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 816-595-8153

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 19	RELEASE of NAIA Preseason Team & Individual Ratings
November 16	RELEASE of 1st Wrestling Team & Individual Ratings
January 9	First weekly nominations for NAIA National Wrestler of the Week.
February 1	Entry packets and championship information e-mailed to NAIA wrestling coaches and posted on NAIA website
February 10	RECEIPT DEADLINE for Buffalo Funds/NAIA Champions of Character Team Award nomination materials
February 15	RECEIPT DEADLINE for Daktronics/NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete nominations.
February 18	<i>NAIA Group Qualifying Tournaments</i> West Group – Simpson University Calif. East Group – Cumberlands Tenn. Central Group – Grand View University Iowa North Group – Doane University Neb. Midwest Group – Davenport Mich. South Group – Ottawa University Kan.
February 18	RECEIPT DEADLINE for completed Automatic Qualifier and Wildcard forms from each of the six national qualifying tournaments (sent by qualifying group rater/chair)
February 21	RECEIPT DEADLINE for NAIA Wrestling National Championships entries (e-mail– mburchard@naia.org and agrosbach@naia.org)
February 26	RELEASE of preliminary bracket
March 2	Team/Athlete Registration for NAIA Wrestling National Championships
March 3-4	<i>60th Annual NAIA Wrestling National Championships</i> Kansas Expocentre – Topeka, Kansas
March 3	RELEASE of Daktronics-NAIA Wrestling Scholar-Athletes
March 4	RELEASE of NAIA Wrestling Coach of the Year and Most Outstanding Wrestler
March 7	RELEASE of NAIA All-America Wrestling teams.
March 10	RELEASE of Postseason Wrestling Team & Individual Ratings
March 20	NAIA-NWCA Business Meeting
June 30	NOMINATION DEADLINE for NAIA Scholar Team and LATE Daktronics/NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations
July 15	RELEASE of NAIA Scholar Team Awards for all sports



Release dates for 2016-17 NAIA Wrestling Team and Individual Ratings

Date	Rating
October 19	Preseason
November 16	#1
December 7	#2
December 28	#3
January 18	#4
February 8	#5
March 10	Postseason

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

- 2017 March 3-4 - 60th Annual National Championships
Site – Kansas Expocentre– Topeka, Kansas
- 2018 March 2-3 – 61st Annual National Championships
Site – TBA
- 2019 March 1-2 – 62nd Annual National Championships
Site – TBA
- 2020 March 6-7 – 63rd Annual National Championships
Site – TBA
- 2021 March 5-6 – 64th Annual National Championships
Site – TBA

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATION

A. WEIGHT CERTIFICATION

All NAIA wrestlers must be examined by a certified athletic trainer or other certified medical personnel no sooner than the first official day of classes and no later than the first official practice of the season. Each institution shall keep on file a copy of their wrestlers' NCAA Weight-Management Program forms. All student-athletes are required to complete Section I certification. Wrestlers descending to their lowest certified weight class shall not weigh in more than one weight class above their predetermined lowest weight class. Each student-athlete has until (on or before) Feb. 14 to reach or descend back to his or her lowest certified weight class as determined by the student's individual weight-loss plan (See Rule 8.3.3.).

Hosts of all individual and team-advancement tournaments, including preseason open tournaments, shall record and retain a copy of the NCAA Official Weigh-In form (see Rule 9.1.5), which shall also include the results of medical examinations (See Rule 8.2.1.).

The National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) has created a computer program to assist coaches, trainers, and administrators in completing the weight certification process. The NAIA-WCA passed a motion (which was passed by the CAA) at the 2003 annual business meeting requiring all NAIA coaches use the NWCA weight certification software. NAIA coaches can access the NWCA software at www.nwcaonline.com.

B. PLAYING RULES

Rules governing competition at the NAIA Wrestling National Championships are specified in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 NCAA Wrestling Rules and Interpretations Book, except those changes approved by the NAIA-WCA and the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

A. EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Association of Independent Institutions. An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will be normally removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach and the athletic director of the ejected student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. Click [here](#) to access the ejection report form.

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

A. ENTRY FEES/OFFICIAL PARTY/ROSTER

Entry fee for the National Championship is \$100.00 per individual entry and payment is due upon registration. The receipt deadline for entries is February 21, 2017.

E-Mail all entries to NAIA Championship Event Manager Marc Burchard, mburchard@naia.org and NAIA Sports Information Manager, Alan Grosbach, agrosbach@naia.org

All entries certified on the Official Entry Form MUST be listed on the qualifying group ranking form in order to enter the 2017 NAIA Wrestling National Championships.

Coaches may confirm up to twelve (12) wrestlers during registration. No roster/entry changes can be made after the close of registration. Specific information regarding official party, roster and credentials is included on the official roster entry form.

B. EXPENSES

Participating teams are responsible for their own expenses to, during, and from all postseason events.

C. INSURANCE

Participating teams shall provide their own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

D. HEAD COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

The head coach or other designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and responsible for his/her team at all times while at the championship site. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his/her student-athletes at the championship site, during the championships and at all activities connected with the team's championship participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

POSTSEASON NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

A. DATE AND SITES

The NAIA wrestling institutions are divided into six national qualifying groups for qualification purposes. Each group will conduct a national qualifying tournament on Saturday, February 18. Each group is required to have a plan in place to alternate the hosting of their national qualifying tournament within the group on an annual basis.

B. ADMINISTRATION

The national qualifying group wrestling chair (rater) will assist the host site coach and athletic director in the administration of the national qualifying tournament. The group rater will oversee the pre- and post-tournament coaches' meetings and is responsible for completing the final group wrestler rating form (Appendix C).

C. SEEDING AND BRACKETING GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

All NAIA national qualifying group tournaments will use the following criteria for seeding at that weight: (in order listed below)

1. Head to head results – most recent results takes precedence
2. Results vs. common opponents
3. Common tournament place finishes
4. Past National Championship or Qualifying Group finishes
5. Overall record – quality/strength or opponents and schedule are more important than win-loss record.

An 8-man bracket will not seed more than four wrestlers and remaining wrestlers are drawn into bracket.

A bracket of 9-16 will not seed more than six wrestlers and the remaining wrestlers drawn into bracket.

A bracket of 16 or more will not seed more than eight wrestlers and remaining wrestlers are drawn into bracket.

Separating teammates in national qualifying group tournaments/national brackets - The following seeding/bracketing criteria will be used for separating teammates and opponents from the same national qualifying group in national qualifying tournament and National Championships brackets:

1. Teammates will be separated onto the opposite sides of the bracket unless seeding dictates otherwise (i.e. #1 vs. #4, #2 vs. #3).
2. No wrestler will compete against another teammate or national qualifying group tournament opponent in the "pig tail" and first round of competition in the National Championship brackets unless seeding of individuals dictates otherwise.
3. In the event of a national qualifying group having 9 or more qualified competitors in a weight class at the National Championships, seeded wrestlers will be placed by using the pairing formula and the remaining wrestlers will be drawn into the bracket randomly creating a pairing of opponents from the same national qualifying group in the round of 16. If a national qualifying group does not have four seeded wrestlers in a weight class to place into the National Championship bracket formula, then the seeds will be drawn at random from all of the non-seeded qualifiers in the weight class. National qualifying group displacement remains through the round of 16 in generating the final bracket.

Note: National qualifying group tournament hosts are required to use the same tournament seeding & scoring software that is used at the NAIA National Championships.

D. SELECTION OF WRESTLERS

Each school may enter up to 12 wrestlers in the national qualifying group tournament, with no more than two per weight class. In addition, athletes cannot compete in a lower weight class at the National Championships than they competed in at their national qualifying group tournament.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

A. ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Wrestling National Championships is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association Officers. The NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association Officers are responsible for carrying out the policies approved by the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC) including seeding the participants, managing the National Championships, and overseeing the welfare of the participating athletes and coaches.

NAIA matches are intended to provide National Championships competition among the best eligible student-athletes and teams at the conclusion of the respective sport season.

The NAIA will not consider a protest regarding the eligibility of a duly certified student-athlete within 15 calendar days prior to the beginning of national competition. Protests will be investigated after the event.

B. QUALIFICATION

Automatic Qualifying - Individual wrestlers can qualify for the NAIA Wrestling National Championships by:

National Tournament Qualifying numbers will be 240, with a distribution protocol that would ensure the best possible wrestlers are represented at the National Tournament.

1. Qualifying standards through postseason national qualifying tournaments:
The top three wrestlers per weight class in each of the six postseason national qualifying tournaments shall qualify for the National Championship.

NOTE: Athletes cannot compete in a lower weight class at the National Championships than they competed in at the postseason national qualifying tournament.

At-Large Qualifying - Individual wrestlers can qualify for the NAIA Wrestling National Championships by:

1. 30 Group At-Large Bids - Each of the Six Qualifying Group would select the five contestants most worthy of the bid.
2. 30 National At-Large Bids - the 30 national bids would be selected by the **NATIONAL RATING COMMITTEE** (raters and oversight) via individual vote using the current at-large criteria. Selection of these at larges will be conducted in the following manner:

- A 12 member committee consisting of the rater and oversight member from each qualifying group will vote for the 30 national at-large selections
- Up to 15 national wildcard nominees from each qualifying group will be emailed to the national office following the completion of the national qualifying events. Submissions must be received by 12 a.m. CST (midnight) on Sunday, Feb. 19.
- All qualifiers and at-large nominees will be distributed to the entire coaching body by the national office on Feb. 19.
- Specific information regarding national wildcard nominees should be directed by the individuals head coach to a region-specific committee member.
- Each of the 12 committee members will submit online votes to the national office.
- Each committee member votes on their top 40 wrestlers regardless of weight.
- A point system of descending order starting at 40 (40 being the best/highest) will be assigned to each student-athlete
- The points will be tabulated at the NAIA National Office. Note.... the highest and lowest vote for each athlete is removed to eliminate any outliers.
- Note - In the case of ties for at-large selection where there is a tie with two individuals at the same weight class, the regular seeding criteria will be used to break the tie. If the individuals are at different weight classes, the seeding committee will vote to break the tie. In the case that the seeding committee ties on the deciding vote, the NAC liaison will vote to break the tie.

C. FORMAT

The NAIA Wrestling National Championships is conducted in a two-day format. Individual National Championships are determined in 10 weight classes, and the team National Championship is determined by using tournament scoring as stated in the NCAA Wrestling Rule Book with the exception of no bonus point scoring involving matches between wrestlers from the same team. For seeding & bracketing information at the NAIA Championships, see the seeding/bracketing guidelines listed above in the Postseason National Qualifying Tournaments section.

- a. The top 12 individuals in each weight class will be seeded at the NAIA National Championship.

D. TRANSPORTATION

Travel arrangements to and from the championship site shall be made by the participating institutions. The Official Travel Bureau of the NAIA is Short's Travel. Please visit <http://www.shorts.travel.com/NAIAchamps> to upload team rosters and contact information, then call Short's Travel at 844-619-7044 to book your travel arrangements. All coaches will need a username and password which will be provided by the National Office.

E. HOUSING

Housing information will be sent to coaches in the pre-championship qualifier packet.

NOTE – The host/headquarters hotel for the 2017 NAIA Wrestling National Championships is the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center Topeka. The NAIA Hall of Fame/Banquet will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. All teams MUST stay at designated hotels to be eligible to compete in the championships. For a list of designated hotels, please visit: http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205337111

F. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Code of Conduct

All wrestlers participating in the NAIA Wrestling National Championships shall agree to abide by the following standards of conduct:

- a. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited.
- b. Exemplary conduct is expected in team travel, at eating establishments, at the championship site and overnight accommodations before, during and after the National Championships.
- c. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT may result in either or all of the following actions:
 - i. The university or college president and athletics director will be notified by letter.
 - ii. The athlete will be banned from the following year's championship. If the athlete is a senior, his team will be ineligible for the following year's championship.
 - iii. All honors and awards, including All-America status and all points scored, will be taken away from the offending athlete.
- d. Upon notification of any violation of the Code of Conduct, the NAIA-WCA will review the case and take prompt, appropriate action which may include the above.

NAIA coaches are responsible for ensuring that their athletes adhere to these rules of conduct.

Banquet



NAIA Hall of Fame/Banquet information will be distributed in the qualifier packet mailing. The banquet will take place on Saturday prior to the National Championship finals and be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center Topeka. Tickets for participants are included in the entry fee.

Meetings

A pre-championship coaches' meeting will be held on the Thursday afternoon/evening prior to the start of the championship.

Medical Care/Weigh-Ins/Skin Checks

Training facilities and certified trainers will be available to the competing teams courtesy of the host. Medical doctors will be on-call and participants will have access to a medical facility. Weigh-ins and medical/skin checks must be conducted for each day prior to competition per NCAA guidelines. The first weigh-in/skin check for the National Championships will take place two hours prior to the first session.

Admission/Credentials

All athletes and coaches must have credentials (participant passes) on their person in order to be admitted to the championship and have floor access in the arena. Each school will be issued four credentials for coaches, assistants and support staff. Four additional coach/support staff credentials can be purchased for \$30.00 apiece. Additional credentials for assistants/support staff can be purchased at full admission price.

Officials – Selection and Evaluation

Per NAIA-WCA guidelines, a minimum of 2.5 officials (with NCAA certification) per mat will be contracted to work the NAIA National Championships. Candidates for assignment to work NAIA National Championships must be approved by the NAIA-WCA executive committee and the NAIA National Supervisor of Officials prior to receiving a contract.

The NAIA Wrestling Sport Manager works with the national supervisor of officials to identify, contract and retain National Championship officials. A minimum of three evaluators are also contracted to work the national tournament and provide feedback/evaluations to the NAIA, the supervisor of officials, and the championship officials. Coaches will also complete a written evaluation/rating of the championship officials.

Top-rated officials (based on evaluations from evaluators, supervisor and coaches) from the NAIA championship will be offered contracts for the following year's championship. The NAIA will contract officials for upcoming NAIA National Championships on or before June 1 each year.

Radio, Television and Online Broadcasting

The broadcast of any championship event is governed by the NAIA broadcast policies as printed in the NAIA Policy Handbook. For information relative to these policies, contact:

Chad Waller - NAIA Director of Sports Information
1200 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
Phone – 816.595.8119
cwaller@naia.org

Travel

A. SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship. The Official Travel Bureau of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please visit <http://www.shortcuts.travel.com/NAIAchamps> to upload team rosters and contact information, then call Short's Travel at 844-619-7044 to book your travel arrangements. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, all schools are expected to use Short's Travel for any air travel.

Short's Travel has contacts with Charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

Short's Travel Management can also be used for regular season travel planning.

B. NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #: XZ 051 46.



NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The [NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK](http://www.naia.org) can be found at www.naia.org. Please refer directly to the NAIA policy handbook for the following:

Competition:

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section 7

Eligibility:

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Aid Rules – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XI

SUNDAY PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying and National Championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook for additional information.

RATINGS MANUAL

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Overall philosophy:** Sport ratings are the cornerstone for championship selection and seeding (excluding a few sports) and overall NAIA publicity of their sports programs. The ratings process is a complex one and every step of the process is vital to the integrity and accuracy of all ratings. The NAIA National Office appreciates the knowledge and time commitment put forth by all members of the ratings committee, conference oversight committee, national oversight committee and conference commissioners. The entire ratings process is constructed by membership, specifically the National Administrative Council (NAC). If a rater is interested in the process and wishes to make changes, each sport Coaches' Association has the authority to propose changes at their annual sport coaches' business meeting.
- B. **Frequency of Ratings:** The NAIA releases a preseason rating on October 19. NAIA Wrestling ratings are conducted on a bi-weekly basis beginning on September 8. The "final" rating (AFTER affiliated conference/group national qualifying tournaments) used for seeding and/or at-large selection will still be referred to as the final rating; and the post-championship rating will be referred to as the postseason rating. The postseason rating will follow the same process (conference/group rating and national recommendation followed by national ballot and national ratings oversight) as all other weekly ratings. The only stipulation in the postseason rating is that the National Championship team MUST be the #1-rated team in both their conference/group rating AND the postseason national rating. National raters will be required to rate the national champion #1 on their final ballot/rating.
- C. **Dates of Ratings:**

Date	Rating
October 19	Preseason
November 16	#1
December 7	#2
December 28	#3
January 18	#4
February 8	#5
March 10	Postseason

- D. **Total Number of Raters:** The rating committee is comprised of six national raters – one from each of the six National Qualifying groups (East, West, Midwest, Central, North & South). Each of the six qualifying groups has one ratings oversight member. There are three ratings oversight committee members (two coaches and one administrator representing the NAC Rules & Ratings Committee) at the national level.
- E. **Rating Procedure:** Each qualifying group rater submits an individual wrestler rating for each weight class from his respective group. From the six groups of individual ratings, the raters then compile a rating of the top sixteen individual wrestlers in each weight class. Team ratings are compiled by scoring the ranked individual wrestlers in each weight class (using the national tournament scoring system). Each group rater must send their bi-weekly group rating to their group oversight committee member for review before submitting it to the NAIA national office.
- F. **Ongoing Bi-weekly Ratings Deadlines || Bi-weekly Rating Schedule:**

Tuesday	Noon (CDT)	Deadline for group raters to submit group qualifying ratings
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Deadline for national raters to submit national ballots
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. to Noon (CDT)	Oversight reviews grid
Wednesday	Noon to 2:00 p.m. (CDT)	Raters available for rationale requests - raters should have access to their email during this time. If raters are unable to access e-mail, they must notify the national office prior to submitting group ratings.
Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (CDT)	Release of national rating on-line at www.NAIA.org .

- G. **Reporting Period:** All competition from the end of the previous rating through the Sunday prior to the rating.
- H. **Limits:** The maximum number of individual wrestlers a team can have rated in their national qualifying group and in the national rating is 12.
- I. A bi-weekly conference and national rating will be conducted beginning with the preseason poll.
- J. Any questions regarding information in this manual should be directed to the NAIA National Office.

B. EXPECTATIONS OF RATERS

- A. NAIA national office expects all rater to have an unbiased opinion in regards to national qualification group affiliation. Each rater is expected to rate the top wrestlers in the nation, regardless of their national qualification group affiliation.
- B. The NAIA expects every rater to submit requested information by the designated deadlines. Any ratings submitted after the deadline (or incomplete ratings) will not be included in the bi-weekly rating.
- C. If a rater is unable to fulfill this commitment, the NAIA Sport Manager must be notified immediately.

C. REPORTING RESULTS

- A. All results must be reported to the NAIA (via Trackwrestling) within 48 hours of completion in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly ratings and honors. All NAIA teams must have their 2016-17 schedule inputted into Trackwrestling by October 1. All weekly statistical reports must be submitted/updated on-line within 72 hours of completion of a contest/tournament via Trackwrestling. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any two consecutive weeks or a total of four weeks during the reporting period will not be eligible for the national statistical reports or ratings for the remainder of the season.
- B. **Mandate for reporting scores:** In order for schools to be eligible for group or national ratings, results **must** be reported to Trackwrestling **within** 48 hours of completion of contest. It is the responsibility of each school to report its results. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results **for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks** during the season will not be eligible for the national statistical reports or ratings for the remainder of the season and subject to a monetary penalty.
 - a. The first violation will continue to be a warning.
 - b. Any second violation (first penalty) will be a \$500 fine.
 - c. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards.
 - d. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services.
 - e. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.
- C. **Avenues for reporting:** All results must be entered on-line using Trackwrestling. To access the Trackwrestling site go to <http://s200.trackwrestling.com/tw/TWHome.jsp?loadBalanced=true>. You must be a current member of the NWCA (which is also required of all NAIA coaches for weight certification & management using the NWCA's OPC software).

D. RATINGS PROCEDURES

- A. **Individual National Qualifying Group Ratings**
 - a. Each rater can access results from all NAIA teams/wrestlers through Trackwrestling.
 - b. The ranking of the top 6 individuals in each weight class (per qualifying group) is to be submitted on-line using Trackwrestling no later than **Noon (Central)** on Tuesday of each rating week.
 - c. Shortly after noon (Central) on Tuesday (of each rating week), national raters can access the six group ratings via Trackwrestling.
 - d. Postseason national qualifying reports and national ratings received after the deadline will **not** be included in the compilation. Wrestlers cannot be ranked if their rater misses the deadline for submitting their postseason national qualifying group rating for that ratings period.
 - e. Only varsity wrestlers who are identified with a NAIA team can be rated in postseason qualifying group and national ratings. Unattached wrestlers are NOT eligible for ratings.
- B. **Postseason National Qualifying Ranking Policies**
 - a. Raters are allowed one tie at any position (#1-#6) in each weight class in their rating. Only one tie is allowed and the qualifying group is still limited to only six wrestlers in each weight class in its group rating.
 - i. When a conference submits a tie for any rating period in sports that allow ties, the rater is required to submit rationale pertaining to those ties.
 - b. Raters do not have to rate six wrestlers from their qualifying group in each weight class. They should list ONLY wrestlers that merit consideration for national rating.
- C. **National Ballots**
 - a. Every national ballot ranking the top 16 individuals in each weight class must be submitted on-line by 10 a.m. (Central) on Wednesday. Please keep the following in mind when submitting ballots:
 - i. Ballots received after the deadline will **not** be included in the rating.
 - ii. A rating will not be conducted if less than 50% of the raters submit ballots.
- D. **Corrections to Qualifying Group Ratings / National Ratings**
 - a. For incorrect information regarding record and/or weight classification in qualifying group wrestler reports, contact respective group rater.
 - b. For incorrect information listed in the national ratings, contact both the respective qualifying group rater and the NAIA Sport Manager.
 - c. For concerns regarding the integrity of qualifying group wrestler ratings, contact respective group rater and the qualifying group oversight member.
 - d. For concerns regarding the integrity of the national rating contact your respective qualifying group rater, a National Oversight Committee member and the NAIA Sport Manager.
- E. **Ratings Criteria/Guidelines to be Used for Bi-Weekly Rating Schedule**
 - a. Head to head results – most recent result takes precedence
 - b. Results vs. common opponents
 - c. *Common* tournament place finishes
 - d. Past National Championship or Qualifying Group finishes
 - e. Overall record – quality/strength of opponents and schedule are more important than win-loss record.
 - f. The Wrestling postseason rating shall follow scores from National Championship as contested. Only the top 8 individuals will be listed in the postseason rating.

E. NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- A. National Oversight Committee to consist of:
 - a. Member of NAC Rule & Ratings Committee – 2016-17 NAC Ratings Oversight Liaison for wrestling is Christian Oberquell, Athletic Director Montana State University Northern.
 - b. Two coaches from appropriate sport with the following criteria:
 - i. One coach must have prior rating experience and can be an active or former coach still involved in the NAIA.
 - ii. One coach must be current officer in coaches' association.
 - c. The NAIA Sport Manager works with NAIA-WCA officers to recruit/appoint National Oversight Committee members.
- B. The NAC Ratings Committee liaison is an active member of each National Oversight Committee.
- C. Each national qualifying group must designate one coach in the group to serve as the oversight member to monitor the qualifying group ratings. If a qualifying group does not have a designated oversight member in place, they will not be allowed to submit group and national ratings.
- D. National Oversight Committee will review each rating grid prior to releasing national rating.
 - a. Approval forms are submitted by each National Oversight Committee member via e-mail.
 - b. If a concern is expressed, oversight will contact NAIA Sport Manager immediately.
 - c. If concern is expressed by oversight regarding a rating ballot, rater in question will have until **2:00 p.m. (Central)** on Wednesdays to respond to oversight's concerns and provide rationale for rating.

Note – Concerns should be directed at how individuals among the rating committee ranked specific athletes, not about where a specific athlete falls in the top 16. Example: Rational is needed from the East area on why they didn't rank Joe Smith at 125 pounds.

- E. If a rater does not provide written rationale prior to the deadline, the penalty system is as follows:
 - a. 1st instance – written warning (ballot is still included in that week's rating)
 - b. 2nd instance – rater(s) ballot is removed for that week
 - c. In each of the two instances, the NAIA National Office copies all parties (rater, national oversight, conference/group Commissioners).
 - d. No response from National Oversight Committee member for two ratings constitutes NAIA National Office contact. National Oversight Committee members are held to the same requirements/guidelines as national raters in terms of completing their weekly responsibilities in the ratings process.
- F. National Oversight Committee has authority to remove a rater's ballot if the ballot is deemed to jeopardize the integrity of the rating. Removal of ballot must be approved by at least four of the six members of the National Oversight Committee.
 - a. In the event of the removal of a ballot, the rater, group oversight, affected Conference Commissioners, NAIA Director of Sports Information, and the National Oversight Committee will be notified.
- G. Removal of a rater is authorized when any combination of the following **three** incidents occur three (3) times during a ratings calendar year:
 - 1. Failure to submit a qualifying group OR national rating/ballot.
 - 2. Failure to represent qualifying group on a ratings conference call.
 - 3. Removal of a rating ballot.Any appeals (and final decision to remove a rater) are handled by the national ratings oversight committee.
- H. Standard policies when removing a rater:
 - 1. Warning letter (e-mail correspondence) sent to rater after first two offenses (see section F above). Respective qualifying group oversight member and conference commissioner (if applicable) copied on all correspondences.
 - 2. Removal of rater after **third** offense. NAIA Sport Manager contacts qualifying group oversight member for procedures in submitting qualifying group ratings after removal of the group's national rater. For wrestling, if a qualifying group rater is dismissed, then the group oversight member assumes the responsibilities of the group rating.

NOTE: If a qualifying group has its rater removed, the group loses its national rating privileges for the remainder of the current ratings season. However, the group must continue to submit a bi-weekly group rating so that teams and wrestlers in the affected group teams can receive ratings votes from all other raters.

F. RATINGS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. Qualifying group oversight member is responsible for issues with group report and any issues with group ratings
- B. Rater-to-Rater grievances are facilitated through the NAIA National Office with National Oversight Committee serving as a resource.
- C. Appeals to be processed through NAC Ratings Committee.
- D. Here is the process to take for a rater to submit a grievance:
 - a. email the NAIA National Office your grievance within the constructed timeline
 - b. the NAIA National Office will work with National Oversight to process the grievance

G. SELECTION/IDENTIFICATION OF RATERS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. National qualifying group raters and their oversight members are selected at the group level. In wrestling, the group rater and oversight member (along with national oversight committee members) are selected (for the next season) at the annual NAIA-WCA coaches' business meeting at the NAIA National Office in March. Qualifying groups determine appropriate selection criteria and process.

H. FINAL RATINGS

- A. The final rating occurs after the completion of the specific sport qualifying conference/group tournaments.
- B. Results of every contest (including affiliated conference/group qualifying tournaments) up to submission of final Conference/group rating are included for the final rating
- C. The final rating is used to determine the National Championship tournament at-large qualifying teams in all sports (with the exception of baseball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's soccer which uses a modified RPI rating or selection committee).
- D. The NAC has mandated all sports to follow the established final rating calendar.
- E. Tie-breaking criteria is required to be used for all final ratings and stops at any time the tie(s) is broken. This criteria should be used by all conference/group raters to determine the order to list tied teams in any weekly Conference/group rating. NOTE – Listing of tied teams is NOT alphabetical...the tie-breaking criteria MUST be used to determine order of tied teams in the conference/group rating. The following criteria will be used to break ties in the final rating for all sports.
 - a. Head-to-head result between tied teams. If still tied (one win/one loss) go to second criteria
 - b. Win/Loss percentage vs. common opponents
 - c. Accumulated ratings points in the previous four ratings grids (not including current weekly grid).
 - d. Calculate differential between highest/lowest rating after displacement (removing high/low ratings) for both teams. Team with smaller differential is rated above team with larger differential.
 - e. Vote of National Oversight Committee.
- F. In addition to serving as the selection mechanism for at-large team qualification, the final rating (with the exception of baseball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's soccer which uses a modified RPI rating or selection committee) will also serve as the mechanism to seed the National Championship tournament field. National championship qualifying teams that are not rated in the final rating will be seeded at the discretion of the Seeding & Bracketing Committee in each sport. Based upon additional seeding/bracketing criteria in each sport, the seeding rating may not always mirror the final rating.

I. OTHER INFORMATION

- A. **Contact from Coaches:** Coaches are permitted to send information to their respective qualifying group rater only. If, as a rater, you are receiving correspondence from coaches outside your qualifying group, contact the NAIA Sport Manager.
- B. **National ratings grid sent to all raters** – The ratings grid (a spreadsheet which shows the top 16 individual weight-class ratings from each of the six raters and point calculations for team ratings) will be sent to every national rater after the rating is posted on-line and released to the media. The information included on the grid is **CONFIDENTIAL** and raters must not share the grid or any part of it with anyone.
- C. **Questions Regarding Rating Procedure:** Any questions regarding ratings procedures should be directed to the NAIA Director of Sports Information.

J. GLOSSARY

- A. Frequently Used Terms
 - a. Conference Oversight Committee = a committee, created by each Conference Commissioner, to review, analyze and approve each conference/group rating prior to official submission in SIDHelp.
 - b. Final Rating = the rating that occurs after all qualifying conference/group tournaments. This rating determines the at-large championship qualifiers and championship seeding for all sports (excluding Soccer & Tennis).
 - c. NAC = National Administrative Council. A membership group comprised of athletic administrators representing all of the conferences. This Council has the authority to oversee all policies and procedures related to ratings.
 - d. National grid = a spreadsheet that shows the national rating and votes from each national rater. This is not to be shared with anyone.
 - e. National Oversight Committee = a committee, comprised of a NAC member, a former rater and current head coach/officer, with a mission to review, analyze and approve each national rating prior to official announcement.
 - f. Postseason Rating = the rating that occurs after the sport National Championship. The National Champion team will be the #1-ranked team in the national rating.
 - g. SIDHelp = database where all conference/group and national ratings are submitted. The website is www.naiasports.org/admin.

AWARDS

A. NATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE WEEK

National Qualifying Group Wrestler of the Week

A National Qualifying Group Wrestler of the Week will be recognized during select dates of an outstanding performance at the qualifying group level. Nominations for National Qualifying Group Wrestler of the Week must be submitted to the NAIA Department of Sports Information by 5:00 p.m. (CST) Tuesdays (during the honors calendar) from the wrestler's sports information director or his/her designated representative. National qualifying group Wrestlers of the Week are considered for National Wrestler of the Week honors. All nominations must be submitted via the SIDHelp admin website. To access go to www.naiasports.org/admin and go to the "Player of the Week" section.

National Wrestler of the Week

There will be weekly recognition of an outstanding performance at the national level, with honorees selected from one of the six Wrestlers of the Week for each of the national qualifying groups. The first national honoree will be announced on November 16 with the second honoree announced December 7. Starting January 4, weekly award winners will be announced through February 15. Honorees are released by 5 p.m. CST on Wednesdays during the selected dates.

Honorees will be selected by the NAIA Department of Sports Information and a national voting committee. Nominations must be made by the wrestler's sports information director or their designated representative. The national office will NOT accept nominations from anyone but the sports information director or their designated representative. Schools/teams may nominate only one athlete weekly for national qualifying group and national wrestler of the week honors consideration.

B. DAKTRONICS-NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria:

- Nominee is junior or above in academic standing.
- Nominee has been in attendance at the nominating institution two full academic years as a non-transfer student or a minimum of one full academic year as a transfer student.
- Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
- Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
- Nomination form is complete and submitted through SIDHelp.
- All the above information is to be received by February 15, 2016 to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database. All criteria must be met by this date.
- NOTE: There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will continue to be filled out via the SIDHelp admin website at www.naiasports.org/admin. You must have an account in order to fill out nomination forms as the forms are no longer available through coaches' manuals. SIDHelp is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. If you don't have an account, please sign up and create your own. Your access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours.

Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. In order to complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download. This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically.

To be eligible for listing on website, honors database or receive a certificate, forms MUST BE SUBMITTED BY February 15, 2017. LATE nominations will be accepted through June 30th of each year, but will not be listed on the website, honors database or receive a certificate.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ELECTRONICALLY FOR CONSIDERATION. PAPER COPIES ARE NOT TO BE SENT TO THE NAIA NATIONAL OFFICE VIA EMAIL, POSTAL MAIL OR FAX. (THIS IS A CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR)

C. SCHOLAR TEAM



In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized. Based on a 3.0 season GPA on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

Download the NAIA Scholar Team Award Form at http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205502236. Deadline is June 30, 2017.

D. NATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

The NAIA National Wrestler of the Year is voted upon by all participating coaches at the NAIA Wrestling National Championships.

E. NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

The NAIA National Coach of the Year is voted upon by all participating coaches at the NAIA Wrestling National Championships. The NWCA also sponsors a NAIA-NWCA National Coach of the Year Award, which is presented to the coach of the winning NAIA team at the annual NWCA National Duals Championship.

F. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Official NAIA individual awards for All-America recognition will be presented to the top eight (8) individuals in each weight class at the National Championships. Team trophies will be awarded to the top three teams. The team champion will also receive the traditional NAIA championship banner.

Participation certificates will be provided to all student-athletes competing in the championships. These certificates will be included in the coaches' information packets, which will be available at team registration. There is also an award for the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the National Championships and an award for the wrestler with the most falls/pins in the least amount of time (Manuel Gorriaran Memorial Award).

G. BUFFALO FUNDS FIVE STAR CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER TEAM AWARD

The Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Award is an annual award given at the end of each sport season. Each sport awards the Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Award to one team on a yearly basis and all NAIA teams are eligible for the team award. Teams must be nominated by their institutions. Award winners will be selected based upon their documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field, on campus, and in the community. Specifically, fulfillment of the core character values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship will be taken into consideration.

For complete nomination information, please see NAIA Champions of Character. A nomination form can be found at http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205503502. Deadline is February 13, 2017.

H. ORDERING AWARDS

Conference/independent awards are ordered by the Conference/Independent Commissioner and are the financial responsibility of the conference/independent or postseason host institution. Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards, 18081 E. Trafficway St., Springfield, MO 65802
Contact: Matt Miller, mattm@collegiateawards.com, 417-873-9280
NAIA National Office Staff Awards Liaison – Jamie Adams – jadams@naia.org

J. NAIA NATIONAL AWARDS

(See NAIA Awards Forms at http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205327004)



COACHES ASSOCIATION

A. NAIA-WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION

The NAIA-Wrestling Coaches Association (NAIA-WCA) is an organization of collegiate wrestling coaches at NAIA member institutions. The NAIA-WCA meets annually, conducting its business in conjunction with the NAIA Wrestling National Championships.

B. PAST PRESIDENTS

1959-60	Bob Bringham, Northern Illinois	1984-85	Jim Koch, Wisconsin-Parkside
1960-62	John Hancock, Colorado Mines	1985-86	Vince Monseau, W. Liberty State (W.Va.)
1962-63	Eugene Hill, Illinois State	1986-87	Don Elia, Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
1963-64	Russell Houk, Bloomsburg (Pa.)	1984-85	Jim Koch, Wisconsin-Parkside
1964-65	Tony Schavone, Black Hills State (S.D.)	1988-90	Milt Martin, Westmar (Iowa)
1965-66	Chester Sanders, Indiana State	1990-91	Fran Hummel, Northern State (S.D.)
1966-67	Kenneth Cox, St. Cloud State (Minn.)	1991-92	Craig Olsen, Pacific (Ore.)
1967-68	Gray Simons, Lock Haven (Pa.)	1992-93	Jason Liles, Northern Montana
1968-69	Frank Powell, Adams State (Colo.)	1993-95	Mike Jones, Simon Fraser (B.C.)
1969-70	Don Benning, Nebraska-Omaha	1995-97	Paul Bartlett, Northwestern (Iowa)
1970-74	Mertz Mortorelli, Wisconsin-Superior	1997-99	Mike Machholz, Missouri Valley
1974-75	Howard Morris, Oregon Tech	1999-01	Dan Payne, Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)
1975-76	Arnie Brandt, Morningside (Iowa)	2001-03	David Ray, Montana State-Northern
1976-77	Byron James, Wisconsin-River Falls	2003-05	Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon
1977-78	Fred Caro, Edinboro State (Pa.)	2005-07	Thadd O'Donnell, Dickinson State (N.D.)
1979-80	Willie Myers, Wisconsin-Whitewater	2007-09	Mike Machholz, Missouri Valley
1980-81	Vince Monseau, W. Liberty State (W.Va.)	2009-10	John Petty, California Baptist
1981-82	Gerald Hampton, Graceland (Iowa)	2010-12	Tim Jager, Morningside College
1982-83	Vern Tate, Huron (S.D.)	2012-14	Shawn Kelley, Hastings College (Neb.)
1983-84	Bob Riehm, Southern Oregon	2014-15	Archie Randall, Oklahoma City

C. NATIONAL WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION (NWCA)

The National Wrestling Coaches Association, established in 1928, is a professional organization dedicated to serve and provide leadership for the advancement of all levels of the sport of wrestling with primary emphasis on scholastic and collegiate programs. The membership welcomes all interested in amateur wrestling.

The NWCA, through its organizational structure, promotes communication, recognizes achievement, recommends rules and regulations, sponsors events, and serves as an educational and informational source. Additionally, the NWCA strives to foster sportsmanship and integrity as cornerstones of athletic competition.

All NAIA wrestling coaches are mandated to use the NWCA Weight Certification software annually and can access the software at www.nwcaonline.com. All NAIA coaches are also required to submit their results on the NWCA Co llege Scoreboard.

C. NAIA-WRESTLING COACHES ASSOCIATION VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

**2016-17 NAIA-WCA STANDING COMMITTEES****OFFICERS**

(Second year of two-year terms)

President:	Franky James fjames@campbellsville.edu	Campbellsville University, 1 University Drive, Campbellsville, KY 42718 Phone – (270) 789-5148 FAX – (270) 789-5048
1st Vice-President:	Richard Dahl rdahl@nwciova.edu	Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, Iowa 51041 Phone – (712) 707-7424 FAX – (712) 707-7290
2nd Vice-President:	Caleb Schaeffer Cschaeffer01@ugf.edu	University of Great Falls, 1201 20th St. S., Great Falls, MT 59404 Phone – (406) 791-5222 FAX – (406) 791-5994
Secretary:	Nick Mitchell nmitchell@grandview.edu	Grand View University, 1200 Grandview Ave., Des Moines, IA 50316 Phone – (515) 263-6043 FAX – (515) 263-2882
Past President:	Mike Machholz machholzm@moval.edu	Missouri Valley College, 500 East College Street, Marshall, Missouri 65340 Phone – (660) 831-4158 FAX – (405) 208-5305
Staff Liaison:	Marc Burchard mburchard@naia.org	NAIA National Office, 1200 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106 Phone – (816) 595-8153 FAX – (816) 595-8200

2016-17 NAIA WRESTLING RATING/SEEDING COMMITTEE**Ratings Contact Info**

Group	Rater	School	Email	Phone
Central	Mike Machholz	Missouri Valley	machholzm@moval.edu	660-815-2024
East	Franky James	Campbellsville (Ky.)	fjames@campbellsville.edu	270-403-0611
Midwest	Kerry Regner	Williams Baptist (Ark.)	kregner@wbcoll.edu	724-544-9352
North	Beau Vest	Midland (Neb.)	vest@midlandu.edu	
South	Aaron Meister	Wayland Baptist (Texas)	meistera@wbu.edu	870-637-5977
West	Caleb Schaeffer	Great Falls (Mont.)	Cschaeffer01@ugf.edu	406-253-3359
National Oversight				
NAC	Keith Spataro	Menlo (Calif.)	kspataro@menlo.edu	
Central	Nick Mitchell	Grand View (Iowa)	nmitchell@grandview.edu	515-263-6043
East	Corey Ruff	Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)	ruffc@lindsey.edu	
Midwest	Tom Erikson	Lyon (Ark.)	Thomas.erikson@lyon.edu	765-426-7072
North	Jake Stevenson	Morningside (Iowa)	stevensonj@morningside.edu	402-843-8194
South	CJ Campbell	Oklahoma City	cjcampbell@okcu.edu	405-328-0737
West	KC Rock	Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)	rockk@erau.edu	

NAIA-WCA STANDING COMMITTEES

<p><u>Bracketing</u> Chair: Central-Mike Machholz, Missouri Valley, MO Members: North-TBD East-Franky James Campbellsville, KY West-Tyson Thivierge, MSU-Northern, MT Midwest-Kerry Regner, Williams Baptist College, South-Kevin Andres, Ottawa University, KS</p> <p><u>Coaches' Manual/Constitution</u> Chair: North-Richard Dahl-Northwestern College, IA Members: Midwest-Brian Jackson, Missouri Baptist Univ, MO Central-Eric Reed, William Penn, IA West- Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon University, OR South-Kevin Andres-Ottawa University, KS East-Tim Mitchem Brewton-Parker College GA</p> <p><u>Nomination</u> Chair: North-Jake Stevenson Morningside, IA Members: East- Franky James, Campbellsville KY South-Ramon Diaz, York NE West- Tyson Thivierge, MSU-Northern Central- Cody Garcia, Baker University, KS Midwest-Tom Erickson, Lyon College, AR</p> <p><u>Games and Rating Committee</u> Consists of the NAIA-WCA officers and the Rating Committee.</p> <p><u>Membership Enhancement Committee</u> Chair: Midwest-Brian Jackson, Missouri Baptist Univ. MO Members: North-Rik Dahl, Northwestern IA West-Tyson Thivierge, MSU-Northern Central-Zack Mullins, Graceland IA South-Larry Nugent, Bethany College, KS East-Javier Malsonado Southeastern University, FL</p> <p><u>USA Wrestling Board of Directors/Liaisons:</u> Marc Burchard, NAIA National Office Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon, OR</p> <p><u>NWCA Board of Directors/NAIA Liaison:</u> Representative: Nick Mitchell Grand view, IA</p> <p><u>NAC Ratings Liaison/Oversight:</u> Representative: Keith Spataro, Menlo CA</p>	<p><u>Honors and Awards (Includes Hall of Fame)</u> Chair: West-Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon, OR Member: North-Jake Stevenson, Morningside College, IA South-Aaron Meister, Wayland Baptist, TX Midwest-Angelo Crinzi, Lindenwood Bellville, Ill Central-Cody Garcia-Baker University, KS East- Corey Ruff, Lindsey Wilson KY</p> <p><u>Qualifying Standards</u> Chair: South-Aaron Meister, Wayland Baptist University, TX Member: Midwest-Brian Jackson, Missouri Baptist West-Caleb Schaefer, Great Falls MT South-Aaron Meister, Wayland Baptist University, TX East-James Hicks, Cumberland University, TN North-Jake Stevenson Morningside, IA</p> <p><u>Cultural Exchange</u> Chair: West-Joe Martinez, Menlo CA Members: South-Brett Oleson, Bacone OK North-Mike Schadwinkel Hastings, NE East- Jeff Bedard, Reinhardt, GA Midwest-Tom Erikson, Lyon College, AR Central-Justin Schelecht, Dickinson State Univ. ND</p> <p><u>Rules</u> Chair: West-Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon, OR Members: Midwest-Brian Jackson, Missouri Baptist North-Joe Privitere, Briar Cliff IA South-CJ Campbell, Oklahoma City University, OK East-Corey Ruff Lindsey Wilson College KY Central-Mike Machholz, Missouri Valley College, MO</p> <p><u>National Ratings Oversight Committee</u> Chair: Central-Nick Mitchell, Grand View IA Members: West-Caleb Schaffer, Great Falls, MT Midwest-Tom Erikson, Lyon College, AR North-Jake Stevenson, Morningside College, IA South-CJ Campbell, Oklahoma City East-James Hicks, Cumberland University, KY</p> <p><u>Technology Committee</u> Chair: Midwest- Ken Prophete, Central Baptist AR Members: North-Beau Vest, Midland NE South-Arron Miester, Wayland Baptist University, TX East-Marcus Cobbs Truett-McConnell College, GA Central-Brett Olsen, Bacone College, OK West-Mike Ritchey, Southern Oregon, OR</p>
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2016-17 WRESTLING NATIONAL QUALIFYING GROUP ALIGNMENTMIDWEST National Qualifying Group (11)

Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.)
Central Baptist (Ark.)
Davenport (Mich.)*
Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.)
Indiana Tech (Ind.)
Lindenwood (Ill.)
Lourdes (Ohio)
Lyon (Ark.)
Marian (Ind.)
Missouri Baptist (Mo.)
William Baptist (Ark.)

NORTH National Qualifying Group (8)

Briar Cliff (Iowa)
Concordia (Neb.)
Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)
Doane (Neb.)*
Hastings (Neb.)
Midland (Neb.)
Morningside (Iowa)
Northwestern (Iowa)

EAST National Qualifying Group (12)

Allen (S.C.)
Brewton-Parker (Ga.)
Campbellsville (Ky.)
Cumberland (Tenn.)*
Cumberlands (Ky.)
Life (Ga.)
Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)
Reinhardt (Ga.)
Southeastern (Fl.)
St. Andrews (N.C.)
Truett-McConnell (Ga.)
West Virginia Tech. (W. Va.)

CENTRAL National Qualifying Group (9)

Baker (Kan.)
Benedictine (Kan.)
Dickinson State (N.D.)
Graceland (Iowa)
Grandview (Iowa)*
Missouri Valley (Mo.)
Jamestown (N.D.)
Waldorf (Iowa)
William Penn (Iowa)

SOUTH National Qualifying Group (9)

Bacone (Okla.)
Bethany (Kan.)
Central Christian (Kan.)
Kansas Wesleyan (Kan.)
Oklahoma City (Okla.)
Ottawa (Kan.)*
Saint Mary's (Kan.)
Wayland Baptist (Tex.)
York (Neb.)

WEST National Qualifying Group (8)

Eastern Oregon (Ore.)
Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)
Great Falls (Mont.)
Menlo (Calif.)
Montana State – Northern (Mont.)
Simpson (Calif.)*
Southern Oregon (Ore.)
Warner Pacific (Ore.)

*Qualifying Tournament Host



NAIA Wrestling Coaches Association Constitution & Bylaws

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be called the NAIA-Wrestling Coaches Association, hereinafter referred to as the NAIA-WCA.

ARTICLE II - ORGANIZATION

Section 1 NAIA-WCA membership is comprised of wrestling coaches whose institutions are current members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The NAIA-WCA is charged with the responsibility of carrying out programs beneficial to the sport of wrestling, and to the NAIA member coaches. The programs of this section shall be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the NAIA, and under the guidance of the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAIA-NAC).

Section 2 The NAIA-WCA shall submit to the NAIA-NAC recommendations for approval to enhance the program, and in every way cooperate with the Council in furthering the stated aims and objectives of the organization.

ARTICLE III - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The NAIA-WCA shall supervise and conduct programs, utilizing the guidance of the NAIA-NAC. The NAIA-WCA will foster and promote interest and enthusiasm in wrestling programs at the conference and national levels, and provide international recognition for teams, competitors, and coaches.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Any active wrestling coach (assistant or head coach) from a member institution of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics shall automatically be a member of the NAIA-WCA.

ARTICLE V - DUES

No dues are currently assessed.

ARTICLE VI - VOTING POWER

Current membership in the NAIA-WCA entitles the member (head coach only) to one vote in all democratic action held in open assembly of the NAIA-WCA.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1 Officers shall be elected from the active membership of the Association at the annual meeting as follows: The members shall elect a secretary from the membership. Normal rotation from secretary to second vice president to first vice president to president will occur. The position of ex-officio tournament host shall be filled by the tournament director of the next championship, and he shall then be moved to the position of ex-officio past tournament host the following year.

Section 2 The term of office of the president, first vice president, second vice president and secretary shall be for two years.

Section 3 The progression in the office shall be from secretary to second vice president to first vice president to president; each office to be held for two years. In the event a vacancy occurs, the Executive Committee of the NAIA-WCA is empowered to appoint members from the membership at-large to fill normal progression officers unless duly elected by the membership at the next annual meeting.

Section 4 The NAIA-WCA officers will serve as members of the Executive Committee (see Article IX).

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 The duties of the president are to afford leadership and guidance to NAIA-WCA through all possible channels and to direct his efforts specifically to conducting the annual meeting of the Association, as well as conducting committee meetings and clinics. The president is the executive officer of all appointed and standing committees of the Association. The individual serving in the role of President for the NAIA-WCA during the 2018-19 academic year will also be a member of the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA). This role on the CSA is a two year responsibility, regardless of their term lengths as an officer of the NAIA-WCA.



Section 2 The duties of the first vice president are to assume leadership at all meetings unattended by the president and to serve as a member of the Games Committee at the National Championship.

Section 3 The duties of the second vice president are to assume leadership at all meetings unattended by the president and first vice president, and to serve as a member of the Games committee at the National Championship.

Section 4 The secretary shall make an annual report to the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee, supervise the Association correspondence, maintain a roster of members, notify members of meetings, and other duties which are incidental to the office. The secretary will assume leadership at all meetings unattended by the president, first vice president and second vice-president; and will serve as a member of the Games Committee at the National Championship.

ARTICLE IX - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 The NAIA-WCA Executive Committee is composed of the officers of the Association, the Association's immediate past president and the rating committee.

Section 2 The NAIA-WCA Executive Committee shall approve the appointment of the national qualifying group/committee representatives to one, two, or three-year terms of office.

Section 3 The members of the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee, the NAIA-WCA president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and the qualifying group chairs shall act as the Games Committee for the NAIA Wrestling National Championships.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

Section 1 The annual business meeting of the Association shall be held in conjunction with the NWCA National Convention at the time and place set by the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee.

Section 2 A wrestling clinic or rules interpretations meeting may be held in conjunction with national events, or at a time and place designated by the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee.

Section 3 The NAIA-WCA Executive Committee shall meet prior to weigh-in time, and immediately following weigh-in time of the NAIA Wrestling National Championship to carry out the duties of the Games Committee.

Section 4 Voting on all issues shall be by voice or hand in executive sessions or in open meetings of the Association. The national qualifying group chairs (solely) shall have votes with regard to seeding issues.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENT

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at the regular or special meeting of the Association by a two-thirds majority of the members present at such meeting. Any contemplated change or changes in the Constitution and/or Bylaws must be fully explained, in writing, to the members of the Association and the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the date on which such a change will be presented for discussion.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at the open business meeting shall be as follows:

- A. Reading of the Minutes
- B. Report of Officers
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Old Business
- E. New Business
- F. Adjournment

ARTICLE II - COMMITTEES

Section 1 Standing and temporary committees shall be appointed by the president as deemed desirable by the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee or the president. The term of the office of the appointed members shall be at the discretion of the NAIA-WCA president.

Section 2 The NAIA-WCA president is empowered to appoint committees which will assist in programs designed to produce conference, group, and national recognition of teams, athletes, and coaches. The president is also encouraged to appoint competent NAIA-WCA members who will assist in any and all ways to foster the aims and objectives of the NAIA as they relate to the sport of wrestling, the participants, coaches, spectators, and individual institutions represented by their individuals, and groups.

ARTICLE III - NATIONAL QUALIFYING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1 The NAIA-WCA Executive Committee shall appoint two NAIA-WCA members to represent each national qualifying group listed in the NAIA Wrestling Coaches Manual.

Section 2 The duties of the qualifying group representatives shall include the following:

- A. To serve the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee.
- B. To organize, promote and conduct the NAIA Wrestling National Championships.
- C. To function as an advisory, games, and seeding committee for the National Championship.
- D. To coordinate the rating process within the qualifying group and participate in the national rating system.
- E. To coordinate the weight class ratings (which will be forwarded to national office for seeding) at the conclusion of their respective qualifying group championship.
- F. To recommend conference and qualifying group competition in wrestling.
- G. To organize and establish a set of criteria, practices, and procedures for NAIA Wrestling National Championships.
- H. To recommend individuals, coaches, and participants for special awards.
- I. To appoint a proxy when unable to attend a regular meeting of the NAIA-WCA Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV - DATE AND SITE OF WRESTLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Section 1 The date to be recommended for the annual NAIA Wrestling National Championships will be the first week of (or weekend of) March.

Section 2 Each member institution sponsoring wrestling shall have the opportunity to bid to host the NAIA Wrestling National Championships. When two or more bids of equal support are received, the NAIA-WCA recommends that sites be rotated as follows: From West to Midwest, to East to Midwest, to West, and continue in that order.

AMENDED: Revised – 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2010, 2011



2016 NAIA-WCA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

March 2016

NAIA-NWCA- NAIA National Office, Kansas City, MO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. NAIA COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bracketing –Mike Macholz

Reported there will be a new timeline for qualifiers and bracketing. Everything will move back one day. Keeping raters and oversight intact.

B. Nomination Committee

Nothing reported.

C. Ratings Oversight- Nick Mitchell

Reminding everyone to keep the right people from your region in as raters. Should be someone who has interest and follows closely.

D. Cultural Exchange- Spencer Adams

Reported on an opportunity to put a team together and go to Belarus.

Austin reminded everyone that any overseas travel must be cleared through the NAIA and approved ahead of time

E. Honors and Awards- Mike Ritchey

Working on getting David Ray and Emmet Wilson nominated.

F. Technology Committee- Mike Ritchey

Coach Ritchie and Alan Grosbach reported we had 400 purchases of Track Wrestling for the national tournament coverage.

We should market better next year.

ESPN3 has not released a report on viewership yet but was anecdotally positive.

Average watch-time was 24 min. which is good in comparison to other events.

There will be a better format for awards next season.

G. Qualifying Standards- Nick Mitchell

Good process overall.

Some would like a clearer process for how at-large bids are chosen.

H. Rules- Archie Randall

Reported that we have no say on the NCAA rules committee.

I. USA Wrestling- Mike Ritchey

Updated the ISA Wrestling board on what we are doing with growth and also the growth of our women's wrestling

J. NWCA- Nothing to report

K. Coaches Manual

Rik Dahl and Alan are working on cleaning up the manual.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. 8 New Programs Need Assigned a Region

1. Marian – Midwest

2. Lourdes – Midwest

3. Central Christian – South

4. Eastern Oregon – West

5. Reinhardt – East

6. Allen – East

7. Kansas Wesleyan – South

8. St. Mary's – South

B. Previous Proposals

- i. Still wanting to request a 4th place trophy even though it was previously denied.
 - a. Similar to final 4 or semifinal in other sports.
 - b. We will be up to around 60 teams next year.
 - c. Many other sports give 4 trophies.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motions

Motion #1 - Archie Randall proposed the qualifying standards committee will come up with a procedure for each team to be placed in its respective region. Proposal should be submitted by May 1st. (Randall, Second Schaefer).

NAIA-WCA Vote (28-0)

Motion #2 - Proposal to seed one-half of the total bracket of each weight class at the National Championship. (Randall, second Tyson).

NAIA-WCA Vote (0-28)

Motion #3 - Proposal to deem individuals with losing records as ineligible for national at-large nominations. (Erickson, Second Dahl)

NAIA-WCA Vote (0-28)

Motion #4 - Proposal to take on the NCAA rules for allowing red shirts to travel with the team. (Ruff, second Mitchell)

NAIA-WCA Vote (28-0)

Motion #5 - Proposal by Coach Ruff to seed the top 12 individuals in each weight class. (Ruff, second Schaefer).

NAIA-WCA vote (28-0)

Motion #6 - In the case of a tie in seeding, all ties will be broken by the seeding oversight committee using the set criteria.

NAIA-WCA vote (28-0)

Motion #7 - In the case of ties for at-large selection there is a tie with two individuals at the same weight class, we will use the regular seeding criteria. If they are at different weight classes, the seeding committee will vote to break the tie. In the case that the seeding committee ties on that vote, the NAC liaison will vote to break the tie. Approved unanimously.

NAIA-WCA vote (28-0)

Motion #8 - Include numbers 31-40 in at-large voting as alternates in case of injury or disqualification of a wrestler. We have until registration on Thursday to replace an athlete with an alternate. (Machholz, second Erickson)

NAIA-WCA vote (28-0)

B. Other Discussions

- i. Selection of at-large bids and seeding timeline will all move back one day.
- ii. Teams who are not inputting results in Track Wrestling will face penalties according to the rule book.
- iii. The Gorriaran Award will go to athlete with most pins in least amount of time regardless of which side of the bracket they end up on.
- iv. National duals seeding will continue to be all 16 teams using same formula of removing the second guy if a team has two guys ranked at one weight class and the seeding will be based on the last ranking before the national duals.
- v. Gaming committee will be looking at changing the format of the Champions of Character event and the schedule of the national tournament
 - a. Consider doing something smaller for the athletes that doesn't take up much of their time, possibly at check-in.
 - b. Consider doing Hall of Fame Banquet Thursday night and not requiring the athletes to be present.
 - c. Consider adding a break between consolation semis and placing rounds.
- vi. Coach Ruff brought up the issue with teammates meeting in the initial consolation rounds and that we should try and set brackets up so they don't wrestle until the All-American round. This is something the bracketing committee needs to address with Track Wrestling.
- vii. Referees should not be reviewing their own calls in video review. We'd like to have Director of Officials and head official review along with the assistant referee. Austin will talk with Jerry and Doug.



- viii. Selection of officials was discussed. How do we get a say as coaches in who is selected? We would like to do the officials' evaluation after the tournament via email or survey that includes pictures of each official. Austin said NAIA has hired a director of officials that should help improve this process.
- ix. We'd like to see improved look and brand of the national tournament.

VI. NEW POSITIONS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A. Corey Ruff will be the new secretary. (Schaefer, second by Mitchell). Approved unanimously.
- B. Nomination Committee- Replace CJ Campbell with Cody Garcia of Baker
- C. Qualifying Standards- Replace CJ Campbell with Aaron Meister of Wayland Bap.
- D. Technology Committee- Ken Prophete will be the new chair.
- E. KC Rock is now oversight for the West region ratings committee.
- F. Caleb Schaefer is now the rater for the West.
- G. Beau Vest is now oversight for the North region ratings committee.
- H. Aaron Meister is the rater for the South.



2016-17 NAIA Wrestling Qualification

Total # of schools: 57

denotes the institution sponsors the sport but does not participate in postseason play

NAIA Wrestling Schools

Allen (S.C.)
Bacone (Okla.)
Baker (Kan.)
Benedictine (Kan.)
Bethany (Kan.)
Brewton-Parker (Ga.)
Briar Cliff (Iowa)
Calumet St. Joseph (Ind.)
Campbellsville (Ky.)
Central Baptist (Ark.)
Central Christian (Kan.)
Concordia (Neb.)
Cumberland (Tenn.)
Cumberlands (Ky.)
Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)
Davenport (Mich.)
Dickinson State (N.D.)
Doane (Neb.)
Eastern Oregon (Ore.)
Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)
Graceland (Iowa)
Grand View (Iowa)
Great Falls (Mont.)
Hannibal-LaGrange (Mo.)
Hastings (Neb.)
Indiana Tech (Ind.)
Jamestown (N.D.)
Kansas Wesleyan (Kan.)
Life (Ga.)
Lindenwood (Ill.)
Lindsey Wilson (Ky.)
Lourdes (Ohio)
Lyon (Ark.)
Marian (Ind.)
Menlo (Calif.)
Midland University (Neb.)
Missouri Baptist (Mo.)
Missouri Valley (Mo.)
Montana State-Northern (Mont.)
Morningside (Iowa)
Northwestern (Iowa)
Oklahoma City (Okla.)
Ottawa (Kan.)
Reinhardt (Ga.)
St. Mary (Kan.)
Simpson (Calif.)
Southeastern (Fla.)
Southern Oregon (Ore.)
St. Andrews (N.C.)
Truett-McConnell (Ga.)
Waldorf (Iowa)
Warner Pacific (Ore.)
Wayland Baptist (Texas)
West Virginia Tech. (W. Va.)
William Penn (Iowa)
Williams Baptist (Ark.)
York (Neb.)

2016-17 NAIA Wrestling Head Coach Directory

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