



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER. 1, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **In-Region, Nonconference Opponent Policy.**
 - a. Recommendation. Establish an in-region, nonconference opponent policy requiring institutions to participate in at least one in-region, nonconference contest in sports that use the NCAA Power Index (NPI) to be eligible for at-large selection in those championships. In football, the requirement would be one nonconference contest only, without the in-region component.
 - b. Effective date. 2027-28 academic year. [Note: A waiver process will be in place for institutions that cannot meet the requirement because of scheduling complications (e.g., contracts that already have been signed).]
 - c. Rationale. The Championships Committee has discussed the in-region, nonconference opponent issue at length and has consistently agreed that a minimum requirement should be in place to give sport committees the adequate data with which to compare teams for seeding and bracketing purposes. The committee in June recommended to the Division II Management Council a specified number of in-region nonconference contests for sports that use the NPI (six for baseball and softball; two for men's soccer, women's soccer, and women's volleyball, and one for all other sports); however, the council did not support that recommendation. After discussion with the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association board, the consensus favored a one contest threshold being recommended. The committee supports implementing the policy in 2027-28 and including a waiver process for institutions that cannot meet the requirement for contractual or other reasons.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation adds a consistency component for championship seeding and bracketing, which fortifies the bracketing process and thus enhances the student-athlete championship experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Terry Beattie welcomed the group and noted that Lorenza Foster-Simbulan, a women's tennis student-athlete at Dominican University of California, 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 Sept. 14-15 in-person meeting.
3. **Budget review.** As standard practice, the committee reviewed a supplement outlining budget items for their meetings and noted none were expected for this videoconference.
4. **In-region, nonconference opponent feedback.** The committee continued discussing whether to recommend an in-region, nonconference requirement for select team sports, noting the most recent feedback from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association meetings regarding two options the Championships Committee is considering: (1) A policy requiring a specified number of in-region nonconference contests for sports that use the NCAA Power Index (NPI) to be eligible for at-large selection to those championships (six for baseball and softball; two for men's soccer, women's soccer, and women's volleyball and one for all other sports); and (2) Require at least one in-region nonconference contest in all sports that use the NPI except football (for which the nonconference contest would not have to be in region). Both the CCA and ADA strongly supported the second option. Accordingly, after discussion, the committee formally recommended that option for the Division II Management Council to consider, effective with the 2027-28 academic year. [See Nonlegislative Action Item.]
5. **Cross country regional format survey.** The committee reviewed an updated educational document outlining the cross country regional formats being considered, and reviewed the draft survey that will be used to collect feedback from the membership on those options accordingly. The committee discussed the document and the survey at length, providing editorial suggestions on the latter. The plan is for the survey to be fully developed and sent to the membership (athletics directors, conference commissioners, and men's and women's cross country head coaches) in November, with results expected to help inform a formal recommendation for future cross country championships.
6. **Bracketing/regionalization review.** The committee continued its ongoing review of bracketing/regionalization principles, focusing specifically on questions that have arisen during testing in several sports (especially those with smaller brackets) staff conducted since the committee's September meeting. Committee members offered feedback on those issues, and staff noted that tennis requires additional study that will be provided to the committee during its November videoconference. The committee also reviewed the proposed timeline for membership feedback to meet the desired 2027-28 implementation.
 - **Access ratio review.** At the committee's request, staff prepared an analysis of the impact on regional bids if they were to be assigned based on "true" access ratio in

the new bracketing model. While no action was required from the committee at this time, members agreed that more feedback on this item is necessary but that from a sequencing perspective, the new bracketing model should be implemented before this concept is more fully vetted. The committee will revisit this discussion no later than Sept. 2027.

7. Other business.

- a. 2028-31 bid cycle.** Staff noted the bid portal opens Nov. 9 with a sixty-day window for institutions and conferences to submit bids for the upcoming cycle.
- b. NPI resources.** Staff updated the committee on NCAA Power Index (NPI) resources that have been consolidated [online](#). The NPI resources are now on one page and include deeper-dive educational resources to help the membership better understand the metric.
- c. Staff appreciation.** The committee formally thanked Leslie Havens, who is retiring from the NCAA staff, for the tremendous support she has provided the committee during her tenure.

8. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- Thursday, Nov. 5, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- Thursday, Jan. 7, 2027, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- Feb. 16-17, 2027 (meeting via videoconference).

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

Division II Championships Committee Oct. 1, 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.	
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 Wagon, University of Central Oklahoma.
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.
Absentees:
Lorenza Foster-Simbulan, Dominican University of California.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Karen Kirsch and Jordan Lysiak.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Lindsey Eldred, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Maya McEwen, CJ Sowards, Liz Suscha and Jill Waddell.