



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13-14, 2025, IN-PERSON MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Preparation for the 2025 NCAA Convention Division II Business Session.** The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reviewed its legislative positions for the 2025 Division II business session and voting policies and procedures.

The legislative proposals discussed are listed below. The committee reviewed all aspects of the proposed legislation in preparation for the business session.

- a. **NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2025-1:** National Collegiate Championships – Women's Wrestling.
- b. **Proposal No. 2025-2:** Recruiting and Playing and Practice Seasons – Tryouts and General Playing-Season Regulations – Mandatory Medical Examinations – Timing of Medical Examination.
- c. **Proposal No. 2025-3:** Eligibility – Academic Eligibility – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements – Eligibility for Competition – Credit Hours Earned During the Regular Academic Year – Elimination of the 18-Semester/27-Quarter Hours Requirement.
- d. **Proposal No. 2025-4:** Eligibility – Transfer Regulations – Two-Year College Transfers – Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid – All Other Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers – Elimination of English, Math and Science Requirement for Qualifiers.
- e. **Proposal No. 2025-5:** Eligibility – Athletics Eligibility – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Competition – Participation During Initial Year of Collegiate Enrollment.
- f. **Proposal No. 2025-6:** Eligibility – Athletics Eligibility – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Competition – Up to Four Dates of Competition – Men's Wrestling.
- g. **Proposal No. 2025-7:** Playing and Practice Seasons – General Playing-Season Regulations – Required Day Off – Civic Engagement – Exception and Policy Requirement.

- h. Proposal No. 2025-8: Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships – Criteria for Selection of Participants – Automatic Qualification – Football.**
- 2. Election of 2025 SAAC Executive Board.** The committee elected Avery Hellmuth (Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference) as chair of SAAC for 2025, Scout Huffman (Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference) as vice chair, re-elected Addison Courtney (Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference) as external communications coordinator and elected Dustyn McKenney (Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference) as the internal operations coordinator.
- 3. Election of 2025 NCAA Division II Executive Board Representatives.** The committee elected Derrick Parker II (Grand Valley State University, at-large representative) and Haley White (Lincoln Memorial University, at-large representative) as the Executive Board representatives for 2025.
- 4. Election of 2025 NCAA Division II Management Council Representatives.** The committee elected Avery Hellmuth (Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference) and Darius Satterfield (Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) as the Management Council representatives for 2025.
- 5. Election of 2025 NCAA Division II and Association-Wide Committee Representatives.** New representatives were selected to serve on various Division II and Association-wide committees.
 - a.** Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference, will continue to serve on the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee.
 - b.** Adorijan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, at-large representative, will serve on the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.
 - c.** Haley Gilbert, Augusta University, Peach Belt Conference, will serve on the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee and the NCAA Training and Performance Advisory Group.
 - d.** DJ Guest Jr., California State University, Dominguez Hills, California Collegiate Athletic Association, will serve on the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

- e. Grace Hoeppner, Michigan Technological University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, will serve on the NCAA Concussion Safety Advisory Group. She will join JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference, on the NCAA Mental Health Advisory Group.
 - f. Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference, will serve on the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee as part of her vice chair responsibilities. Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference, will also serve on the Legislation Committee.
 - g. Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, will serve on the NCAA Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee starting in April after Alexis Devlin, Catawba College, South Atlantic Conference, rolls off the committee.
 - h. Alia Scotka, University of West Florida, Gulf South Conference, will serve on the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics.
 - i. Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University, at-large representative, will join JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference, on the NCAA Division II Championships Committee.
6. **New Appointments.** There are seven new members joining the Division II SAAC: Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; Connor Fournier, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Zeke Jarzyniecki, Belmont Abbey College, Conference Carolinas; Rita-Marie Masi, Mercy University, East Coast Conference; Rachel McCool, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Rowan Ruggiero, American International College, Northeast-10 Conference; and Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
7. **Discussion with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** SAAC members engaged with President Baker regarding the NIL settlement, the ongoing discussions around student-athlete employment and potential impacts on Division II, and the NCAA fan database. The committee also received updates on Baker's outreach initiatives within Division II, including strategies for enhancing the promotion of the division and advocating for stronger student-athlete protections related to sports wagering.
8. **Discussion with NCAA Board of Governors Chair Linda Livingstone.** The committee met with Board of Governors Chair Linda Livingstone. They discussed the NCAA's transgender student-athlete participation policy and the different updates the board receives from national office staff, the board's priorities and efforts to align them with President Baker's goals and the role of student-athletes in leadership on campus.

9. **Discussion with Board of Governors Former Division II Student-Athlete Representative Madeleine McKenna.** The committee met with Board of Governors former Division II student-athlete representative Madeleine McKenna to discuss the NCAA's transgender student-athlete participation policy and the development of a new student-athlete structure to provide feedback to the Board of Governors.
10. **Discussion with NCAA Managing Director of Government Relations Dawn Buth.** The committee met with Dawn Buth, managing director of government relations, to gain insight into the role of the NCAA office of government relations in Washington, D.C. The committee discussed the drafting of a congressional letter to reiterate priorities of Division II student-athletes that will be sent to members of Congress in the coming months.
11. **Discussion with Division II Executive Board Chair Colleen Perry Keith.** The committee met with Executive Board Chair Colleen Perry Keith over lunch to discuss hot topics from the Division II Think Tank, her thoughts on the future of the division, her priorities during her time as chair and the progress the division has made to date.
12. **Discussion with NCAA Chief Medical Officer Deena Casiero.** The committee received updates from Dr. Deena Casiero regarding the NCAA's student-athlete health, safety and performance strategic priorities, including the Mental Health Best Practices, the effect of sports wagering on student-athletes and a recap of previous sports wagering discussions from the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports. She also provided an update from the Training and Performance Advisory Group's upcoming Performance Technology in College Athletics Summit, the responsible use of performance measure technology and the importance of protecting student-athletes' privacy.
13. **Discussion with NCAA Director of Legal Affairs Jared Tidemann.** The committee received updates from Jared Tidemann about the name, image and likeness settlement and other current litigation matters in Division I that could affect Division II. The committee also received updates related to current employment cases and the NCAA transgender student-athlete participation policy.
14. **Discussion about NCAA Division II Football Date Formula.** The committee discussed the NCAA Division II Football Committee's request for membership feedback on moving the football championship game from the third weekend in December to January. SAAC received a summary of feedback submitted in a survey completed by Division II conference commissioners, head football coaches and athletics directors of football-sponsoring institutions. SAAC requested to receive student-athlete input in a survey and outlined plans to solicit feedback in the spring to aid in its continued discussions.
15. **Discussion on Transgender Student-Athlete Participation.** The committee discussed whether it felt educated enough on transgender student-athletes to have a conversation about their participation in sports. Several committee members acknowledged the lack of information available on transgender student-athletes from reputable sources. It was noted that it is difficult to locate information on the science of transgender participation and the

information that is often readily available is on social media. Given the level of reputable information available and the committee's current knowledge, it decided to hold off on having a conversation at this time.

16. **Discussion on SAAC's Seventh Super Region Convention.** The committee discussed the upcoming seventh SAAC Super Region Convention for schools in the Central and Midwest regions at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis from April 25-27. The committee reviewed the agenda and the student-athlete nomination process. Additionally, SAAC explored potential community engagement opportunities for participants at the super region convention. Following the April super region convention, SAAC will host its eighth super region convention for schools in the South Central and West regions at the Grand Hyatt in Denver from November 21-23, 2025.
17. **Discussion on Feedback From State of the Team Exercise.** The committee reviewed and discussed the feedback received from the State of the Team exercise conducted among Division II student-athletes at the November 2024 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum. The committee noted the concerns that were expressed by Division II student-athlete participants about the communication and information gap between administrators and student-athletes, campus SAAC engagement and some not seeing the importance of community engagement.
18. **Updates on 2024-25 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed progress made toward its two activation ideas for the 2024-25 academic year as part of the committee's goals. The committee reviewed the execution of its civic engagement efforts surrounding the recent Election Day. The committee also reviewed and finalized each team's internal document to support the work of national SAAC's goals. The committee committed to finalizing an internal document for all Division II and Association-wide committees that include a national SAAC representative by the end of January 2025. Moving forward, the committee determined to review and make any necessary updates to the internal documents after the July and January SAAC meetings. Furthermore, the committee supported adding a policy about the internal documents in its policies and procedures to ensure these documents are accessible in the committee's SharePoint collaboration zone, incorporated into the welcome email for new national SAAC members and provided to the committee when nominations are solicited for leadership positions.
19. **Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award recognizes faculty members at Division II schools for their dedication to supporting and mentoring student-athletes, as well as their commitment to Division II student-athletes' lifelong learning, competition and well-being. The committee recognized Dr. Suzanne Bowser of Catawba College as the 2024 Faculty Mentor Award winner as selected by SAAC's Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee.
20. **2025 Award of Excellence.** The committee reviewed the finalists for the 2025 Division II Award of Excellence as selected by SAAC's Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee. Roberts Wesleyan University was named the 2025 Division II Award of Excellence winner.

for its efforts with the Pirate Toy Fund. Augusta University received the runner-up prize for the men's basketball team's community engagement efforts through their annual Education Day game. Mars Hill University was the third-place recipient for its community engagement efforts following Hurricane Helene in September 2024.

21. **Executive Board, Management Council, SAAC Joint Meeting.** The committee reviewed the agenda and discussed the information that would be covered during the Executive Board, Management Council and SAAC joint meeting. Committee members had roundtable discussions about the Division II outcomes from the NCAA National Study on Collegiate Sports Wagering and Social Environments, received updates and engaged in discussions about the Championships Committee's review of selection criteria and bracketing, and engaged in professional development.
22. **Joint SAAC Lunch.** The committee reviewed the agenda and discussed the joint SAAC lunch that was attended by the national SAACs from all three divisions. The three SAACs discussed a new student-athlete structure that will provide feedback to the Board of Governors after the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee was sunset in October 2024.
23. **Leadership Development Opportunities.** Lamarr Pottinger, director of leadership development, spoke with the committee about opportunities for student-athletes through leadership development. The opportunities include the NCAA Career in Sports Forum, NCAA Emerging Leaders Seminar, NCAA Postgraduate Internship Program and NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum.
24. **Make-A-Wish®.** The committee received an update on the 2025 Week of Wishes occurring February 15-22. During the week, institutions are encouraged to consider hosting a fundraising event for Make-A-Wish, such as Make-A-Wish games, and promote the division's partnership. All donations should be submitted through each school's Make-A-Wish page.
25. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee was informed that Division II currently has 180 matches involving 91 campuses and all 23 Division II conferences. Since the partnership began, Division II has had 728 matches involving 217 campuses and all 23 conferences. The committee also learned the 2025-26 Team IMPACT Fellowship application is now open.
26. **Division II Make It Yours Brand/Marketing Strategy.** The committee received an update on the Division II partnership with advertising firm BarkleyOKRP on the continued activation of the Make It Yours brand. On January 6, the campaign launched through paid media placements that will continue to run on YouTube, Meta, TikTok and live-streaming services like Hulu and YouTube TV through March 14, 2025. Additionally, two 30-second PSAs will be shown during the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships on CBS and ESPN+, respectively.

27. **Division II Membership Survey.** The committee was provided an overview of the membership survey that will be distributed following the NCAA Convention to Division II staff members and head coaches at Division II schools and conference office staff. The survey will help determine key priorities, goals and objectives regarding championships, budget allocations, the Division II philosophy, student-athlete experiences, athletic operations and more as the division embarks on developing a new six-year strategic plan that will begin in January 2026. The committee was reminded about the SAAC and student-athlete experience questions that the committee provided input on during its November 2024 meeting.
28. **Division II Committee Reports.** SAAC members serving on Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Division II committees represented were the Academic Requirements Committee, Administrative Committee, Championships Committee, Executive Board, Legislation Committee, Management Council, Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee.
29. **Association-Wide Committee Reports.** Members serving on Association-wide committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Association-wide committees represented were the Board of Governors, CSMAS, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee and Committee on Women's Athletics.
30. **Prepare Conference Meeting Summaries.** The committee reviewed discussion topics to be shared during conference meetings later in the week.
31. **November 2024 meeting report.** The November 2024 committee meeting report was reviewed and approved.
32. **Future Meetings.**
 - a. April 24-27, 2025, in conjunction with the SAAC Super Region Convention; Indianapolis.
 - b. July 16-17, 2025, SAAC meeting; videoconference.
 - c. July 18, 2025; Management Council/SAAC Summit; videoconference.
 - d. November 20-23, 2025; in conjunction with the SAAC Super Region Convention; Denver.
 - e. January 13-17, 2026; in conjunction with the 2026 NCAA Convention; Washington D.C.

Committee Chair: Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance
Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs
Becca Medel, Governance
Morgan Melchert, Eligibility Center
Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee January 13-14, 2025, Nashville, Tennessee	
Attendees:	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference.	
Adorijan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, At-Large.	
Alexis Devlin, Catawba College, South Atlantic Conference.	
Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University, Conference Carolinas.	
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University, Peach Belt Conference.	
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
DJ Guest Jr., California State University, Dominguez Hills, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference.	
Grace Hoeppner, Michigan Technological University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference. (January 13)	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.	
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference.	
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. (January 14)	
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Derrick Parker II, Grand Valley State University, At-Large.	
Larry Parkinson, Executive Board Independent Member.	
Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida, Gulf South Conference.	
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University, At-Large.	

Absentees:
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference.
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference. <i>(January 14)</i>
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. <i>(January 13)</i>
Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Doug Blais, Nicole Colley, Maggie Gibbons, Alex Givens, Colleen Perry Keith, Sam Kirkpatrick, Linda Livingstone, Madeleine McKenna, Roberta Page and Amy VanRyn.
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Marcus Brown, Dawn Buth, Deena Casiero, Michael Cioroianu, Jalaun Covington, Brooke Dixon, Ryan Jones, Karen Keyler, Karen Kirsch, Kevin McColaugh, Becca Medel, Morgan Melchert, Lamarr Pottinger, Jared Tidemann and Megan Villanueva.