



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND IMPACT
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The chair convened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time and welcomed members to their first meeting. The committee reviewed its roster and the June 20, 2024, report of the NCAA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees Review Working Group and received an historical overview of the committee's formation.
2. **Discuss current landscape and role of committee.** NCAA staff provided an update related to the higher education and intercollegiate athletics landscape and discussed its role in assisting the Association in navigating the current environment and how to support all member schools and student-athletes.
3. **Update on review of Association-wide programs, initiatives and legislation.** Staff provided an update and facilitated discussion about the review of Association-wide programs, initiatives and legislation.
4. **Government Relations update.** Staff provided an update on the SCORE Act and other activity in Washington, D.C., related to college sports. The committee discussed the key provisions of the bill which include codifying many student-athlete benefits and protections and addressing the Association's top Congressional priorities.
5. **Office of Legal Affairs update.** The committee received a legal update on current litigation involving the Association.
6. **Sport Science Institute update.** Staff from the Sport Science Institute provided an update on its initiatives and the ongoing efforts of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports to support student-athletes' mental and physical health, performance and well-being.
7. **Review and approval of committee mission.** The committee reviewed a draft of the committee's mission and approved a revised version, as follows:

“The NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact reinforces the NCAA constitution by advancing equitable opportunities and holistic well-being for student-athletes and those in the membership who support them. The committee is dedicated to fostering cultures of respect and meaningful academic and athletic experiences.”

8. **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.
9. **Discussion of committee substructure.** Staff outlined a potential committee substructure to manage issues between meetings, and to address issues regarding emerging sports, and awards and recognitions. While two members were appointed to serve on the Administrative Subcommittee, the remaining appointments will be approved during a future subcommittee meeting. The committee chair stated that once the Administrative Subcommittee finalizes the remaining subcommittee appointments, the committee will be notified. Finally, the committee agreed to continue discussing whether to establish advisory groups on an as-needed basis.
10. **Emerging Sports Program.** The committee reviewed bi-annual reports from the five emerging sports: acrobatics and tumbling; equestrian; rugby; stunt; and triathlon. In addition, the committee received a progress update on strategic plans from equestrian and rugby, as the former NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics previously requested strategic plan updates from the two sports by August 2025 to inform recommendations to the committee. Next, the committee reviewed the divisional proposals and legislative timelines to establish national collegiate championships and committees in acrobatics and tumbling and stunt. The committee also received an update on women's flag football and reviewed the legislative timeline to add women's flag football as an emerging sport. Finally, staff shared the updated Guide for Current Emerging Sports, an initiative from the Committee on Women's Athletics. The committee requested the newly formed Emerging Sports Subcommittee review and approve the guide to share with sport leaders.
11. **NCAA Governance updates.** Staff from Association-wide and divisional governance groups provided an update on significant items and initiatives in their respective areas that intersect with and impact the committee's work.
12. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committees updates.** The divisional SAAC representatives updated the committee on their respective SAAC's ongoing efforts.
13. **Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement updates.** Staff from Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement updated the committee on upcoming programs and initiatives in their respective areas and shared opportunities for committee engagement.
14. **NCAA national office equity work.** This agenda item was tabled and will be addressed at a future meeting.

15. **Introduce and discuss NCAA resources.** Staff introduced two documents to the committee for review: “The Guide for Organizing Welcoming and Accessible Events;” and “Language Practices to Promote Student-Athlete Well-Being.” The committee provided feedback and agreed to review the amended documents at a future meeting.
16. **Discuss previous committee and task force recommendations.** The committee discussed recommendations and points of emphasis for consideration from the former NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics, former NCAA Gender Equity Task Force, former NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, and the divisional Student-Athlete Advisory Committees. It was noted that the Administrative Subcommittee will review the recommendations and report back to the committee, to help inform the work going forward.
17. **Discuss committee goals and priorities for 2025-26.** The committee discussed its goals and priorities and agreed to continue its review during the February 2026 videoconference.
18. **Future meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule, including the next videoconference scheduled for February 4, 2026.
19. **Other business.** The committee did not have any other business.
20. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Eastern time September 25, 2025.

Committee Chair: Jacqie McWilliams Parker, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Staff Liaisons: Niya Blair Hackworth, Office of Inclusion.
Jean Merrill, Office of Inclusion.
Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion.
Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion.

NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact September 24-25, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
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.	
Pankil Chander, Wilkes University.	

Stacey Gibson, Idaho State University.
Mark Giles, University of Illinois Chicago.
Janet Gooch, University of Illinois Springfield.
Juan Hernandez, Curry College.
Mercedes Himmons, Southern Connecticut State University.
Alfred Lamptey, 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.
Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.
Kristin Williams, Mid-American Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Niya Blair Hackworth, Jean Merrill, Gretchen Miron, and Amy Wilson.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:
Geoff Bentzel, Debbie Brown, Dawn Buth, Gail Dent, Alliah Harrison, Stephannnie Harvey-Vandenberg, Brandy Hataway, Malik Henry, Travis Johnston, Maritza Jones, Leah Kareti, Ashlesha Lokhande, Kat Lin, Felicia Martin, Austin Meo, DeeDee Merrit Guster, Leilyn Miles, Tyler Noragon, Mariah Polk, Alex Purcell, Stephanie Quigg, Jen Roe, and Jared Tidemann.