



EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 4, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - None.
2. **Nonlegislative items.**
 - **Access ratio grace period and bracket adjustment requests.**
 - a. Recommendation. Adjust the current 4.0 to 6.0 access ratio range for Division II team sports to specify that any bracket adjustments (i.e., bracket size increases or decreases) should not result in an access ratio lower than 4.25.
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. This accompanies the Championships Committee's recommendation in November to establish a one-year grace period when a review is initiated by a championship sport falling below the current 4.0 to 6.0 access ratio. At that time the committee had not determined the steps to take in cases when a sport falls below the access ratio floor, so this recommendation is meant to provide such clarity for sport committees. The Championships Committee believes maintaining a 4.25 floor when a sport must make adjustments offers long-term stability for the bracket. A current Division II championship that falls below 4.25 may maintain that bracket size until the access ratio falls below 4.0. The Championships Committee retains the authority to make an exception to this policy for gender equity reasons.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation protects the integrity and stability of the affected championship.

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 report from its November 6 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 those items accordingly.
4. **Automatic qualification waiver request.** The committee reviewed and approved a request from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to waive the six-institutions required for

automatic qualification in men's tennis for the 2025-26 academic year. The conference will only have four members this year as two institutions announced unexpectedly in the summer that they were discontinuing the sport. The committee acknowledged that as a compelling circumstance that did not offer the conference the time necessary to rectify the situation. The committee noted this is a one-year waiver, and if the conference does not meet the requirement by next year it would need to seek another waiver for the 2026-27 academic year.

5. **Access ratio grace period and bracket adjustment requests.** The committee revisited its discussion from November regarding steps to take when a sport falls below the access ratio floor and agreed to recommend adjusting the current 4.0 to 6.0 access ratio range for Division II team sports to specify that any bracket adjustments (i.e., bracket size increases or decreases) should not result in an access ratio lower than 4.25. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2b.)
6. **Review potential men's volleyball championship format/budget.** Given the committee's action in November to initiate the process for considering whether to establish a Division II Men's Volleyball Championship, the committee reviewed a draft format for the championship should it come to fruition. The committee provided feedback to help staff prepare a budget impact analysis as part of the process for considering whether to establish a Division II championship.
7. **Update on Division I roster limit and Division III bench limit reviews.** Staff updated the committee regarding recent discussions in Division I and Division III related to championships participation policies. After reviewing those policies, the committee considered initiating a review with Division II sport committees regarding whether their current limits are sufficient but agreed to wait until sport committees submit their budget requests for the next cycle that begins in February and evaluate at that time what information might be requested from sport committees to best inform the review.
8. **Other business.**
 - a. **NPI webinar update.** Staff updated the committee regarding the series of webinars conducted this fall to educate and prepare the membership to vote on the Convention proposal recommending the NPI as the sole results-based metric for selections in team sports.
 - b. **Resolution regarding the football championship date formula.** Staff updated the committee on a resolution submitted by three conferences by the legislative deadline to ask that the Division II governance structure re-engage discussion about moving the Division II Football Championship game to January. The Championships Committee in June recommended modifying championships policy to extend the Division II football regular season by one week (i.e., add a 13th week to the regular season) and move the Division II Football Championship game to January; however, the Division II Management Council subsequently declined to support the recommendation. The resolution being considered at the Convention asks to revisit those discussions.
9. **Future meetings and videoconferences.**

- Jan. 8, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- Feb. 19-20, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- March 5, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- April 2, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (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
December 4, 2025, Videoconference

Attendees:

Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.

Rebekah Gasner, Montana State University Billings.

Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).

Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.

Ahleasha McNeal, Lincoln Memorial University.

Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).

Christina Paone, Walsh University.

Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.

Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Stan Wagnon, University of Central Oklahoma.

Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University.

Absentees:

Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.

Guests in Attendance:

Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.

Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.

Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Jess Gaumer, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Jordan Lysiak, Ryan Rea, Angela Red and Courtney Wengryn.