



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2025, MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial legislation – NCAA Bylaw 8.7.6 -- Association-wide Committees -- Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities -- Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee Composition.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to reduce the number of Division II representatives on the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one (and thus reduce the total membership on the committee from nine to eight (6 Division III, 1 Division II, 1 non-voting secretary rules editor).
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation is based on the challenges with soliciting nominations for the current two Division II spots given how few Division II institutions sponsor ice hockey and given the need to now populate the new Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee being established within the recently adopted division-specific playing rules structure. The Division II Championships Committee supports that rationale, noting that the recommendation does not compromise Division II's representation given the new Division II/III committee being created.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Championship bracket/format adjustments for men's and women's tennis.

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships as follows: (1) Reduce the men's bracket from 48 to 34 teams; (2) Reduce both men's and women's tennis championships to eight teams per gender at the finals site; and (3) Implement eight regional sites per gender, with additional officials and a site representative at each site. (See Attachment A.)
- (2) Effective date. 2027-28 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The Championships Committee supports the tennis committee's recommendation to adopt an eight-regional site format for both the men's and women's tennis championships, with eight teams advancing to the finals site for each. The new structure for men's tennis is necessary to meet the championships access ratio policy and provides consistency by applying the same format to both championships. To

support the preliminary rounds with the increased number of teams at each regional, a site representative should be assigned to each location along with additional officials to manage the increased number of matches. These recommendations are intended to enhance championship administration, ensure competitive equity, and maintain the overall quality of competition.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Projected savings of \$342,000 (\$63,000 women's tennis, \$279,000 men's tennis).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. These changes will ensure tennis student-athletes have similar access to the championship and finals site as other Division II team sports.

b. Substitution policy for men's and women's golf.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a policy stating that conference championships must use the same substitution policy in place for both the NCAA regionals and finals. (See Attachment B.)
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Aligning the substitution procedures for conference championships with those used at regionals and finals creates consistency across all levels of postseason competition. The change reduces confusion for coaches and student-athletes by standardizing the process, ensures competitive equity by applying the same roster and scoring rules in all postseason formats and ensures score data is reported correctly for selections purposes. This approach also uses the substitution policy in its true definition, allowing the sixth player or substitute to participate in the practice round and use practice facilities, but not allowing those individuals to compete until they are subbed in.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposal provides clarity and fairness for student-athletes competing in postseason play to qualify for regionals and the finals. It eliminates potential competitive disadvantages for teams with more than six players on the roster and supports a consistent competitive environment and expectations across postseason play.

c. Regional access in men's golf.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a policy stating that if a region has 15 or fewer institutions, access within the region to the accompanying regional is based on the proportionality to the total teams eligible to make the regional.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for the 2025-26 season.

- (3) Rationale. The recommendation addresses a current disparity in competitive equity within the men's golf regionals, specifically concerning the East and Atlantic Regions. Entering the 2025-26 season, the East Region will have 15 institutions sponsoring men's golf while the Atlantic Region will have 27 institutions that do so. Under the current policy, both regions would have 10 teams qualifying for the East/Atlantic Regional, which gives the East Region teams an advantage to make the regional, as only five teams would not qualify from the East Region compared to 17 teams from the Atlantic. The recommendation to base access for a region with fewer than 16 schools on the proportionality of teams in the region to the total teams eligible to make the regional addresses this disparity. In the case of the 2025-26 regionals, the East Region has 15 of 42 teams eligible to make the regional and thus would make up 35.7 percent of the East/Atlantic Regional. Of the 20 available spots, 35.7 percent would be 7.14 teams, meaning that seven teams should come from the East Region. The Atlantic Region has 27 of 42 teams eligible to make the regional and thus would make up 64.2 percent of the regional. Of the 20 available spots, 64.2 percent would be 12.86 teams, meaning that 13 teams should come from the Atlantic Region.

Finally, while the Championships Committee supported this recommendation to address the regions specified, the committee also requested that the men's golf committee consider reviewing the access policy for all regions annually in the future.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposal provides more equitable access to the regional for student-athletes. The proposal helps to provide a buffer to make sure when the number of programs in a region falls below a certain threshold that there is not an unequal proportionality in access to the regional.

d. Primary selection criteria clarification in men's golf.

- (1) Recommendation. Update the language in the primary criteria for selection of participants for the Division II Men's Golf Championships in the following manner:

Current Language	Proposed Clarifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional head-to-head competition; • Results versus common opponents; • Scoring average; and • Scoreboard by Clippd indexes. <p>Additionally, the men's golf committee will contact the regional advisory committees if its final selections differ from the regional advisory committee rankings. The men's golf committee does not use coaches polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings for selection purposes.</p> <p>For junior varsity contests, the respective school must inform the host institution that its junior varsity ("B" Team) will participate and that its team score should not appear on the tournament results form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head-to-head competition; • Results versus common opponents; • Results vs. in-region opponents; • Scoring average; and • Strength of schedule. <p>Additionally, the men's golf committee will contact the regional advisory committees if its final selections differ from the regional advisory committee rankings. The men's golf committee does not use coaches polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings for selection purposes.</p> <p>For junior varsity contests, the respective school must inform the host institution that its junior varsity ("B" Team) will participate and that its team score should not appear on the tournament results form.</p>

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. There was significant confusion throughout last season regarding what the selection criteria were based on how they were written. In particular including "Scoreboard by Clippd indexes" was perceived as a catch-all that made coaches believe criteria such as Clippd rankings or point totals were being factored into regional advisory committee rankings or the national committee's selections. Clarifying the language will help coaches understand exactly what the men's golf committee is seeking when using Clippd. This language also aligns with what the Division II Women's Golf Committee has written (minus a couple of points that the men's committee has not used in its criteria).

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation clarifies how rankings and selections are determined, making it easier for student-athletes to understand what they need to accomplish to be ranked or advance to the regionals.

e. **Bracket expansion/AQ policy.**

(1) Recommendation. Revise the current policy regarding when consideration of expanding a Division II championship bracket is triggered (currently stated as soon as possible once a bracket is composed of more than 50% automatic qualifiers) to preclude conferences currently in a grace period from being included in the AQ calculation.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The committee believes that for the purposes of this policy, only conferences fully sponsoring the sport (i.e., those that have at least six members and are not in the three-year grace period) should count for purposes of triggering a review for potential bracket expansion.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

f. Access ratios for select sports.

(1) Recommendation. Approve the access ratios for baseball, field hockey, men's lacrosse, women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis as specified in Attachment C.

(2) Effective date. 2025-26 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The sport committees for these sports based their postseason berth allocations on the current year's sport sponsorship as the fairest method and to retain an equitable bracket size among regions.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Regan McAthie welcomed the group to the virtual meeting and introduced new members Ahleasha McNeal, senior associate director of athletics for academic services and compliance and the senior woman administrator at Lincoln Memorial University; and Rebekah Gasner, associate director of athletics for compliance and student-athlete services and the senior woman administrator at Montana State University Billings.

2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its August 7 videoconference as presented.

3. **Budget review.**

a. **Budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed championships budget-to-actuals for the 2024-25 fiscal year through August, noting that not all expenses have been finalized.

- b. **Long-range budget update.** Staff updated the committee on the long-range budget discussions occurring within the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC), which is determining how best to allocate additional revenue accrued from the NCAA's broadcast agreements and dollars available in the Division II reserve. The SPFC is expected to submit a final recommendation during its September 18 videoconference for the Division II Management Council and Executive Board to consider in October. That proposal is expected to include the recommendation that the budget devoted to support the division's championships program be increased from the current 62% to 65% through the duration of the budget (FY32). The Management Council and Executive Board have indicated that they will support such an increase.

4. Committee updates.

- a. **Summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the Management Council's July meeting and the Executive Board's August meeting as information.
- b. **Legislation Committee.** Staff updated the committee regarding ongoing discussion within the Legislation Committee about the potential of direct institutional involvement in NIL agreements with student-athletes given the actions being taken in Division I along those lines (Division I allows direct payments to student-athletes and requires all agreements over \$600 to be disclosed to a third-party monitoring agency). Championships Committee members reviewed and offered input on questions seeking feedback from the Division II membership. This feedback request has also been sent to the Division II Athletics Directors Association, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association, the Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators, Coaches Connection and the Division II Membership and Student-Athlete Advisory Committees.
- c. **Membership Committee.** The committee received an update from the Membership Committee's summer meeting, noting the following membership items:
- Four schools – Jessup University, the University of South Carolina Beaufort, Thomas More University and Vanguard University – were approved as NCAA Division II members beginning September 1 after they successfully completed the provisional membership process. All four schools transitioned from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The Division II membership now totals 293 schools in 2025-26.
 - Roosevelt University (NAIA) and Sul Ross State University (Division III) advanced to year three of the three-year provisional membership process.
 - Point Park University (NAIA) advanced to year two of the process. The committee recommended that Menlo College (NAIA) repeat provisional year two. Middle Georgia State University (NAIA) was accepted into year one of the process.

- The University of Jamestown (NAIA); the University of California, Merced (NAIA); and the University of Texas at Dallas (Division III) advanced to year two of the two-year expedited provisional membership process. The expedited process, which was established in 2024, gives schools the opportunity to complete their transition to Division II in two years, provided they meet all requirements. Ferrum College (Division III) was accepted into the expedited process in February.

Staff also updated the committee on the status of membership reclassifications and schools that have discontinued their athletics programs.

- d. **Nominating Committee.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments effective as specified. The Division II Nominating Committee noted that it continues working to fill positions on the new playing rules committees resulting from the division-specific playing rules process and structure implemented September 1.

- (1) **NCAA Division II Men's Golf Committee** (immediate vacancy replacing Chris Deibel) – **Troy Halterman**, director of golf, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Great Lakes Valley Conference.
- (2) **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee** (immediate vacancy replacing Austin Weyant) – **Tommy Barksdale**, head cross country and track and field coach, University of Montevallo, Gulf South Conference.
- (3) **NCAA Division II Men's Wrestling Committee** (immediate vacancy replacing Brandon Crawford) – **Jason Warthan**, head men's wrestling coach, University of Indianapolis, Great Lakes Valley Conference.
- (4) **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's Basketball Rules Committee** (immediate Division II vacancy) – **Curtis Janz**, director of athletics, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
- (5) **NCAA Divisions II and III Women's Basketball Rules Committee** (immediate Division II vacancy) – **Dave Hicks**, director of athletics, West Virginia State University, Mountain East Conference.
- (6) **NCAA Divisions II and III Football Rules Committee** (immediate Division II vacancy) – **Matthew Scott**, head football coach, Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
- (7) **NCAA Divisions II and III Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee** (immediate Division II vacancy) – **Jennifer Pawlowski**, head women's lacrosse coach and compliance administrator, Gannon University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
- (8) **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee** (two immediate Division II vacancies) – **Rob Walker**, head men's soccer coach, Saint

Martin's University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference; and **Sarah Arsenault**, associate athletics director for compliance, senior woman administrator and coordinator for student-athlete development, Gannon University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

- (9) **NCAA Divisions II and III Softball Rules Committee** (two immediate Division II vacancies) – **Brooke Gajewski**, head softball coach, Drury University, Great Lakes Valley Conference; and **Claudia Stabile**, associate athletics director, senior woman administrator and head softball coach, Pace University, Northeast-10 Conference.

- (10) **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee** (three immediate Division II vacancies) – **Audrey Bloomquist**, director for marketing and championships, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; and **Rochelle Black**, director of track and cross country, and assistant athletics director, Lincoln Memorial University, South Atlantic Conference.

- (11) **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's Wrestling Rules Committee** (immediate Division II vacancy) – **Antonio Guerra**, head men's wrestling coach, Tiffin University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference

- e. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** The committee reviewed reports from the panel's most recent meetings as information. Staff also updated the committee regarding the division-specific playing rules process that was adopted this summer and became effective September 1.
- f. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.** Haley White updated the committee on the SAAC's priorities for 2025-26, including conducting its eighth super region convention November 21-23, 2025, in Denver for the South Central and West Regions.

5. Sport committee reports.

- a. **Baseball.** The committee reviewed the report from the baseball committee's annual meeting as information.
- b. **Men's and women's cross country.** The committee reviewed the report from the cross country committee's annual meeting as information, noting ongoing discussions regarding proposed changes to regional format for the championships. Membership survey results supported the current eight-regional format for 2025. However, the committee continues discussing how the regionals can be enhanced in the future.
- c. **Men's golf.**

- (1) **2027 and 2028 regional site recommendations.** The committee approved the following sites and hosts for the 2027 and 2028 regionals for the Division II Men's Golf Championships:

Year	Region	Host/Venue
2027	South/Southeast	Saint Leo University/Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club
2027	Central/Midwest	Grand Valley State University/The Meadows Course
2028	South/Southeast	University of North Georgia/Chattahoochee Golf Club
2028	South Central/West	Western New Mexico University/University Golf Course (NMSU)
2028	Central/Midwest	Missouri Western University and the St. Joseph Missouri Sports Commission/St. Joseph Country Club

(2) **Regional access policy.** The committee supported adopting a policy stating that if a region has 15 or fewer institutions, access within the region to the accompanying regional is based on the proportionality to the total teams eligible to make the regional. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-c.) While the Championships Committee supported this recommendation to address the regions specified, the committee also requested that the men's golf committee consider reviewing the access policy for all regions annually in the future.

(3) **Selection criteria clarification.** The committee supported clarifying the selection criteria as specified in Nonlegislative Action Item 2-d.

d. **Women's golf.**

- **2027 and 2028 regional site recommendations.** The committee approved the following sites and hosts for the 2027 and 2028 regionals for the Division II Women's Golf Championships:

Year	Region	Host/Venue
2027	Central	University of Nebraska at Kearney/Meadowlark Hill Golf Course
2027	East	University of Findlay/Nemacolin
2027	South	University of North Georgia/Chattahoochee Golf Club
2027	West	California State University, San Marcos/Victoria Club
2028	East	Grand Valley State University/The Meadows Course
2028	South	Saint Leo University/Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club

e. **Men's and women's golf.**

- **Substitution policy.** The committee supported the recommendation from the men's and women's golf committees to adopt a policy stating that conference championships must use the same substitution policy in place for both NCAA regionals and finals. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b.) While the Championships Committee expressed some

- concern about a sport committee dictating how conferences stage their postseason tournaments, members agreed that because format consistency throughout the entirety of the season plays a role in the selection process for the NCAA tournament, the action is warranted.
- f. **Men's lacrosse.** The committee reviewed the report from the men's lacrosse committee's annual meeting as information.
 - g. **Women's lacrosse.**
 - **Bench size increase.** The committee did not support the recommendation to increase the bench size for the women's lacrosse championship from 50 to 65, noting that the issue of bench size should be addressed across all sports through a more comprehensive review.
 - h. **Men's and women's lacrosse.** The committee reviewed the committee chairs joint meeting report as information.
 - i. **Women's rowing.** The committee reviewed the report from the rowing committee's annual meeting as information.
 - j. **Softball.** The committee reviewed the report from the softball committee's annual meeting as information.
 - k. **Men's and women's tennis.**
 - (1) **Tennis format review.** The Championships Committee received a presentation regarding the tennis committee's proposed reduction in the men's tennis bracket to comply with the division's access ratio policy. After discussion, the Championships Committee supported the tennis committee's proposal to modify both the men's and women's tennis championships as specified in Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.
 - (2) **Potential grace period for triggering bracket reductions.** In reviewing the revised brackets as well as sport sponsorship data for 2025-26, the tennis committee discovered that because of various reclassifications and institutional decisions to eliminate athletics programs, women's tennis sponsorship will fall below the prescribed access ratio floor. The current policy requires bracket reductions in such cases to comply with the ratio. However, the Championships Committee noted that the schools currently in the membership process that sponsor women's tennis will return the sport above the necessary threshold once they achieve active membership status. Due to these circumstances, the Championships Committee discussed whether a grace period should be applied when a sport falls below 4.0 but is clearly able to demonstrate that it will comply with the ratio before the grace period expires. The Championships Committee agreed with the concept but deferred a decision on the appropriate length of the grace period (i.e., either two or three years) until its October videoconference.

(3) Individual championships. The Championships Committee also noted discussions within the tennis committee about potentially reinstating the singles and doubles championships component into the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships. The tennis committee was considering the proposal for the Championships Committee to consider as part of its review of requests for the upcoming triennial budget cycle but wanted feedback from the committee before doing so. The tennis committee also acknowledged ongoing initiatives and discussions within Divisions I and III regarding the singles and doubles component and when/if they should be played. Given those extenuating circumstances and uncertainties, the Championships Committee recommended that the tennis committee defer deciding whether to submit a recommendation until the 2029-32 triennium in order to evaluate decisions in the other two divisions and to determine the level of interest within Division II.

- l. Men's and women's track and field.** The committee reviewed the report from the track and field committee's annual meeting as information.
- m. National Collegiate sport reports.** As it does annually, the committee reviewed reports from National Collegiate sport committees as information.

6. Additional discussion items.

- a. NPI educational materials.** Staff walked the committee through educational materials developed regarding the potential adoption and implementation of the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the sole results-based metric for championship selection in team sports. The committee offered feedback on the materials, which include the timeline, Q&A, and webinar PowerPoint. These also have been shared with the officers from the Division II Athletics Directors Association and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association. Staff will incorporate the committee's feedback before publishing the materials later this month in preparation for the 2026 Convention, during which the membership will vote on whether to adopt the NPI.
- b. 2025-26 access ratios.** The committee approved the access ratios for baseball, field hockey, men's lacrosse, women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis as specified in Nonlegislative Action Item 2-f.
- c. 2025-26 sponsorship data.** With the adoption of Proposal No. 2024-3 at the 2024 NCAA Convention, which establishes 35 sponsoring institutions as the new threshold for establishing a Division II national championship, the committee annually reviews sport sponsorship data to determine whether such action is warranted. The NCAA research staff is still working through the 2024-25 reporting, so the committee will review whether any sports meet the 35-school threshold to initiate discussions on establishing a Division II championship during its October videoconference.
- d. Misconduct penalties.** The committee reviewed two misconduct cases from the spring championships in women's golf and women's lacrosse and discussed the sport committees'

decisions regarding the penalties assessed. Per policy, the committee does not have the authority to alter the penalties other than changing a private reprimand to a public reprimand. The committee agreed with the women's golf committee's action but asked for additional information regarding the incident in women's lacrosse. Accordingly, the committee will further evaluate the penalties assessed in that case during its October videoconference.

- e. **Operating procedures manual.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its operating procedures that includes the new division-specific playing rules process and the additional exceptions approved to trigger consideration of bracket expansion during a budget cycle. One item staff noted in particular was clarification regarding the application of the trigger for review of bracket expansion related to conferences that are in the automatic qualification (AQ) grace period. The committee agreed that only conferences fully sponsoring a sport (i.e., those that have at least six members and are not in the three-year grace period) should count for purposes of triggering a review for potential bracket expansion. (See Nonlegislative Action Item 2-e.)
- f. **Nullification update.** Per the recommendation in 2022 from the Division II Implementation Committee's Championships Subcommittee regarding nullification, the committee received its annual report from staff to ensure the committee continues supporting the new philosophical approach the enforcement staff began applying in 2021 when examining nullification and whether any adjustments need to be made. Staff noted that the number of cases has continued to decrease over the past four years in conjunction with the shift in the philosophy. The committee agreed that the enforcement staff should stay the course with its current approach and processes.

7. Staff updates.

- a. **Legal.** The committee heard from the NCAA's legal counsel regarding litigation affecting the NCAA overall and Division II in particular.

- b. **Governance.**

- (1) **2025-26 Division II priorities.** Staff reviewed with the committee the division's priorities for the 2025-26 academic year.

- (2) **Selection show analytics.** Staff provided an update on the selection show analytics from the past academic year.

- 8. **Spring ncaa.com streaming analytics and updates for 2025-26.** Staff also updated the committee on the analytics for the spring championships streamed on NCAA.com, in which a total of 8.3 million minutes were watched during 45 events. As far as streaming initiatives for this upcoming year are concerned, the committee was informed that per a recommendation from the SPFC, the Division II Administrative Committee during its August 27 meeting approved allocating up to \$200,000 from the FY25 surplus for championships streaming for 2025-26. The action results from

ongoing discussion and negotiation regarding the NCAA's digital content, specifically as it relates to Division II. For 2025-26, Division II championships preliminary-round contests not already contractually obligated to be shown on ESPN or CBS will be available free of charge on ncaa.com. The dollars allocated from the division's FY25 surplus will fund operational costs for the streaming platform. The allocation also applies only to championships in 2025-26, as other options for this content will be explored for 2026-27 and beyond.

9. Committee operations.

- a. **2025-26 sport committee assignments.** Committee members reviewed their sport committee liaison assignments for the coming year and filled vacancies as necessary. The committee noted that Neil Duval will be its representative to the new Division II/III Playing Rules Oversight Panel.
- b. **Conflict-of-interest statement.** Staff reminded committee members to complete the 2025-26 conflict-of-interest statement if they haven't done so already.

10. Future meetings and videoconferences.

- October 2, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- November 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- December 4, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- January 8, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- February 19-20, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- June 23-24, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- September 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, Division II Governance and Member Services

Division II Championships Committee September 16-17, 2025, Meeting via 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 of Saint Rose.	
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.
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).
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.
Absentees:
Christina Paone, Walsh University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Antonio Cannavaro, Donisha Carter, C.C. Colwell, Zach Christopher, Lindsey Eldred, Nate Flannery, Jess Gaumer, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Cara Hubert, Dante Jones, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Mariah Martin, Katie Mucci, Ryan Rea, Angela Red, Jennifer Roe, Rachel Seewald, Chris Strobel and Jared Tidemann.



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JULY 30, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Tennis championship format – reduction to men's field and adjustments to championship formats.**

a. Recommendation. That the Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships be amended as follows: (1) reduce the men's bracket from 48 to 34 teams; (2) reduce both men's and women's tennis championships to eight teams per gender at the finals site; and (3) implement eight regional sites per gender, with additional officials and a site representative at each site. (See the Attachment.)

b. Effective Date. 2027-28 academic year.

c. Rationale. The committee recommends adopting an eight-regional site format for both men's and women's tennis championships, with eight teams advancing to the finals site for each championship. While the committee did not initially support reducing the men's bracket as requested by the Championships Committee, it recognizes that this new structure is necessary to meet the access ratio for championship selection and provides consistency by applying the same format to both championships.

To support the preliminary rounds with the increased number of teams at each regional, the committee recommends assigning a site representative to each location and providing additional officials to manage the larger volume of matches. These recommendations are intended to enhance championship administration, ensure competitive equity, and maintain the overall quality of competition.

With the reduction of the men's bracket, the committee also intends to explore proposing the reinstatement of an individual championship for both men's and women's singles and doubles to provide additional competitive opportunities for tennis student-athletes.

d. Estimated budget impact. Projected savings of \$342,000 (\$63,000 women's tennis, \$279,000 men's tennis).

- e. Student-athlete impact. These changes will ensure tennis student-athletes have similar access to the championship and final site as other Division II team sports.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **None.**

Committee Chair: Josh Cobble, Cameron University, Lone Star Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee July 30, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Jaime Browne, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Jon Coles, Grand Valley State University.	
Josh Cobble, Cameron University.	
Spencer Shamo, Dominican University of California.	
Madeline Simmons, Missouri Western State University.	
Adrienne Singletary, Coker University.	
Christi Wade, University of West Alabama.	
Stefanie Whitby, Wilmington University (Delaware).	
Absentees:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances.	
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dallas Woods, Championships and Alliances.	

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Selections			M Reg	M Reg	M Reg
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	W Reg	W Reg	W Reg			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		M 1st Rd	M Qtrs	W Qtrs	M Semis	M Champ
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			W 1st Rd			W Semis
W Champ						
1	2	Notes Current Potential 8-site regional model (no 1st round at final site).				

MEN'S TENNIS			
Championship Bracket	Field size	Reduction of teams	Access ratio
Current Format	48	-	2.98
Recommended Future Format	34	14	4.18

WOMEN'S TENNIS			
Championship Bracket	Field size	Reduction of teams	Access ratio
Current Format	48	-	4.15
Recommended Future Format	48	-	4.15
Option 2 - Recommended Future Format	46	2	4.33

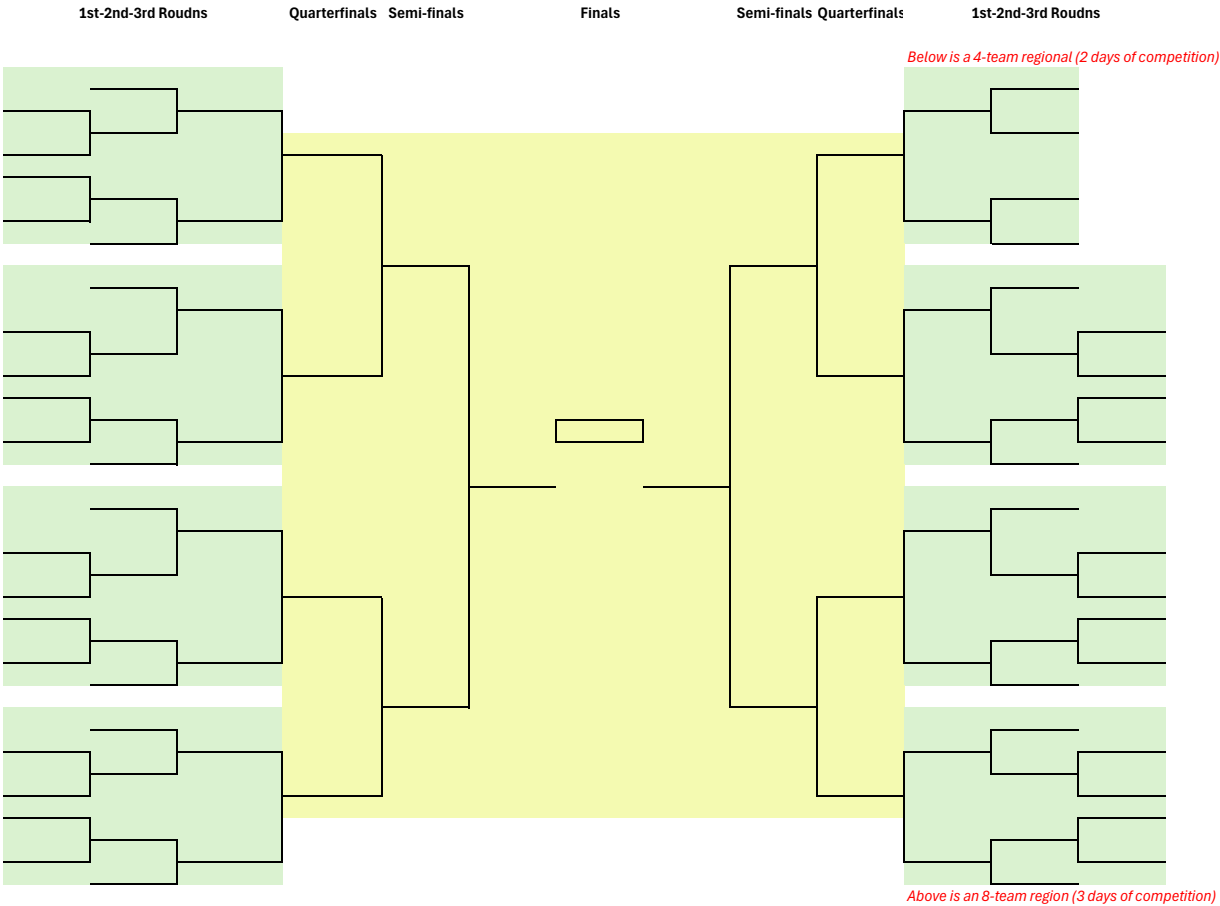
Preliminary Round Structure								
	Number of rounds	Number of sites	Regional allocation (cap/min) Based on current sport sponsorship and access ratios	Teams per site	Dates of competition*	Days between prelin to final	Officials	Site Rep
Current Format	1 or 2 rounds per gender	16	8 (cap), 4 (min)	2 - 4 per gender	1 or 2 Friday/Saturday OR Monday/Tuesday	Finish on Saturday, arrive Sunday, practice Monday = 7 days in between OR Finish on Tuesday, arrive on Monday, practice Tuesday = 5 days in between	Minimum 2 per site (reimbursed through host budget) 32 total for prelin rounds	No. Tennis does not currently have site reps.
Recommended Future Format	2 or 3 rounds per gender 3 team - 2 rounds 4 team - 2 rounds 5 team - 3 rounds 6 team - 3 rounds	8	Men's: 6 (cap), 3 (min) Women's: 8 (cap), 4 (min)	Men's: 3-6 Women's: 4-8	2 or 3 Thursday/Friday/Saturday OR Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday	Finish on Saturday, arrive on Monday, practice on Tuesday = 8 days in between OR Finish on Wednesday, arrive on Tuesday, practice on Wednesday = 5 days in between <i>*noting the arrival of one gender early if both qualify - right turnaround</i>	4 per site (reimbursed through host budget) 32 total for prelin rounds	Yes. One per site.

Note: Regional champions would be awarded a regional championship trophy in proposed format.

Final Site Structure				
	Field size	Dates of competition*	Day off	Officials
Current Format	16 teams per gender	Monday-Saturday	Between quarterfinals & semi finals (Thursday or Friday)	28-30 officials
Recommended Future Format	8 teams per gender	Tuesday-Saturday (1 day of practice, 4 days of competition, including day off) OR Wednesday-Sunday (1 day of practice, 4 days of competition, including day off)	Between quarterfinals & semi finals (Thursday or Friday)	20 officials

*Competition days flip annually between the genders

WOMEN'S REGIONAL FORMAT BRACKET



MEN'S REGIONAL FORMAT BRACKET





2024-25 SUBSTITUTION POLICY

During registration, the head coach must submit his or her lineup according to playing position. The five participants from each institution must be determined by the conclusion of registration.

Prior to a stroke or match play round during Regionals or Finals, a team may substitute a sixth player for any member of the team provided that:

- a. The Site representative is notified of the substitution at least 10-minutes prior to that team member's starting time.
- b. The sixth player is an eligible member of the institution's team.

***Note 1:** When a team has substituted a sixth player, no further substitutions may be made by the team for that round.

***Note 2:** Unless a team chooses to substitute a sixth player prior to a match play draw, the team's five players that played in the previous round will be used for the draw.

Should institutions bring a sixth player as a substitute, that player may use the practice facilities during the women's championships and is allowed to participate in the team's practice round.

Sixth player will act a spectator and must follow spectator guideline for the rest of that round.

Sixth player may also use practice facilities during the rounds if they are not out on the Course.



2025-26 NCAA DII MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

FAQs

USE OF SUBSTITUTIONS AT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS

1. **Can a team bring a substitute player to a conference tournament?** Yes. Institutions are permitted to travel with one or more potential substitutes to the conference tournament in addition to their designated five or six-player line-up.
2. **When must the substitute be designated?** The substitute must be listed on the lineup form that is submitted prior to the start of the tournament. Once the tournament begins, only one officially designated substitute per team is eligible to compete once they are subbed in.
3. **How does a substitution work during the tournament?** A coach may substitute the alternate into the lineup at least 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time. When a team has substituted a sixth player, no further substitutions may be made by the team for that round.
4. **Can a substitute play the competition course if a player is not posting an official score to the conference tournament?** No. Substitutes may only participate when officially inserted into the team lineup. If they are not in the lineup at the 10 minutes prior to that team members' starting time, they cannot compete in the competition round. Any additional players beyond those in the lineup may play, but they will not be eligible to sub in for the remaining rounds since they are not a substitute by true definition. For example, in a 5-count-4 scoring tournament, if a team brings eight players to the tournament, the three additional players may play, but once any of those three players play, they cannot be subbed in at any point in the tournament since they are not a true "sub". In a 6-count-5 scoring tournament, if a team brings seven players to the tournament, the additional player may play, but once the additional player plays they cannot be subbed in at any point in the tournament since they are not a true "sub". In a 6-count-4 scoring tournament, if a team brings seven players to the tournament, the additional player may play, but once the player plays they cannot be subbed in at any point in the tournament since they are not a true "sub".
5. **Can a substitute use the practice facilities and play in the practice round?** Yes. Should institutions bring substitutes, that player(s) may use the practice facilities during the tournament and is allowed to participate in the team's practice round. During competition, the substitute(s) will act as a spectator and must follow spectator guidelines for the rest of the round.
6. **How many times can a team use its substitute?** The substitute may be used for one or multiple rounds, but only in place of one of the original five or six players. A team may not exceed five or six team players in the lineup for any given round.
7. **What happens if a player is injured or ill during a round?** If a player cannot complete the round due to injury or illness, the team must finish the round with five or four scores. The substitute may be entered into the lineup for the next round, but not during the current round.
8. **Does the substitute's score count toward the team total?** Yes. Once inserted into the lineup, the substitute's score is treated the same as any other player's score and may count toward the team's five or four scoring rounds.
9. **What scoring formats are approved for rankings and selection purposes?** The only approved formats are 6-count-4, 6-count-5, and 5-count-4. Any format outside of these is not approved for rankings or selection purposes (e.g., 5-count-4 and individual subbed into team play).



10. **If an individual competes as an individual at the start of the round, can they be substituted into the team lineup later?** No. An individual designated as an individual at the start of the round must remain an individual. They are not considered a substitute due to the original designation and since they were not sitting out, they are not considered a substitute.



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Regional berth allocations in baseball.

- (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	29	6	6	4.83
Central	39	8	8	4.88
East	28	7	6	4.67
Midwest	33	7	8	4.13
South	35	8	8	4.38
South Central	21	6	6	3.50
Southeast	35	8	8	4.38
West	25	6	6	4.17
		56	56	4.38

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The Division II Baseball 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 championship berths to bring the access ratios into the tightest range possible, given the number of teams in each region and within the bracket size of 56.

- (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 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	19	5	5	3.8
East	15	3	3	5
	34	8	8	4.4

- (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.
- (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.

c. Regional berth allocations in men's lacrosse.

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

Region	No. of Institutions	2025-26 Berths	Access Ratio
North	36	8	4.5
South	44	10	4.4
	80	18	4.44

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The Division II Men's Lacrosse 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 18.

(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.

d. Regional berth allocations in women's soccer.

(2) 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	32	7	7	4.57
Central	35	8	8	4.38
East	30	7	6	5.00
Midwest	35	7	8	4.38
South	25	6	6	4.17
South Central	26	6	6	4.33
Southeast	37	8	8	4.63
West	31	7	7	4.43
		56		

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The Division II Women's Soccer 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 56. The only change from 2024-25, is an increase of one bid for the Midwest and a decrease of one bid for the East based on changing membership sizes in the 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.

e. Regional berth allocations in men's and women's tennis.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the following 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	17	7	6	2.83
Central	12	4	5	2.40
East	12	5	5	2.40
Midwest	25	8	8	3.13
South	24	8	8	3.00
South Central	7	4	4	1.75
Southeast	30	8	8	3.75
West	9	4	4	2.25
		48		

Women's Tennis:

Region	No. of Institutions	2024-25 Berths	2025-26 Berths	Access Ratio
Atlantic	30	7	7	4.29
Central	26	6	6	4.33
East	18	5	5	3.60
Midwest	28	7	7	4.00
South	30	7	7	4.29
South Central	10	4	4	2.50
Southeast	32	8	8	4.00
West	13	4	4	3.25
		48		

- (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 recently approved requirement that a minimum of four teams per region and a maximum of eight teams per region are selected.
- (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.*