

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its September 10-11 in-person meeting, as presented.
3. **NCAA Power Index (NPI) overview.** Tim Danehy, the creator of the Pairwise metric that eventually evolved into the NPI, joined the videoconference to explain the metric to the committee and provide examples of how it could be used to inform how best to conduct championship selections. The committee had asked for the presentation to inform discussions about the various selection metrics available.

The NPI, which has been used in Division I and Division III men's ice hockey for several years and which Division III adopted this 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 NPI can dramatically lessen the time sport committees devote to selecting their fields, leaving more time to spend on bracketing.

Mr. Danehy provided examples of how the metric helps identify the most deserving teams and how it can help inform scheduling for member institutions (i.e., how to best enhance a team's strength of schedule). Committee members asked questions throughout the presentation and requested additional information to help make any future recommendations. The committee will continue evaluating the NPI, as well as other metrics, during subsequent meetings.

4. **Sport and rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following recommended appointments from the Division II Nominating Committee:
 - a. **NCAA Division II Baseball Committee** (one immediate vacancy – South Region): **Erik Maas**, director of athletics, Auburn University at Montgomery, Gulf South Conference.

- b. **NCAA Division II Men's Golf Committee** (one immediate vacancy – South/Southeast Region): **Joey Marino**, head men's golf coach, Nova Southeastern University, Sunshine State Conference.
- c. **NCAA Division II Women's Rowing Committee** (one immediate vacancy – East Region): **Michiel Bartman**, head rowing coach, Thomas Jefferson University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
- d. **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee** (one immediate vacancy – West Region): **Spencer Shamo**, associate director of athletics, Dominican University of California, Pacific West Conference.
- e. **NCAA Softball Rules Committee** (one immediate vacancy): **Joe Yegge**, head softball coach, Montana State University Billings, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. **Men's and women's golf.** The committee received as information the report from the men's and women's golf committees' most recent correspondence clarifying their substitution policies. The golf committees confirmed that substitutions are allowable only during postseason play (i.e., NCAA regionals, the NCAA national championships, and, at the discretion of the conference, during the conference championship). Substitutions are not allowed during the regular season.
- b. **Women's lacrosse.**
 - (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved adding the Mountain East Conference (MEC) as an automatic qualifier for the 2025 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship. The MEC recently added Dominican University of California as an affiliate member for women's lacrosse and has reached the required six members to be eligible for AQ.
 - (2) **2025 championship site.** The committee approved the women's lacrosse committee's recommendation to conduct the 2025 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship semifinals and final in conjunction with the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship finals at Kerr Stadium in Salem, Virginia. Salem has hosted a Division II and Division III joint championship before in 2021, which weighed heavily in the sport committee's recommendation. Other factors include the hotel availability and accommodations, facility infrastructure, and the budget from previous years. A 2026 championship site will be recommended soon.

6. Other business.

- **Division II Football Championship broadcasts.** Staff updated the committee that all preliminary-round games of the 2024 NCAA Division II Football Championship, including the semifinals, will be aired on ESPN+ (the semifinals will be re-aired on ESPNU). The championship game will be shown live on ESPN2. Staff also updated the committee on in-

venue camera requirements, since the Division II Football Committee recently agreed that by 2025 hosts will be required to have two cameras for streaming but ESPN requires four in order to sell advertisements. For this year, however, ESPN is requesting only two cameras, which is what schools already were doing last year with the Hudl agreement. Division II will provide a \$2,500 stipend and reimburse any additional technical or equipment costs to help offset the broadcasting requirements. Hosts will still be permitted to seek reimbursement for personnel costs associated with webstreaming through the host budget. There will be no change in this regard with the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship or the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, as the preliminary rounds in those will continue to be streamed on ncaa.com.

7. Future videoconferences.

- November 7, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.
- December 5, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.

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 October 3, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College of Saint Rose.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
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 Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.	
Absentees:	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	

Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Tim Danehy, NPI.
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:
Antonio Cannavaro, Brooke Dixon, Nate Flannery, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Ryan Jones, Ryan Rea, Angela Red, Jennifer Roe, CJ Sowards and Lynda Tealer.