



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 9, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**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 December 5, 2024, videoconference, as presented.
3. **Division II Nominating Committee reports.** The committee approved the following recommendations from the Division II Nominating Committee for sport and playing rules committee appointments.
  - a. **Women's basketball rules.** The committee approved **Chandler Merkerson**, head women's basketball coach at Valdosta State University, Gulf South Conference, to replace Diane Thompson, effective immediately.
  - b. **Women's wrestling.** The committee approved the following recommended Division II appointments to the anticipated NCAA Women's Wrestling Committee, pending approval of legislation by all three divisions at the 2025 NCAA Convention to formally establish a National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship and the accompanying sport committee, which would begin its work immediately:
    - **Lisa Goddard McGuirk** (four-year term), director of athletics, Gannon University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; and
    - **Oscar Ramirez** (three-year term), associate director of athletics, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
4. **Division II Softball Committee report.** The committee received the softball committee's most recent report as information only, noting the approved use of video review during preliminary rounds of the Division II Softball Championship beginning with the 2025 championship. The use of video review will be permissive and not a requirement of hosting. Hosts must have used video review during the regular season in order to use during the regional and super regional rounds. The softball committee also approved using the Kevin Puga Index (KPI) to reseed teams for the finals site. The KPI will not take into consideration games played during the NCAA postseason.
5. **NCAA Football Rules Committee update.** Staff updated the committee on rules pertaining to sideline-to-player helmet technology being used thus far solely by schools in the Division I

Football Bowl Subdivision. The Football Rules Committee is exploring whether there is interest in other segments of the membership to allow this technology (acknowledging the costs associated with it) as a permissive rule. Staff noted that the idea was broached during a meeting with the Division II Conference Commissioners Association, but broader feedback is desired before the rules committee convenes in February, particularly from athletics directors and other staff who would be able to talk more specifically about the budget impact on institutions in the division.

Discussion within the Championships Committee focused on the high cost to implement the technology and the concern regarding a permissive rule becoming indirectly mandatory for schools that may feel they must invest to avoid a competitive disadvantage. Committee members also are concerned about the impact on the postseason if some conferences have implemented the technology during the regular season and others haven't. Staff appreciated the feedback and noted that it will be informative for the rules committee to consider.

6. **KPI and NPI discussion.** The committee continued its review of a results-based selection metric with the goal of determining a single metric for which to receive feedback from sport committees in the coming months. Staff also updated the committee on discussions with the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the Division II Athletics Directors Association on the potential timeline of implementing such a metric and noted that both groups supported implementation as soon as is logistically feasible. Staff noted that based on the need for broader feedback and education regarding whatever metric is selected, the earliest feasible approval from the Division II Executive Board would be August of 2025, which would make implementation for fall sports in 2025 challenging from a membership notice standpoint. With that timeline in mind, the committee agreed to target their June meeting to determine whether to recommend that a metric be adopted via noncontroversial legislation, 2026 Convention legislation, or whether to decide not to recommend a metric for selections at all.

The committee then continued discussing whether to recommend one metric over another on which to obtain feedback. As members weighed the pros and cons of both the KPI and the NPI, the committee ultimately agreed to ask sport committees to provide feedback on using the NPI as the metric to help inform the committee's decision in June. Staff noted that the division already has allocated funding to enlist the services of a contractor to attend sport committee meetings and educate members about how the metric works.

7. **Recognition of outgoing committee members.** The committee formally recognized the outstanding contributions of the following members who are leaving the committee this month:
  - Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (Management Council liaison).
  - Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania (SAAC liaison).
  - Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University (Management Council liaison).
8. **Future videoconferences and meetings.**

- Monday-Tuesday, February 24-25, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Eastern time both days (meeting via videoconference)
- Thursday, March 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference)
- Thursday, April 3, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly 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

Division II Championships Committee January 9, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
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>	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic 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>	
Brooke Dixon, Terri Steeb Gronau, Ty Halpin, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Angela Red, Alyssa Rice, Jennifer Roe, CJ Sowards and Lynda Tealer.	