



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
MAY 14, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Committee on Women's Athletics chair, Ragean Hill, welcomed the committee, including new member Gabriella Miller, student-athlete from Wisconsin Lutheran College representing the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
2. **Review of previous report.** The committee approved the report from its February 7, 2024, videoconference as presented.
3. **Emerging sports for Women biannual updates.** The committee received a biannual update on the progress of the six emerging sports (acrobatics & tumbling; equestrian; rugby; stunt; triathlon; and women's wrestling) from their national governing body or recognized national organization. NCAA staff noted that each of emerging sports submitted its biannual updates through a standardized form. The form included questions related to the following:
 - a. Institutions and conferences that added or dropped the sport since fall 2023;
 - b. Efforts to grow the sport in each division;
 - c. A summary of the current landscape of the sport at the club level and growth in the youth/high school pipeline;
 - d. Collaborative efforts to grow the pipeline;
 - e. Any challenges the sport is facing; and
 - f. Other important information.

The committee discussed each sport and raised any relevant questions or concerns regarding each sport's progress.

The biannual update also included a summary of the legislative timeline to establish a national collegiate championship and sport committee in women's wrestling. It is anticipated that the three divisions will sponsor legislation for votes during the 2025 NCAA Convention. If adopted, the new women's wrestling committee would begin its work immediately to begin planning for the first championship in winter 2026. It was noted that the NCAA Board of Governors formally approved the budget to support the championship and committee during its April videoconference.

4. **Review and approval of changes to the Emerging Sports for Women program guide for current sports.** The committee reviewed a draft of the new guide for sports accepted into the emerging sports for women program. The draft included recommended changes from a subgroup of the committee, as well as feedback from current emerging sports leaders, past applicants, outside stakeholders and other individuals who worked with the program in the past.

The new guide includes enhanced support for current emerging sports, among other improvements. The committee discussed additional components that should be added to the guide, including the addition of a more thorough five-year review to provide more specific feedback to sports before they approach the 10-year mark. The committee believes such a review might help address growth concerns and provide feedback to sports facing unanticipated challenges from when they entered the program. More guidance related to communications, the governance process and the role of the NCAA will be included in the guide. Staff noted that it will continue revising the document based on feedback, with plans to submit the guide for review before final approval in late summer or early fall.

5. **Anticipated applications for the 2024-25 academic year for the Emerging Sports for Women program.** Staff provided an update on sports that have indicated intent to apply to the program, including women's flag football. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2024.
6. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.** The SAAC representatives from Divisions II and III provided updates on their April meetings and other ongoing initiatives, including congressional engagement efforts. A report from the Division I SAAC was not provided, as that representative was unable to attend the videoconference.
7. **Feedback from CWA on NCAA Division II Bylaw 9.3.10.2 (voting on football issues).** Staff solicited the committee's feedback on whether Division II should sponsor legislation to eliminate the current legislation that precludes an active member institution or conference that does not sponsor football from voting on issues affecting only football. The legislation was adopted by the Association in 1988 as a common provision and became a federated rule in 1997 to permit each division to amend it separately, if desired. The Division II membership has raised questions about whether the legislation should be eliminated to allow all schools and conferences to vote on issues related to any sport, regardless of sponsorship. The committee emphasized that schools that do not sponsor football could be affected (either directly or inadvertently) by football-specific legislation and thus should be permitted to vote on those proposals. The committee also agreed that it was not equitable for football to be the only sport to which such a restriction applied.
8. **2024 NCAA Woman of the Year award process overview and updates.** The committee discussed the 2024 award process and changes made to align the process with other NCAA awards. The committee encouraged staff to continue pursuing ways to streamline the application to relieve the administrative burden, particularly with the community service

9. portion. The committee also discussed the selection of an additional committee member from Division I and that the vacancy would be filled via electronic mail.
10. **Other business.**
- a. **Updates related to Title IX.** Staff highlighted the recently released Title IX regulations from the Biden Administration, which includes guidance on athletics equity. Staff also shared the [recent study from the U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#) regarding athletics equity.
- b. **Future meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule, including a joint videoconference with the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee scheduled for May 22 and an in-person meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 26.
11. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4 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.

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics May 14, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University.	
Katherine Rowe Fell, University of Findlay.	
Sharief Hashim, Susquehanna University.	
Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University.	
Gabriella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College.	
LaWanda Miller, Fayetteville State University.	
Michael Perez, California State University, Fullerton.	
Chuck Sack, Neumann University	
Steve Stoute, Canisius University.	
Sean Sullivan, Salve Regina University.	
Dawn Turner, Lander University.	
Absentees:	
Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University.	
Elise Byun, University of California, Berkeley.	
Katherine Loh, Florida Southern College.	

Report of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics

May 14, 2024, Videoconference

Page No. 4

Quinton Ross, Alabama State University.
Tracy Shoemake, Texas State University.
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Maison Hubbard, Ashlesha Lokhande and Gretchen Miron.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting
Stacey Blackwell, Niya Blair-Hackworth, Debbie Brown, Gary Brown, Gail Dent, Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones, Melody Lawrence, Jean Merrill, Angela Red, Stephanie Quigg, Sadé Sleet, Mikaela Topper, Amy Wilson and Donovan Wilson.