed implementation to provide additional time needed for the results reporting company to accurately validate track sizes. The NCAA and the results reporting company will establish a process to collect the data from coaches to ensure conversions are applied.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Delaying the new process will ensure student-athletes will receive fair and equitable conversions based on each competition facility.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its November 7 videoconference, as presented.
3. **Sport reports.**
  - a. **Women's basketball.** The committee reviewed and supported the Division II Women's Basketball Committee's proposal to adjust the date formula in 2028 to accommodate the championship being conducted as part of the Women's Final Four. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.)
  - b. **Women's lacrosse.** The committee reviewed and supported the Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee's recommendation to expand the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship date formula to a three-week tournament beginning with the 2025 championship and to have the top two seeds in each region host first- and second-round games (rather than just the No. 1 seed). (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b.)
  - c. **Men's and women's track and field.** The committee supported a request from the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee to delay a previously approved conversion chart for indoor track and field championship qualification until the 2025-26 season. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c.)
4. **Membership survey review.** The committee reviewed questions specific to championships in the upcoming membership survey that will be distributed shortly after the 2025 NCAA Convention. The survey is intended to help inform the division's goals and objectives in its 2026-32 operating plan that will be launched in January 2026. Committee members offered input on the questions and suggested additional questions that would be informative. Staff

noted that the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee will review the survey during its meeting later this month.

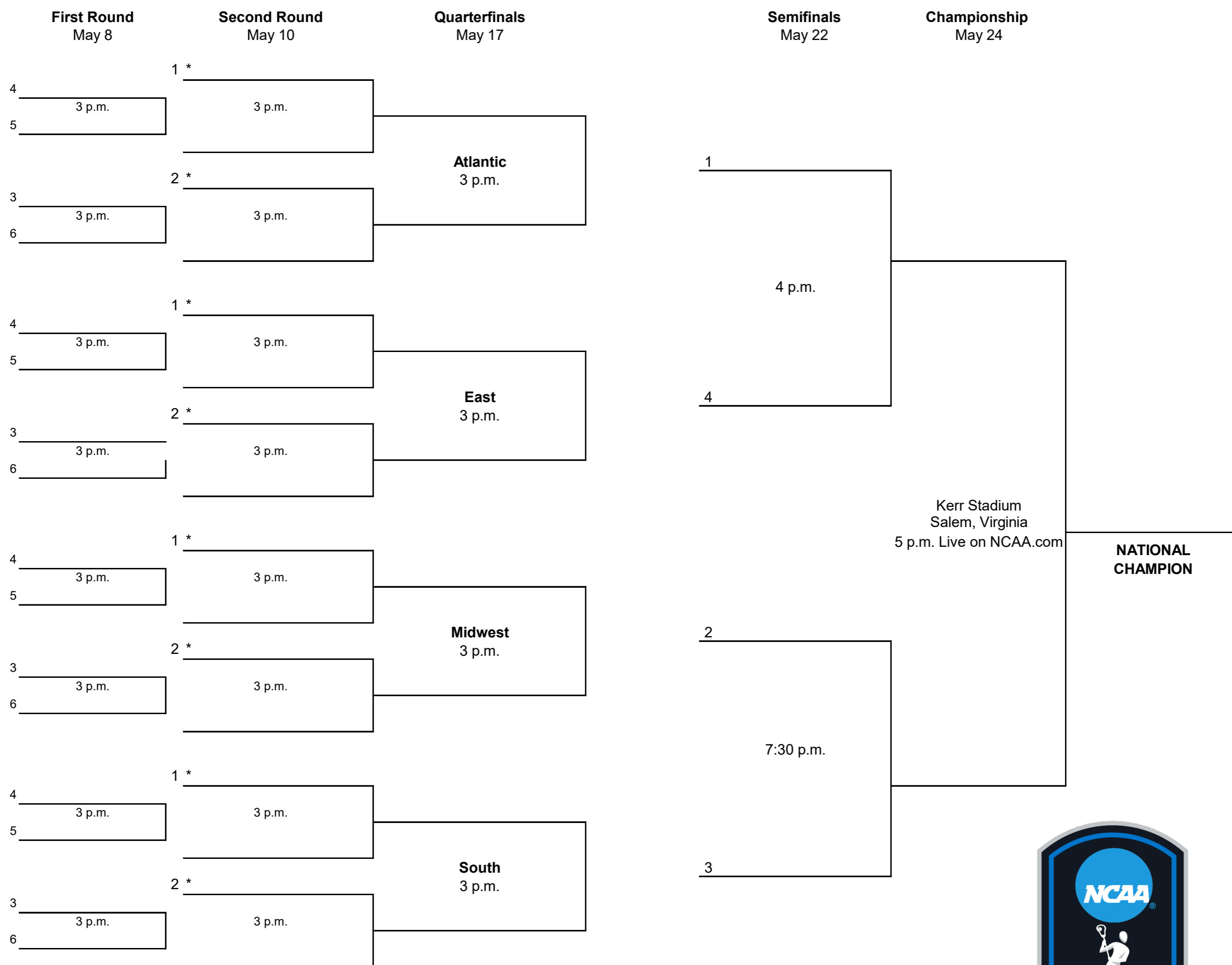
5. **Potential Division II Women's Bowling Championship.** The committee during its November 7 videoconference agreed to formally initiate the process for potentially establishing a separate Division II Women's Bowling Championship given that sponsorship in Division II has surpassed the 35-institution threshold (the championship currently is conducted as a National Collegiate championship). As part of the process, the committee began discussing the desired format and number of teams so a budget analysis can be prepared. Based on the 4.25-6 access ratio and 38 sponsoring teams, the committee agreed there should be eight teams in the bracket, likely all competing at one finals site. The committee began discussing relevant questions to include in a survey that will be sent to Division II institutions that sponsor women's bowling and asked staff to provide a draft for review at a future meeting. Staff noted work will be initiated internally to compile budget projections based on the eight teams/one site format the committee is recommending.
6. **KPI and NPI discussion.** The committee continued its review of a results-based selection metric, with members discussing the presentations they recently received regarding the KPI and NPI. Laura Peterson-Mlynski, the primary staff liaison for the Division III Championships Committee, joined the videoconference to share results and feedback regarding the NPI, which Division III formally adopted for all team sport championships this year and was used for the first time during the fall championship selections. Feedback from the relevant sport committees was positive. Committee members also reviewed an updated analysis for all sports from the last three championships comparing KPI as well as two NPI calculations, the default and the dials Division III sport committees have applied for the purposes of ranking and selections. Staff also noted that additional feedback on a potential implementation timeline will be obtained from upcoming meetings with the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the Division II Athletics Directors Association. The committee agreed to continue discussing this issue during its January videoconference.
7. **Future videoconferences and meetings.**
  - January 9, 2025, 3-4:30 p.m. Eastern time. (videoconference)
  - February 24-25, 2025 (meeting via videoconference)

*Committee Chair: Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul*  
*Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances*  
*Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances*  
*Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>December 5, 2024, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Christina Paone, Walsh University.	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Stan Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Donisha Carter, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Ryan Rea and Angela Red.	



## 2025 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship



All times are local time.  
 \*Host Institution Information subject to change.  
 \*\*The highest remaining seed in each region will host the quarterfinal round.  
 \*\*\*The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee will reseed the final four teams following completion of the quarterfinal round games.