



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-18, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial legislation – NCAA Bylaw 18.4.3.1 – Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships – Criteria for Selection of Participants – Team Championships Pairings.**
  - a. Recommendation. That the Division II Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate Bylaw 18.4.3.1 (team championships pairings), which specifies that sport committees shall pair teams strictly within their region and move it to championships policy. [Attachment A]
  - b. Effective date. Immediate.
  - c. Rationale. The Division II Implementation Committee in its final report in 2022 referred several items into the governance structure for further review, including the following to the Division II Championships Committee:

*“While keeping regionalization principles related to selections, consider changes to the division’s championship model concerning regionalization bracketing policies with the goal of reducing first-round conference matchups and maintaining fiscal responsibility.”*

The Championships Committee has reviewed this charge and has engaged the Division II membership and sport committees over the last 18 months to gather input and ideas regarding how best to address it. The committee believes the feedback obtained to date supports changing the current regionalization bracketing legislation. A recent survey in fact indicated support from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the Division II Athletics Directors Association specifically for eliminating Bylaw 18.4.3.1, and 10 of the 13 sport committees supported doing so as well.

The Championships Committee believes the first step in pursuing an improved regionalization bracketing model is to remove the current legislation. Removing Bylaw 18.4.3.1 as legislation and placing as policy would expedite the pursuit of a new model and send a clear message to the membership that changes are coming, and that the membership will be consulted for feedback on principles and concepts being considered all along the way.

The committee considered flipping the process so that pursuit of a recommendation would occur before asking the Management Council to adopt noncontroversial legislation to address the current bylaw, but the committee believes moving the current bylaw to policy now removes a perceived barrier to pursuing change and still retains the current bracketing principles via policy for as long as it takes to implement a new concept. Finally, the committee believes the membership feedback warrants removing the legislation as noncontroversial.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None in the short term, though input from student-athletes has indicated that pursuing a bracketing model to mitigate first-round conference matchups is a priority.

## 2. Nonlegislative items.

### a. Joint Divisions I, II and III Women's Basketball Championships.

(1) Recommendation. Approve the recommended year and site to conduct the Division II Women's Basketball Championship as part of a joint Divisions I, II and III Women's Basketball Championship.

(2) Effective date. As specified in the recommendation.

*(Note: The date and site for this recommendation are not specified here because the NCAA plans to issue an announcement if and once the recommendation is approved.)*

(3) Rationale. The Championships Committee recognizes and embraces the opportunity for Division II women's basketball that a joint championship with Division I and Division III would provide and the outstanding student-athlete experience for the two Division II teams that advance to the final game, as well as the opportunity for greater exposure for the division at the Women's Final Four. The Championships Committee during its September 2018 meeting agreed to the concept of staging the Division II Women's Basketball Championship in conjunction with the Women's Final Four twice over a 10-year period. The other joint championship in 2016 (Indianapolis) and 2023 (Dallas) provided exceptional experiences for the Division II student-athletes. The committee expects a similar experience will be offered and looks forward to another joint championship. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association supports continuing future joint championships.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$250,000.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The student-athletes who advance to the championship game would be able to participate in several activities surrounding the Women's Final Four, including the Salute, an introduction during the semifinals of the Women's Final Four, involvement with in-venue and game presentation opportunities at the Division I championship game, and the winning team being introduced during the Division I championship game as the Division II national champion. These experiences provide lifelong positive memories. The student-athletes who advance to the championship would miss four additional days of class time to attend the championship. However, the committee asserts the impact of missing class time is less given the ability to conduct academic pursuits via online platforms.

**b. Division II Neutrality Policy – Season-Ticket Holder Seating at Regionals.**

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the neutrality policy in all sports for which it applies to clarify that season-ticket holders may have early access to tickets for regional competition but that seats directly behind the participating teams' benches must be reserved for those teams' fans.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. This recommendation emerged from the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Committees, but the Championships Committee believes it would be beneficial to all sports for which the neutrality policy applies. While the basketball committees and the Championships Committee support season-ticket holders having first access to purchase tickets to regional competition, they do not believe this should guarantee these individuals access to the same tickets as during the regular season. To decrease the potential for event management issues, seats directly behind the benches of the participating teams should be reserved for fans of those teams as part of the visiting team ticket allocation.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. A participating institution's fans will be closer to the team's bench, which will enhance the student-athlete experience.

**c. Use of Sideline Instant Replay in Football.**

- (1) Recommendation. Allow the use of sideline instant replay during the 2024 NCAA Division II Football Championship at host sites that currently have the technology in place during the regular season; further, require preliminary-round hosts for the 2025 NCAA Division II Football Championship to provide sideline instant replay with at least two cameras.
- (2) Effective date. Permissible for the 2024 Division II Football Championship (the requirement for 2025 will be built into the bid specifications).
- (3) Rationale. Ten of the 15 football-sponsoring conferences either used sideline replay in 2023 or plan to this coming season. For the betterment of the game, instant replay should be used at any site with such capability during the 2024 championship to help ensure the correct calls are made. By the 2025 championship, any preliminary-round host must provide sideline instant replay with at least two cameras (one wide angle and one tight angle) for the first-round, second-round, and quarterfinal-round games. The committee believes it is essential to have sideline instant replay capabilities at each preliminary-round site.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Preliminary-round hosts would absorb all costs associated with sideline instant replay, similar to basketball (currently effective) and volleyball (effective for 2025 the championship).

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would enhance the integrity of the competition by ensuring as much as possible that the correct calls are made.

**d. Reporting Software for Diving.**

- (1) Recommendation. Require institutions that sponsor diving to use the Dive Meets software as the results reporting system for regular-season and championship entry and results reporting purposes.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 championship season.
- (3) Rationale. The current method of gathering and tracking diving results is a manual process requiring institutions to scan/fax a result sheet to an NCAA staff member who then enters the results into an excel sheet for analysis. This process is both outdated and inefficient, especially compared to how results are reported in other sports. This recommendation has received support from both the Coaches Connection and Division II Athletics Directors Association.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The Dive Meets software costs roughly \$200 annually. Each Division II institution that hosts diving events would be required to have the software.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This adjustment will reduce any possible misreporting of qualifying scores and entries that could adversely affect a student-athlete's ability to be entered into the meet.

**e. Application of Statistical Penalties to Teams that Have Earned the Conference Automatic Qualification (AQ).**

- (1) Recommendation. Update the Championships Committee Policies and Operating Procedures Manual and clarify that the statistical penalties for exceeding the maximum number of contests per Bylaw 17 during a season and nullification, apply to teams that have earned the conference AQ.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee initially reviewed this issue in 2020 when a men's basketball team had exceeded the maximum number of contests per Bylaw 17. At that time, the penalty was limited to the enforcement process, which typically imposed a 2-for-1 penalty for the following academic year. The committee supported a championships penalty being imposed during the academic year in which the institution scheduled too many contests and agreed to recommend a 1-for-1 penalty, similar to nullification. The Management Council ultimately approved that policy in April 2020. While the intention was for the Championships Committee to review a draft policy in June 2020, due to the disruptions caused by the necessary COVID-19 response at that time, this item was not placed on the agenda.

The issue surfaced again when this past May, a women's tennis team was reported to have participated in too many contests during the 2023-24 academic year. This team ultimately won the conference championship and earned the AQ for the Division II championship. Since the policy was not ever reviewed by the Championships Committee, it is unclear whether the penalty should have applied to a team that earned the AQ. As a result, staff determined that the penalty should not be applied until the committee had the opportunity to confirm its intent.

After discussion, the committee recommended that going forward the 1-for-1 statistical penalty for participating in too many contests should in fact apply to teams that have won the conference AQ. In addition, the committee recommended the 2-for-1 statistical penalty for nullification applies to teams that have won the conference AQ. The penalty would not result in the team being excluded from the championship field, but could impact the team's seed.

These policies will be included in the Championships Committee Policies and Operating Procedures Manual, which the committee will review during its September meeting with any other necessary annual updates.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and roster updates.** Championships Committee Chair Nathan Gibson welcomed the group and introduced JJ Hayes, a basketball student-athlete at Palm Beach Atlantic University who is joining Courtney Medwin in representing the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The appointment comes from the Division II Management Council having adopted legislation that adds a second SAAC member to the Division II Championships and Legislation Committees. In other roster matters, Mr. Gibson noted that the Division II Nominating Committee continues to seek a replacement for Kristy Bayer, who began her term on the Division II Management Council in January. The individual who had been selected recently resigned her position, so the Nominating Committee is working to identify another nominee.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved reports from its March 7 videoconference and April 2 and April 12 electronic votes, as presented.
3. **Budget review.** The committee reviewed the division's 2023-24 budget-to-actuals through May, which do not yet reflect the total expenses for spring championships.
4. **Committee updates.**
  - a. **Management Council/Executive Board Summary of Actions.** Staff highlighted actions from the Management Council's April meeting and the new Executive Board's first meeting in April, noting that the Executive Board approved the budget requests for the 2024-25

fiscal year, including \$1.6 million for a \$20 per diem increase to \$135 for championships competition for the 2024-25 academic year.

Staff also noted that the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) during its March meeting considered two requests from the Championships Committee and took the following action:

Supported adjusting the current allocations to the long-range budget and increasing per diem prior to the next scheduled increase to \$135 as noted above. Further, the SPFC agreed to move to an annual review of per diem increases for purposes of the long-range budget, similar to the annual review of travel expenses.

Did not support adjusting the triennial budget process to allow for expanding the Division II Football Championship bracket before the next triennium. The SPFC noted that the rationale for considering the bracket expansion outside of the triennial budget cycle did not meet the current exceptions of health and safety or gender equity. The committee also did not believe there was strong or sufficient rationale to support an exception to the triennial budget process to allow the Division II Football Committee to recommend a bracket expansion outside the triennial budget cycle without creating precedent for other sports to bring similar requests outside of the cycle and diminishing the benefits of reviewing all sports within the same time frame.

- b. Membership Committee.** Staff noted that the Division II Management Council, per the Membership Committee's recommendation, approved a Membership Committee policy change that establishes a two-year expedited provisional membership process as specified, effective for institutions applying to reclassify by the October 1, 2024, deadline. Also, per the Membership Committee's request, the Management Council considered issues surrounding minimum contest and participant requirements for men's and women's tennis and asked the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee for feedback in this regard. Staff also updated the Championships Committee on movement within the Division II membership, including institutions that are reclassifying and institutions that are closing.
  - c. Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).** The committee reviewed reports from PROP's recent meetings as information.
  - d. Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** Courtney Medwin and JJ Hayes updated the committee on the Division II SAAC goals for the coming year and noted the opportunity for several SAAC members to represent the group at various leadership meetings over the past few months, as well as noting those members appointed to attend the Division II Think Tank at the national office this fall.
- 5. Sport committee reports.** *(Note: Beginning with this meeting, sport committee reports include a recap of their respective championship as information. Sport committees in all three divisions are providing these recaps for their respective oversight committees to review.)*

- a. **Men's basketball.** The Championships Committee received the report from the Men's Basketball Committee's annual meeting as information only.
- b. **Women's basketball.**
  - (1) **Joint championship.** The Championships Committee supported the Women's Basketball Committee's recommendation to conduct a joint championship in conjunction with Division I and Division III. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a above.)
  - (2) **Seeding criteria at the finals site.** The Championships Committee noted as information the Women's Basketball Committee's decision to use KPI as the lone metric to seed teams for the Elite Eight. Several other sports use just one metric (RPI, PI) to seed at the finals site. For this year's championship, the KPI would have identified the same 1-4 seeds, though seeds 5 and 6 would have been flipped and seeds 7 and 8 would have been flipped. Both of those were under heavy discussion by the committee when reviewing the full data.
- c. **Men's and women's basketball.**
  - **Neutrality policy adjustment.** The Championships Committee supported the recommendation from the basketball committees to amend the neutrality policy to clarify that season-ticket holders may have early access to tickets for regional competition but that seats directly behind the participating teams' benches must be reserved for those teams' fans. The Championships Committee expanded the recommendation to apply to all sports for which the neutrality policy applies. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b above.)
- d. **Football.**
  - (1) **Tablets for in-game video.** The Championships Committee approved the Football Committee's recommendation to allow the new playing rule for the 2024 football season regarding tablets for in-game video to also be available to participating teams during the championship.
  - (2) **Sideline instant replay.** The Championships Committee supported the Football Committee's recommendation to implement the use of sideline instant replay during the 2024 NCAA Division II Football Championship at host sites that currently have the technology in place during the regular season, as well as require sideline instant replay with at least two cameras at all preliminary-round sites in 2025. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c above.)
  - (3) **Number of officials.** The Championships Committee considered but did not support the Football Committee's recommendation to allow conferences to assign the same number of officials in the Division II tournament as they do for regular-season games (i.e., allowing conferences that use eight-person crews rather than seven to be able to use eight-person crews in the tournament). Currently, all tournament games are officiated by seven people with an alternate official being provided on site. The

Championships Committee expressed concern with the inconsistency the recommendation would present, as advancing teams could compete in games officiated by crews of different numbers. Championships Committee members also did not agree that if an alternate official worked in a tournament game as part of an eight-person crew, they would still be paid the alternate official fee, which is less than the fee other seven officials are paid.

While the Championships Committee did not support the proposal as specified, the committee did request that the Division II Football Committee provide guidance to conferences and coordinators of officials about instructing the mechanics for the seven-person crew when those individuals have been accustomed to being part of an eight-person crew in the regular season.

(4) **Bench size request.** The Championships Committee considered the Football Committee's request to limit the bench size to 140 individuals but modified the recommended number to 125. The Championships Committee acknowledged the Football Committee's desire to set a specific number rather than leave the bench size to an institution's discretion (which is the current policy), but the Championships Committee believes the 125 number will help mitigate capacity and monitoring issues for host venues and still be enough to accommodate the desired number of non-competing student-athletes and the necessary coaches and team and medical personnel.

**e. Men's and women's swimming and diving.**

- **Diving entry process.** The Championships Committee supported the sport committee's request to mandate the use of Dive Meets software as the results reporting system for regular-season and championship entry and results reporting, effective with the 2025 season. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-d above.)

**f. Wrestling.**

(1) **2025 Super Region One site replacement.** The Championships Committee approved the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown as a replacement to host Super Region One competition during the 2025 Division II Wrestling Championships. This change of site is the result of the previously selected host (Mercyhurst University) reclassifying to Division I. Pittsburgh-Johnstown will provide participants with an outstanding championships experience while in the proximity of the previously selected host.

(2) **2026 Super Region sites.** The Championships Committee approved the following sites to host super regionals in 2026:

Super Region	Host	Facility
One	East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania	Koehler Fieldhouse
Two	Lander University	Finis Horne Arena



Three	University of Findlay	Koehler Fitness Center
Four	University of Central Oklahoma	Hamilton Fieldhouse
Five	Southwestern Minnesota State University	Recreations Athletic Facility
Six	Colorado School of Mines	Student Recreation Center Lockridge Arena

**(3) Super region alignment.** The Championships Committee approved the Wrestling Committee’s recommendation to place six newly sponsoring institutions [Allen University; California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt; Emory & Henry College, Felician University; Salem University (West Virginia); and Shorter University] into a super region as noted in Attachment B.

**6. Additional discussion items.**

- a. Review of winter and spring championship misconduct issues.** As part of the newly revised process in which misconducts are reviewed seasonally, the committee noted there were no incidents during the winter championships, and one potential incident in the spring that the sport committee will review during its annual meeting later this month. If a recommendation emerges, the Championships Committee will review it in September.
- b. Review of automatic qualification recommendations.** The committee approved the automatic qualifying conferences as recommended by sport committees and listed in Attachment C for the following championships effective for the 2024-25 academic year: baseball, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, field hockey, football, men’s golf, women’s golf, men’s lacrosse, women’s lacrosse, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, softball, men’s tennis, women’s tennis, and women’s volleyball. The committee noted that this will be the first year that men’s and women’s lacrosse and field hockey are receiving AQs.
- c. Selection criteria.** Staff noted that all six committees that initially proposed to use KPI for the 2024-27 selection criteria cycle (baseball, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, football, softball and women’s volleyball) have confirmed their intent to use the metric effective for the 2024-25 academic year through the 2026-27 academic year.
- d. Penalties for exceeding maximum contest limits.** The committee reviewed the penalty assessed in cases when an institution exceeds the maximum contest limits per Bylaw 17. After discussion, the committee recommended that going forward the 1-for-1 statistical penalty for participating in too many contests should in fact apply to teams that have won the conference AQ. In addition, the committee recommended the 2-for-1 statistical penalty for nullification apply to teams that have won the conference AQ. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-e.)

These policies will be included in the Championships Committee Policies and Operating Procedures Manual, which the committee will review during its September meeting with any other necessary annual updates.

- e. **Roster change policies.** The committee reviewed a document outlining the various roster change policies across Division II championships, noting there is not one uniform approach. The committee discussed the issue and agreed that these policies should be handled on a sport-specific basis (with consistency among genders in like sports) and allow sport committees to make changes as needed.
- f. **2024 Division II Spring Festival recap.** Staff provided a recap of the 2024 Spring Championships Festival conducted in Orlando and hosted by Rollins College and the Orlando Sports Commission. The SAAC representatives also noted the overwhelmingly positive response they have received from student-athletes who participated. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> festival the division has conducted since the inception of the concept in the early 2000s. The 2024 festival in fact marked 20 years since the very first festival – also for spring sports and held in Orlando – was conducted.

## 7. Regionalization review.

- a. **Review of survey feedback.** The committee received an overview of the survey feedback from the Division II Athletics Directors Association, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association, and the sport committees that have been involved in the process throughout.
- b. **Divisions I and III bracketing philosophies.** The committee also heard from staff liaisons in Divisions I and III regarding the bracketing philosophies and principles in their respective divisions. Included in this presentation was an overview of the NCAA Power Index (NPI) metric that Division III will begin using for all championships this coming academic year. The committee expressed interest in this metric and asked staff to provide specific examples from select sports (i.e., how the NPI compares with the field a sport committee selected in previous years) for review during its September meeting.
- c. **Potential new budget allocations.** Staff updated the committee about discussions the SPFC will begin having during its meeting later this month concerning how to allocate additional dollars coming to the division from the NCAA's new broadcast agreement with ESPN and spending down on the division's reserve (e.g., whether to pursue long-term initiatives, support one-time spends or a combination of both). The SPFC feedback will be shared with the Management Council and Executive Board this summer and the Championships Committee will review those deliberations in September.
- d. **Breakout group discussions.** Committee members separated into three small groups to discuss the survey feedback and then consider (1) whether any of the current regionalization principles need to be revisited; and (2) whether to pursue specific concepts further. The breakout discussions produced support for both considerations, and after further discussion among the entire committee, members agreed to ask the Division II Management Council to adopt noncontroversial legislation to remove the current regionalization bracketing legislation (Bylaw 18.4.3.1) to allow the committee to begin considering alternative concepts and signal to the membership that changes that have been called for will be pursued. (See Legislative Action Item.) Additionally, the committee

agreed to test potential bracketing principles utilizing the same bracketing software used by Divisions I and III prior to the September meeting.

*(Note: Importantly, while these discussions centered on how teams may be bracketed to avoid first-round conference matchups, the Championships Committee did not waver from its commitment to selecting teams regionally. In other words, the committee believes that the division's regionalization philosophy should continue to apply through the selection process.)*

## 8. Staff updates.

- a. **Legal update.** Staff updated the committee on the legal items impacting the division specifically and the Association overall.
- b. **Championships.** New Senior Vice President for Championships, Lynda Tealer, joined the committee via videoconference to introduce herself and provide an overview of her vision for the NCAA championships program. Ms. Tealer, who most recently was a deputy athletics director at the University of Florida and has spent the past 29 years in college athletics administration, has served in several leadership positions in the NCAA governance structure, including as chair of the Division I Council and the council's Competition Oversight Committee. She will oversee 84 NCAA championships (including all 25 Division II championships) and manage functions in event operations, media coordination and statistics, playing rules, ticket operations and marketing, merchandise and licensing, and social and digital media.
- c. **Social media and NCAA.com broadcast analytics.** Staff updated the committee on social media and NCAA.com statistics from the winter and spring sport championships.
- d. **Division II streaming updates.**
  - (1) **Division II Championships Pass (Hudl).** Staff summarized results from the arrangement Division II reached with 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. Staff noted that about 35,000 new users were added to the database through this partnership, which expands the Association's marketing and interaction capacity with fans.
  - (2) **Lacrosse innovation project 2.0.** Staff also updated the committee on the NCAA's collaboration with Hudl to provide an aggregated, enhanced streaming experience for the 2024 Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Lacrosse Championships. Through Hudl's technology, all preliminary-round games of all four championships were streamed live on NCAA.com, school/conference Hudl partner portals and the NCAA Championships Pass OTT app for free.
- e. **Community engagement.** Jill Willson joined the committee via videoconference to recap the community engagement activities from winter and spring sport championships,

including those conducted as part of the Division II National Championships Festival in Orlando.

**f. Governance.**

- **Division II Operating Plan.** Staff guided the committee through a discussion of the draft 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 committee assembled in small groups to discuss prescribed questions about the plan in detail and provide feedback.

**9. Committee operations.**

- a. Committee chair election.** The committee elected Regan McAthie, director of athletics at Concordia University, St. Paul, as chair for the 2024-25 academic year.
- b. Recognition of outgoing members.** The committee recognized the outstanding contributions from outgoing members Karen Haag and Carol Rivera, whose terms expire at the end of August. The committee also expressed its appreciation for outgoing member and chair Nathan Gibson for his contributions throughout his term and particularly for his leadership and guidance as chair over the past year.

**10. Other business.**

- **Women's flag football.** Staff noted that women's flag football is expected to apply for the NCAA's Emerging Sports for Women Program by the August 1 deadline. Women's flag football is gaining popularity and will be included as an Olympic sport at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

**11. Future meetings and videoconferences.**

- July 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 8, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 29 (2026-28 site selection videoconference).
- September 10-11, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- February 24-25, 2025, Virtual.
- June 25-26, 2025, Indianapolis, Indiana

*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*

<b>Division II Championships Committee June 17-18, 2024, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Karen Haag, The College of Saint Rose.	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Sande Mott, Texas Woman's University (via videoconference).	
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.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
Joni Comstock, NCAA Contractor.	
Jill Willson, Double L Consulting.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Eric Breece, John Bugner, Randy L. Buhr (via videoconference), Antonio Cannavaro, Nate Flannery, Terri Steeb Gronau, Anthony Holman (via videoconference), Cara Hubert, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Angela Red, Micki Spears, Andy Supergan, Lynda Tealer (via videoconference), Jared Tidemann, Mikaela Topper (via videoconference) and Robert Turick.	

**Division:** II

**Proposal Number:** NC-2025-20

**Title:** CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION -- ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS -- TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS PAIRINGS -- CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE POLICY

**Convention Year:** 2025

**Date Submitted:** June 20, 2024

**Status:** Last Review

**Effective Date:** Immediate

**Source:** NCAA Division II Management Council (Championships Committee).

**Category:** Noncontroversial

**Topical Area:** Championships Administration

**Intent:** To eliminate the requirement that a sport committee must pair teams strictly within their region; further, to place the requirement that a sport committee must pair teams strictly within their region in the NCAA Division II Championships Committee's policies and procedures.

**Bylaws:** Amend 18.4.3, as follows:

18.4.3 Criteria for Selection of Participants.

*18.4.3.1 Team Championships Pairings. Sports committees shall pair teams strictly within their regions.*

[18.4.3.2 through 18.4.3.5 renumbered as 18.4.3.1 through 18.4.3.4, unchanged.]

**FAQ:**

**Co-sponsorship - Conference:**

None

**Co-sponsorship - Institution:**

None

**Position Statements:**

**Review History:**

Jun 18, 2024: Recommends Approval - NCAA Division II Championships Committee.

**Additional Information:**

The Division II Implementation Committee in its final report in 2022 referred several items into the governance structure for further review, including the topic of regionalization. The Championships Committee has reviewed this charge and has engaged the Division II membership and sport committees over the last 18 months to gather input and ideas regarding how best to address it. The committee believes the feedback obtained to date supports changing the current regionalization bracketing legislation. A recent survey indicated support from various external and internal groups. The committee believes the first step in pursuing an improved regionalization bracketing model is to remove the current legislation. Removing Division II Bylaw 18.4.3.1 would expedite the pursuit of a new model and send a clear message to the membership that changes are coming, and that the membership will be consulted for feedback on principles

and concepts being considered along the way. Moving the current bylaw to policy now removes a perceived barrier to pursuing change and still retains the current bracketing principles via policy for as long as it takes to implement a new concept.

### Legislative References

Legislative Cite	Title
18.4.3	Criteria for Selection of Participants.
18.4.3.1	Team Championships Pairings.

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2024-25 Super Regionals Alignment Chart

# of Teams	Super Region One (Yellow on map)		Super Region Two (Blue on map)		Super Region Three (Purple on map)		Super Region Four (Orange on map)		Super Region Five (Green on map)		Super Region Six (Red on map)	
1	American Int'l	Ind.	Allen	C. Carolinas	Ashland	GMAC	Central Mo.	MIAA	Augustana (SD)	NSIC	Adams St.	RMAC
2	East Stroudsburg	PSAC	Belmont Abbey	C. Carolinas	Bluefield St.	C. Carolinas	Central Okla.	MIAA	Mary	NSIC	Cal Poly Humbolt	GNAC
3	Fairmont St.	MEC	Coker	C. Carolinas	Davenport	GMAC	Drury	GLVC	Minnesota St.	NSIC	Chadron St.	RMAC
4	Felician	CACC	Emmanuel (GA)	C. Carolinas	Davis & Elkins	MEC	UIndy	GLVC	Minot St.	NSIC	Colorado Mesa	RMAC
5	Frostburg St.	MEC	King (TN)	C. Carolinas	Emory & Henry	C. Carolinas	Ky. Wesleyan	GMAC	MSU Moorhead	NSIC	Colo. Sch. of Mines	RMAC
6	Gannon	PSAC	Lander	C. Carolinas	Findlay	GMAC	Maryville (MO)	GLVC	Northern St.	NSIC	CSU Pueblo	MIAA
7	Kutztown	PSAC	Limestone	C. Carolinas	Glenville St.	MEC	McKendree	GLVC	St. Cloud St.	NSIC	Fort Hays St.	MIAA
8	Millersville	PSAC	Lincoln Memorial	C. Carolinas	Grand Valley St.	Ind.	Newman	MIAA	Sioux Falls	NSIC	Neb.-Kearney	RMAC
9	Pitt.-Johnstown	PSAC	Montevallo	C. Carolinas	Lake Erie	GMAC	Ouachita Baptist	MIAA	Southwest MN	NSIC	N.M. Highlands	RMAC
10	Seton Hill	PSAC	Mount Olive	C. Carolinas	Salem	Ind.	Quincy	GLVC	UW-Parkside	NSIC	San. Fran. St.	GNAC
11	Shippensburg	PSAC	Newberry	C. Carolinas	Tiffin	GMAC			Upper Iowa	GLVC	Simon Fraser	GNAC
12	Wheeling	MEC	Shorter	C. Carolinas	West Liberty	MEC					Western Colo.	GNAC
13			UNC-Pembroke	C. Carolinas								







REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-18, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Baseball championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 21 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Men's basketball championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 23 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic

Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Women's basketball championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 23 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Women's field hockey championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following three conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: Northeast-10 Conference, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(4) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Football championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 15 conferences receive earned access for the 2024-25 academic year: Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for earned access.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**f. Men's golf championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 21 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach

Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and Sunshine State Conference.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**g. Women's golf championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 19 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference\*; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; and Sunshine State Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**i. Men's lacrosse championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 8 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: Central Athletic Collegiate Conference, Conference Carolinas, East Coast Conference, Great Lakes Valley Conference, Great Midwest Athletic Conference, Northeast-10 Conference, South Atlantic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**j. Women's lacrosse championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: List conferences. Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**h. Men's soccer championship.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 19 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**k. Women's soccer championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 21 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Sunshine State Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**l. Softball championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 23 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**m. Men's tennis championships.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 16 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**n. Women's tennis championships.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 20 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**o. Women's volleyball championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 23 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024-25 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; \*Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**Note: “\*” grace period.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

*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.*