



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS  
APRIL 9, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Committee on Women's Athletics chair Ragean Hill welcomed committee members to the videoconference.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its February 12 videoconference as presented.
3. **Emerging sports biannual reports and relevant updates.** The committee reviewed biannual reports from the five emerging sports: acrobatics and tumbling; equestrian; rugby; stunt; and triathlon. Additionally, the committee evaluated strategic plans from equestrian and rugby, which were requested in the September 2024 and February 2025 meetings. Feedback on both plans will be shared with the sports' leaders.

In addition, staff noted efforts to confirm unofficial sport sponsorship data for the 2024-25 academic year for acrobatics and tumbling, stunt, and triathlon. The committee agreed to convene later in the spring to consider recommending that the divisions adopt legislation to establish a National Collegiate championship and a committee for each sport, if it is determined that a sport(s) has 40 programs meeting minimum requirements.

4. **Women's wrestling update.** Staff reminded the committee that all three divisions adopted women's wrestling as the NCAA's 91st championship and established an NCAA Women's Wrestling Committee during the 2025 NCAA Convention. Staff further shared that planning is underway for the first NCAA National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship in winter 2026. The committee discussed the possible interest from the Division III membership to introduce legislation to establish a separate Division III championship, provided a minimum of 40 Division III schools meet minimum sport-sponsorship requirements.
5. **Women's Flag football update.** Staff updated the committee on the timeline for each division to consider adding women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and to establish legislation related to athletics personnel, amateurism, recruiting, financial aid, playing and practice seasons and membership. Staff noted that Division I may consider adopting legislation as early as this summer, while Divisions II and III will likely vote on legislative proposals during the 2026 NCAA Convention.
6. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.** The divisional SAAC representatives updated the committee on their respective SAAC's ongoing efforts. Updates included how student-athletes will navigate the potential effects of the House settlement,

discussion on SAAC's position in developing the new Division I governance structure, and social media campaigns highlighting nonrevenue sports and women in college athletics. Additionally, the divisional SAACs met in March regarding congressional engagement and other shared interests.

7. **Update on NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee Letter.** The committee received a status update on a letter from the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee to NCAA leadership regarding the need to continue existing initiatives and programs that benefit all student-athletes. Staff agreed to update the committee as the correspondence develops.
8. **NCAA Woman of the Year update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA communications staff regarding the 2025 selection process for the NCAA Woman of the Year and next steps. Since oversight of the award transitioned to the NCAA Honors Committee, the Woman of the Year will be incorporated into the existing NCAA awards program during the 2026 NCAA Convention.
9. **CWA historical recap document (attached).** The committee reviewed a summary of accomplishments since its inception in 1989. The document details the committee's efforts to expand and promote opportunities and access for female student-athletes, administrators and coaches. Other highlights include the committee's facilitation of programs and resources for women. The committee expressed its appreciation for the development of the document to memorialize its work and to ensure continuity of its mission within the next iteration of the committee structure.
10. **Final recommendations to the new committee.** The committee discussed recommendations and points of emphasis to share with the new Association-wide committee as it begins meeting this fall. The recommendations focused on maintaining the successful programming with emerging sports and continuing to navigate the current collegiate sports landscape to ensure opportunities for women.
11. **Future meetings.** The committee will conduct its final joint videoconference with MOIC May 7. The committee also will meet virtually May 15 to discuss the status of acrobatics and tumbling, stunt, and triathlon.
12. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.  
*Staff Liaisons:* Maison Hubbard, Academic and Membership Affairs.  
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.  
Ashlesha Lokhande, Office of Inclusion.  
Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion.

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NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics April 9, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University.	
Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University.	
Katherine Loh, Florida Southern College.	
Michael Perez, California State University, Fullerton.	
Quinton Ross, Alabama State University.	
Chuck Sack, Neumann University.	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida.	
Tracy Shoemake, Texas State University.	
Sean Sullivan, Salve Regina University.	
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill.	
Dawn Turner, Lander University.	
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Detroit Mercy.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Katherine Rowe Fell, University of Findlay.	
Sharief Hasim, Susquehanna University.	
Gabriella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College.	
Steve Stoute, Canisius College.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Ashlesha Lokhande and Gretchen Miron.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:</b>	
Debbie Brown, Dawn Buth, Gail Dent, Ashley Hammers, Jordan Jones, Corbin McGuire, Jean Merrill, Leilyn Miles, Jennifer Roe, Joshua Perez Sales, Jeff Smith, Jared Tidemann and Amy Wilson.	

# NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics

## Historical Recap

1989-2025

**Mission:** The mission of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics is to provide leadership and assistance to the association in its efforts to provide equitable opportunities, fair treatment and respect for all women in all aspects of intercollegiate athletics.

Toward these ends, the committee has expanded and promoted opportunities for female student-athletes, administrators, coaches and officiating personnel. The committee has promoted governance, administration, and conduct of intercollegiate athletics at the institutional, conference, and national levels that has been inclusive, fair, and accessible to women. The committee also has developed programs and resources, which have been of practical use to the Association in its effort to achieve these ends.

### **Emerging Sports for Women Program:**

- The committee has overseen the Emerging Sports for Women Program and has assisted six emerging sports to transition to the NCAA championship sports:
  - Rowing (1996);
  - Women's Ice Hockey (2000);
  - Women's Water Polo (2000);
  - Bowling (2003);
  - Women's Beach Volleyball (2015); and
  - Women's Wrestling (2025) the newest NCAA championship sport.
- Recommended five sports to the Emerging Sports for Women Program:
  - Acrobatics and Tumbling (2020);
  - Equestrian (2007 in Division I and 2009 in Division II);
  - Rugby (2007 in Division I, 2009 in Division II and 2011 in Division III);
  - Stunt (2023 in Division I and Division II and 2024 in Division III);
  - Triathlon (2014); and
  - Archery, badminton, squash, synchronized swimming, and team handball were part of the Emerging Sports for Women Program but were later recommended to be dropped due to a lack of growth in sports sponsorship numbers.
- In January 2025, the committee recommended Divisions I, II and III sponsor legislation to add flag football to the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women Program.
- Created and oversaw edits to the Emerging Sports for Women process guide and application.

### **Gender Equity Initiatives**

- Provided recommendations for the development of the NCAA gender equity report in alignment with the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) (1994).
- Recommended adding gender equity as an indicator to the Divisions I and II Dashboard Indicators to inform campus decision-makers about athletics departments during resource allocation and funding decisions (2009).
- Reviewed and provided input on the programmatic and legislative recommendations in the Diversity Leadership Strategic Planning Committee (DLSPC) report to enhance support, promote, and integrate women's sports (2009).
- Provided recommendations to various governance and staff groups on gender equity including:
  - The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and The NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee jointly requested that NCAA research provide data projecting the impact of the recommended Division I cost of attendance model by sport, gender, and ethnicity to carefully review the impact on women and minorities and Title IX compliance. The committees requested that the NCAA national office staff provide continued education to the Presidential Working Groups and all Division I cabinets regarding the effect of these recommendations and other possible legislation on gender equity.
  - Recommended the Division III Strategic Initiative Grant is modified to permit coaches eligibility to apply in addition to administrators to enhance the women coaching experience, as well as maintain the number of female NCAA coaches.
  - Recommended that NCAA policy require that each proposal for legislative change to NCAA constitution or bylaws be required to include anticipated gender-equity impact, similar to the current requirement that proposals indicate both budget and student-athlete impact.
  - Assisted with the development of the pregnant and parenting student-athletes' resources and model policies.
  - Provided input and support for report on the effort to address the impact of violent behavior involving student-athletes.
  - After the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Committee on Women's Athletics discussed its impact on college athletics, focusing on healthcare access and financial support for pregnant student-athletes, and urged continued discussion related to this issue from the NCAA Board of Governors on its antidiscrimination policy. (2022)
- Assisted with the development of educational resources on LGBTQ resources.
- Provide feedback to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport on the NCAA Transgender Student-Athlete Participation policy, including its consideration of the implementation of Phase Two and Three.

- Following the March 2021 gender-equity concerns at the Division I women's basketball championship:
  - Held special meetings and sent correspondence to the NCAA leadership.
  - Created a set of key considerations and actionable steps that the NCAA could take as part of the external gender-equity review process.
  - Partnered with the NCAA Gender Equity Task Force to create a set of "Equity Principles" (Summer 2021) to guide the Association and requested that each division review the Gender Equity Principles to consider how they can be acted on and implemented.
  - Provided feedback on prioritizing outcomes from the NCAA Gender Identity and Student-Athlete Participation Summit.
  - Partnered with NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee and the Gender Equity Task Force to provide feedback and develop the Equity Impact Statement and process for the national office to use in decision making as part of recommendation 1.8 from the external gender equity review.
- Provided input on the NCAA Title IX 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations; the *NCAA State of Women in College Athletics on Title IX's 50th Anniversary Report*; and the NCAA office of inclusion's DEI Review Framework resources for member schools and conferences.

### **Awards and Scholarships**

- Woman of the Year Award:
  - Since 1991, the Committee on Women's Athletics has selected the NCAA Woman of the Year Award winner, with members participating in and leading the selection committee to evaluate all conference and noncore nominees each year.
  - The Committee on Women's Athletics consistently reviewed and evaluated award criteria to assist member schools in their nominations and to support the selection committee's review of nominees.
- The Committee on Women's Athletics members also have assisted in the support or selection process for NCAA scholarships, grants and programming for women in athletics.

### **Other Initiatives**

- Collaborated with the office of inclusion, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) to develop 'Optimization of Senior Woman Administrator' resources for senior women administrators of color.
- Based on the NCAA Board of Governors direction, Committee on Women's Athletics members served on the working group to review and recommend the transition of

Committee on Women's Athletics, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, Gender Equity Task Force and NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity to a single, centralized Association-wide committee to address all matters related to supporting student-athlete opportunities. (2024)

- Established a Social Justice Working Group in partnership with the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee to help create resources and tools for the NCAA membership. (2022)
- Provided feedback on the NCAA Board of Governors Policy on Campus Sexual Violence during several meetings.
- Agreed to a partnership with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee to support the Para-College Inclusion Project by having one Committee on Women's Athletics member engage in project development and awareness (2022).
- The Committee on Women's Athletics members have served on the NCAA and the Minority Opportunities Athletics Association (MOAA) Award for Diversity and Inclusion selection committee.