



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Referral to the Division II Legislation Committee – potential Division II Men’s Volleyball Championship.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division II Legislation Committee review sport-specific legislation that would need to be amended should a Division II Men’s Volleyball Championship be formally established.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, men’s volleyball is conducted as a National Collegiate championship (with Divisions I and II, as Division III conducts its own); however, 2024-25 sponsorship data indicate that Division II has reached the 35-institution threshold to consider establishing a Division II-specific championship. The Championships Committee believes beginning the process to review whether a Division II championship should be established in men’s volleyball is merited by the sport currently having reached the threshold, as well as by additional indications that schools currently in the membership process that sponsor the sport would increase the overall sponsorship number once they achieve active Division II status. Additionally, the committee believes the recent growth trend in sponsorship of men’s volleyball in Division II (11 schools have added the sport in the past five years) supports exploring a championship.

The Championships Committee noted this process would include a survey to determine the Division II men’s volleyball sponsorship’s interest in establishing a Division II-specific championship rather than continuing to compete in a National Collegiate championship. Accordingly, the decision to formally pursue a Convention proposal to establish a championship will be determined in the coming months before the June deadline for submitting proposals into the 2027 Convention cycle.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None for the exploratory period; TBD should a Division II championship be formally pursued.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Establishing a Division II-specific championship in men’s volleyball would provide far more reasonable access to an NCAA postseason

experience for Division II sponsoring institutions than the current National Collegiate championship.

b. Championship access ratio grace period.

- (1) Recommendation. To establish a one-year grace period to initiate the review of the bracket size for sport that falls below the 4.0 to 6.0 access ratio range, provided there is sufficient evidence (e.g., institutions in the membership process sponsoring the sport, public announcements by active members of intent to add the sport) to demonstrate the sport may be at/above 4.0 within that time period; further, to clarify that implementation of a consistent timeline for reviews of bracket sizes not tied to the triennial budget process.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. During its September meeting, the Championships Committee began discussing whether a grace period should be applied when a sport falls below the access ratio 4.0 threshold but is clearly able to demonstrate that it will regain compliance before the grace period expires.

The current triennial budget timeline ties any bracket reductions to the triennial budget cycle to provide sufficient notice to the impacted sport community and also for the Championships Committee to immediately reallocate the budget dollars saved by the reduction to other initiatives sport committees request as part of the triennial budget process.

The Championships Committee noted this approach creates a variable implementation timeline based on when the sport falls below the current 4.0 threshold. Accordingly, after reviewing various models staff provided per the committee's request in September, the committee agreed it would be best for bracket reductions not to align with the triennial budget process in order to provide more flexibility and create a consistent timeline for review.

The committee acknowledged that changing the approach to implement bracket adjustments outside the triennial budget cycle means there would not be an opportunity to reallocate those dollars until the next triennial cycle unless a request was submitted that meets one of the established exceptions as outlined in the Division II budget guidelines.

However, the committee reasoned that the likelihood of such dollars being spent before the sport in question could regain compliance is little given that a sport committee request outside of the budget cycle would have to meet one of the specified exceptions. Additionally, because bracket expansion satisfies one of those exceptions, the committee believes it is appropriate for bracket reductions to be considered in the same vein and, as such, be addressed outside the cycle.

Following is an example for the recommendation based on the Championships Committee's annual review of sport-sponsorship data in September:

- September 2025 – The Championships Committee's review of sport-sponsorship data reveals that a sport has fallen below the ratio. The one-year grace period would begin for that sport's championship, and no review would be conducted.
- September 2026 – If that sport continues to be below the ratio, the Championships Committee would refer the matter to the relevant sport committee for bracket adjustments.
- September 2027 – The Championships Committee reviews the sport committee's adjustments and submits a recommendation to the Division II Management Council and Executive Board.
- January 2028 – The Management Council and Executive Board approve the recommendation, to be effective in 2028-29 academic year.

Accordingly, the grace period recommendation provides a three-year period before the adjustments would be implemented. If the sport regains compliance with the 4.0 access ratio range prior to implementation, the Championships Committee would have the authority to revisit the recommended bracket reduction subject to availability of budget funding (i.e., cost savings haven't been reallocated).

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The grace period and the ability for the review to be conducted outside the triennial budget process provides student-athletes in the sport in question more flexibility to continue their access to championship competition.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group to the videoconference and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its October 2 videoconference as presented.
3. **Tennis format update.** Staff updated the committee on the Division II Management Council's referral to the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee to review the potential super regional model being considered for men's tennis. The tennis committee is expected to submit its recommendation for the Championships Committee to consider during its February meeting.
4. **Budget review.** As it does for every meeting, the committee reviewed whether the agenda includes any items with a potential budget impact and noted those items accordingly.

5. **Division II Nominating Committee report.** The Championships Committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments, effective as specified.
- a. **NCAA Division II Baseball Committee** (one immediate vacancy replacing Jessica Harbison Weaver) – **Mo Roberson**, associate athletics director for facilities, Hawaii Pacific University, Pacific West Conference.
 - b. **NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Committee** (one immediate vacancy replacing Jenepher Banker) – **Courtney Finn**, associate athletic director, internal operations/senior woman administrator, Bentley University, Northeast-10 Conference.
 - c. **NCAA Division II Women’s Golf Committee** (one immediate vacancy replacing Suzanne Strudwick) – **Travis Muncy**, director of athletics, Lincoln Memorial University, South Atlantic Conference.
 - d. **NCAA Division II Softball Committee** (one immediate vacancy replacing Susan Cassidy-Lyke) – **Claudia Stabile**, associate athletics director/student success and services/senior woman administrator, Pace University, Northeast-10 Conference.
 - e. **NCAA Divisions II and III Baseball Rules Committee** (two immediate Division II vacancies) – **Albert Jones**, director of athletics, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; and **Kevin Michael Brooks**, head baseball coach, Angelo State University, Lone Star Conference.
 - f. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy) – **Mike Looney**, head men’s ice hockey coach, Assumption University, Northeast-10 Conference.
 - g. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men’s Lacrosse Rules Committee** (two immediate Division II vacancies) – **Dan Mara**, commissioner, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; and **Jack Wilson**, head men’s lacrosse coach, D’Youville University, East Coast Conference.
 - h. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy) – **Nikki Rose**, associate athletics director for facilities and event operations, senior woman administrator, Davis & Elkins College, Mountain East Conference.
 - i. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy) – **Jen Blue**, head women’s cross country coach/assistant men’s and women’s track and field coach/director of operations-distance, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
 - j. **NCAA Divisions II and III Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee** (two immediate Division II vacancies) – **Leanne Piscotty**, head women’s volleyball coach, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; and **Christa Brown**, head women’s volleyball coach, Winston-Salem State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

- k. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's Wrestling Rules Committee** (one immediate Division II vacancy) – **Ryan Clark**, director of operations and compliance, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
6. **Misconduct penalty review.** The committee reviewed a misconduct that occurred during the 2024 Division II Men's Soccer Championship and was satisfied with the sport committee's recommendations given the circumstances surrounding the timing of the decision.
7. **Sport committee reports.**
 - a. **Men's golf.** The committee approved Valdosta State University to host the South/Southeast Regional for the 2026 Division II Men's Golf Championships.
 - b. **Women's golf.** The committee approved University of Central Oklahoma to host the Central Regional for the 2028 Division II Women's Golf Championships.
8. **Review of final 2024-25 sports sponsorship data/potential men's volleyball championship.** The committee reviewed the final 2024-25 sports sponsorship data and discussed next steps for men's volleyball, which has hit the 35-sponsorship threshold necessary to be considered for Division II championship status. The committee agreed that a review of potentially establishing a Division II-specific championship in men's volleyball is warranted and referred the matter to the Division II Legislation Committee to consider the sport-specific legislation that would need to be amended. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.)
9. **Access ratio grace period and bracket adjustment requests.** The committee revisited an issue raised during its September meeting regarding a potential grace period should a sport fall below the access ratio floor of 4.0. The committee agreed to establish a one-year grace period in such cases that is not tied to the division's triennial budget process. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b.) The committee also began discussing whether the 4.0 to 6.0 access ratio policy should be amended to provide clarity to sport committees when recommending a bracket adjustment (either reduction due to a referral or expansion as part of the triennial budget process) but did not reach a conclusion on that issue. The committee will continue this discussion during its December videoconference.
10. **Review of women's bowling proposal Q&A.** Staff provided the committee with the question-and-answer document regarding the 2026 NCAA Convention proposal to create a Division II Women's Bowling Championship and asked members to reach out via email if they have additions or suggestions.
11. **Update on Division I roster limit and Division III bench limit reviews.** The committee will receive this update during the December videoconference.
12. **Future meetings and videoconferences.**
 - Dec. 4, 2025, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
 - Jan. 8, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

- Feb. 19-20, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul
Staff Liaison(s): Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances
Chelsea Hooks, Governance and Member Services

Division II Championships Committee Nov. 6, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.	
Rebekah Gasner, Montana State University Billings.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Ahleasha McNeal, Lincoln Memorial University.	
Robert Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Christina Paone, Walsh University.	
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.	
Stan Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.	
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University.	
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.	
Absentees:	
Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.	
Chelsea Hooks, Governance and Member Services.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Eric Breece, Antonio Cannavaro, Jess Gaumer, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Mariah Martin, Angela Red, Jen Roe, Liz Suscha and Courtney Wengryn.	