



# Convention Recap

NAIA NATIONAL CONVENTION | KANSAS CITY, MO | APRIL 15-19, 2016



“Hands down, the most memorable collegiate experience I've had.” Courtney Dixon, Valley City State University (N.D.), Basketball

“Our sport is just so much bigger than what we think it is. We think that we're just running track for our school or playing basketball, and there's a whole organization that's behind us, that wants us to be better and do better.” Kailey Williams, Xavier University (La.), Outdoor Track & Field

## How do you top that — the impact of the first, face-to-face meeting of our student-athlete association, whose 65,000 members we serve every day?

As we marked the 75 annual meeting of NAIA membership, our convention reinforced that NAIA ADs, FARs, commissioners and presidents have **absolute alignment** around student-athletes. Our Association of Student-Athlete leaders could not have better articulated our priority to **engage** them on important issues, **protect** their health and safety and **involve** them in the development of innovative approaches to issues of importance to them.

Our convention also celebrated the signs of growth that are everywhere in the NAIA.

- Starting next year, the NAIA will offer its 24th and 25th championships with Competitive Cheer and Competitive Dance. As the first sport to obtain championship status in 22 years, Competitive Cheer and Dance has carved out a niche in intercollegiate athletics for more than 1,500 student-athletes in 67 NAIA programs. Other new sports — lacrosse, men's volleyball and bowling — are on track to follow.
- Four new institutions were approved for membership, and two associates were granted full membership status. Membership sales efforts are expected to produce a record number of applications next fall as we move toward our goal of 275 members by 2020.
- Our Showcases have grown from five events in three days to 21 events scheduled in three major metro areas. Prospective students are not only contacting us directly about our Showcases, but they are discovering NAIA schools on our websites at record levels.



NAIA President and CEO Jim Carr proudly sporting ASICS Americas shoes; ASICS is one of the NAIA's record-high 33 corporate sponsors.

Not only is the NAIA growing, but more people are recognizing our strength and the role the NAIA plays in intercollegiate athletics.

- Corporate partners are noticing. We now are at an all-time high of 33 national partners who believe in the NAIA and what we do.
- Our friends at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) were at convention to announce a new partnership with our ADs to offer professional development and scholarships to the NACDA convention. NACDA Executive Director Bob Vecchione and his team understand just how important the NAIA and its administrators are to intercollegiate athletics.
- Ten national sports governing organizations were part of our first convention emerging sports sponsorship symposium, supporting our commitment to growing the opportunities to play.



*NACDA Executive Director Bob Vecchione and NAIA ADA President Darin Wilson reinforcing the NAIA's importance to intercollegiate athletics through a new partnership with NAIA athletics directors.*

## Where do our growth initiatives go from here?

Since the last convention, the Growth Advisory Panel (GAP), made up of presidents, ADs and commissioners, has tackled some important questions: How should we grow? How do we balance the current needs of membership with the need to provide something that leaders in higher education want and can't find anywhere else? And closely related: how do we make sure all constituents are appropriately involved?

GAP has brought together a cross section of perspectives that are key to the NAIA's success and a dialogue that has energized the association.

The GAP outcomes are strategies that focus on

- Creating a personal engagement with NAIA student-athletes of today and tomorrow and embracing them as thought leaders to understand their interests, concerns and trends;
- Drawing upon leadership from campus and conference athletic administrators to position them as experts in the affairs of intercollegiate athletics; and
- Making enduring connections to our NAIA chief executives to educate them and provide services to support the strategic importance of athletics.

Initiatives to execute these strategies will be developed by staff for GAP to continue their advisory feedback for the COP

It's exciting that we have incorporated all our member constituencies with presidents, commissioners, athletics directors, faculty athletics representatives and student-athletes communicating and working together for growth.

The future is bright for the NAIA and we're glad you are part of it!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Carr".

Jim Carr  
President and Chief Executive Officer



*The NAIA is the first and only collegiate athletics association to offer national championships in Competitive Cheer and Dance.*

## NACDA partnership promotes professional development, recognition of NAIA athletics directors

NACDA membership, convention scholarships available, APPLY at [NAIA.org/ADA](http://NAIA.org/ADA)



The NAIA Athletics Directors Association has entered into a partnership with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) to create more opportunities for NAIA athletics directors to attend the NACDA Convention and increase professional development opportunities in athletics administration.



"The ADA is the voice for NAIA athletics administrators," said Darin Wilson, athletics director at Georgia Gwinnett University. "The ADA is very appreciative to NACDA Executive Director Bob Vecchione and the NACDA staff for working with us to become a member within the NACDA organization."

NACDA, now in its 52nd year, is the professional and educational association for more than 6,100 college athletics administrators at more than 1,600 institutions throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

## Drug Education, Testing Subcommittee Update

As a followup to discussions at Convention 2015 and the 2015 Fall meeting, the National Administrative Council's special subcommittee on drug education and testing has been studying and developing recommendations for drug education compliance and testing penalties.

At convention, the committee's high-level recommendations were presented to various constituent groups for comment. Feedback included concerns about making any drug education a requirement for eligibility and work involved at the campus level to ensure compliance. Drug testing penalties, which are trending toward withholding athletes from competition, potential losses of seasons of competition and repeat failure consequences, prompted feedback on team consequences for individual failure and questions about implementation. The subcommittee will present their recommendations to the COP, CCA and ADA Board of Directors in September 2016. From there, legislation would be developed for Convention 2017.

## Council of Presidents

- Approved extending the terms of Mark Hassenflu and Jeff Simon on the NAIA Champions of Character Foundation Board of Directors through 2018.
- Accepted the recommendation of the COP Executive Committee to approve the proposed 2015-2016 budgets for the NAIA and the NAIA Eligibility Center. The NAIA budget includes an increase in membership dues to \$7,500. Canadian members have the option of paying full dues (\$7,500) or \$2,500 plus \$500 per sport.
- Silver Lake College of the Holy Family in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Stillman College of Tuscaloosa, Ala., were approved for active membership. Crowley's Ridge College, Paragould, Ark., and University of the Virgin Islands were accepted in to associate membership.
- Associate members, University of Antelope Valley (Calif.) and Benedictine University of Mesa (Ariz.), were approved for full active membership status.
- In addition to the above actions, the Council of Presidents heard reports on topics including the NAIA's focus on student-athlete development objectives to "Engage, Protect, Involve;" a new initiative of the NAIA Eligibility Center, InCred, a one-stop-shop for international

credential evaluations and athletics reviews; and Sport Sponsorship 360, a free online resource that will assist NAIA athletics departments in the study and implementation of additional sport offerings.

- Jim Carr gave an update on work of the Growth Advisory Panel (GAP) and provided an overview of research on the potential for a collegiate eSports association.

## Conference Commissioners Association

- Discussed available funds from Arbiter officials training and the revenue share with conferences. The CCA discussed initiatives the CCA would like to pursue, including scholarships for conference personnel to attend convention, regional Champions of Character programs and video/television ads co-branded with National Office.
- Kent Paulson, Frontier Conference, completed his term as CCA chair and was thanked for his leadership and service. Rob Cashell, Cascade Collegiate Conference, was selected to the CCA Executive Committee as Secretary.
- Will Wolper, American Midwest Conference, was selected to serve on the Conference Review Committee.
- Roundtable discussions included conference operations, spotlighting current issues and sharing of best practices.

## Welcome new members

**Crowley's Ridge College**  
Location: Paragould, Ark.  
Nickname: Pioneers  
President: Ken Hoppe  
Athletics Director: Paul McFadden

**Silver Lake College of the Holy Family**  
Location: Manitowoc, Wis.  
Nickname: Lakers  
President: Dr. Chris Domes  
Athletics Director: Jan Algozine

**Stillman College**  
Location: Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
Nickname: Tigers  
President: Dr. Peter Millet  
Athletics Director: Cassandra Moorer

**University of the Virgin Islands**  
Location: St. Thomas, Virgin Islands  
Nickname: Buccaneers  
President: Dr. David Hall  
Athletics Director: David Santesteban

**University of Antelope Valley (Calif.)**  
**Benedictine University of Mesa (Ariz.)**  
were approved for full active membership status.

## Committee on Gender Equity

- Recommending name change to COP in September to Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Recommending COP consider creating a committee specifically to the topic of Title IX with cross council and legal representation.
- Changing the NAIA NACWAA scholarship to sponsor attendance at the NACWAA Administrative Advancement and Leadership Enhancement Institute.

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## National Coordinating Committee

- Dr. Joyce Pigge, Bethany College FAR and Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference eligibility chair, completed her term as chair of the NCC. Dr. Pigge was recognized for her years of service and leadership. Current CFAR vice chair Ed Loeb, Southwestern College FAR, was elected NCC chair.
- Finalized an NCC Orientation Manual, incorporating duties, expectations and history of committee decisions for new members.
- Reviewed and approved NAC's policy elevating Competitive Cheer and Dance to championship status.
- Jill Jokerst-Harter, Director of Athletics, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, was elected as a new at-large member.

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## National Administrative Council

- Unanimously approved Competitive Cheer and Dance as the 24th and 25th National Championships. Competitive Cheer and Dance is the first sport to earn national championship status in 22 years. The NAIA is the only athletics association to offer a national championship in this sport; 67 institutions have declared their intent to participate in postseason in 2016-17.
- Rules and Rating committee brought forth eight action items. The adoption of rules include moving the men's basketball arc, softball fence rules, softball open dugout netting, softball foul pole color, and men's and women's soccer allowing artificial noise makers were all approved.
- Approved the elimination of men's and women's soccer and wrestling final regular season rating as the ratings have no bearing on championship selection.
- Men's and women's swimming and diving postseason ratings process was approved to be removed and to use the national championship team finish as the postseason poll.
- Twelve sport motions were brought forth to the NAC. Notable, approved sport motions were:
  - The cross country post-season rating will be the order of finish from the national championship meet.
  - To use any ball of a team's choice for Football Championship Series playoff.
  - Before every contest, team captains and coaches will shake hands with officials with the caveat that it be removed from enforced standards and list it as a recommendation following the enforcements.

- Men's and women's soccer eliminating the grandfather rule allowing facilities in use for soccer before 1995 need only be rectangular for only national championship competition.
- The NAC denied the change of format of the national tournament for men's and women's soccer. The Direct Qualification Task Force is currently studying the format of the men's and women's soccer championship.

## Athletics Directors Association

- Recently launched a successful NAIA ADA Mentor Program included 34 mentors and 34 mentees matched by 10 members of the ADA Board of Directors. Participants were invited to an in-person meet and greet session at the 2016 Convention. Board of Directors discussed ways to further enhance this program going forward.
- Announced a partnership with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). NAIA Athletics Directors can apply for one of 12 scholarships that pay for their one-year NACDA membership with a value of \$425, plus an additional \$575 to be used toward expenses to attend the NACDA convention. Interested Athletic Directors can apply online at [NAIA.org/ADA](http://NAIA.org/ADA). The scholarships will be awarded May 2.

## NAIA-Sports Information Directors Association

- Board members met with CoSIDA leadership in attendance and discussed with President Carr and VP Lynn Meredith topics such as: CoSIDA Academic All-America program for NAIA schools; CoSIDA Communications Summit in Portland and continuing ways to increase visibility and position of full-time SIDs on campus.
- Continuing to partner with COP and presidents in membership on communicating the importance and value of a full-time SID position on every campus and increasing educational opportunities for new and young SIDs on campus
- Recognized Brad Cygan as the SID of the Year award winner. Cygan has been at Missouri Baptist University since 2011 and was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Athletics for Media and Communication.
- NAIA-SIDA reps Brad Cygan and Aaron Sagraves facilitated two roundtables on "Gaining Academic Resources & Support" and "Marketing and Athletics and Key Role they Play Together."
- Aaron Sagraves presented a topic to ASA / CSA Groups regarding creation of a national policy governing student-athlete handles and images on social media and how athletic departments are allowed to promote those. The topic had some very constructive conversation.

## National Conduct and Ethics Committee (CEC)

- Discussed application of its proposed legislation related to defined sanctions for violations of Character-Driven Coaching online training.
- Continued discussion on coaches who transfer from one NAIA school to another, and the impact on recruiting practices and regulations.

## Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives

- Staff reported on the progress of several initiatives being developed with CFAR's guidance to improve rules understanding, provide more rules education materials, and opportunities and resources for professional development, including emphasis on new FARs.
- Discussed upcoming pilot program of the digital submission process of eligibility certification through the ECP system. After eligibility information is entered into ECP, the process will allow institutions to digitally sign, distribute and submit eligibility certification paperwork to the conference eligibility chair. Select conferences and institutions will pilot this program in 2016-17. Began considering how this system could create opportunities for increased collection of academic data for purposes of studying academic progress of student-athletes and impact of NAIA eligibility rules.

## Faculty Athletics Representatives

- In conjunction with CFAR, staff described plans for a number of professional development and rules education materials for FARs. New rules education materials include videos, weekly Legislative Briefs and Periscopes, online eligibility tests and an interpretation library coming this summer. Professional development materials include an FAR manual (to be published May 2016), regional rules education, and more peer-to-peer discussion opportunities.
- FARA will begin accepting nominations for the National Eligibility Committee soon. The selected individual's term will begin Summer 2016.
- Election results:
  - CFAR: Craig Dyer, Indiana Tech; Matt Mize, Indiana Wesleyan
  - FARA Executive Committee: Kevin Sweeney, Wayland Baptist (vice chair); Hans Nichol, Sterling College (secretary)
  - Duer Award Selection Committee: Pamela Bentley, Southern University at New Orleans
  - Liston Award Selection Committee: Pamela Russ, Tougaloo College
  - Competitive Experience Committee: Kevin Sweeney, Wayland Baptist

## Registrars Association

- Hosted its annual business meeting at the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in March 2016.
- Dennis Hicks, registrar at Indiana University East and Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference registrar, was elected as vice chair of the NAIA RA Executive Board.
- National Office staff gave an update on InCred Evaluations following its inaugural year
- Discussed professional development content for the association webpage.
- Planned to continue to work with Conference Commissioners and registrars in conferences without a conference registrar to get one appointed, supported and trained.

## National Eligibility Committee

- Reviewed NEC cases for 2015-16. In light of an increase of exception requests involving learning disabilities, the NEC considered results of a study involving past learning disability cases and the students' collegiate records since then, and also considered recommendations from the Learning Disability Advisory Committee involving additional documentation to be included in future requests (e.g., whether a student did/did not utilize accommodations on the ACT/SAT).
- Discussed business on: authorized medical personnel who may issue a medical hardship or information related to a student's medical need for an academic withdrawal, term of attendance extensions for students suffering from a debilitating injury, and school-and specific interpretations resulting from unusual academic calendars.

## Competitive Experience Committee

- Discussed the unattached exception (VB18b, exception 2) at length and decided to conduct fact-finding in the upcoming year regarding its use and membership opinions.
- Discussed proposed legislation (16-B-11) and friendly amendment.

## Council for Student-Athletes

- Updated on current research from the Drug Free Sport NAIA Resource Exchange Center, DatalysCenter, TrueCompetition, and a National Office-commissioned health and safety report on issues that impact the health and safety of student-athletes.
- Approved a policy defining transgender student-athlete participation in National Championships to begin 2016-2017 school year.
- Approved the Champions of Character standing committee.

## Association for Student-Athletes

- Fifteen student-athlete ASA leaders from across the country attended Convention.
- Elected Tyler Lucas, Indiana University Kokomo, chair (also serves as co-chair for Council for Student-Athletes), and Jessica Chase, Vanguard (Calif.), vice chair for 2016-17.
- Discussed the potential for proposing the NAIA adopt a national cause and referred the topic to the ASA Growth Committee for further research.
- Discussed whether it was necessary to have a policy governing post-game prayers for competitions and determined a policy was not necessary at the national level.
- Voted to sponsor legislation at the 2017 Annual National Convention to move the Cross Country National Championships to a Thursday.
- Discussed whether an NAIA-SIDA suggestion for creation of a national policy governing the use of student-athlete handles in social media posts would ever be necessary and determined that the ASA would not be in favor of a policy of that nature.

## Champions of Character Advisory Committee

- Members of the original advisory committee, who have served since 2008, proposed a structured standing committee with new terms and representatives to move forward.
- Discussed adjusting the Coach of Character Award minimum coaching requirement at an institution from five years to three years.

## Legislation Results

Number	Topic	Overview	
C-01	National Coordinating Committee Composition: CSA Representation	Add the chair and vice chair of the Council for Student-Athletes as members of the NCC.	Approved
C-02	Council for Student-Athletes Composition: SIDA Representation	Add a SIDA representative as a member of the CSA, and add an additional ASA representative to maintain the balance of students and non-students.	Approved
C-03	National Coordinating Committee Composition: Representation	Allow a council to appoint a replacement representative if its chair or chair-elect already serves on the NCC.	Approved
B-01	Frequency of Play Limits: Lacrosse	Establish 18 as the maximum number of contests in which a lacrosse team may compete in an academic year, and establish 2 as the maximum number of additional scrimmage dates.	Approved
B-02	Frequency of Play Limits: Men's Volleyball	Establish 28 as the maximum number of dates on which a men's volleyball team may compete in an academic year, and establish 2 as the maximum number of additional scrimmage dates.	Approved
B-03	24-Week Season Exception	Create exception to permit limited small-group basketball workouts that would not count towards the 24-week season.	Failed
B-04	All-Star Competitions	Allow competitive cheer and dance, lacrosse and men's volleyball all-star competitions to be exempt from individual and/or team frequency-of-play limits.	Approved
B-05	Council for Student-Athletes Duties	Allow for two co-chairs of the CSA; specify the ASA co-chair will serve as the ex officio representative to the Council of Presidents, and the non-student chair will serve as the representative on the NCC.	Approved
B-06	Definition: Institutional Credit	Prohibit courses passed with a failing grade from being considered institutional credit hours for purposes of the 24/36-Hour Rule and Progress Rule.	Approved
B-07	Freshman Eligibility: Class Rank Letters	Allow high school assistant or vice principals, registrars and guidance counselors to sign class rank letters.	Approved
B-08	Freshman Eligibility: Class Rank Calculation	Remove restriction that requires class rank to be calculated from eight semesters of coursework, and accept class rank appearing on the final high school transcript after the student's date of graduation.	Approved
B-09	24/36-Hour Rule Exception	Remove restriction that requires satisfaction of freshman-eligibility requirements to have occurred at the time of initial identification.	Approved
B-10	Repeat Courses	Allow both initial and repeated courses to count toward the 24/36-Hour Rule when the course was initially passed with a D and subsequently passed with a C or better.	Approved
B-11	Eligibility Termination	Remove restriction that limits a student's remaining eligibility to the NAIA institution at which the student completed undergraduate degree coursework.	Approved
B-12	Previous Suspension: Residency	Remove restriction that requires a student with an outstanding suspension who is serving a year in residency to be in residence at the NAIA school and instead allow residency to be served at any four-year school (or a two-year school for a suspension that occurred at a two-year school within the student's first year of identification).	Approved
B-13	Previous Suspension: Dismissal	Clarify that a student who has been dismissed/expelled from a previous institution must either serve one year in residence at the NAIA institution or satisfy the terms of the initial dismissal/expulsion, and that the provision applies to all students.	Approved
B-14	Medical Hardship Contest Limits: Lacrosse	Establish participation in 4 contests as the maximum for a medical hardship in the sport of lacrosse.	Approved
B-15	Medical Hardship Contest Limits: Men's Volleyball	Establish competition in 6 dates as the maximum for a medical hardship in the sport of men's volleyball.	Approved
B-16	Infractions: Declaration of Intent	Include competitive cheer and dance, lacrosse and men's volleyball as sports for which failure to honor or file a Declaration of Intent will result in penalties.	Approved
B-17	Infractions: Character-Driven Coaching Online Training	Create automatic penalties for failure of any coach to complete the required Character-Driven Coaching online training within 60 days of hire.	Approved
B-18	Association of Independent Institutions Duties	Include competitive cheer and dance, lacrosse and men's volleyball as sports included in A.I.I. statistics and All-Independent teams.	Approved