



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
MAY 15, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Acrobatics and tumbling as a National Collegiate championship sport.

- (1) Recommendation. That the three divisional legislative bodies sponsor legislation to add acrobatics and tumbling as an NCAA national collegiate championship; further, to establish a women's acrobatics and tumbling committee.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate. The acrobatics and tumbling committee would begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first NCAA national collegiate championship in spring 2027.
- (3) Rationale. Acrobatics and tumbling has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since 2020. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data during a staff review, 44 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports-sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. The number of schools participating in the 2024-25 academic year will be verified through official NCAA Sports-Sponsorship and Participation data, which will be finalized by the NCAA research staff in summer 2025. Additionally, 46 programs indicated sponsoring acrobatics and tumbling during the 2024-25 academic year, which demonstrates additional participation. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport.

After consultation with various committees in the NCAA governance structure and a financial and championship examination of projected costs to establish a new national collegiate championship, the Committee on Women's Athletics agreed acrobatics and tumbling should be added as an NCAA championship.

The sport has continued to grow in the collegiate space and has received continued interest in the youth/K-12 level from related sports. Acrobatics and tumbling has a diverse recruiting pool of student-athletes competing in gymnastics, cheerleading, diving, dance and weightlifting, among other sports. The sport attracts a wide variety of athletes from socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. This pool has created more participation opportunities for women with over 1,100 student-athletes competing in 2023-24 across all three divisions. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches

and officials. The CWA strongly recommends all three divisions to sponsor and adopt the sport as a National Collegiate championship.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. A budget estimate of up to \$2 million to establish the sport committee and fund the championship annually is based on several factors including the total number of participants and other travel party members, the total length of competition and estimates for game expenses (event operations, officials fees, etc.). The budget estimate will be reevaluated once the sport committee is established, and it makes a final determination on championship structure. This figure includes assumptions for direct and host operational expenses, broadcast, team travel, committee expenses, and championship staffing and travel.

[Note: The budget is contingent upon approval by the NCAA Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee, Board of Governors and the appropriate divisional governance committees during their July/August 2025 meetings and must account for the net asset impact of all consolidated future initiatives.]

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides a new championship opportunity to women athletes in all three divisions and elevates their current varsity programs to the NCAA championship level.

b. Stunt as a National Collegiate championship sport.

- (1) Recommendation. That the three divisional legislative bodies sponsor legislation to add stunt as an NCAA National Collegiate championship; further, to establish a women's stunt committee.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate. The stunt committee would begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.
- (3) Rationale. Stunt has been an emerging sport in Division I and Division II since August 2023, and Division III since August 2024. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data during a staff review, 41 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. The number of schools participating in the 2024-25 academic year will be verified through official NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation data, which will be finalized by the NCAA research staff in summer 2025. Additionally, while 40 programs indicated sponsoring stunt prior to the 2024-25 academic year, at least 45 sponsored the sport, demonstrating additional growth opportunities for

future years. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport.

After consultation with various committees in the NCAA governance structure and a financial and championship examination of projected costs to establish a new national collegiate championship, CWA agreed stunt should be added as an NCAA championship.

As the newest emerging sport, stunt has grown rapidly both in the collegiate space and in the youth/K-12 level with increased stunt competition opportunities around the country. Stunt has a high number of student-athletes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities competing on teams at NCAA schools, which has created more participation opportunities for women within the NCAA. In 2023-24, a total of 704 student-athletes competed in stunt in Divisions I and II (it was not yet an emerging sport in Division III). The 2024-25 athlete participation numbers will be updated in summer 2025. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches and officials.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. A budget estimate of up to \$1.9 million to establish the sport committee and fund the championship annually is based on several factors including the total number of participants and other travel party members, the total length of competition and estimates for game expenses (event operations, officials fees, etc.). The budget estimate will be reevaluated once the sport committee is established and it makes a final determination on championship structure. This figure includes assumptions for direct and host operational expenses, broadcast, team travel, committee expenses, and championship staffing and travel.

[Note: The budget is contingent upon approval by the Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee, Board of Governors and the appropriate divisional governance committees during their July/August 2025 meetings and must account for the net asset impact of all consolidated future initiatives.]

- (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides a new championship opportunity to women athletes in all three divisions and elevates their current varsity programs to the NCAA championship level.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** Committee on Women's Athletics chair, Ragean Hill welcomed committee members to the videoconference.
2. **Review and approve the Committee on Women's Athletics April 9, 2025, report.** The committee approved the report from its April 9 videoconference as presented.
3. **Review and discuss recommendation on acrobatics and tumbling national collegiate championship.** The committee reviewed the progress acrobatics and tumbling has made in surpassing the minimum sports-sponsorship threshold required to consider the sport for a national collegiate championship. The committee recommended that all three divisions sponsor and adopt legislation to add the sport as an NCAA national collegiate championship and establish an acrobatics and tumbling committee. [See Legislative Action Item 1-(a) above.]
4. **Review and discuss recommendation on stunt national collegiate championship.** The committee evaluated the progress stunt has made in surpassing the minimum sports-sponsorship threshold required to consider the sport for a national collegiate championship. The committee recommended that all three divisions sponsor and adopt legislation to add the sport as a NCAA national collegiate championship and establish a stunt committee. [See Legislative Action Item 1-(b) above.]
5. **Review and discuss triathlon status.** NCAA staff updated the committee on a review of all participating triathlon programs in the 2024-25 season, given that 40 schools indicated their intent to sponsor triathlon in 2024-25. After review, staff determined that the sport did not meet the threshold of 40 programs to meet sports sponsorship requirements with minimum contests and participants. Based on NCAA staff feedback and observations from the review process, the committee agreed to provide formal correspondence to the triathlon leadership including recommendations to revise its playing rules. The committee's recommendations will improve consistency in how contests are counted, thereby enhancing the student-athlete experience, in preparation for a possible transition to a NCAA national collegiate championship in the future.
6. **Other business.** NCAA staff noted that the committee's recommendations to the NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact, in collaboration with the chairs of the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interest Committee and the NCAA Gender Equity Task Force, are being finalized. The committee provided final thoughts and thanked each other for their work to advance women's initiatives during their tenure.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m. Eastern time.

Report of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics

May 15, 2025, Videoconference

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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 15, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University.	
Sharief Hasim, Susquehanna University.	
Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University.	
Gabriella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College	
Michael Perez, California State University, Fullerton.	
Chuck Sack, Neumann University.	
Tracy Shoemake, Texas State University.	
Steve Stoute, Canisius College.	
Sean Sullivan, Salve Regina University.	
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Detroit Mercy.	
Absentees:	
Katherine Rowe Fell, University of Findlay.	
Katherine Loh, Florida Southern College.	
Quinton Ross, Alabama State University.	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida.	
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill.	
Dawn Turner, Lander University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Micaela Liddane, Ashlesha Lokhande and Gretchen Miron.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Debbie Brown, Gail Dent, Niya Blair Hackworth, Jordan Jones, Corbin McGuire, Jean Merrill, Stephanie Quigg, Liz Suscha and Amy Wilson.	