



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-26, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. 2026 NCAA Convention Legislation -- Various Bylaws -- Division II Championships -- Women's Bowling.

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2026 NCAA Convention to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship; further, to establish an NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Committee. [See Attachment A for sport-specific legislative recommendations.]
- (2) Effective date. Immediate for establishing the committee. The Division II Women's Bowling Committee would begin its work immediately to prepare for the first NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Championship to occur in April 2028 in accordance with the National Collegiate championships stability policy recently approved that requires a division-specific championship created from an existing National Collegiate championship to be conducted after two National Collegiate championships have occurred. The legislative changes would be effective for the 2027-28 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation is based on membership survey results indicating strong support for establishing a Division II-specific championship from the existing National Collegiate championship. Those results indicated that among those institutions that sponsor women's bowling, there is a strong preference for competing in and winning a Division II championship as opposed to a National Collegiate championship. As of the 2023-24 academic year, 38 Division II institutions sponsor women's bowling, which triggered a review of whether to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship. The Division II Legislation Committee previously recommended sport-specific legislation as outlined in the attachment, which the Championships Committee supported. The immediate effective date for the formation of a Division II women's bowling committee will permit the women's bowling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first Division II championship in April 2028.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$300,000. (The recommendation to fund the championship requires review by the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, which next meets in August.)
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation will create the opportunity for Division II student-athletes in women's bowling to compete for a Division II championship.

b. 2026 NCAA Convention Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaws 18.4.3.1-(c) and 18.4.3.1-(d) -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II

Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Criteria for Selection in Team Sports -- Required Selection Criteria and Sport-Specific Selection Criteria – NCAA Power Index.

(1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2026 Convention to specify that Division II team sports shall use the NCAA Power Index (NPI) for selections beginning with the 2026-27 academic year.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. The NPI, which has been used in Division I and Division III men's ice hockey for several years and which Division III adopted last year for all team sport committees to use, is a system of statistical data that objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on a sport committee's established weighted criteria. The NPI is a combination of winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when relevant). The metric can be adjusted by what are referred to as "dials," or specific components of the metric that each sport committee has the authority to set, thus placing any desired subjectivity within the criteria themselves that are then applied objectively.

The Division II Championships Committee has discussed the merits of the NPI at length over the past year and has gathered feedback from sport committees and other membership stakeholders indicating strong support for using the metric as the sole selection criterion for team sports. Because selections would be based solely on the NPI data, teams would no longer be required to have a .500 record or higher to be considered for selections. Additionally, Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) would be eliminated if the proposal is adopted.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$10,000 for a contractor to meet with sport committees to establish sport-specific dials. [Note: This funding was previously approved by the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee in December 2024.].

(5) Student-athlete impact. The NPI helps ensure that the correct teams are selected for championship participation.

c. Noncontroversial Legislation – Bylaws 8.5 and 8.7 -- Organizational Structure and Committees -- Playing Rules Oversight Panel and Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities – Establishment of New Playing Rules Structure and Process.

(1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to establish a new playing rules structure and process for Division II, as outlined. [See Attachment B.]

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. Given that Division I is revising its governance structure, including how playing rules will be administered, Divisions II and III are required to establish their

own playing rules structures. Playing rules currently are managed Association-wide through the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) that includes representatives from all three divisions and provides instances in which playing rules can be federated if desired. That will change once Division I approves a new governance structure to accommodate the recently finalized settlement that impacts how the division operates going forward. The structure in Attachment B outlines a Playing Rules Oversight Panel for Divisions II and III as well as rules committees by sport for both divisions, including composition requirements and duties. The Division II Management Council will have oversight over the playing rules process/structure for the division.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. TBD pending approval of the committee structure and meeting cadence/format.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The new structure will consider playing rules that are in Division II student-athletes' best interests.

d. Noncontroversial legislation – Bylaw 18.3.1 – National Collegiate Championships – Fencing – Establish Separate Men's and Women's Championships.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve noncontroversial legislation to divide the current NCAA National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships into separate men's and women's championships. The women's championship (sponsorship of 44) and men's championship (sponsorship of 35) would be held at the same site and conducted concurrently. The men's championship would remain in place under the Olympic sport exception (Bylaw 18.2.10.1). [See Attachment C.]
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2025-26 season. (Note: As this is a National Collegiate championship, all three divisions must approve this recommendation.)
- (3) Rationale. Under the current scoring format, institutions that sponsor only women's fencing face a statistical impossibility of winning a national championship. The separation of the two genders into individual championships would allow for a more equitable championship experience and a tangible pathway for all teams to compete for national championships.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None to Division II. A \$7,200 increase in the operational budget for four additional sets of team awards will come from the Association-wide budget.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would provide competitive equity for the nine programs and 154 student-athletes currently representing women's-only fencing programs. These student-athletes and coaches would have a tangible pathway toward a collegiate championship and further incentivize grassroots participation in the sport.

e. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 17.02.8 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Definitions and Applications -- Winter Break -- Participation in Division II Football Championship.

(1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation (contingent on the adoption of the recommendation to amend the football championship date formula, see Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.) to amend the winter break legislation to permit the two Division II football teams participating in the Division II Football Championship to participate in countable athletically related activities (CARA) except during a four-consecutive-calendar-day period (December 23-26).

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2027.

(3) Rationale. Currently student-athletes may not participate in CARA during the legislated winter break period. Based on the feedback from the Division II Football Committee and Division II football student-athletes, if it is approved to amend the football data formula to have the Division II Football Championship the first week of January, then the winter break legislation should be amended to provide an exception for the two teams selected to participate in the championship. The committee believes the required break should be retained but shortened to accommodate the competition timeline. The committee does not believe this compromises the intent of the original legislation to provide a meaningful winter holiday break.

(4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes on the two teams participating in the Division II football championship will participate in CARA during a limited period of time during the winter break period, while still requiring four days off.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Football championship date formula.

(1) Recommendation. Amend the football championship date formula to move the Division II Football Championship game to the first week of January.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2027, for the 2027 football season.

(3) Rationale. The recommendation is the result of ongoing discussions within the Division II governance structure and the Division II football community regarding the length of the playing and practice season in the sport and the impact of legislation adopted at the 2023 NCAA Convention establishing a "Week 0" that permits institutions to play their first regular-season game no later than the first Thursday before August 30 (as opposed to the previous legislation based on the Thursday before September 6). The discussions regarding the sport's playing and practice season also have involved whether to retain the championship game in December or move the game to the first week of January. The Division II Football Committee has discussed these issues at

length over the last several months and surveyed the Division II football membership and asked for input from the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Feedback from those inquiries (including Division II student-athletes and the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) prompted the football committee to oppose a change to the current date formula and recommend retaining the status quo for conducting the championship game in December [See Attachment D].

However, discussion within the Championships Committee prompted the committee to consider adding a week to the regular season (13 weeks to play 11 games) and moving the championship game to January. The committee believes this is the best approach to satisfying the needs of all Division II football-sponsoring schools. The committee also reasoned that despite the potential for extending the season being perceived as conflicting with the division's Life in the Balance philosophy, the recommendation actually supports balance because it retains Week 0 for institutions that benefit from playing a game that week and provides those institutions that do not support bringing student-athletes back early for a Week 0 game the flexibility to play their 11 games in the subsequent 12 weeks. Additionally, the recommendation protects the Division II brand, as moving the championship game aligns with the Division I and III championship game timelines and mitigates the potential perception of the Division II game being considered less important because it is played earlier. If this change is approved, the committee will ask staff to begin exploring January broadcast options with ESPN.

The committee also acknowledged that should the recommendation be approved, the winter break legislation should be amended pertaining to the two teams participating in the national championship game (see Legislative Action Item 1-e). The committee believes the required break should be retained but shortened to accommodate the competition timeline. The committee does not believe this compromises the intent of the original legislation to provide a meaningful winter holiday break.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$28,000 to accommodate travel for the participating teams in the championship game. While this recommendation does not meet an established exception to the triennial budget cycle, it is necessary to review at this time due to the upcoming bid cycle and the potential impact on the 2028 host. If approved, these funds would be deducted from the allocation in the next triennial budget cycle.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The committee believes more football student-athletes will benefit from moving the regular season back one week and that the student-athletes participating in the championship game will enjoy an enhanced experience.

b. Men's lacrosse championship bracket expansion/access ratio.

- (1) Recommendation. Expand the NCAA Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship bracket from 16 to 18 teams; further, establish men's lacrosse as an access ratio sport (i.e., allocate bids annually based on an access ratio model). [See Attachment E]

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The recommendation to expand the bracket satisfies an approved exception to the triennial budget process, as men's lacrosse has nine AQ-eligible conferences and a bracket size of 16, which is higher than the 50% trigger for a bracket expansion review, according to Championships Committee policy. The Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, during its June 23 videoconference, supported the expansion and the accompanying budget allocation.

If the recommended expansion is approved and given the implementation of automatic qualification beginning with the 2025 championship, it will be prudent for Division II men's lacrosse to be an access ratio sport to ensure equitable access to the championship while maintaining the natural regions for regular-season competition. The Division II Men's Lacrosse Committee will recommend an access distribution based on sport sponsorship annually to the Division II Championships Committee. Under current sport sponsorship, this would result in distribution of eight bids from the North Region (four automatic qualifiers, plus four at-large teams) and 10 bids from the South Region (five automatic qualifiers, plus five at-large teams) for the 2026 championship. That allocation would be confirmed in September 2025 based on sport sponsorship data. This recommendation is similar to what was approved for field hockey, effective for the 2024 championship.

(4) Estimated budget impact. The mid-range estimate for this expansion is approximately \$90,000 (which was reviewed and recommended by the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee during its June 23 videoconference).

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommended expansion would increase the postseason opportunities for men's lacrosse student-athletes and ensure equitable access to the championship.

c. High-cost city per diem.

(1) Recommendation. Implement a per diem rate of \$205 for Division II championship competition conducted at nonpredetermined preliminary-round sites located in the cities that the NCAA travel staff has identified as high-cost cities.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. The Championships Committee has discussed whether to implement a high-cost city per diem rate previously and determined that it is appropriate to formally recommend doing so at this time as a way to further help institutions fund their participation in Division II championships. The committee acknowledged that Division II has been careful about selecting high-cost cities as predetermined sites to host championships, but many campuses that host preliminary-round competition are located in or near high-cost cities. The committee also noted that Division I has offered a high-cost city per diem for several years. Divisions II and III do not have a high-cost

room rate, but the travel staff has approved, in limited instances, an additional half day per diem when the room rate is unexpectedly high (e.g., high-cost city, graduation weekend, other events in the area increasing demand). However, these costs are currently absorbed within the sport budget.

The committee weighed various increase levels (\$205, \$235 and \$250) and settled on the increase to \$205 to start with and then re-evaluate the rate next year when the committee can determine the impact.

(Note: The committee's discussion of high-cost city per diem also included consideration of implementing a maximum room rate for nonpredetermined preliminary-round sites. The committee chose to recommend only the per diem at this time and continue evaluating the merits of a maximum room rate during future meetings.)

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$300,000 (this could vary based on the number of times competition is conducted in a high-cost city).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will help protect the quality of student-athlete experience when championship competition is conducted in a high-cost city.

d. Division II National Championships Festivals.

- (1) Recommendation. Sunset the Division II National Championships Festivals after completion of the fall championships festival in 2026.
- (2) Effective date. Upon completion of the fall sports festival in 2026.
- (3) Rationale. This recommendation emerged from a discussion of membership survey results indicating waning support for the festivals and the need to make a recommendation in advance of the upcoming bid cycle for championships host sites. The survey feedback indicates that the Division II membership does not believe festivals should continue. Even among those who have attended a festival, no respondent group indicated majority support for hosting a championships festival in any of the three seasons. Support was even less among those who have not attended a festival.

Discussion regarding whether to retain the festivals has been gaining momentum, particularly since softball pulled out of the spring championships festival. While Championships Committee members acknowledged the value the festivals have added to the division over time, especially from a branding standpoint, they have become increasingly challenging with site selection, and they also impact the playing and practice seasons in ways many Division II members do not support. In short, the committee believes the festivals served a valuable purpose for the division in their time but that as the collegiate sports landscape continues to evolve, they are no longer as viable as they were in the past.

The committee reiterates that the recommendation to sunset the festivals does not impact its commitment to provide outstanding postseason experiences for student-athletes in all sports going forward. Accordingly, the budgets to support the festivals will be reallocated to enhance all Division II student-athlete championship experience in the coming years. The committee will consult with the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to generate ideas.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. The current annual budget allocation for the festival is \$700,000 for three years and \$200,000 for the fourth year (which was the Men's and Women's Basketball Festival). As part of the previously approved recommendation to eliminate the basketball festival from the rotation, which had been planned for March 2026, the \$200,000 budget was approved to be allocated over the three years of the joint basketball championships to enhance the student-athlete experience.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Allocating the festival budget differently will provide student-athletes in all sports a continued exemplary championship experience.

e. Sport-specific selection criteria – men's basketball.

- (1) Recommendation. Update the Division II Men's Basketball Committee's approved sport-specific selection criteria to the following:
 - In-region Rating-Percentage Index (RPI).
 - Performance Indicator (PI).
 - KPI.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 (if NPI is not adopted) academic years.
- (3) Rationale. The Division II Men's Basketball Committee recently reviewed its selection criteria and realized a discrepancy in what was approved in June 2023 by the Division II Championships Committee and what was used for the 2024-25 rankings and selections. During the 2024 annual meeting, the sport committee believed there was an opportunity to amend any of the three sport-specific criteria as part of the KPI feedback process. The intention was to use KPI in place of the previously used Results vs. Ranked Teams as reflected in the 2024 annual meeting report, instead of the approved PI metric. The committee wants to continue using the three sport-specific selection criteria listed above for the remaining two years of the three-year selection cycle in order to be consistent through the 2027 championship. The committee also believes these three criteria will provide the committee and RACs with the best data to make well-informed decisions related to rankings and selections. The Division II Championships Committee supports the sport committee's rationale.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and previewed key agenda items and the meeting schedule.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the reports from its May 1 videoconference and May 20 electronic vote as presented.
3. **Committee updates.**
 - a. **Summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the Management Council and Executive Board meetings conducted in April as information.
 - b. **Membership Committee.** Staff updated the committee regarding movement within the Division II membership, including proposed mergers, reclassifications and closures. The Membership Committee will meet in July to review the status of institutions currently in the membership process.
 - c. **Nominating Committee.** The Championships Committee approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation to appoint James Kearney, associate head track and field coach at Lewis University, to the NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee to fill an August vacancy replacing Steve Picucci.
 - d. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** The committee reviewed reports from the panel's most recent meetings as information, noting that the Division II members of PROP asked to table the concept of coach-to-player communication as a permissive rule in football to obtain additional feedback. Championships Committee members discussed the issue and offered input to the committee's PROP liaison.
 - e. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** Sean Belzer and Haley White updated the committee on the SAAC's meeting in April as well as the super region convention conducted that month in Indianapolis for the Central and Midwest Regions. The SAAC will sponsor another super region convention in November in Denver for the South Central and West Regions. The SAAC's upcoming meeting in July will focus on the committee's priorities for the 2025-26 academic year.
 - f. **Committee on Women's Athletics.** Staff informed the committee that the CWA has formally recommended that all three divisions adopt legislation to establish National Collegiate championships in the sports of acrobatics and tumbling and stunt and create sport committees for both. Both sports exceeded the minimum sponsorship threshold for being considered as National Collegiate championship sports this year and are expected to continue their growth. The Division II Management Council during its July meeting will determine whether to sponsor legislation for the 2026 Convention. Pending approval, both

sports would begin to assemble/organize in January 2026 with spring 2027 championships as the target start date.

4. Budget review.

- a. **Budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed championships budget-to-actuals for the 2024-25 fiscal year through May, noting that not all expenses have been finalized.
- b. **High-cost city per diem.** The committee continued discussing whether to implement a high-cost city per diem rate for non-predetermined preliminary-round sites and agreed to recommend implementing a rate of \$205 effective with the upcoming fall sport championships. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c.) The committee's discussion of high-cost city per diem also included consideration of implementing a maximum room rate for nonpredetermined preliminary-round sites. The committee chose to recommend only the per diem at this time and continue evaluating the merits of a maximum room rate during future meetings.
- c. **Division III budget overview/comparison.** During the February 2025 meeting, committee members requested a comparison of the Divisions II and III championship budgets. Staff walked the committee through the differences between the two as information.
- d. **Process to add a Division II championship.** Staff informed the committee that the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee during its June 23 videoconference adopted a new National Collegiate championships stability policy stating that after divisional approval of a division-specific championship, its effective date shall be after a minimum of two National Collegiate championships have taken place and with at least two years notice provided to the National Collegiate championship committee and sponsoring members in the sport. This policy applies both to newly established and existing National Collegiate championships. The two-year waiting period offers time to properly budget for the championship and allows the membership time to schedule their regular-season contests and postseason tournaments accordingly. A similar policy is being considered by the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee with notice to Division I. The policy is immediately relevant to Division II given the recommendation in Legislative Action Item 1-a above to establish a Division II-specific women's bowling championship.
- e. **Tennis format review update.** Staff updated the committee on discussions within the men's and women's tennis committee about ensuring that the two brackets comply with the access ratio policy of 4 to 6. The tennis committee also is considering recommending that both genders reduce to a finals site of eight teams rather than the current 16. This would reduce the number of regional sites and increase the number of teams at each regional. However, the committee encountered several weather issues during the championships this spring that has caused members to revisit the expanded regional plan that was presented to the Championships Committee in February. The tennis committee is now considering a potential super regional model. Additionally, the tennis committee is weighing whether to recommend reinstating the singles and doubles portion of the championship that was in place many years ago. The tennis committee is expected to

submit a proposal addressing all these matters to the Championships Committee in September.

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. **Men's basketball.** The committee supported the sport committee's request to update its selection criteria as specified. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-e.)
- b. **Men's and women's basketball.** The committee reviewed the men's and women's basketball committees' April 28 joint meeting report as information.
- c. **Women's basketball.** The committee reviewed the women's basketball committee's April 28-29 meeting report as information.
- d. **Men's and women's fencing.** The committee supported the fencing committee's recommendation to adopt legislation to establish separate men's and women's championships. (See Legislative Action Item 1-d.)
- e. **Football.**
 - **Championship date formula survey results.** The committee received a summary of the football committee's discussion regarding the potential modification of the current championship date formula that would result in playing the NCAA Division II Football Championship game the first week of January. The football committee ultimately recommended status quo, which would keep the championship game in December. However, after lengthy discussion, the Championships Committee agreed to recommend to amend the football championship date formula and move the championship game to January. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.). Contingent on the adoption of the recommendation to amend the football championship date formula, the committee also recommended noncontroversial legislation to include an exception to the legislated winter break legislation for the two teams selected to participate in the championship. (See Legislative Action Item 1-e).
- f. **Men's golf.**
 - **2026 East/Atlantic Regional site.** The committee approved the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, to host the 2026 East/Atlantic Regional at the Sunnehanna Country Club.
- g. **Men's lacrosse.** The committee supported the recommendation to expand the Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship bracket from 16 to 18 teams and to make men's lacrosse an access ratio sport. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b.)
- h. **Men's and women's swimming and diving.** The committee reviewed the swimming and diving committee's April 7 videoconference report as information.
- i. **Men's wrestling.**

- (1) **Site selection.** The committee approved the following super regional sites for the 2027 Division II Wrestling Championships:

Super Region	Host	Facility
One	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	Pucillo Gym
Two	University of Montevallo	Central State Bank Arena
Three	Grand Valley State University	GVSU Fieldhouse Arena
Four	University of Indianapolis	Nicoson Hall
Five	Northern State University	Barnett Center
Six	University of Nebraska at Kearney	UNK Health & Sports Center

- (2) **Regional movement.** The committee also approved placing two newly sponsoring institutions (University of Bridgeport and Thomas More University) into super regions as specified. [See Attachment F.]

- 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. **Membership survey results.** The committee completed its review of results from the membership survey distributed in January that is the final phase of information gathering and membership input before the division begins drafting initiatives, timelines and funding priorities for the new operating plan to launch in January of 2026. The input gleaned from the survey will help the committee make informed recommendations regarding budget allocations and potential enhancements to the division's championships program going forward. Discussion during this meeting based on the survey results prompted the Championships Committee to recommend the following:

- Sunset the Division II National Championships Festivals after the completion of the already scheduled fall sports festival in 2026. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-d.)
- Ask the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Committees and the Division II Women's Volleyball Committee to consider whether changes are desired to their respective championship formats (e.g., whether to expand the championship to a three-week format). These discussions have been prompted by the Championships Committee's ongoing review of bracketing principles and models and have risen to the point at which input from the sport committees is desired. The committee acknowledged that the three championships have been awarded through the 2027-28 academic year as part of the most recent bid cycle. The Championships Committee asked for feedback by the committee's February 19-20, 2026, meeting so that, if

needed, the necessary governance structure approvals can be obtained before the next bid cycle for host sites, which is anticipated to launch in July 2026.

- b. Potential Division II Women's Bowling Championship.** Based on a review of survey results, the committee formally recommended that the Division II Management Council sponsor legislation for the 2026 Convention to establish a separate Division II Women's Bowling Championship. (See Legislative Action Item 1-a.)
- c. NPI feedback process.** The committee continued its review of whether the NPI should be adopted as the sole results-based selection criterion for team sport championships. The review included feedback from sport committees and the membership survey indicating strong support for doing so. Accordingly, the committee agreed to recommend that the Division II Management Council sponsor legislation for the 2026 Convention that implements the NPI beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. (See Legislative Action Item 1-b.)

The committee considered making this recommendation via noncontroversial legislation since the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but the committee ultimately opted to give all Division II members the opportunity to be on record as to how teams are selected for championships through the division's one school/one vote legislative process at the Convention. At the same time, staff assured the committee that every effort will be made in the months preceding the Convention to educate those in the membership who may not be familiar with the NPI or who have concerns about its use.

As part of the recommendation, the Championships Committee noted the following components:

- Sport committees will begin discussing how to properly set the NPI dials for their respective sport after their 2025-26 seasons are completed. The committee agreed to establish a three-year cycle for modifying the dials (i.e., any desired change would be proposed after the second year but not become effective until after the third year to provide the membership with adequate notice). However, the committee agreed to conduct a "check-in" after the first year to ensure the initial dials are appropriate. The committee will encourage committees of like sports (e.g., men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer) to align their dials as closely as possible for equity and consistency purposes.
- The Championships Committee also charged sport committees to consider implementing a nonconference in-region requirement if they don't already have one in order to add consistency among sports and honor the division's regionalization philosophy in regular-season scheduling. (The Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the Division II Athletics Directors Association will be informed that these discussions will occur at the sport committee level and are asked to provide feedback in that regard.)

- The committee agreed to eliminate the requirement in all sports that teams must have a .500 record or higher to be considered for selection.
- Because the NPI eliminates the need for the sport committees to conduct rankings throughout the season, the committee agreed to eliminate Regional Advisory Committees, effective on the adoption of the proposal at the 2026 convention and with the 2026-27 academic year.

The committee will continue discussing the implementation of the NPI during future meetings in order to ensure a smooth transition for the 2026-27 academic year.

- d. **Playing rules structure/process for Divisions II and III.** The committee continued reviewing the Division II playing rules structure given that Division I is revising its governance structure, including how playing rules will be administered. Playing rules currently are managed Association-wide through the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) that includes representatives from all three divisions and provides instances in which playing rules can be federated if desired. That will change once Division I approves a new governance structure to accommodate the recently finalized settlement that impacts how the division operates going forward. As a result, Divisions II and III need to establish their own playing rules structures.

The committee reviewed feedback from the Division II membership and input from stakeholders that favors a playing rules structure for both Divisions II and III that is similar to the current PROP and playing rules committee structure without Division I representation. In other words, there would be a combined DII/III PROP with 12 members (six from each division) and eight-member playing rules committees by sport. The Championships Committee discussed the structure and process at length, including potential composition requirements and duties of the proposed Division II/III PROP and the accompanying joint Divisions II and III playing rules committees and agreed to support the requirements outlined in Attachment B for the Division II Management Council to consider in July. If approved, the new process will become effective September 1. (See Legislative Action Item 1-c.).

- e. **Review of winter championship misconduct issues.** Staff noted there were no misconduct issues during the winter championships.
- f. **AQ recommendations.** The committee approved the recommendations as specified. (See Attachment G.)
- g. **National Championships Festival recap.** Staff provided a presentation summarizing the recently completed winter sports festival in Indianapolis.

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. **Winter and spring championships social media analytics.** Staff provide an overview of the winter and spring championships social media analytics.
- c. **ESPN+ broadcast analytics.** Staff presented the analytics for the four championships streamed on ESPN+ (football, women's volleyball, and men's and women's basketball).
- d. **Livestreaming analytics.** Staff summarized the broadcast analytics from the championships streamed on ncaa.com and asked for feedback regarding discussions around streaming (i.e., whether to continue allocating dollars from the Division II budget to keep the content free of charge or to reach an agreement with a third-party provider to establish a paywall and thus alleviate the need for the division to spend its resources). Committee members indicated support for staff exploring a paywall relationship rather than continue allocating dollars from the Division II budget, reasoning that the consistency of a managed platform outweighs the branding exposure that might be gained from the streaming content being available for free.
- e. **Community engagement.** The committee received an update on the successful community engagement events that took place during the basketball, winter sports festival and spring sport championships.
- f. **Coaches Connection.** The committee received an update on the Coaches Connection program, noting that the name of the program will be changed to the Division II Connection program, as connections are being added for athletic trainers and faculty athletics representatives.

8. Committee operations.

- a. **2025-26 sport assignments.** Committee members reviewed their sport assignments for the coming year, noting the vacancies that will occur because of the outgoing members who complete their terms in August.
- b. **Recognition of outgoing members.** The committee took the opportunity during this in-person meeting to express its deepest gratitude to Chris Colvin and Gary Pine, who will complete their terms on the committee at the end of August. The committee recognized the outstanding contributions from both members and thanked them for their service not only to the Championships Committee but to Division II in general.

9. Other business.

- **Elite 90 recognition.** The committee discussed how the division's Elite 90 recipients are recognized, and encouraged sport committees to ensure the recognition occurs at the contest during which the student-athlete is participating to not only elevate the importance of the award but also ensure that the student-athlete's friends, family and teammates are present for the recognition. (Staff also noted that given the number of new championships now in the pipeline, the name of the award will be changed to not reflect a specific number

but rather a more general title to alleviate the need to change it every time a championship is added.)

10. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- a. July 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference, tentative).
- b. August 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- c. September 16-17 (meeting via videoconference).
- d. November 6, 2-3:30 Eastern time (videoconference).
- e. February 19-20, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- f. June 23-24, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

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 June 25-26, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair; via videoconference).	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Christina Paone, Walsh University.	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference (via videoconference).	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Stan Wagnon, University of Central Oklahoma.	
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University.	
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:
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mitchell Bailey, Randy L. Buhr, Antonio Cannavaro, Zach Christopher, Lindsey Eldred, Nate Flannery, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Cara Hubert, Dante Jones, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Jackson Marcotte, Mariah Murdock, Angela Red, Rachel Seewald, Lynda Tealer, Jared Tidemann and Courtney Wengren.

Women's Bowling -- Legislation Impacted with Potentially Establishing a Division II Championship

Bylaw 7 -- NCAA Division II Membership and Institutional Control.

7.3.2 Eligibility for National Collegiate and Division Championships.

7.3.2.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. [#] An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships, if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports: (Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)

Women's beach volleyball	Women's ice hockey
Women's bowling	Men's and women's rifle
Men's and women's fencing	Men's and women's skiing
Men's gymnastics	Men's volleyball
Women's gymnastics	Men's and women's water polo

8.8 Common Committees -- Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities. [#]

~~8.8.3 Bowling Committee, Women's. [#] The Women's Bowling Committee shall consist of seven members, including the secretary rules editor, who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

Bylaw 17 -- Playing and Practice Seasons.

17.1.4 Sports Subject to Segment Limitations. Playing-season-segment limitations are applicable to all team sports that are listed in Bylaw 17.02.16.1 and all individual sports listed under Bylaw 17.02.16.2. In those sports for which the National Collegiate Championship is the only NCAA championships opportunity (i.e., men's and women's fencing, men's and women's gymnastics, men's and women's rifle, men's and women's skiing, men's volleyball, men's water polo, women's ice hockey, women's water polo, ~~women's bowling~~, women's beach volleyball), an institution's playing season shall be limited to the same length as Division I institutions, and this limitation shall be implied in all following legislative references affecting the sport.

17.6 Bowling, Women's.

17.6.1 Length of Playing Season. The length of an institution's playing season in bowling shall be limited to a 144-day season, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and exclude only required days off per Bylaw 17.1.6.5 and official vacation, holiday and final-examination periods during which no practice or competition shall occur.

~~17.6.2 Preseason Practice. A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in bowling before October 1.~~

17.6.2 Weight Training, Conditioning, Team Activities and/or Preseason Practice. A member institution shall not commence weight training, conditioning and/or team activities in accordance with Bylaw 17.1.6.3 and practice sessions in bowling before September 7 or the institution's fourth day of classes for the fall term (as set forth in its catalog, counting Monday through Friday only), whichever is earlier.

17.6.3 First Date of Competition. A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in bowling before ~~October 1~~ September 7 or the institution's fourth day of classes for the fall term (as set forth in its catalog, counting Monday through Friday only), whichever is earlier.

17.6.3.1 Exceptions. The following bowling dates of competition may be conducted at any time during the bowling playing and practice season:

(a) Alumni game [see Bylaw 17.6.6.3-(d)];

(b) Fundraising activity [see Bylaw 17.6.6.3-(g)];

(c) Celebrity sports activity [see Bylaw 17.6.6.3-(h)]; and

(d) Discretionary exemptions (see Bylaw 17.6.6.4).

17.6.4 Limitations on Countable Athletically Related Activities and Transportation -- Winter Break. (See Bylaw 17.02.18 for the definition of the winter break.)

17.6.4.1 Countable Athletically Related Activities. A student-athlete shall not participate in any countable athletically related activities during the winter break (see Bylaw 17.02.1).

17.6.4.2 Transportation. An institution shall not provide transportation in conjunction with away-from-home competition during the winter break.

17.6.4.2.1 Exception -- Travel on the First Day of the Winter Break. An institution may travel on the first day of the winter break after an away-from-home competition, provided that is the earliest practical opportunity to return to campus

17.6.5 End of Regular Season. A member institution shall conclude all practice and competition (meets and practice meets) in each segment in bowling by the last date of final examinations for the regular academic year at the institution (see Bylaw 17.1.7 for additional regulations regarding the end date of practice and competition).

17.6.6 Number of Dates of Competition.

17.6.6.1 Maximum Limitations -- Institutional. A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition in bowling during the institution's bowling playing season to 32 dates of competition (games and scrimmages), except for those dates of competition excluded under Bylaws 17.6.6.3, 17.6.6.4 and 17.6.6.5 (see Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.1 for minimum contests and participants requirements).

17.6.6.1.1 In-Season Foreign Competition. A member institution may engage in one or more of its countable dates of competition in bowling in one or more foreign countries on one trip during the prescribed playing season. However, except for competition in Canada and Mexico or on a certified foreign tour (see Bylaw 17.32), the institution may not engage in such in-season foreign competition more than once every four years.

17.6.6.2 Maximum Limitations -- Student-Athlete. An individual student-athlete may participate in each academic year in 32 dates of competition in bowling (this limitation includes those dates of competition in which the student represents the institution in accordance with Bylaw 17.02.8, including competition as a member of the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team of the institution)

17.6.6.3 Annual Exemptions. The maximum number of dates of competition in bowling shall exclude the following:

(a) **Conference Championships.** Competition in one conference meet in bowling;

(b) **Independents Championship.** Competition in one championship meet or tournament among independent member institutions that are not members of an intercollegiate athletics conference in all sports, or for a specific sport that is not part of a conference, conducted at the end of the championship segment and prior to the NCAA championship;

~~(b) **NCAA Championship.** Competition in the National Collegiate Bowling Championship;~~

(c) **Season-Ending Tournament.** Competition in one season-ending tournament (e.g., NCAA championship, NAIA championship). A season-ending tournament involves competition after the end of the regular season between teams that are not identified until the close of the regular season

(d) **Alumni Meet.** One date of competition each year with an alumni team of the institution;

~~(e) **Foreign Team in United States.** One date of competition each year with a foreign opponent in the United States;~~

(e) **Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Canada.** Any days of competition in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada, respectively, either against or under the sponsorship of an active member institution located in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada by a member institution located outside those locales;

(f) **Fundraising Activity.** Any activities in which student-athletes from more than one of the institution's athletics teams participate with and against alumni and friends of the institution, the purpose of which is to raise funds for the benefit of the institution's athletics or other programs, provided the student-athletes do not miss classes as a result of their participation;

(g) **Celebrity Sports Activity.** Competition involving a limit of two student-athletes from a member institution's team who participate in local celebrity activities in bowling conducted for the purpose of raising funds for charitable organizations, provided:

(1) The student-athletes do not miss classes as a result of the participation; and

(2) The involvement of the student-athletes has the approval of the institution's athletics director; and

(h) **U.S. National Team.** One date of competition against a U.S. national team as selected by the appropriate national governing body in that sport.

17.6.6.4 Discretionary Exemptions. The following may be exempted from an institution's maximum number of dates of competition in bowling each year. An institution may exempt not more than three from this list annually:

(a) **Foreign Team in United States.** A date of competition against a foreign team in the United States played in the facility in which the member institution regularly plays its home dates of competition;

(b) **Non-Division II Four-Year Collegiate Institution.** An exhibition date of competition against non-Division II four-year collegiate institution(s); or

(c) **Scrimmages.** A scrimmage with outside competition, provided the scrimmage is conducted without official scoring.

17.6.6.4.1 Official Scoring. For purposes of Bylaw 17.6.6.4-(c), official scoring has occurred when either institution participating in the scrimmage satisfies either of the following conditions:

(a) The signing of a scorebook by an official; or

(b) The score is used for individual or seasonal statistics.

17.6.6.5 Foreign Tours. The dates of competition on a foreign tour, provided the tour occurs only once in a four-year period and is conducted by the member institution in accordance with the procedures set forth in Bylaw 17.32.

17.6.7 Out-of-Season Athletically Related Activities. Student-athletes and members of the coaching staff shall not engage in countable athletically related activities outside the institution's declared playing season in accordance with Bylaw 17.6.1, except as permitted in Bylaw 17.1.6.3.

17.6.7.1 Summer Practice. Practice that is organized or financially supported by a member institution shall be prohibited during the summer unless specifically authorized in the bylaws (e.g., foreign tour) or through official interpretations approved by the Management Council. An institution may pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities in their sport.

17.6.7.1.1 Vacation Period and Summer-Workout Sessions. A coach may participate in individual-workout sessions with student-athletes from the coach's team during any institutional vacation period and/or the summer, provided the request for such assistance is initiated by the student-athlete.

17.6.8 Camps and Clinics. There are no limits on the number of student-athletes in bowling who may be employed (e.g., as counselors) in camps or clinics (also see Bylaw 13.9). Currently enrolled student-athletes may not participate as campers in their institution's camps or clinics.

17.6.9 Other Restrictions.

17.6.9.1 Noncollegiate, Amateur Competition.

17.6.9.1.1 In Season. A student-athlete shall be denied eligibility for intercollegiate competition for the remainder of the season in bowling if, after enrollment in college and during any year in which the student-athlete is a member of an intercollegiate squad or team, they compete or have competed as a member of an outside team in any noncollegiate, amateur competition (e.g., team invitational meet, exhibition meets or other activity) during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship (see Bylaw 14.4.7.5 for exceptions and waivers).

17.6.9.1.2 Out of Season. There are no limits on the number of student-athletes with eligibility remaining in intercollegiate bowling who may practice or compete out of season on an outside, amateur bowling team.

17.6.9.1.2.1 Involvement of Coaching Staff. No member of the coaching staff of a member institution may be involved in any capacity (e.g., coach, official, player or league/team administrator) during the academic year (including vacation periods during the academic year) with an outside team that involves any student-athlete with eligibility remaining from the institution's bowling team, except as provided under Bylaws 14.4.7.5, 16.8.1.2.1 and 17.32.

17.6.9.1.2.2 Olympic, Paralympic and National Team Development Program. There are no limits on the number of student-athletes from the same institution who may participate in Olympic, Paralympic and national team development programs. Such programs may also include a coach and student-athlete from the same institution.

17.6.9.2 **Equipment Issue, Squad Pictures.** It shall be permissible to designate a single date for issuing bowling equipment and for taking squad pictures after the beginning of classes in the fall term or the day before the beginning of a segment as specified in Bylaw 17.6.2.

17.6.9.2.1 **Exception for Sundays.** If the day before the beginning of a segment is a Sunday, the member institution may designate the preceding Saturday for issuing equipment and taking squad pictures

Bylaw 18 -- **Championships Administration.**

18.3 **Current Championships.** The Association currently administers 90 national championships. There are ~~44~~¹⁰ National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, ~~25~~²⁶ Division II championships and 28 Division III championships. (See Bylaw 9.3.10.2 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship.) The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 **National Collegiate Championships (~~44~~¹⁰).** [#]

Men (3)	Men and Women (3)	Women (54)
Gymnastics	Fencing	Beach Volleyball
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Bowling
Rifle		Gymnastics
Water Polo	Skiing	Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo

18.3.2 **NCAA Division II Championships (~~25~~²⁶).**

Men (12)	Women (13 ¹⁴)
Baseball	Basketball
Basketball	Bowling
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Field Hockey
Golf	Golf
Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Soccer	Rowing
Swimming and Diving	Soccer
Tennis	Softball
Indoor Track and Field	Swimming and Diving
Outdoor Track and Field	Tennis
Wrestling	Indoor Track and Field
	Outdoor Track and Field
	Volleyball

Figure 8-2
Division II Sports Committee Membership

Committee	Number of Members
Baseball Committee	8
Basketball Committee, Men's	8
Basketball Committee, Women's	8
Bowling, Women's	4
Cross Country Committee, Men's and Women's	8, four members shall represent men's cross country interests and four members shall represent women's cross country interests with three positions allocated for those who identify as male, three positions allocated for those who identify as female, and two positions unallocated. There shall be one representative elected from each of the Division II cross country regions.
Field Hockey Committee	4
Football Committee	8, consisting of two representatives from each of the four Division II football regions and each member shall represent a different member conference or independent institution.
Golf Committee, Men's	4
Golf Committee, Women's	4
Lacrosse Committee, Men's	4, Each of the Division II lacrosse regions shall be represented.
Lacrosse Committee, Women's	4, consisting of equal representation from each region
Rowing Committee, Women's	3
Soccer Committee, Men's	8
Soccer Committee, Women's	8
Softball Committee, Women's	8
Swimming and Diving Committee, Men's and Women's	5, two members shall represent men's swimming and diving interests and two members shall represent women's swimming and diving interests with one position allocated for someone who identifies as male, and one position allocated for someone who identifies as female with one additional member representing diving interest.

**Women's Bowling -- Legislation Impacted with Potentially
Establishing a Division II Championship**

Page No. 8

Tennis Committee, Men's and Women's	8, consisting of three positions allocated for those who identify as male, three positions allocated for those who identify as female and two unallocated positions.
Track and Field Committee, Men's and Women's	8, four members shall represent men's track and field interests and four members shall represent women's track and field interests with three positions allocated for those who identify as male, three positions allocated for those who identify as female, and two positions unallocated. There shall be one representative elected from each of the Division II track and field regions*
Volleyball Committee, Women's	8
Wrestling Committee, Men's	4

* The Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee shall be responsible for the Division II indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field championships. (See Bylaw 18 for committee duties related to the administration of championships.)



**Division II and Division III Playing Rules
Structures for Consideration and Feedback
UPDATED – July 15, 2025**

To address the evolving landscape of higher education and intercollegiate athletics, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors created the Division I Decision-Making Working Group. Tasked with revising the current Division I governance structure, the working group has been reviewing and re-imagining Division I's decision-making processes. Recommendations from the working group must be approved by the Division I Board of Directors. The working group shared its recommendations with the Division I Board in June, with final action to occur in August.

One concept includes expanding the Division I sport oversight committee structure beyond football and men's and women's basketball. The oversight committees would have responsibilities for championships administration and selections, legislative matters (e.g., recruiting, playing and practice seasons) and playing rules.

Under this new federated model for playing rules, the Division I sport oversight committee structure would take on the duties to establish and maintain rules of play for Division I sports.

Anticipating this change may be approved in August, Division II and Division III have been discussing a change in structure for playing rules.

The divisions have sought initial feedback from committees and affiliate groups including the divisional championships committees, conference commissioners and athletics directors' groups.

Based on the initial feedback, there was consensus that the preferred model for Division II and Division III is to continue to work together on rules changes and to closely monitor the changes in Division I to ensure consistency, where appropriate. Additionally, each sport shall maintain one common rule book.

Further, any new process comes with the understanding that the playing rules process is still a federated process, and each division has autonomy over its playing rules. Current processes to gather membership feedback on existing and new rules as well as comment periods will remain.

The divisional Management Councils will continue to oversee playing rules as they currently do under divisional legislation.

Finally, the NCAA playing rules staff will continue to provide support/serve as liaisons to the divisions on its playing rules structure.

Playing Rules Approval Process

A joint Division II and Division III Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) would give final approval on playing rules changes.

- PROP members shall serve four-year terms unless representing a committee or council.

- Each division's governance structure will appoint its divisional members to serve on PROP.
- Duties of PROP:
 - a. Oversee all Division II and Division III playing rules committees. This includes approval of playing rules recommendations and oversight of other issues pertaining to playing rules;
 - b. Recommend the establishment and dissolution of playing rules committees;
 - c. Monitor playing rules maintained outside of the NCAA;
 - d. Be responsible for all research and communication pertaining to the administration of playing rules, including the advancement of budgetary recommendations from the playing rules committee and to ensure consistency among different sports, when appropriate (e.g., policies controlling fighting or abusive language);
 - e. Review all playing rules changes pertaining to finances, safety and image of the game; and
 - f. Provide input on the selection process for secretary-rules editors.

Recommended composition of PROP:

The panel shall consist of 12 members, including six members from Division II and six members from Division III. A conference may not have more than one representative on the panel. Individuals with only coaching responsibilities and no administrative responsibilities are not eligible to serve.

- One appointed by the Division II Championships Committee.
- One appointed by the Division III Championships Committee.
- One appointed by the Division II Management Council.
- One appointed by the Division III Management Council.
- One appointed by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association.
- One reserved for a Division III Conference Commissioners Association member and appointed by the Division III Nominating Committee.
- The remaining three representatives from Division II and three representatives from Division III will be appointed at-large through the division's nominating committee process.

Playing Rules Committees

- Each division's governance structure will appoint its divisional members to serve on the rules committees (e.g., nominating committee process).
- Composition of rules committees shall include at least 25% of the positions to be filled by athletics directors, associate or assistant athletics directors, senior woman administrators, individuals who are employed full time as administrators by member conferences, or individuals who are employed both part time as administrators by member conferences and full time by member institutions.
- At least 50% of the total positions on each rules committee shall be filled by coaching staff members.
- A conference may not have more than one representative on a rules committee, unless there are two or fewer conferences sponsoring the sport.
- As its duties, each rules committee shall establish and maintain rules of play in its sport consistent with the sound traditions of the sport and of such character as to ensure good sportsmanship and safe participation by the competitors. Playing rules committees shall have the authority to permit rules experimentation in the nontraditional/nonchampionship season without the PROP approval. Experimentation in the regular season shall be subject to the PROP review.
- The term of office for each member will be four years.
- The secretary rules editor is a nonvoting member.
- Rules changes will typically be on a two-year cycle (consistent with current process).

Composition Numbers:

	Current	Recommended New
Baseball Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Men's Basketball Rules Committee	6 Division I members 3 Division II members 3 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor At least two representatives from each of the following	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor For Division II, one representative from each of

	Current	Recommended New
	four geographical regions: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8 ^	the four championships super regions.
Women's Basketball Rules Committee	6 Division I members 3 Division II members 3 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor At least two representatives from each of the following four geographical regions: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8 ^	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor For Division II, one representative from each of the four championships super regions.
Football Rules Committee	6 Division I members 3 Division II members 3 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor At least two representatives from each of the following four geographical regions: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8 ^	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor For Division II, one representative from each of the four championships super regions.
Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee	6 Division I members 1 Division II member that sponsor Division I or Division II men's or women's ice hockey 4 Division III members 1 member from Division II or Division III 1 secretary rules editor Within Divisions I and III, one-half of the members shall represent men's ice hockey interests and one-half of the members shall represent women's ice hockey interests	2 Division II members 6 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor Within Divisions II and III, one-half of the members shall represent men's ice hockey interests and one-half of the members shall represent women's ice hockey interests

	Current	Recommended New
Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee	4 Division I members 1 Division II members 3 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	3 Division II members 5 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee	4 Division I members 1 Division II members 3 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	3 Division II members 5 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor Within each division, one-half of the members shall represent men's soccer interests, and one-half of the members shall represent women's soccer interests	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor Within each division, one-half of the members shall represent men's soccer interests, and one-half of the members shall represent women's soccer interests
Softball Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor
Women's Volleyball Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor

	Current	Recommended New
Men's Wrestling Rules Committee	4 Division I members 2 Division II members 2 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor	4 Division II members 4 Division III members 1 secretary rules editor

Future Decisions:

Once a structure and process are approved, additional decisions will be made either by national office staff or the divisional committee structure, where appropriate.

- National office and FTE support models.
- In-person and virtual meeting structures for the playing rules committees. Note: Currently, the playing rules committees that are in a rules change year meet in person. In addition, football, men's basketball, and women's basketball meet in person every year. Most committees also meet virtually outside of the annual meeting.
- Sports with rules determined by an outside entity (e.g., field hockey). At this time, the structure for non-NCAA playing rules will not change. However, the process to review and adopt playing rules may change (e.g., the membership can provide comment and feedback on all new rules versus only modifications).

Timeline:

May	Divisional Championships Committee review and discussions.
May	Feedback from affiliate organizations (e.g., conference commissioners, athletics directors).
June	Divisional Championships Committee recommendations.
July	Divisional Management Council approval.
September 1	Effective date of changes.

Division: II

Proposal Number: NC-2026-21

Title: NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL AND CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION -- NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS -- SEPARATE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Convention Year: 2026

Date Submitted: June 12, 2025

Status: Ready for Consideration by Management Council

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

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

Category: Noncontroversial

Topical Area: Membership and Institutional Control and Championships Administration

Intent: In men's and women's fencing, to establish separate National Collegiate Championships.

A. Bylaws: Amend 7, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

7 NCAA Division II Membership and Institutional Control

[7.01 through 7.3 unchanged.]

7.3.2.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. [#] An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships, if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's beach volleyball

Women's bowling

Men's ~~and women's~~ fencing

Women's fencing

Men's gymnastics

Women's gymnastics

Women's ice hockey

Men's and women's rifle

Men's and women's skiing

Men's volleyball

Men's and women's water polo

Women's wrestling

[7.3.2.1.1 through 7.3.2.1.2 unchanged.]

[7.3.3 through 7.3.5 unchanged.]

[7.4 through 7.9 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 18, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

18 Championships Administration

[18.01 through 18.2 unchanged.]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~94~~⁹² national championships. There are ~~12~~¹³ National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships. (See Bylaw 9.3.10 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship.) The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championships (~~12~~¹³).

Men (34)	Men and Women (32)	Women (67)
Fencing	<i>Fencing</i>	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Rifle	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)	Skiing	Fencing
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo
		Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

Review History:

- Jun 16, 2025: Recommends Approval - NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.
- Jun 26, 2025: Recommends Approval - NCAA Division II Championships Committee.

Additional Information:

Under the current scoring format, institutions that sponsor only women's fencing face a statistical impossibility of winning a national championship. The separation of the two championships would allow for a more equitable championship experience and establish a realistic pathway for all teams to compete for a national championship. Establishing a women's fencing championship will support the growth, development and recognition of women's championships.

DII Football Date Formula

Student-Athlete Survey



- The survey was designed to take no more than 5-10 minutes and was administered online through the Qualtrics survey software.
- The survey was open from March 17 to April 7, 2025.
- The survey was distributed to Division II national SAAC members in conferences that sponsor football and passed along to Division II institutions who sponsor football and their football student athletes. Division II conference SAAC liaisons were also asked to share the survey with their campus SAAC advisors to assist with distribution.

Student-Athlete Survey



- 21,014 possible participants and 2,349 usable responses (11% response rate).
- 90% of respondents read the pros/cons document before answering questions.
- 26% of respondents had participated in the Division II Football Championship previously.

Current Date Formula (Nov-Dec 2027)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Potential Date Formula (Nov 2027-Jan 2028)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	30	31					
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30	31								

	Selection Date
	1 st Round
	2 nd Round
	Quarterfinals
	Semifinals
	Championship
	Winter Break

Potential Future Dates

Season	Current Date Formula	Potential Date Formula
2027	December 18, 2027	January 8, 2028^
2028	December 16, 2028	January 6, 2029^
2029	December 15, 2029	January 5, 2030^
2030	December 21, 2030	January 4, 2031*
2031	December 20, 2031	January 3, 2032*
2032	December 18, 2032	January 8, 2033^

How important is it for the NCAA Division II Football Championship Game to be on a linear network (e.g., ESPN2, ESPNU)?



Answer	Extremely Important + Important	Extremely Important	Important	Slightly Important	Slightly Unimportant	Unimportant	Not Important at all
Head Coach	83%	54%	29%	11%	2%	4%	0%
Director of Athletics	75%	34%	40%	16%	3%	6%	0%
Conference Commissioner	33%	13%	20%	27%	13%	20%	7%
Overall FB SA	87%	62%	26%	9%	1%	1%	1%
Participated in a Championship	86%	63%	23%	9%	2%	2%	2%
Has not Participated in a Championship	88%	61%	26%	9%	1%	1%	1%

Do you believe the need for a week 12 in the regular season football schedule outweighs any real or perceived negative consequences of moving the championship game to the first full weekend in January?



Answer	Overall Administrator	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach	Overall FB SA	Participated in a Championship	Has not participated in a Championship
Yes	57%	80%	55%	55%	45%	43%	45%
No	44%	20%	45%	45%	55%	57%	55%

In Division II per NCAA Bylaw 17.02.18, there is a required seven-day winter break for all sports. If the championship game was moved to January, would you support an exception for the two teams participating in the game to be able to participate in CARA during the winter break?



Answer	Overall Administrator	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach	Overall FB SA	Participated in a Championship	Has not participated in a Championship
Yes	80%	87%	72%	87%	69%	62%	71%
No	20%	13%	28%	23%	31%	38%	29%

If the championship game was moved to January, would you support this game being played on a day of the week other than a Saturday?



Answer	Overall Administrator	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach	Overall FB SA	Participated in a Championship	Has not participated in a Championship
Yes	84%	93%	82%	84%	47%	40%	50%
No	16%	7%	18%	16%	53%	60%	50%

What day(s) of the week would you support playing the championship game if it was moved to January? (Select all that apply.)



Answer	Overall Administrator	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach	Overall FB SA	Has participated in a Championship	Has not participated in a Championship
Friday	85%	93%	88%	81%	81%	80%	81%
Thursday	61%	86%	66%	54%	44%	46%	43%
Monday	33%	57%	41%	23%	33%	32%	33%
Sunday	32%	64%	46%	14%	44%	44%	44%
Wednesday	30%	43%	36%	23%	24%	26%	23%
Tuesday	28%	43%	34%	19%	23%	23%	23%

Overall, which model do you support?



Answer	Overall Administrator	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach	Overall FB SA	Participated in a Championship	Has not participated in a Championship
Keeping the current legislation that permits a football game to be played in week zero and keeping the championship game in December (12-week season to play a maximum of 11 games).	38%	20%	34%	43%	51%	59%	48%
Keeping the current legislation to permit a football game to be played in week zero and adding a week 12 to the regular season schedule if the championship game was moved to January (13-week season to play a maximum of 11 games).	29%	60%	26%	27%	26%	19%	28%
Undoing the current legislation that permits a football game to be played in week zero and instead adding a week 12 to the regular season schedule if the championship game was moved to January (12-week season to play a maximum of 11 games).	28%	20%	32%	24%	16%	14%	16%
Undoing the current legislation that permits a football game to be played in week zero and keeping the championship game in December (11-week season to play a maximum of 11 games).	6%	0%	8%	5%	8%	8%	8%

Would you support moving the championship game to January, even if that meant a new championship host may need to be secured?



Answer	Overall	Conference Commissioner	Director of Athletics	Head Coach
Yes	80%	87%	72%	87%
No	20%	13%	28%	13%

Note: Student-athletes were not asked this question.

SAAC Feedback



- Student-athlete survey data supports remaining on a linear network and the current schedule.
 - Support for current schedule is even stronger for those student-athletes who had participated in the championship previously.
- SAAC unanimously supported status quo.
- If championship is moved to January, majority of SAAC supports a required winter break of a shorter length (two or three days).
 - Importance of winter break for student-athletes, coaches and staff mental health and rest.

Football Committee Recommendation



- Football Committee unanimously recommends maintaining status quo (retain week zero, keep championship in December.)
- Current start date through January is a long season. Three weeks between semifinals and championship game (four instances 2027-2032) has a considerable impact on preparation and momentum for the two participating teams.
- Week zero allows institutions to compete against non-Division II institutions, if desired. Shifting the calendar back a week eliminates that opportunity.

Football Committee Recommendation



- Importance of remaining on a linear network is clear from almost all respondents and contractually ESPN is only required to provide a linear slot in December.
- Impact of the transfer portal and recruiting process. Potential for teams to lose student-athletes and coaches during this time.
- The most impacted constituents (ADs, head coaches and student-athletes) responded with status quo as the highest response, with the strongest support coming from SAs who have previously participated in the championship.

Football Committee Recommendation



- While the survey indicated the host site should not be a consideration, the committee felt that that impact is notable as the host has provided an exemplary experience.
- Evaluate impact of changes in Division I (e.g., House settlement) before making this change.
- If championship is moved to January, the committee noted the importance of winter break and the need for there to be a realistic opportunity for student-athletes to return home (i.e., at least three days). Negative impact on other athletics and institutional staff as well.



DIVISION II

**MAKE IT
YOURS[®]**

2026 Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship

Opening Round
Wednesday, May 6

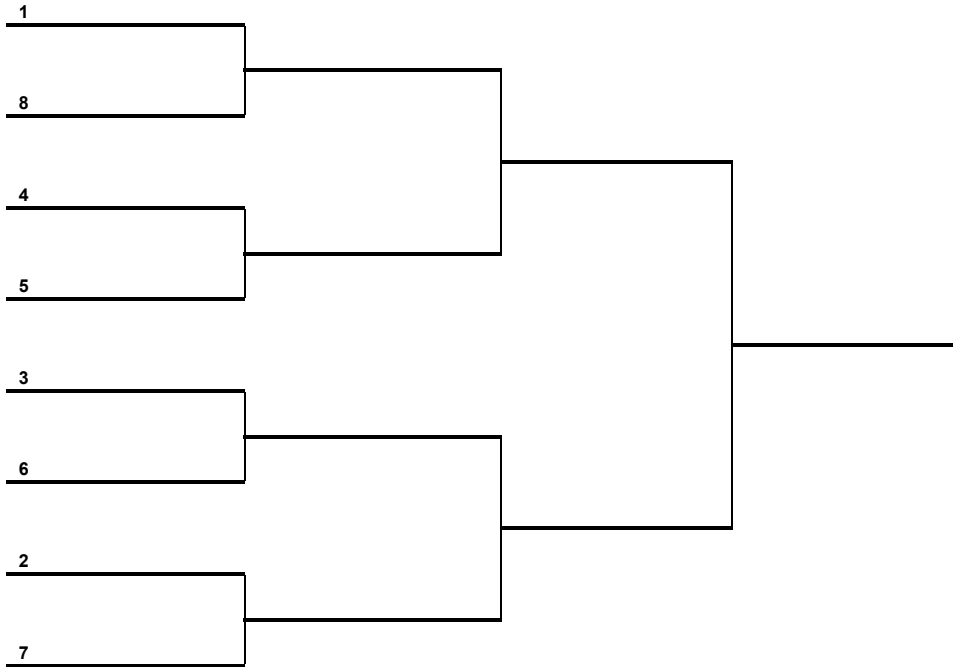
First Round
Sunday, May 10

Quarterfinals
Wednesday, May 13

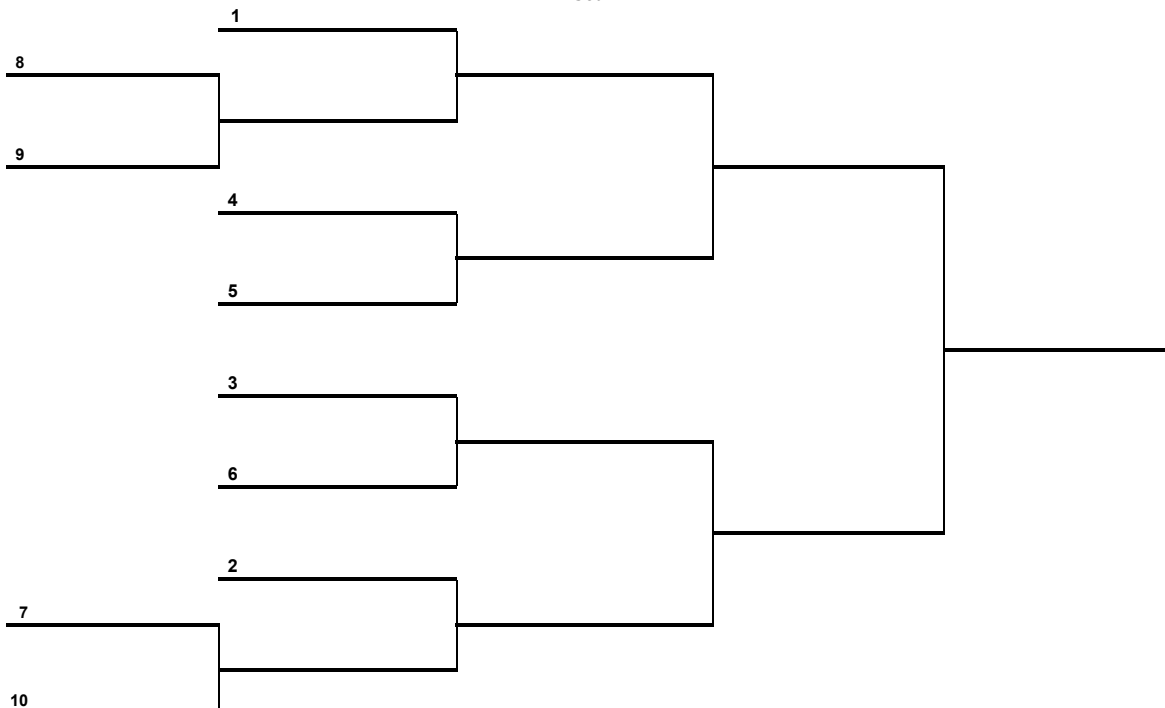
Semifinals
Sunday, May 17

Finals
Sunday, May 24

North



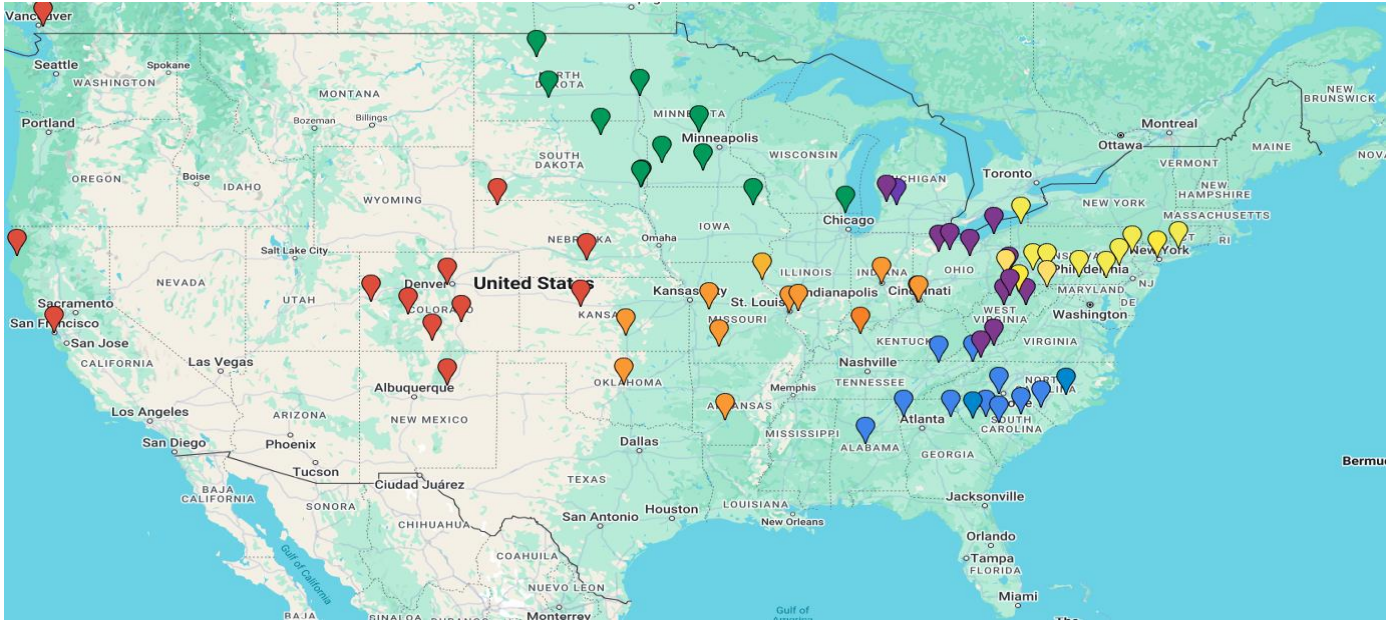
South



NATIONAL
CHAMPION

2025-26 DII Wrestling Super Region Alignment

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)	
Alderson Broaddus	MEC	Allen	C.Carolinas	Ashland	GMAC	Central Mo.	MIAA	Augustana	NSIC	Adams State	RMAC
Bridgeport	CACC	Belmont Abbey	C. Carolinas	Bluefield St.	C. Carolinas	Central Okla.	MIAA	Mary	NSIC	Cal Poly Humbolt	GNAC
East Stroudsburg	PSAC	Coker	C. Carolinas	Davenport	GLVC	Drury	GLVC	Mankato	NSIC	Chadron State	RMAC
Fairmont St.	MEC	Emmanuel (GA)	C. Carolinas	Davis & Elkins	MEC	UIndy	GLVC	Moorhead	NSIC	Colorado Mesa	RMAC
Frostburg St.	MEC	King (TN)	C. Carolinas	Emory & Henry	C. Carolinas	Ky. Wesleyan	GMAC	Minot State	NSIC	Colorado Mines	RMAC
Gannon	PSAC	Lander	C. Carolinas	Findlay	GMAC	Maryville (MO)	GLVC	Northern State	NSIC	CSU-Pueblo	RMAC
Kutztown	PSAC	Lincoln Memorial	C. Carolinas	Glenville St.	MEC	McKendree	GLVC	Southwest MN	NSIC	Fort Hays State	MIAA
Millersville	PSAC	Montevallo	C. Carolinas	Grand Valley St.	Ind.	Newman	MIAA	St. Cloud St.	NSIC	Nebraska-Kearney	MIAA
Pitt-Johnstown	PSAC	Mount Olive	C. Carolinas	Lake Erie	GMAC	Ouachita Baptist	GLVC	Sioux Falls	NSIC	New Mexico Highlands	RMAC
Seton Hill	PSAC	Newberry	C. Carolinas	Salem	Ind.	Quincy	GLVC	Upper Iowa	GLVC	San Francisco State	RMAC
Shippensburg	PSAC	Shorter	C. Carolinas	Tiffin	GMAC	Thomas More	GMAC	UW-Parkside	NSIC	Simon Fraser	GNAC
Wheeling	MEC	UNC-Pembroke	C.Carolinas	West Liberty	MEC					Western State	RMAC



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-26, 2025, 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 2025-26 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, 2025.

(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 2025-26 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, 2025.

(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 2025-26 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, 2025.

(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 2025-26 academic year: Northeast-10 Conference, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(3) 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 16 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2025-26 academic year: 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; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

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

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**AQ waiver approved for 2025-26 academic year.

f. Men's golf championship.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 21 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2025-26 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, 2025.

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

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

*AQ grace period, year one.

g. Women's golf championship.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 19 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2025-26 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, 2025.

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

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

*AQ grace period, year one.

i. Men's lacrosse championship.

(1) Recommendation. That the following nine conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025-26 academic year: Central Athletic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; and Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(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 12 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025-26 academic year: List conferences. Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Sunshine State Conference.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.

(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 2025-26 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, 2025.

(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 2025-26 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, 2025.
- (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 2025-26 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, 2025.
- (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 15 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2025-26 academic year: 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, 2025.
- (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 2025-26 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, 2025.
- (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 2025-26 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, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

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.