

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 14-15, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Legislative items.
 - Noncontroversial legislation NCAA Bylaw 18.4.1.3 -- Championships Administration
 -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Minimum Number for Division II
 Championships -- Failure to Meet Minimum Sponsorship Requirements -- Waiver Authority.
 - a. <u>Recommendation</u>. That the Division II Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to grant the Division II Championships Committee the authority to oversee the waiver process in cases where a sport seeks to extend the grace period when falling below the minimum number of institutions required to maintain a championship.
 - b. Effective date. August 1, 2024.
 - c. Rationale. With the adoption of NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-3 (championships administration – administration of Division II championships – minimum number for Division II championships – minimum number of sponsoring institutions and three-year grace period) at the 2024 NCAA Convention, a sport that does not meet the 35minimum number of institutions required to maintain its Division II championship will have an opportunity to seek a waiver. However, the current legislation is silent on which authoritative body within the Division II governance structure should have purview over the waiver process. Currently, under NCAA Division II Bylaw 21.8.5.4.2 (duties), the NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief shall review waiver requests for relief from the application of NCAA legislation to a particular situation in which no other committee, subcommittee or conference has the authority to act. Therefore, due to the legislation being silent, the Division II Committee for Legislative Relief currently would have purview to review waivers seeking relief of the minimum number of institutions required to maintain a Division II championship or the threeyear grace period. The Championships Committee believes that while the Committee for Legislative Relief would have the ability to oversee this process, the Championships Committee is better suited from an expertise perspective to perform this function.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
 - Referral to the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee Consideration
 of per diem increase prior to the next scheduled increase in the Division II LongRange Budget.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) consider whether to increase per diem prior to the next scheduled increase in the Division II long-range budget.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- Rationale. Under the current long-range budget, the next scheduled per diem increase for Division II would take place in the 2027-28 fiscal year. However, the Championships Committee was informed during its February meeting that Division III agreed this past year to increase its per diem for 2023-24 to \$125 (a year earlier than planned to intentionally spend down the Division III reserve), which is \$10 more than the current Division II per diem. Additionally, during its February meeting the Division III Championships Committee recommended additional increases over the next several academic years (\$135 in 2024-25 and an additional \$5 every year after that through fiscal year 2027-28).

The Division II Championships Committee believes it is important for Division II to allocate per diem at a rate at least commensurate with Division III. The committee acknowledges that doing so could reduce the allocation of dollars remaining to devote to other championships enhancements in the next triennium, but the committee believes per diem is a membership priority and that it would not be in the division's best interests to wait until the 2027-28 fiscal year to increase it, particularly since the gap between Divisions II and III would be extensive at that point.

Accordingly, the Championships Committee asks that the SPFC consider adjusting the current allocations to the long-range budget and increase the Division II per diem at a rate it deems appropriate for the coming years.

- (4) <u>Estimated budget impact</u>. To be determined based on the amount of the per diem increase.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. The Championships Committee discussed at length the various approaches to improving the participant experience at Division II championships and agreed that an appropriate per diem allocation enhances the experience for both student-athletes and member institutions alike. The increased per diem would allow student-athletes to enjoy their championships participation more fully and would reduce the financial burden on participating institutions.
- b. Referral to the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee consideration of budget requests outside of the triennial budget process football bracket expansion.
 - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. That the SPFC consider whether the triennial budget process should be adjusted to allow for expanding the Division II Football Championship bracket before the next triennium.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- Rationale. The Championships Committee is asking the SPFC to consider whether increasing the Division II Football Championship bracket before the next triennium is appropriate. There have been requests within the Division II football membership for increasing the current 28-team bracket to 32 teams, but doing so would have a budget impact. The Division II Football Committee is discussing possible expansion and is also considering changing the date formula to align with the Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) championship game (i.e., staging the Division II championship game in January). However, the football committee does not want to continue these discussions at this time if the SPFC believes bracket expansion should not be considered outside of the triennial budget process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. To be determined.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. Expanding the football championship bracket would provide more postseason participation opportunities for football student-athletes and potentially enhance the competitive integrity of the championship.

c. Access ratio model for field hockey.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a model for the Division II Field Hockey Championship in which bids would be allocated annually based on an access ratio, similar to the process used for the Division II baseball, women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis championships.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 Division II Field Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. As a result of the expansion of the field hockey bracket from six to eight teams and the implementation of automatic qualifiers beginning with the 2024 championship, the Division II Field Hockey Committee reviewed any necessary changes to the current regional alignment. Due to the uneven distribution of conferences in each region, the access ratio model will ensure equitable access to the championship while maintaining the natural regions for regular-season competition. The access distribution will be based on sports sponsorship and submitted annually to the Division II Championships Committee. Under current sports sponsorship, this would result in a distribution of five bids from the Atlantic Region (two automatic qualifiers, one each from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference, plus three at-large teams) and three bids from the East Region (one automatic qualifier from the Northeast-10 Conference plus two at-large teams). The three conferences that sponsor field hockey support this recommendation.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. This model will ensure equitable access to the championship.

d. Automatic qualification deadline/selection date for men's and women's golf.

- (1) Recommendation. For men's golf, adjust the automatic qualification deadline to 12 days before the practice date of regional competition and the selection day to 10 days before the practice date of regional competition. For women's golf, adjust the automatic qualification deadline to nine days before the practice date of regional competition and the selection day to seven days before the practice date of regional competition.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. The Division II Championships Committee agrees with the rationale from the men's and women's golf committees that a two-day buffer is needed so regional advisory committees can have a full day after the AQ deadline to discuss at-large selections before the national committee call. The deadlines also provide an appropriate amount of time for cost-effective travel logistics and to prepare each team for regional competition.

(Note: The Championships Committee acknowledges that the recommended deadline modifications differ by gender. The committee previously considered a recommendation from the golf committees to require AQs to be determined 12 days before the date of regional competition and that selections would occur 10 days before the practice date of regional competition for both genders. However, upon being asked for feedback, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association expressed concerns with how the proposal would affect conference championship dates in women's golf and a potential reduction in the length of the regular season. Accordingly, the women's golf committee adjusted the deadlines for women's golf to accommodate those concerns. Upon further review, neither the golf committees nor the Championships Committee believe the differentiation in the number of days between competition presents any inequities.)

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. Allowing additional days before regionals will have a positive effect on the women in allowing for more rest and preparation before regional competition. A similar timeline will also allow for more equity among men and women student-athletes.

e. Challenge review system for women's volleyball regional sites.

(1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Approve requiring regional hosts for the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship to provide a challenge review system with at least two cameras.

- (2) Effective date. 2025 Division II Women's Volleyball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The Championships Committee agrees with the volleyball committee's assessment that it is essential to have challenge review capabilities at each of the regional sites (some currently do while others do not, which creates for an inconsistent participant experience). Because several current sites already have review capabilities, requiring challenge review at all sites is a reasonable expectation. Additionally, challenge review is used at the finals site, so implementing this requirement at the regional round would keep the championship consistent and coaches will be familiar with the challenge review process prior to the finals site.
- (4) <u>Estimated budget impact</u>. Hosts would absorb all costs associated with challenge review as part of hosting a regional. Institutions that are already set up for challenge review would incur no additional costs.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. Using challenge review should ensure that the correct calls are made during the match.

f. Minimum participants requirements for championship selection – swimming and diving and track and field.

(1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Approve adjusting the minimum participants requirements for championships selection purposes in Division II men's and women's swimming and diving and Division II men's and women's track and field as follows:

Sport	Current Minimum Contests (No Changes Proposed)	Current Minimum Participants	Proposed Minimum Participants
Swimming & Diving	8	11	9
Indoor Track & Field (No Changes Proposed)	4	10	10
Outdoor Track & Field	4	14	10

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) <u>Rationale</u>. In September 2023, the Division II Championships Committee referred a review of the sports sponsorship requirements in swimming and diving and track and field to the sport committees and the Division II Membership Committee to

consider whether a potential reduction is warranted. The resulting recommendation from the sport committees reflect a reduction in the minimum number of participants required for swimming and diving meets and an alignment between indoor and outdoor track and field in the minimum number of participants required.

[Note: The Membership Committee is making a similar recommendation for the applicable sport sponsorship requirements.]

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. The recommendations are designed to grow sponsorship in the respective sports and thus increase championship participation opportunities for student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and roster updates. Championships Committee Chair Nathan Gibson welcomed the group and acknowledged new leadership representatives attending from the Division II Management Council: Roberta Page, the director of athletics at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair); and Erin Lind, commissioner of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair), both of whom join the committee this year as non-voting members. Mr. Gibson also noted that Courtney Medwin will continue as the Division II SAAC representative, and that the Management Council approved adding a second SAAC member to the committee. The Division II SAAC will appoint that individual at its April meeting and the new member will join the Championships Committee beginning with the May videoconference. Finally, Mr. Gibson noted that the Division II Nominating Committee is working on recommending a replacement for Kristy Bayer, who began her term on the Division II Management Council in January.
- 2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its January 4 videoconference, as presented.
- 3. Budget review.
 - **a. Budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the division's 2023-24 budget-to-actuals through January 23, which do not yet reflect the total expenses for fall championships.
 - b. 2024-27 triennial budget update. The committee noted the adoption at the January NCAA Convention of its budget recommendations for the 2024-27 triennium that will enhance the student-athlete experience at Division II championships, either by increasing participation opportunities or improving championship administration. The budget allocations include bracket expansions in field hockey (from six to eight teams), men's lacrosse (12 to 16) and women's lacrosse (16 to 24). Women's golf also will expand its field size at regionals from 48 to 72 teams.

c. 2027-30 triennial budget.

- (1) General timeline. The committee reviewed and approved the proposed timeline for the 2027-30 triennium, which specifies dates by which select groups must submit feedback on recommendations and changes the committee's September in-person meeting in budget years (2025 in this case) to virtual to allow for in-person meetings in February and June of 2026 while requests are being discussed and prioritized. The timeline also may move governance structure approval up to conclude the process in Fall 2026 instead of January 2027. (For example, the new Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee would be asked to meet in September to give the Management Council and Executive Board the opportunity to approve recommendations during their October meetings and provide the Division II membership more time to prepare for the enhancements.)
- (2) Timeline for sport committee requests. Staff reviewed a chart outlining when sport committees can make their budget requests. The committee suggested adding the reason(s) why a previous budget request was denied in order to inform committees with new members that might be considering similar requests as well as the information that must be submitted when making a request to increase officiating fees. The committee also discussed whether the timing regarding the process for date formula changes (September before the two years prior to the effective date) should be adjusted. The DII CCA has previously expressed concern regarding their conference championship contracts and whether two years provides enough notice. Commissioners on the committee noted the primary challenge occurs when a sport committee wants to move the date for determining AQs earlier. The committee agreed that the two-year minimum was sufficient as long as the sport committee making the request has sought broad-based feedback in advance of submitting the recommendation. Accordingly, the committee approved the overall timeline.
- (3) Per diem increases. The committee discussed actions Division III has taken to increase its per diem at a rate that would be above Division II and agreed to refer consideration of the matter to the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee for further review. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.)
- (4) Review of regional alignment in field hockey, and men's and women's lacrosse. Staff updated the committee on the reviews the three sport committees are undertaking related to their regional alignment now that bracket expansion and AQs have been approved. The Division II Field Hockey Committee already has asked to use an access ratio model (see Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c), but the lacrosse committees have not reached a consensus on the appropriate approach to address the impact of expansion on bracket integrity and date formulas. The Championships Committee supported the field hockey committee's request as noted above and asked that the lacrosse committees continue reviewing what is in the best interests of their sport before submitting a formal recommendation for the Championship Committee to consider at a future meeting.

d. Festival budget analysis. Staff presented the financials for Division II National Championships Festivals and joint championships as information only. The presentation was originally compiled at the request of the DII CCA and was shared at their October meeting.

4. Committee updates.

- **a. Membership Committee.** Staff provided an update on the Membership Committee's February 13 meeting and noted that four institutions properly submitted applications by the February 1 deadline to enter the Division II membership process (University of California, Merced; University of Jamestown; Point Park University; and University of Texas at Dallas). The committee also is continuing to discuss an expedited membership process that retains the standards inherent in the current process while making it more attractive for prospective applicants. The committee also recommended that the Division II Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to change the minimum number of participants required for sports sponsorship in women's golf from five to four to align with those required for championship selection purposes.
- b. Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). Staff summarized the report from PROP's January meeting, noting actions the panel took to address unsporting behavior in all sports' playing rules, an update on PROP's ongoing discussion regarding the federated playing rules process (including updates on the visible clock in baseball), and the approval of two experimental rules in baseball submitted by a Division I conference but approved for any conference in any division desiring to use them.
- **c. Division I Transformation Committee update.** Staff provided an update on the recommendations from the Division I Transformation Committee that may have an impact on Division II. The committee focused specifically on recommendations related to championships, such as bracket expansion and access ratios.
- 5. **Sport committee reports.** (Note: The Championships Committee asked all team sport committees to use their annual meetings this year to discuss the Division II regionalization model and opportunities to revise the current approach to bracketing. The reports from the fall sport committees below note that those discussions occurred; however, for logistical purposes, feedback from all sport committees will be submitted collectively for the Championships Committee to review during its June 17-18 meeting. Accordingly, details of the fall sport committee discussions about regionalization are not recorded for this report.)
 - **a. Men's and women's basketball.** The Championships Committee received reports from the basketball committees' most recent joint meetings as information only.
 - b. Men's and women's cross country.
 - (1) Regional hosts. The Championships Committee approved the cross country committee's recommendation that Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania host the

2024 Atlantic Region competition and that Wingate University host the 2025 Southeast Region competition.

(2) Championship format proposal. The Championships Committee also noted the cross country committee's discussion regarding a proposal from the coaches association to reduce the number of regionals in the cross country championships from eight to one. The cross country committee expressed interest in seeking membership feedback regarding this proposal, but the Championships Committee is asking that the cross country committee instead consider other options before seeking membership feedback, as 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 does not support the one-site model as a viable option.

c. Field hockey.

• Access ratio proposal. The Championships Committee supported the field hockey committee's request to use an access ratio model for selecting teams to the Division II Field Hockey Championship. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c)

d. Football.

- (1) Potential bracket expansion. The Championships Committee agreed with the football committee's request to ask the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to consider whether the triennial budget process should be adjusted to allow for expanding the Division II Football Championship bracket before the next triennium (and potentially an accompanying change in the date formula to stage the championship game in January). (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b.) The Championships Committee also noted that the football committee is asking the DII CCA for input on the following:
 - Whether the commissioners would prioritize bracket expansion to 32 teams over restructuring the current 28-team bracket so that regionalization ends at the time of selections and changing the priorities of the bracketing principles to provide for a more competitive bracket (noting that there may not be funding for both options).
 - Whether the Week 0 legislation adopted at the 2024 NCAA Convention changes the
 commissioners' stance on their referral to move the championship game back into
 January to align with the FCS championship game (noting that such a change could
 result in non-linear television for the Division II Football Championship game and
 also potentially result in current championship game hosts withdrawing from
 hosting if the game were to be moved into January); and
 - Rationale for why any requests related to possible bracket expansion, championship date formula changes, and/or possible changes to bracketing principles and

made.

priorities should be approved outside of the triennial budget process as the committee will need to include such rationale in any requests that are ultimately

(2) Super region alignment. The Championships Committee revisited the recent approval of the football super region alignment beginning in 2025 when Conference Carolinas begins sponsoring football and increases the number of football sponsoring conferences from 15 to 16. Part of that process included asking Division II commissioners to report any games for which contracts may have been signed under the old alignment that would not meet the contiguous-state principle to count as in-region contests under the new alignment. Only one game was reported that would be affected. The committee noted that with the recent adoption of the Week 0 legislation in football, the two institutions in question would have an opportunity to schedule a replacement game that would meet the in-region requirements. Accordingly, the committee did not support providing relief from the in-region requirements at this time.

e. Women's golf.

- Date formula. The Championships Committee supported the men's and women's golf committees' recommendation to modify the championships date formula. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-d.)
- **f. Men's soccer.** The Championships Committee received the report from the men's soccer committee's January 23 annual meeting as information only.
- **g. Women's soccer.** The Championships Committee received the report from the women's soccer committee's January 22 annual meeting as information only.

h. Men's and women's soccer.

• 2024 championship site. The Championships Committee approved Wingate University as host of the 2024 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Soccer Championships at the Sportsplex at Matthews in Matthews, North Carolina. The 2024 championships were to be conducted in Chattanooga; however, the Chattanooga Sports Commission informed the soccer committees that construction on the facility would not be completed before the championships. When contacted about possibly serving as a replacement site, Wingate expressed interest in hosting and confirmed facility availability for hosting in what would be a second consecutive year. The action means that Wingate, which had been selected to host in 2025, would essentially be moved up one year, and the soccer committees will re-open bidding for the 2025 championships.

i. Women's volleyball.

• Challenge review system. The Championships Committee supported the request from the women's volleyball committee to require regional hosts for the volleyball

championship to provide a challenge review system with at least two cameras. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-e.)

6. Additional discussion items.

- a. Review of fall championship misconduct issues. As part of the newly revised process in which misconducts are reviewed seasonally, the committee reviewed two incidents that occurred during the fall (one in field hockey and one in men's soccer) and the penalties assessed by the respective sport committees, both of which included a private reprimand for the institution involved. (The Championship Committee noted that it does not have the purview to alter penalties other than changing a private reprimand to a public reprimand.) After review, the Championships Committee agreed with the private reprimand assessed for the field hockey incident. However, the committee determined that the private reprimand issued to the institution in men's soccer should be converted to a public reprimand to the individual from the institution who was directly involved in the misconduct, and that the reprimand credit the institution for self-reporting the incident.
- **b.** Review of access ratios. The committee reviewed the updated access ratio chart that includes sport-sponsorship data from 2022-23 and noted three sports are currently below the desired 4.25 access ratio (meaning they have better access than intended by policy): women's rowing, men's tennis and women's tennis. After discussion, the committee agreed to ask the tennis committees to review options to reduce their brackets to be in line with the access ratio (4.25 to 6) or provide rationale for why doing so would not be in their sport's best interests. The tennis committees are asked to respond by February 2025 so any reduction in cost could be factored into the 2027-30 triennial budget allocation. Any changes to the bracket would not take place until the 2027-28 academic year.

The committee did not ask the women's rowing committee to conduct the same review, as the rowing committee is already working to increase sponsorship to reach the 35-institution threshold for continuing the championship. The Championships Committee reasoned that if the sport can accomplish that primary goal, rowing would automatically fall into the desired access ratio range.

- c. Preliminary-round host expectations. Staff updated the committee on discussions within Divisions I and III about providing feedback to preliminary-round hosts, particularly those who do not meet expectations as outlined in the host manual. The committee agreed that a more consistent and stringent reporting system should be deployed in Division II to hold hosts accountable, including requiring written feedback from the sport committee to hosts that do not meet expectations as well as a response from the institution regarding changes that will be implemented in the future.
- d. Sports sponsorship requirements (swimming and diving and track and field). The committee noted its referral in September 2023 to the Division II Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee, the Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee, and the Division II Membership Committee to review whether a reduction in sports sponsorship requirements is warranted. The committee supported the recommended

reductions as specified in Nonlegislative Action Item 2-f above for championship selection purposes.

7. Staff updates.

- **a.** Legal update. Staff updated the committee on the legal items impacting the division specifically and the Association overall.
- b. Hudl streaming initiative. Staff summarized results of the arrangement between Hudl and NCAA Digital, managed by Warner Bros. Discovery Sports, to stream more than 200 Division II championship contests in 2023-24, including live and on-demand coverage of the Division II Football and Women's Volleyball Championships in the fall and the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships this winter. The Championships Committee noted that starting next year under the new ESPN media rights agreement, ESPN has the rights to produce and distribute other rounds of those championships in addition to the football championship and that those rights revert to the host institutions if ESPN declines. The committee asked whether future championships not included in the ESPN agreement (for example, baseball/softball) could end up in a similar agreement with Hudl or otherwise, and if so, what the timing on such a deal would be. The committee will be apprised of discussions in this regard, if any, at future meetings.
- **c. Fall championships social media and NCAA.com broadcast analytics.** Staff updated the committee on social media and NCAA.com statistics from the fall sport championships.
- d. Championships licensing. Staff walked the committee through a structure the NCAA is establishing in which member institutions can at their discretion participate in NCAA championships licensing opportunities that include student-athlete NIL. The system is predicated on (a) the use being lawful; (b) the use complying with the NCAA's NIL policy (e.g., no inducements); (c) the NCAA does not provide consideration or value to the student-athletes; and (d) the member institution affiliated with the student-athlete has no objections. These four precautions were central to the NCAA's decision to allow its corporate champions and partners to use student-athlete NIL in their promotional campaigns surrounding NCAA championships.
- e. Championships branding. The committee received a preview presentation of the new NCAA championships look planned for the 2024-25 academic year. Committee members liked the enhanced design elements and asked how the Division II branding marks (i.e., the Make It Yours marks) can be incorporated into the parent design. Staff noted those discussions are ongoing and the committee will be updated once the approach is determined.
- **f. Community engagement.** Jill Willson joined the committee to recap the community engagement activities from the Division II fall championships and provide updates on plans for community engagement at the winter and spring championships.
- g. Governance.

(1) Summary of actions. Staff highlighted actions from the Management Council and Presidents Council meetings at the January Convention.

- **(2) 2024 Convention Update.** Staff updated the committee on actions the membership took at the business session, which included the adoption of three of the five legislative proposals.
- (3) Sports sponsorship grace period waiver process. The committee noted that with the adoption of Proposal No. 2024-3 at the 2024 NCAA Convention, a sport that does not meet the 35-minimum number of institutions required to maintain its Division II championship will have an opportunity to seek a waiver. The committee also noted, however, that the legislation is silent on which authoritative body within the Division II governance structure should have purview over the waiver process. Current bylaws would grant such authority to the Committee for Legislative Relief, but the Championships Committee is asking the Division II Management Council to grant it the authority to oversee that process based on the committee's expertise in that area. (See Legislative Action Item.)

The committee also discussed the timing of the waiver process and agreed that a sport may request relief of the 35-minimum threshold during year three of the three-year grace period. The committee believes it is appropriate for a sport to wait until the year of its final scheduled championship before seeking a waiver. Such timing also allows the sport in question to demonstrate the efforts taken to date to reach the sponsorship threshold.

(4) Division II Operating Plan. Staff updated the committee on the division's strategic planning process that has been re-engaged after pausing for the NCAA Constitution Committee and the Division II Implementation Committee to complete their work. The Division II Planning and Finance Committee and the Division II Management and Presidents Councils last fall created a Division II Operating Plan to help facilitate development of the new six-year Division II Strategic Plan, which will be launched in January 2026. The Division II Operating Plan resembles the NCAA Operating Plan that NCAA President Charlie Baker introduced last year but is tailored to reflect the division's unique characteristics and attributes. The Championships Committee also reviewed a Q&A created to flesh out the goals and objectives in the Operating Plan and noted that the committee will use its in-person meeting in June to address the specific questions.

8. Other business.

- Women's wrestling update. The committee noted the February 7 <u>announcement</u> regarding the recommendation from the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics that all three divisions sponsor legislation to add women's wrestling as a national collegiate championship effective in winter 2026.
- 9. Future meetings and videoconferences.

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• March 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).

- April 4, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- May 2, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- June 17-18 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- July 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 8, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).

• August 29 (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 February 14-15, 2024, Videoconference

Attendees:

Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.

Karen Haag, The College of Saint Rose.

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

Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.

Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.

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

Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.

Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.

Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Absentees:

None.

Guests in Attendance:

Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.

Jill Willson, Double L Consulting.

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:

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Nathan Arkins, Eric Breece, Randy L. Buhr, Antonio Cannavaro, Donisha Carter, David Clendenin, Zach Christopher, Nate Flannery, Linda Godby, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Kendee Hilliard, Ashley Jenkins, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Caleb Kolby, Julia Longo, Angela Red, Rachel Seewald, Micki Spears and Jared Tidemann.