



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19-20, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Amend the Division II long-range budget key for championships travel expenses.

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the Division II long-range budget to reflect a 2% annual increase to the championships travel budget rather than the current 5%.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As a result of extensive discussion and review of the division's long-range budget in coordination with the development of the division's new Operating Plan, the NCAA Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee recommended, and the NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Executive Board subsequently approved, increasing the division's allocation to the championships program from 62% to 65% and including, among other allocations, an annual 5% increase to the travel budget to cover travel expenses.

As part of the Operating Plan action steps, the NCAA finance staff reviewed the current Division II championship budgets, analyzing the budget-to-actuals for the division's 25 championships over the last three years to evaluate where the division needed to allocate additional financial resources and where there may be opportunities to reallocate dollars in cases where the average spend is less than what is currently budgeted. For example, while game operations costs continue to increase at a higher pace than the budgeted 3% increase for each triennial cycle, travel costs have not increased at the projected rate of 5% annually. Over the last three years, travel has increased approximately 2% annually. After reviewing necessary reallocations to right-size game operations and travel budgets, combined with a 2% annual increase projection on championships travel, approximately \$2.2 million could be reallocated to other championships priorities.

Accordingly, the Division II Championships Committee supports amending the long-range budget to reflect a 2% increase to the championships travel budget.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The recommendation allows approximately \$2.2 million to be allocated to the division's championships program to fund other priorities.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The reallocated funds may be used to support initiatives that directly benefit Division II student-athletes.

b. Men's and women's tennis championships – reduction to men's field and adjustments to men's and women's championship format.

(1) Recommendation. That the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships be amended as follows:

- Reduce the men's bracket from 34 to 32 teams, consistent with the access ratio policy adjustment the Division II Championships Committee recommended during its December 2025 videoconference, which would require any bracket adjustment requests to not have an access ratio greater than 4.25;
- Reduce both the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships to eight teams per gender at the finals site;
- Implement four super regions (Atlantic/East, Central/Midwest, South/Southeast, and South Central/West), with two hosting sites per super region for each gender; and
- Assign a site representative and additional officials to each regional site to support the increased number of matches and ensure proper championship administration.

(2) Effective date. 2027-28 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The transition from eight regional sites per gender to a four super-region format reflects a recommendation from the Division II Management Council to explore a structure that better aligns with championship access principles. While the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee did not initially support reducing the number of regional sites, it recognized that this change will help ensure inclusive participation by allocating championship opportunities based on the number of sponsoring schools, thereby promoting fairness and consistency. Under this approach, bids will be allocated to each super region according to sponsorship numbers, ensuring equitable access across all regions.

Assigning a site representative and additional officials to each regional site will help manage the increased number of matches within the super region structure, enhance competitive equity, and maintain the overall quality of the championship experience.

The delayed effective date of the 2027-28 academic year for reducing the men's bracket and moving to super regions purposefully aligns with the new triennial budget and bid cycle. The championship host has already been secured for the 2026 and 2027 championships under the original format of 32 teams (16 per gender) advancing to the finals site. Additionally, this would align the cost savings with the 2027-30 triennial budget cycle.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Projected savings of \$245,000 (\$47,000 women's tennis, \$198,000 men's tennis).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These changes will ensure tennis student-athletes have similar access to the championship and finals site as student-athletes in other Division II team sports.

c. Challenge review system specifications in women's volleyball.

- (1) Recommendation. Enhance the challenge review system (CRS) to host a regional round of the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship by requiring (a) a minimum of three cameras (one mounted net camera and two that can provide unobstructed views of all four lines); (b) a minimum frame rate of 60 per second (120 frames per second is preferred); and (c) video with a minimum resolution of 1080p.
- (2) Effective date. 2027 championship. (The original proposal from the Division II Women's Volleyball Committee recommended a 2026 championship effective date but the Championships Committee voted to amend the date to 2027 to provide institutions time to prepare sufficiently.)
- (3) Rationale. In 2024, the division approved requiring all regional hosts to use a challenge review system effective with the 2025 championship. The initial recommendation required at least two cameras with no further stipulations, which was taken as a first step to incorporate challenge review during the regional round. Based on feedback from participants (e.g., officials and site representatives) in the 2025 regionals regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of host challenge review systems, it was apparent that further stipulations should be in place to enhance the quality of challenge review at regional sites. The recommended requirements are comparable to what is provided at the finals site and will enhance the quality of challenge review at regional sites.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Hosts absorb all costs associated with challenge review as part of hosting a regional. Some institutions already meet these requirements and would incur no additional costs.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Enhancing CRS requirements will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the system, which will help ensure that the correct calls are made during matches.

d. Men's and women's cross country selection procedures – A-Team definition.

- (1) Recommendation. Revise the Division II Cross Country A-Team definition by changing the requirement from five individuals to at least four of the seven student-athletes who represent the institution at the NCAA Regional Cross Country Championships and clarifying that all individuals who start a race are counted in this number, regardless of the total number of entries and if they finish.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The current A-Team definition is unclear regarding whether the five required student-athletes must start or finish the race. The revised wording clarifies that any student-athlete who starts a race is considered to have participated, ensuring consistency in how participation is counted and discouraging teams from choosing not to finish a race based on in-competition outcomes. Adjusting the requirement from five athletes to four also aligns the A-Team definition with existing team composition requirements from the regional to the national championships, where institutions are required to run at least four of the seven student-athletes who competed at regionals. This change aligns the Division II definition with the Division I definition, which similarly requires four of the seven regional competitors. This alignment will promote consistency across divisions and ensure that institutions field their true A-Team at both the regional and national levels.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation should create an incentive for coaches to race their top team and student-athletes more often.

e. Men's and women's cross country selection procedures – regional point gap ratio.

(1) Recommendation. Replace the current regional point gap ratio with a regional team time gap in the second step of the selection process.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The team time gap more accurately reflects competitive performance at regional meets and offers a clearer, more consistent method for comparing teams across regions. By measuring the actual time separation between teams rather than point-based scoring differences that may be influenced by regional depth or scoring compression, team time gap gives the committee a more reliable indicator of team quality for selection purposes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

f. Division II access ratio policy clarification.

(1) Recommendation. That the Division II championships policies and procedures be updated to indicate that the automatic qualification (AQ) policy must be followed, even if that results in an inability to follow another policy (i.e., access ratio policy).

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. With the adoption of Convention legislation to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship, the Championships Committee discussed which championship policy takes precedence when in conflict – the access ratio policy or the automatic qualification (no more than 60% of the bracket) policy. After discussion, the committee agreed that the AQ policy best encourages sport growth and should take precedence.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary, depending on necessary bracket adjustments. [Note: The Division II Women's Bowling Committee will review the planned eight-team bracket size should this recommendation be approved.]
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Requiring the AQ policy to take precedence best encourages sport growth and increases student-athlete opportunity.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and introduced new members Emma Neal, a track and field and cross country student-athlete at Maryville University of Saint Louis, representing the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; Ben Cherry, faculty athletics representative at California State University, San Marcos, and chair of the Division II Management Council; and Krissy Ortiz, assistant director of athletics for compliance and student welfare/SWA at Georgian Court University and vice chair of the Management Council.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its January 8 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.
 - a. **Budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed championships budget-to-actuals for the 2025-26 fiscal year through January 31, noting that not all expenses have been finalized from fall championships.
 - b. **Division II long-range budget.** Staff walked the committee through an overview of the long-range budget allocation for championships and the various funding sources. The committee began discussing how to allocate the amount among three areas – the triennial budget, the bracketing/regionalization review, and future championships initiatives. The committee will continue this discussion at its June meeting and finalize recommendations in this regard during its September meeting. As part of this discussion, however, the committee did agree to recommend that the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee amend the annual travel increase built into the long-range budget from 5% to 2% annually. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.)
 - c. **SAAC feedback on festival budget uses.** Given the recent decision to sunset the Division II National Championships Festivals, the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

was asked to provide input on potential uses for the budget previously devoted to support the festivals. SAAC members focused on streaming enhancements as a priority to provide additional avenues for student-athletes' family and friends as well as other fans and students from participating schools to watch the competitions. Other priorities included increased signage, awarding trophies in a celebratory moment (i.e., after the regional championship contests), and increasing officials' fees to help attract the best available officials to improve the student-athlete experience.

- d. **2027-30 triennial budget requests.** The committee began deliberating requests for the 2027-30 budget cycle by reviewing both the general items that apply to all sports (e.g., officials fees, streaming enhancements, signage, banquets) as well as specific requests from Division II sport committees. The committee heard presentations on all of the requests but did not discuss their merits in detail at this time. However, the committee did break into small groups to begin discussing how these requests might be prioritized. The committee will continue the review during its June meeting before finalizing recommendations during its August and September meetings for the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, Management Council and Executive Board to formally consider in the fall. [Attachment]

4. Committee updates.

- a. **Summary of actions.** The committee reviewed highlights from the Management Council and Executive Board meetings conducted at the January Convention as information.

b. **Nominating Committee.**

(1) **Sport and playing rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments, effective as specified:

- **NCAA Division II Baseball Committee** [one immediate vacancy replacing Jessica Harbison Weaver (West Region) and two September vacancies (East and South Regions)] – **Derek Waddoups**, head baseball coach, Montana State University Billings, Great Northwest Athletic Conference; **Corey Goff**, assistant vice president for athletics, Thomas Jefferson University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; and **Benjamin Greenberg**, director of sports communications, Colorado State University Pueblo, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Committee** [one September vacancy replacing Mike MacDonald (East Region)] – **Robert Kearney**, director of athletics, American International College, Northeast 10 Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee** [one September vacancy (Midwest Region)] – **John Ashaolu**, assistant vice president for athletics, Lewis University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.

- **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee** [one September vacancy (Midwest Region)] – **Evelyn Plude**, assistant cross country/track and field coach, Saginaw Valley State University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Football Committee** [two September vacancies (Super Region 2 and Super Region 4)] – **Dustin Fuls**, deputy director of athletics, North Greenville University, Conference Carolinas; and **Jeff Girsch**, head football coach, Angelo State University, Lone Star Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Men's Lacrosse Committee** [one September vacancy replacing Christopher Barrett)] – **Marty Ward**, head men's lacrosse coach, Florida Southern College, Sunshine State Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee** [one September vacancy replacing Dawn Sachs (East Region)] – **Joel Godett**, director of strategic communications and digital media, Northeast 10 Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Women's Rowing Committee** (one September vacancy replacing Frank Gonzalez) – **Samara Bay**, assistant rowing coach, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida), Sunshine State Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Softball Committee** (one September vacancy replacing Dixie Cirillo) – **Kristina Kish**, assistant athletics director for administration and business operations/senior woman administrator, St. Mary's University (Texas), Lone Star Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Committee** [two September vacancies (Central Region and South Region)] – **Rafael Costa**, head men's soccer coach, Mississippi College, Gulf South Conference; and **Derek Larkin**, assistant athletics director for athletics facilities and operations, Rogers State University, Great American Conference (affiliate member in men's soccer).
- **NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Committee** [one immediate vacancy (Southeast Region) replacing Erika Torrez and two September vacancies (Central region and East region)] – **Michael Lynch**, head women's soccer coach, Belmont Abbey College, Conference Carolinas; **Emily Hester**, head women's soccer coach, Wayne State College (Nebraska), Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; and **James Moore**, head women's soccer coach and assistant athletics director, Georgian Court University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
- **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee** [two September vacancies (South Central Region and East Region)] – **Gregory Coache**, head men's and women's tennis coach, Southern New Hampshire University, Northeast 10 Conference; and **Autumn Wollenzien**, head women's tennis coach, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Lone Star Conference.

- **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee** [one September vacancy (South Central Region) replacing Daniel Nichole Anderson] – **Jenna McKinley-Fall**, associate athletics director/compliance and student-athlete development/senior woman administrator, Colorado State University Pueblo, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
 - **NCAA Division II Men's Wrestling Committee** (one-year term extension) – **Shawn Nelson**, head wrestling coach, University of Findlay, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
 - **NCAA Division II Men's Wrestling Committee** [three September vacancies (Super Region One, Super Region Five and Super Region Six)] – **Kaylee Summers**, associate director of athletics for business operations/senior woman administrator, Western Colorado University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (Super Region Six); **Mike Wehler**, assistant director of athletics for compliance and student-athlete services, University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (Super Region One); and **Marcus Wagner**, director of intercollegiate athletics, University of Mary, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Super Region Five).
 - **NCAA Divisions II and III Women's Basketball Rules Committee** (one September Division II vacancy replacing Christopher Cross) – **Maurice Smith**, head women's basketball coach, Flagler College, Peach Belt Conference.
 - **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee** (one immediate vacancy and one September Division II vacancy) – **Wynton Stephens**, faculty athletics representative, Converse University, Conference Carolinas; and **Alicia Schuck**, head women's soccer coach, Rollins College, Sunshine State Conference.
 - **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee** (one September Division II vacancy replacing Christopher James Villa) – **Evan Anthony**, head swimming and diving coach, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
- (2) **Sport committee preferences.** The Nominating Committee asked the Championships Committee for feedback regarding the preferences listed for sport committees given the elimination of regional advisory committees due to the adoption of the NCAA Power Index to determine selections in team sports. The current guiding principle the Nominating Committee uses prefers some level of sport committee or regional advisory committee experience, but that will now be obsolete in all team sports other than golf and women's rowing. Championships Committee members believe that site representative experience and conference championship planning experience would be appropriate preferences. In addition, the committee discussed whether the conference rotation process should remain as rigid given the change from RACs to NPI. Currently,

if no individuals from the conference that is up in the rotation submits a nomination by the first deadline, nominations are resolicited from that conference. The Championships Committee, though, agreed that the conference rotation preference should apply only to the initial posting and that if no nominations are submitted, nominations could be solicited from another conference in the same region.

- c. **Membership Committee.** The committee received an update from the Membership Committee that included the committee's acceptance of Shawnee State University into the expedited membership process beginning in 2026-27 and receiving Texas A&M University-Texarkana's application into the three-year process, which the committee will consider approving during its July meeting. The committee also noted reclassification decisions from Azusa Pacific University to Division III and Simon Fraser University to a Canada-based affiliation in 2027-28. The Membership Committee will soon review the feedback from the Championships Committee regarding whether the five-year waiting period for a new conference to obtain automatic qualification for championships remains appropriate. (The Championships Committee during its January videoconference agreed that nothing of substance has changed since the legislation was adopted that would render any modification of the waiting period necessary or desired.) The Membership Committee will continue discussing the legislation in question during its upcoming meetings. Finally, the committee received an update on the merger of Ursuline College and Gannon University.
- d. **Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** The committee reviewed reports from the panel's initial meeting in October and most recent meeting earlier this month as information. The committee was informed that Division II members of this panel agreed to continue tabling the coach-to-player helmet communication being discussed within the playing rules structure to give the Division II members of the rules committee a chance to discuss the merits of the proposal further. The committee also was informed that the proposal to modify legislation on the use of commercial trademarks or logos on uniforms and equipment received approval from the Division I Cabinet in January and will become effective with the 2026-27 academic year. Because Division II also has similar legislation restricting the use of commercial logos on uniforms and equipment, the Division II Legislation Committee will consider legislation to align with the new rules in Division I.
- e. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** Emma Neal and Sean Belzer updated the committee on the SAAC's meeting at the NCAA Convention during which members elected new leadership, including chair Rachel McCool from Ashland University. The committee also reaffirmed its goals for the spring that include maintaining consistent communication with campus and conference SAACs to keep student-athletes informed on Division II events and issues and encouraging and spotlighting community engagement efforts at Division II conferences and schools.

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. **Men's and women's cross country.**

- **Selection procedures.** The committee supported the cross country committee's recommended modifications to the selection procedures (changing the A-team definition and replacing the current regional point gap ratio with a regional team time gap) as specified in Nonlegislative Action Items 2-d and 2-e above.
- b. **Field hockey.** The committee reviewed the report from the field hockey committee's annual meeting as information, noting that the field hockey committee approved a permissive rule allowing preliminary-round hosts to use video replay if they have the capability.
- c. **Football.** The committee reviewed the report from the football committee's annual meeting as information, noting the football committee's support of the coach-to-player helmet communication being discussed within the playing rules structure.
- d. **Women's golf.**
- **Regional site recommendation.** The committee approved St. Mary's University (Texas) to host the 2028 West Regional at the Dominion Country Club.
- e. **Men's soccer.**
- **Preliminary-round host concern.** The committee noted the men's soccer committee's correspondence to a 2025 preliminary-round host expressing concerns about its ability to meet prescribed standards. Staff noted this institution also was previously cited for insufficiencies in another sport. The committee advised that staff follow up with the institution to indicate by the committee's March 5 videoconference whether it has taken measures to correct the concerns. The committee also advised that such correspondence in the future be sent to the institution's president and the conference commissioner in addition to the athletics director.
- f. **Women's soccer.** The committee reviewed the report from the women's soccer committee's annual meeting as information.
- g. **Men's and women's soccer.** The committee reviewed the report from the joint soccer committees' meeting as information.
- h. **Men's and women's tennis.**
- **Revised championship format.** The committee supported the revised recommendation on the proposed tennis format as specified in Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b above.
- i. **Women's volleyball.**
- (1) **Challenge review system specifications.** The committee supported the volleyball committee's recommendation to require specific challenge review system standards to host a regional round of the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship. However,

the Championships Committee amended the proposal to be effective for the 2027 season rather than 2026 as originally suggested. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c above.)

(2) Challenge review system use. The committee considered but did not support the recommendation to require use of a CRS (with the prescribed specifications noted above) during at least four matches throughout the season as a minimum requirement to host a regional. The committee expressed concern with the effect of the proposal on institutions in conferences that do not allow a CRS during the regular season, as well as the potential financial burden on individual schools.

j. Supplemental sport committee reports. The committee reviewed additional reports from sport committees that required no action to be taken.

6. Additional discussion items.

a. In-region, nonconference opponent requirement feedback. The committee reviewed feedback it requested from sport committees and the Division II Athletics Directors Association and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association regarding potential in-region, nonconference opponent requirements. Based on the feedback and after lengthy discussion, the committee agreed that some level of nonconference competition across all sports other than football is important, and that for those sports there should be an in-region component to any nonconference requirement. Accordingly, the committee agreed that in team sports other than football, at least one in-region, nonconference contest must be required to be eligible for at-large selection to the championship. In football, the committee agreed that at least one nonconference contest, without the in-region requirement, is required for at-large selection. The committee is asking sport committees for feedback on their preferred number (at least one) and the date the requirement should be effective (either 2027-28 or 2028-29 academic year) before issuing a final recommendation during a subsequent meeting.

b. Review of fall championship misconduct issues. The committee noted there were no misconduct issues from the fall championships, so no action was necessary.

c. Championship ticket prices. The committee was briefed regarding the data-informed review of championships ticket prices being conducted and provided feedback on proposed changes to Division II ticket price minimums that will be forwarded to the Division II Management Council for feedback during its April meeting. The committee will review the council's feedback and potentially act during its June meeting to implement minimums effective in 2026-27.

d. Convention follow-up.

(1) Women's rowing championship format. Given the adoption of the Convention legislation to exempt women's rowing and field hockey from the 35-institution threshold, the Championships Committee agreed to ask the Division II Women's

- Rowing Committee to review its championship format, as rowing's access ratio is currently out of policy. (The access ratio policy in team sports requires the championship to be within a 4.0 to 6.0 range. For the 2025-26 academic year, women's rowing is at 2.33.) Committee members did note, however, that reducing the championship field from six to four to comply with the ratio could affect the overall operation of the event (which is combined with Divisions I and III) in a manner that may negatively impact the student-athlete experience.
- (2) **Women's bowling format.** With the establishment of the Division II women's bowling championship, the committee discussed which championship policy takes precedence when in conflict – the access ratio policy or the automatic qualification (no more than 60% of the bracket) policy. The committee opted for the latter and referred a discussion about increasing the bracket size and its budget impact to the newly established Division II Women's Bowling Committee for review. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-f.)
 - (3) **NPI educational timeline.** Staff reviewed the educational timeline for the NPI now that it has been adopted as the sole results-based metric for selections in team sports.
 - (4) **NPI ranking releases.** The committee discussed the cadence that will be used for NPI rankings releases, recommending the same cadence as in Division III for publishing NPI rankings (i.e., Mondays beginning four weeks prior to selections, with daily pushes beginning two weeks prior to selections). Committee members agreed this provides appropriate transparency for the membership while not releasing rankings without a majority of the season's results being completed.
 - (5) **Championships educational modules.** The committee discussed what education should be available to the membership regarding selections and other championship information given the adoption of NPI (i.e., the current team sport selection module is irrelevant now) and whether modules should continue to be required for committee service. Staff noted that one of the modules will need to be eliminated and the others may need to be revised based on this change. The committee offered feedback on the existing modules and potential additional modules to be developed. Staff will seek cost estimates for the committee to consider at a future meeting.
 - (6) **Bracketing/regionalization review.** Staff summarized progress to date on the bracketing/regionalization review, including the previously agreed upon bracketing principles, as well as the proposed timeline for continuing and completing this review. After extensive discussion, the committee reaffirmed its support for the principles and asked staff to keep preparing/testing brackets across all Division II team sports for consideration and continued refinement of the specific process at the committee's June meeting.

7. Staff updates.

- a. **Legal.** The committee heard from the NCAA’s legal counsel regarding litigation affecting the NCAA overall and Division II in particular.
- b. **Division II Operating Plan.** Staff provided an overview of the recently released Division II 2026-32 Operating Plan and highlighted the items that fall under the committee’s purview.
- c. **Fall NCAA.com broadcast analytics.** Staff provided an overview of the broadcast analytics from the fall championships streamed on ncaa.com.
- d. **Fall championship social media analytics.** Staff provided an overview of the fall championship social media analytics and engaged the committee in a discussion regarding the value of live highlight cutting for select social media (which data indicate improve engagement).
- e. **Gender equity update.** John Baldwin joined the meeting to provide a presentation on the staff’s continued efforts regarding gender equity, including the annual process to evaluate all NCAA championships with a consistent rubric.
- f. **Community engagement.** Jill Willson joined the meeting and summarized the successful events that took place during the fall championships and previewed plans for the winter and spring sports championships.

8. Other business.

- **National Collegiate Men’s and Women’s Skiing Championships site change.** Staff informed the committee that the 2026 NCAA National Collegiate Men’s and Women’s Skiing Championships have been moved from the previously approved site in Montana to Utah due to snow conditions.

9. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- March 5, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- April 2, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- May 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- June 23-24 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Sept. 14-15 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Feb. 16-17, 2027 (meeting via videoconference).

Committee Chair: Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul

Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances

Micaela Kipsalis, Championships and Alliances

Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services

February 19-20, 2026, Meeting	
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 (via videoconference).	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
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) (via videoconference).	
Christina Paone, Walsh University.	
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Stan Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.	
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor (via videoconference).	
Jill Willson, Double L Consulting (via videoconference).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Chelsea Hooks, Micaela Kipsalis and Karen Kirsch.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lynne Andrew, Mitchell Bailey, John Baldwin (via videoconference), Corey Bray, Eric Breece, Randy L. Buhr, Donisha Carter, Antonio Cannavaro, Zach Christopher, Lindsey Eldred, Nate Flannery (via videoconference), Jess Gaumer, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Anthony Holman, Cara Hubert, Dante Jones, Maritza Jones, Jordan Lysiak, Mariah Martin, Katie Mucci, Ryan Rea, Angela Red, Ryan Richardson, Alyssa Rice, Jennifer Roe, Rachel Seewald (via videoconference), Liz Suscha and Jared Tidemann.	

Sport	Description	Budgetary Impact
General - All DII Championships	Provide patches to all members of the travel party (currently squad size only)	\$ 6,700
General - All DII Championships	Amend trophy allocation to award in a celebratory moment and create consistency across sports	\$ 27,000
General - All DII Championships	Increase officiating fees 5%	\$ 38,000
General - All DII Championships	Signage increase for all sports (20%)	\$ 46,000
General - All DII Championships	Reduce mileage for flights for officials from 500 to 400, except football 1st/2nd rounds	\$ 50,000
General - All DII Championships	Increase officiating fees 7%	\$ 53,000
General - All DII Championships	Provide participant medallions to all members of the travel party (currently squad size only)	\$ 54,000
General - All DII Championships	Reduce mileage for flights for officials from 500 to 400	\$ 91,000
General - All DII Championships	Increase budget for banquets (or substitute) from \$50 to \$75	\$ 140,000
General - All DII Championships	Increase value of participant gifts from \$85 to \$110	\$ 140,000
General - DII Individual-Team Sport Championships	Amend the number of NAs included in travel party based on SAs participating	\$ 167,000
General - Various DII Championships	Base budget enhanced game presentation costs (banquet videos, intro videos)	\$ 87,000
General - Various DII Championships	Streaming costs (more cameras, track enhancements, etc)	\$ 416,000
Baseball	Increase the number of officials at 4-team regionals from four to five	\$ 26,000
Baseball	Increase the size of the bracket by two teams and add to the appropriate region(s)	\$ 128,000
Baseball	Increase travel party from 30 to 32	\$ 207,000
Baseball	Increase the size of the bracket by four teams and add to the appropriate region(s)	\$ 254,000
Football	Eight-person crews, no alternates at all rounds	\$ 3,930
Football	Increase the squad size from 58 to 66 for all rounds and official travel party from 70 to 78 for the first-round, second-round, and quarterfinal-round, and from 80 to 88 for the semifinal-round and the championship game	\$ 368,000
M Swimming and Diving	Increase the participant cap for the men's swimming field to align with the women (+30)	\$ 86,000
Men's Golf	Increase regional officials from 5 to 6 to adjust for larger field sizes	\$ 7,000
Men's Golf	Increase the travel party for regionals from 7 to 8 to accommodate substitutions and an assistant coach	\$ 24,000

2027-30 Triennial Budget Requests

Sport	Description	Budgetary Impact
Men's Golf	Due to increased costs of travel the current per diem does not cover travel expenses	\$ 659,000
Men's Lacrosse	Increase travel party from 34 to 37.	\$ 56,000
Men's Soccer	Assign officials by match at the finals site, paying a per match fee	\$ 2,000
Men's Soccer	Increase the size of the bracket by two teams and add to the appropriate super region, according to access ratio	\$ 87,000
Men's Soccer	Increase the size of the bracket by four teams and add to the appropriate super region, according to access ratio	\$ 173,000
Men's Soccer	Increase the size of the bracket by six teams and add to the appropriate region, according to access ratio	\$ 262,000
Men's Wrestling	Add another day for Super Regional competition (one to two days)	\$ 48,000
Men's Wrestling	Increase number of qualifiers for finals by 20 wrestlers	\$ 57,000
MW Basketball	Move to a three weekend format (two games per weekend).	\$ 107,000
MW Cross Country	Increase game expense budget to require and pay for videoboards at regionals	\$ 60,000
MW Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field	Select individuals to serve as competition managers for the throws, jumps and running events at the championship	\$ 20,000
MW Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field	Additional cameras for long jump/triple jump events	\$ 22,000
MW Indoor Track & Field	Extend the indoor championship to 3 days from 2 days of competition	\$ 159,000
MW Indoor Track & Field	Increase the number of combined events (heptathlon and pentathlon) athletes in the championship	\$ 14,000
MW Indoor Track & Field	Increase the set field sizes from 18 in individual events to 20 in each.	\$ 132,000
MW Outdoor Track & Field	Increase the number of combined events (heptathlon and Decathlon) athletes in the championship	\$ 33,000
MW Outdoor Track & Field	Extend the championship to 4 days from 3 days of competition	\$ 230,000
MW Outdoor Track & Field	Add a first-round prelim competition (East and West) to the championship	\$ 468,000
MW Swimming and Diving	Adjust the diving qualification meet from Tuesday of championship week to Monday.	\$ 97,000
Softball	Establish a national coordinator of officials for softball to align with DI/DIII	\$ 13,000

2027-30 Triennial Budget Requests

Sport	Description	Budgetary Impact
Women's Golf	Increase individuals from 8 to 9 at the finals for three groups of threesomes and mitigate pace of play concerns.	\$ 4,000
Women's Golf	Increase finals officials from 8 to 10 to more closely aligning the ratio officials at both the Men's and Women's Finals sites	\$ 5,000
Women's Golf	Increase regional officials from 5 to 6 to adjust for larger field sizes	\$ 7,000
Women's Golf	Increase the travel party for regionals from 7 to 8 to accommodate substitutions and an assistant coach	\$ 23,000
Women's Golf	Due to increased costs of travel the current per diem does not cover travel expenses	\$ 524,000
Women's Lacrosse	WLA is asking for an increase of 30 for squad size and 35 for travel party	\$ 153,000
Women's Rowing	Increase the travel party from 21 to 22 to allow for a spare coxswain to be included.	\$ 18,000
Women's Soccer	Assign officials by match at the finals site, paying a per match fee	\$ 2,000
Women's Soccer	Moving to a super region format similar to men's soccer	\$ 43,000
Women's Volleyball	Add a day of rest between the semifinal and final match at regionals and finals.	\$ 131,000