



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA COMMITTEE ON ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND IMPACT  
FEBRUARY 4, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. Eastern time and welcomed the members. The committee reviewed its roster, subcommittee assignments, and mission statement.
2. **Approval of September 24-25, 2025, meeting report.** The committee approved its September 2025 meeting report.
3. **Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement (IECE) updates.** NCAA staff provided an update on programming facilitated or sponsored by the Inclusion, Leadership Development and Community Engagement groups, including the 2025 Impact Forum and the 2026 Emerging Leaders Seminar. Staff also provided an update on national office efforts that ensures all members can continue to access programming and other opportunities, and fiscal year 2025-26 budget adjustments related to legal settlements. Staff encouraged committee members to complete the membership prioritization survey addressing national office services and programs.
4. **SCORE Act Update.** Staff provided an overview of the current threats facing intercollegiate athletics that may require congressional assistance, and key provisions of a federal bill, which codifies many student-athlete benefits and protections [SCORE Act (Student Compensation and Opportunity Through Rights and Endorsement)]. Staff also highlighted misinformation regarding the bill, especially the impact of the SCORE Act on women's sports. Finally, staff noted that a vote on the SCORE Act, which was scheduled for December 2025, was postponed. The committee agreed to continue discussing the SCORE Act and consider appropriate ways to engage.
5. **Review and approval of committee policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved its policies and procedures, including an amendment specifying that subcommittee chairs will serve on the Administrative Subcommittee.
6. **Subcommittee updates.**
  - a. **Administrative Subcommittee.** Staff provided an update on the Administrative Subcommittee's work to confirm rosters, chairs, and review reports from the Awards and Recognition and Emerging Sports Subcommittees. Staff also noted that the Administrative Subcommittee identified items for future discussion by the full committee.

- b. Awards and Recognitions Subcommittee.** Staff provided an update on the work of the Awards and Recognitions Subcommittee; specifically, noting that the subcommittee established its process and timeline to administer the NCAA/MOAA Opportunities and Impact award in conjunction with the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association. Staff further noted that the subcommittee recently selected the winners for the 2025-26 academic year.
- c. Emerging Sports Subcommittee.** The subcommittee chair provided an update on emerging sport activity at the 2026 NCAA Convention, including membership votes to:
- (1) Establish acrobatics and tumbling and stunt as NCAA championship sports;
  - (2) Add women's flag football to the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program;
  - (3) Establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship; and
  - (4) Establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Championship.

Additionally, the subcommittee chair provided key highlights from its November 2025 and January meetings, including approval of the Emerging Sports for Women Guide for Current Sports, work on educational materials for the committee, and development of a rubric to assess progress of sports in the program.

- 7. NCAA national office equity work.** Staff provided an overview of gender equity work and progress following a comprehensive review of NCAA championships after issues arose during the 2021 Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. The committee also received an update on the status of the championships assessment process at the national office, which covers all sports. Finally, staff provided an update on broader, proactive efforts to review national office programs through the automated Equity Evaluation Process and staff education.
- 8. Review NCAA Language Best Practices to Promote Student-Athlete Well-Being.** The committee reviewed a final draft of the language practices resource to promote student well-being. The resource includes foundational strategies to foster welcoming environments and promote well-being, and examples to illustrate application of the strategies. The committee endorsed the publication of the resource.
- 9. USOPC/NCAA Para College Inclusion Project.** Staff provided an overview of the project, the goal of which is to engage with schools that offer adaptive sports and to collectively increase Paralympic sport understanding, awareness, connection, and opportunity across the collegiate landscape. Staff also noted efforts to identify current and former NCAA student-athletes who may qualify for Paralympics participation. The committee expressed

interest in continuing to discuss the initiative and exploring ways for the committee to engage.

10. **Common Ground engagement.** The committee did not receive an update on this agenda item during the videoconference. However, via a post-videoconference email, staff provided an overview of the Common Ground initiative, which promotes intentional dialogue and relationship-building across all faiths, gender identities and sexual orientations within intercollegiate athletics. Finally, the committee was notified of the eighth annual in-person program scheduled March 3-5 at the NCAA national office, as well as opportunities for individual engagement via newsletters and webinars.
11. **NCAA divisional representative updates.** The committee did not receive an update on this agenda item during the videoconference. However, via a post-meeting email, the divisional representatives updated the committee on their respective division's ongoing efforts.
12. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.** The committee did not receive an update on this agenda item during the videoconference. However, via a post-meeting email, the divisional SAAC representatives updated the committee on their respective SAAC's ongoing efforts.
13. **Future meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule, including the videoconferences scheduled for April 22, May 19, and June 2.
14. **Other business.** The committee did not have any other business.
15. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair: Jacqie McWilliams Parker, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.*  
*Staff Liaisons: Corey Berg, Division III Governance and Member Services.*  
*Niya Blair Hackworth, Office of Inclusion.*  
*Jean Merrill, Office of Inclusion.*  
*Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion.*  
*Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion.*

<b>NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact February 4, 2026, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
	JP Abercrombie, University of Notre Dame.
	Femi Alao, Roberts Wesleyan University.
	Alisse Ali-Joseph, Northern Arizona University.
	Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University.
	Nichole Book, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.

Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
Yahir Chairez-Salazar, Colorado School of Mines.
Pankil Chander, Wilkes University.
Stacey Gibson, Idaho State University.
Mark Giles, University of Illinois Chicago.
Juan Hernandez, Curry College.
Alfred Lamprey, University of Mount Saint Vincent.
Martin Lemelle, Grambling State University.
Ryan Martin, The City College of New York.
Jacqie McWilliams Parker, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Noreen Morris, Northeast Conference.
Peyton Owens, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
Jeffrey Poulard, Big East Conference
Stephanie Stevens, Gallaudet University
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill.
Dawn Turner, Lander University.
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.
Kristin Williams, Mid-American Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Janet Gooch, University of Illinois Springfield.
Mercedes Himmons, Southern Connecticut State University.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Corey Berg, Niya Blair Hackworth, Jean Merrill, Gretchen Miron, and Amy Wilson.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for the Meeting:</b>
John Baldwin, Debbie Brown, Dawn Buth, Gail Dent, Leah Kareti, Amanda Krauss, Ashlesha Lokhande, Kat Lin, Felicia Martin, Leilyn Miles, Tyler Noragon, Mariah Polk, Stephanie Quigg, and Jen Roe.