



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MAY 1, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and introduced the new Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative, Sean Belzer, a soccer student-athlete at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the reports from its April 3 videoconference and April 11 electronic vote, as presented.
3. **Sport and playing rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments effective as specified:
  - a. **NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Committee** (one immediate vacancy in the Atlantic Region, replacing Nate Burton, and one September vacancy in the Central Region): **Chris Richardson**, head men's basketball coach, Wheeling University, Mountain East Conference (Atlantic Region); and **Mark Rutledge**, head men's basketball coach, Southern Arkansas University, Great American Conference (Central Region).
  - b. **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee** (one immediate vacancy in the East Region replacing Zach Emerson): **Pete Gratien**, head men's and women's cross country and track coach, Daemen University, East Coast Conference.
  - c. **NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee** (one September vacancy in the Central Region): **Alex Schmitz**, director of golf and head men's and women's golf coach, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
  - d. **NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Committee** (one immediate vacancy in the Southeast Region/Super Region 2 replacing Rebecca Magee): **Gary Hamill**, associate athletics director and head men's soccer coach, Wingate University, South Atlantic Conference.
  - e. **NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Committee** (one September vacancy in the Midwest Region): **Gregory Henson**, head women's soccer coach, Ferris State University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
  - f. **NCAA Division II Softball Committee** (one September vacancy in the Midwest Region): **Joshua Calver**, deputy athletics director, Hillsdale College, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

- g. **NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Committee** (one immediate vacancy in the Midwest Region): **Jason Johnson**, head women's volleyball coach, Grand Valley State University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- h. **NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy replacing Jim Scanlon): **Jim Glovach**, associate athletics director, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. [Note: After the videoconference, it was determined that the vacancy needed to be reposted due the nominee's institution not sponsoring the sport at the varsity level.]
- i. **NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy replacing Matt Cribbin): **Jaleesa Harper**, head women's volleyball coach, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Conference Carolinas

#### 4. Sport committee reports.

- **Men's and women's cross country.** The committee approved the sport committee's recommendation for Colorado State University Pueblo to host the 2025 Division II South Central Cross Country Regional at the Pueblo Country Club in Pueblo, Colorado. The action was necessary because the host originally selected is no longer able to host. CSU Pueblo was one of two alternate bids received and is well suited to provide an outstanding experience for participants.

5. **Playing rules updates.** The committee received an update from staff regarding ongoing discussions within Division I to revise its governance structure to better represent the Division I membership. A working group has been established to rethink the division's decision-making processes, which include how playing rules will be administered. Playing rules currently are managed Association-wide through the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel that includes representatives from all three divisions and provides instances in which playing rules can be federated if desired. That structure may change, however, pending the working group's final recommendations. Because Division I is expected to approve a new governance structure in June to accommodate the anticipated finalized settlement that will impact how the division will operate going forward, Divisions II and III are being asked to consider potential changes in their playing rules structures as well.

The Division II Championships Committee discussed various potential models and agreed on some general principles, including that playing rules should continue being as consistent as possible among divisions but that Divisions II and III should also continue being able to opt out of rules that are not logistically appropriate or fiscally feasible to implement. The committee will continue weighing options and make a final recommendation in June.

6. **Division II survey results.** The committee received a second presentation from the research staff on 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. This presentation and subsequent discussion focused on responses to the Division II National

Championships Festivals and selection shows. This discussion followed the review during the committee's April videoconference of regionalization and select championship formats. The committee, during its June meeting, will focus on web streaming and the remaining topics. The extensive review will help the committee make informed recommendations regarding budget allocations and potential enhancements to the division's championships program.

## 7. Other business.

- **Football playing rule discussion.** Chris Colvin, who represents the committee on the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, updated the committee on the panel's discussion regarding rules pertaining to sideline-to-player helmet technology being used thus far solely by schools in the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. The Football Rules Committee is recommending that the rule also be implemented in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision beginning in 2025 and that it become a permissive rule for Divisions II and III beginning in 2026.

The Championships Committee, however, recalled its discussion of this issue in a January videoconference during which members expressed concern about the high cost to implement the technology and the concern regarding a permissive rule becoming indirectly mandatory for schools that feel they must invest to avoid a competitive disadvantage. Committee members at that time also were concerned about the impact on the postseason if some conferences have implemented the technology during the regular season and others haven't. Mr. Colvin urged committee members to contact him in the coming weeks if those feelings have changed so he can properly inform the panel when it makes a final decision in June.

## 8. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- June 25-26, (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- July 10, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- August 7, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

*Committee Chair:* Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances  
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances  
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee May 1, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
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).
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.
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Stan Wagnon, University of Central Oklahoma.
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Lindsey Eldred, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Mariah Murdock, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Angela Red and CJ Sowards.