



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
OCT. 2, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- Access ratios for select sports.
  - a. Recommendation. Approve the revised access ratios for field hockey and men's tennis as specified in the Attachment.
  - b. Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.
  - c. Rationale. The Championships Committee had approved access ratios for these sports during its September meeting; however, minor errors subsequently were discovered regarding the data for each, which required the committee to revisit and re-approve these sports.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**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 Sep. 16-17 meeting via videoconference as presented.
3. **Budget review.** As it does for every meeting, the committee reviewed whether the agenda includes any items with a potential budget impact and noted there are no such items for this meeting.
4. **Convention legislation.** The committee reviewed and took positions (support, opposition or no position) on the following membership-sponsored legislative proposals that were referred by the Division II Management Council for the 2026 NCAA Convention.
  - a. **Proposal No. 2026-14 -- Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships -- Minimum Sponsorship for Division II Championships -- Exception for Field Hockey and Women's Rowing.** Intent: In field hockey and women's rowing, to

permit the continuation of the Division II championship if either sport falls below the 35-minimum threshold required.

Championships Committee position: Support. While the committee acknowledged that the legislation this proposal seeks to amend originally came from the Championships Committee with the understanding that its adoption would eliminate the Olympic sports exception, members of the current committee believe the intercollegiate landscape has changed so significantly and perhaps unexpectedly since then (i.e., due to various reclassifications and school closures, as well as policy changes in Division I precluding access to championships for Division II members) that Proposal No. 2026-14 is warranted for these two sports. The committee also noted that should Proposal No. 2026-14 be adopted, the committee would review the access ratio for each sport to assure the competitive integrity of each championship.

*(Note: Neil Duval, Rebekah Gasner, Stan Wagnon and Vaughn Williams recused themselves from the committee's vote due to being members of the sponsoring conferences.)*

- b. **Proposal No. 2026-16 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Automatic Qualification -- Requirements -- Division Championship -- Institutions in Final Year of Division II Membership Process.** Intent: To permit a member conference to count institutions in the final year of the membership process toward the minimum of six institutions needed to satisfy the sponsorship requirement for automatic qualification.

Championships Committee position: No position.

*(Note: Terry Beattie, Sean Belzer, Carlin Chesick, Neil Duval, Ahleasha McNeal, Haley White, and Vaughn Williams recused themselves from the committee's vote due to being members of the sponsoring conferences.)*

5. **2025-26 access ratios.** The committee revisited access ratios for two sports, noting that there were minor errors in the data for field hockey and men's tennis originally provided during the committee's September meeting. Accordingly, the committee reviewed and approved the revised reports for those sports as specified in the Nonlegislative Action Item.
6. **Sport committee reports.**
- a. **Men's and women's basketball.** The committee approved the basketball committees' recommendation to increase the bench size from 23 (with 18 chairs) to 25 (with 20 chairs). This change aligns Division II basketball with Division III, which is important given the upcoming joint championship with Division III in conjunction with the 2026 Men's Final Four. The committee also believes this is a reasonable increase to ensure effective operational control of the event while also enhancing the overall student-athlete experience.

- b. **Men's lacrosse.** The committee supported the lacrosse committee's recommendation to grant the Peach Belt Conference automatic qualification privileges for the 2026 championship. The committee noted the conference will be in the first year of the three-year grace period with five members.

(Note: Cade Smith recused himself from the committee vote as he represents an affiliate member of the Peach Belt Conference in men's lacrosse.)

7. **Misconduct penalty review.** The committee reviewed additional information it requested during its September meeting regarding a misconduct that occurred during the 2025 Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship. Per policy, the Championships Committee does not have the authority to alter the penalties already assessed by the sport committee other than changing a private reprimand to a public reprimand. After reviewing the additional information in this case, the committee recommended that the private reprimand the sport committee issued be changed to a public reprimand. The committee will work with staff to develop the public reprimand.

8. **Future meetings and videoconferences.**

- Nov. 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- Dec. 4, 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).
- June 23-24, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- Sep. 14-15, 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<br>Oct. 2, 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.                            |  |
| Neil Duval, Saint Anselm College.                                                  |  |
| Rebekah Gasner, Montana State University Billings.                                 |  |
| Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.                                     |  |
| Ahleasha McNeal, Lincoln Memorial University.                                      |  |
| Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair). |  |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Christina Paone, Walsh University.                                                                                                      |
| Jay Poerner, Lone Star Conference.                                                                                                      |
| Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.                                                                                        |
| Stan Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.                                                                                             |
| Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University.                                                                                               |
| Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Absentees:</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).                                                     |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>                                                                                                            |
| Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.                                                                                                            |
| <b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>                                                                                                |
| Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.                                                                                              |
| Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.                                                                                          |
| Chelsea Hooks, Governance and Member Services.                                                                                          |
| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>                                                                                          |
| Mitchell Bailey, Jess Gaumer, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Dante Jones, Maritza Jones, Ryan Rea, Angela Red and Courtney Wengryn. |



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**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Regional berth allocations in field hockey.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the following postseason berth allocations for each region based on 2025-26 sport sponsorship information:

| Region   | No. of Institutions | 2024-25 Berths | 2025-26 Berths | Access Ratio |
|----------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Atlantic | 20                  | 5              | 5              | 4.0          |
| East     | 16                  | 3              | 3              | 5.33         |
|          | 36                  | 8              | 8              | 4.5          |

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The Division II Field Hockey Committee believes basing postseason berth allocations on the current year's sport sponsorship is the fairest method and retains an equitable bracket size among regions. The committee assigned the rest of the berths to best keep consistency and to bring the access ratios into the tightest range possible within the bracket size of eight teams. These updated numbers reflect the full anticipated sports sponsorship for the 2025-26 academic year as reported to NCAA Research.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Regions will be represented in the postseason based on sponsorship in that region, which will provide the most equal access to the championship for all student-athletes.

**b. Regional berth allocations in men's tennis.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the following updated postseason berth allocations for each region based on 2025-26 sport sponsorship information:

Men's Tennis:

| Region        | No. of Institutions | 2024-25 Berths | 2025-26 Berths | Access Ratio |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Atlantic      | 19                  | 7              | 7              | 2.71         |
| Central       | 12                  | 4              | 5              | 2.40         |
| East          | 10                  | 5              | 4              | 2.50         |
| Midwest       | 25                  | 8              | 8              | 3.13         |
| South         | 24                  | 8              | 8              | 3.00         |
| South Central | 8                   | 4              | 4              | 2.00         |
| Southeast     | 30                  | 8              | 8              | 3.75         |
| West          | 8                   | 4              | 4              | 2.00         |
|               | 136                 | 48             | 48             | 2.83         |

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee believes basing postseason berth allocations on the current year's sport sponsorship is the fairest method and retains an equitable bracket size among regions. The proposed allocation reflects the requirement that a minimum of four teams per region and a maximum of eight teams per region are selected. These updated numbers reflect two CACC men's tennis teams joining the PSAC as affiliate members, which changes the Atlantic and East region composition for purposes of selections. Additionally, Colorado Mesa is no longer an affiliate member of the Pacific West Conference and as such has been placed back in the South Central region.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Regions will be represented in the postseason based on sponsorship in that region, which will provide the most equal access to the championship for all student-athletes.

*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.*