DIVISION II MAKE IT YOURS

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 5, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair, Terry Beattie, welcomed the group and introduced Lorenza Foster-Simbulan, a tennis student-athlete at Dominican University of California, who has joined the committee as a new representative from the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its Oct. 1 videoconference, as presented.

3. **Budget review.** The committee reviewed a supplement outlining budget items for its meetings and noted none were expected for this videoconference, though the discussion of access ratio and bracket size in men's and women's tennis may have a budget impact pending future recommendations. (See Item No. 7.)

4. **Nominating Committee report.** The committee approved the following members, as recommended by the Division II Nominating Committee, to fill immediate vacancies in Division II sport committees:

   a. **NCAA Women's Wrestling Committee** – **Kerri Brace**, associate athletics director and senior woman administrator, D'Youville University, East Coast Conference.

   b. **NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee** – **Austin Weyant**, deputy athletics director for compliance, Lubbock Christian University, Lone Star Conference.

5. **Review of men's volleyball proposal Q&A.** Given the proposal to establish a Division II Men's Volleyball Championship [NCAA Proposal No. 2027-3 (Division II championships -- men's volleyball)], the Championships Committee reviewed and supported a Q&A document prepared as an educational resource prior to the Convention. While the Division II Legislation Committee oversees the Q&A, the Championships Committee was provided the opportunity to review and provide feedback as initial sponsors of the proposal. The Legislation Committee will finalize the document during its Nov. 9-10 videoconference.

6. **Division II Men's Wrestling Committee report.** The Championships Committee approved the wrestling committee's request to place Menlo College in Super Region Six as noted in the Attachment.

7. **Review of 2025-26 sports sponsorship data**. The committee reviewed the confirmed 2025-26 sports sponsorship data and noted that 35 Division II institutions reported sponsoring women's wrestling. However, it is unclear whether all 35 institutions met the requirement of nine meets with six participants, as 22 institutions reported their participation data while the

other 13 did not. As such, the committee asked staff to obtain the data from the additional institutions before initiating a new championship review process.

Additionally, given the number of potential new championships being considered in Division II, the committee went on record requesting that institutions be required to submit this level of detail in conjunction with the annual Sports Sponsorship and Demographic form to ensure the necessary data are available for future new championship considerations, as well as accurate revenue distribution.

- **Women's tennis access ratio**. The committee was informed that the women's tennis access ratio has fallen below the 4.0 to 6.0 range. Accordingly, the committee discussed the issue and ultimately agreed to ask the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee for feedback on a potential 42-team bracket (down from the current 48) for women's tennis, which would put the championship back in compliance with the access ratio policy. This reduction could take effect for the 2027-28 academic year, in line with the men's tennis bracket reduction taken previously (to 32 teams) to comply with the access ratio in that sport. The committee will consider the tennis committee's feedback during its February meeting.

8. **Bracketing/regionalization review**. The committee continued its ongoing review of bracketing/regionalization principles, having been informed by staff during its October videoconference that further testing in tennis was necessary. Staff reviewed testing in men's tennis using the reduced 32-team field, noting that further testing in women's tennis would occur once the new bracket size is determined. The committee discussed the primary challenge of competitive balance in men's tennis, and whether the same bracketing principles in other sports (i.e., protecting the top seeds) should apply to men's tennis given the concentrated strength of top seeds in one region. Staff acknowledged this challenge and tested a model that evenly distributes regions, which helps competitive balance but would likely increase the number of flights. Staff also noted testing the same model with protecting the top four seeds instead of the top eight, which reduced the number of flights slightly. After discussion, the committee expressed interest in further considering the balanced regional bracket that protects the top four seeds for men's tennis.

   Staff noted that once the new bracketing principles are finalized, feedback will be sought from sport committees and other groups within the governance structure beginning in January, with the intent of implementing the new principles for the 2027-28 academic year.

9. **Committee operations.**

   a. **National Collegiate Women's Flag Football Committee approval process**. The committee received an update on the anticipated timing for approval of the two Division II nominees on the new committee, which is expected to occur before the winter holiday break. As with other sport committee appointments, the Championships Committee will be asked to approve the recommendations in December.

b. June 2027 videoconference date. The committee was asked to consider meeting via videoconference June 28-29 instead of the previously scheduled June 29-30 and notify staff within the next week if doing so presented conflicts.

10. Other business.

- **In-region, nonconference opponent feedback.** Staff updated the committee on feedback regarding the application of waivers of the in-region, nonconference opponent requirement for institutions that are unable to complete their schedules to comply with the requirement. The committee indicated support for a waiver being submitted by the conference office in such instances where a conference schedule is precluding institutions from meeting the requirement. The committee will continue to discuss these types of procedural nuances during its February meeting.

11. Future meetings and videoconferences.

a. Dec. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference; if necessary).

b. Jan. 7, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

c. Feb. 16-17, 2027 (meeting via videoconference).

Committee Chair: *Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*
Staff Liaison(s): *Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances*
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances
Jordan Lysiak, Governance and Member Services

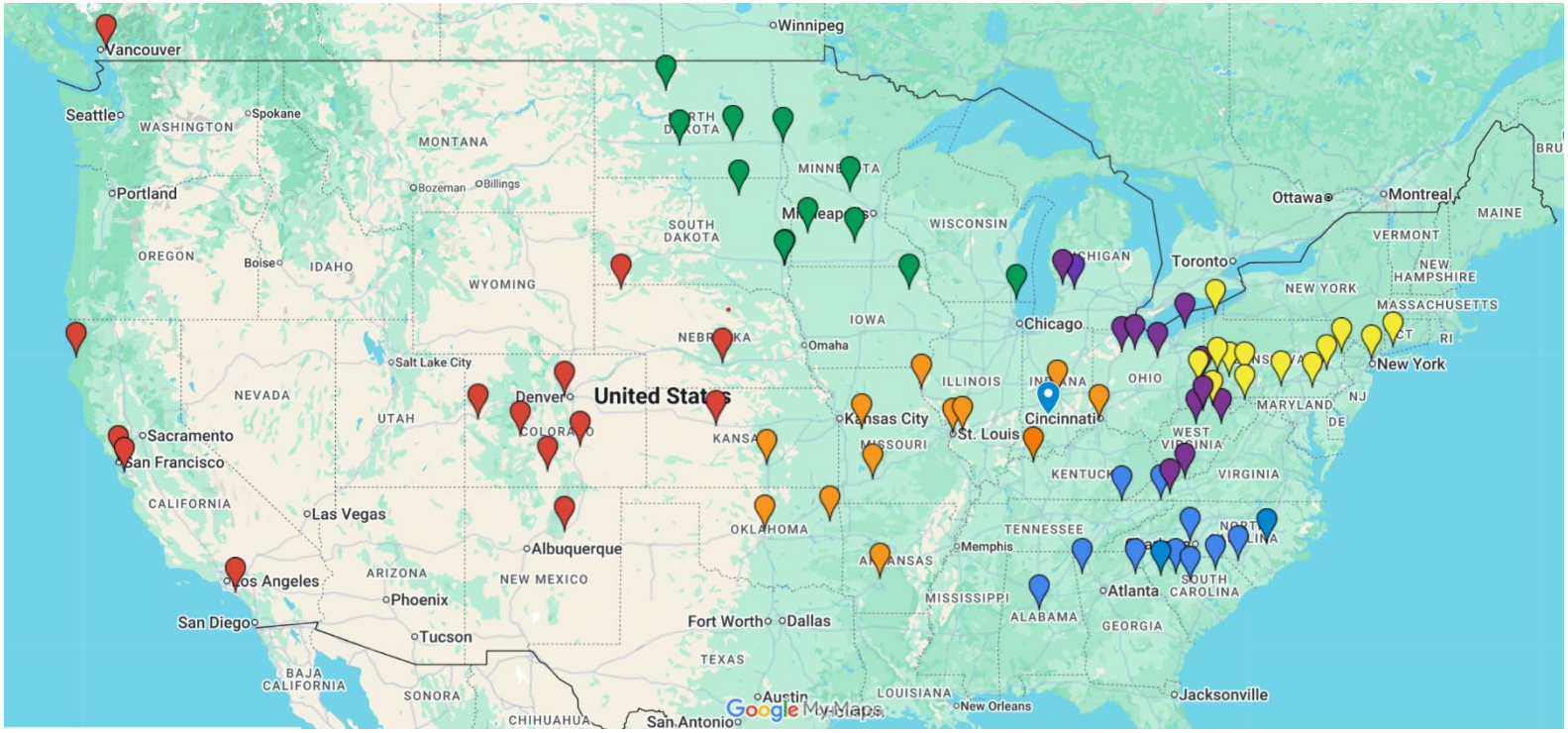
Division II Championships Committee Nov. 5, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.
Melanie Brunsdon, Winona State University.
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).
Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Abby Davis, Arkansas Tech University.
Lorenza Foster-Simbulan, Dominican University of California
Rebekah Gasner, Montana State University Billings.
Jamie Joss, Florida Institute of Technology.
Ahleasha McNeal, Lincoln Memorial University.
Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University (Management Council vice chair).
Christina Paone, Walsh University.
Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.
Stan Wagnon, University of Central Oklahoma.

Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Rachel Stark-Mason, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Micaela Kapsalis, Karen Kirsch and Jordan Lysiak.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Zach Christopher, Lindsey Eldred, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Maya McEwen, Jennifer Roe, Liz Suscha and Jill Waddell.

ATTACHMENT

2026-27 DII Wrestling Super Regional Model

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



** due to campus proximity, Augustana College and the University of Sioux Falls appear as one green bubble on the map.*