NAIA Councils and Committees:
Council of Presidents (COP)

- Noted that a main focus of the COP meeting was advancing the strategic plan, with significant time and energy devoted to the NAIA’s commitment to character-driven intercollegiate athletics.
- Discussed early results of the academic study and gave their support by urging conferences and member institutions to cooperate in the future collection of data to aid the academic study group.
- Commended the drug education task force for its work so far and recommended continuation of research and further discussion.
- Noted that a review of the White Paper on Conferences and corresponding evaluation tool was beneficial in reminding members of the importance of conferences to the future of the Association.
- Reviewed a report of membership initiatives and the work of the NAIA Membership Committee, which has been actively working to determine the right place for “developing” athletics programs and the criteria for entering into associate membership in the NAIA and subsequently moving from associate to active status. Discussion around for-profit institutions resulted from research on accrediting agencies, which make public distinctions between accrediting requirements for non-profit and for-profit institutions when describing those eligible for accreditation.
- Applauded staff for its work in revenue generation, including a projected 20-percent increase in combined fundraising and corporate sponsor dollars.
- Approved NAIA and Eligibility Center proposed budgets for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and discussed potential approaches related to investment and allocation of eligibility center net revenue beginning with the 2014-15 budget cycle.
- Approved three new members and the creation of a new conference, the North Star Athletic Association. Also appointed one new member to the Champions of Character Foundation while reappointing another.

National Administrative Council (NAC)

- Reviewed and approved new policies in relation to championship competition, rules and ratings, awards and statistics and experience and enhancement.
- Appointed Scot Reisinger, athletics director at Mount Mercy University (Iowa), as vice-chair of the NAC. The council also confirmed committee chairs, Rick Sanders, commissioner of the Midwest Collegiate Conference; Tom Smith, athletics director at Missouri Baptist University; Corey Westra, commissioner of the Great Plains Athletic Conference; and Joe Zimmerman, athletics director at Friends University (Kan.). John Sullivan will assume the duties of NAC Chair beginning in May.
- Reviewed and discussed the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association Calendar motion, which requested the movement of the conference deadline and opening round dates by five days. The NAC approved the motion, shifting the dates for 2014: Conference Tournament - May 3 to May 8; Opening Rounds – May 12 to May 15 and leaving the World Series dates the same.
- Approved the formation of a Ratings and Selection Task Force to review the current ratings and selection process and solicit feedback. The task force will consist of two committee members from the NAC – Rules and Ratings committee and four to eight additional members, based on position, geography and gender. The task force will deliver a recommendation to the NAC during the June 2014 meeting.

NAIA Annual Meeting and Legislation: Review the approved legislation here.
National Coordinating Committee (NCC)
- Discussed current NAIA amateurism regulations and their applications.
- Welcomed new members: Scot Reisinger, Mount Mercy University (Iowa), NAC Chair Elect (effective 6/12/2013); and Tim Wilson, Martin Methodist College (Tenn.), CFAR Chair Elect.

National Eligibility Committee (NEC)
- Welcomed new member Bryce Bernard, faculty athletics representative at Corban University (Ore.)
- Reviewed and discussed the elimination of class rank from the freshman eligibility requirements, and considered the possibility of adjusting freshman eligibility requirements found in NAIA Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2.

Competitive Experience Committee (CEC)
- Noted that it is considering a modification to the 30-day deadline for institutions to submit review and appeal requests after eligibility determinations are completed.
- Noted that it is studying implications for the application of the competitive experience rule in situations when a student earns a GED or completes high school later than what is typical for the educational model of the student’s country.
- Conducted a forum for membership to have the opportunity to provide feedback related to the evaluative criteria established for the competitive experience rule. Will continue to reach out to various constituent groups as they study the issue over time.

Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives (CFAR)
- Confirmed Joyce Pigge, Bethany University (Kan.), as the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association representative to the Competitive Experience Committee.
- Appointed Greg McVey, Culver-Stockton College (Mo.), as the Athletics Directors Association representative to the Competitive Experience Committee.
- Discussed establishment of a definition for non-collegiate post-secondary institutions (i.e. preparatory schools).
- Continued work as one of the two sponsoring councils for the Academic Study Task Force.
- Continued work, along with the National Eligibility Committee and Home School Advisory Committee, on the implementation of operational policy and establishment of a Home School Committee in response to legislation adopted by membership. This standing committee will be composed of three faculty athletics representatives (one of which must be a member of CFAR), one registrar and one at-large member.

National Conduct and Ethics Committee (CEC)
- Welcomed new member Matt English, athletics director at Concordia University (Ore.).
- Appointed Jeff Faulkner, athletics director at Graceland University (Iowa) as chair of the committee.
- Recommended to the Champions of Character Advisory Committee that institutions on probation receive automatic point deductions on their Champions of Character 5-Star Scorecard.

Committee on Gender Equity
- Assigned a committee member to recommend nominations for awards and committees throughout the association and other professional organizations.
- Submitted a Transgender Policy recommendation to the Council of Presidents.
- Submitted a Diversity Initiative to the Conference Commissioners to commence at the 2014 NAIA Convention for the purpose of developing and training a list of qualified female/minority administrators.

General Sessions
NAIA Eligibility Center
- Hosted workshops on the topics of international student eligibility, Eligibility Center news and updates, and the process for submitting eligibility determination reviews and appeals.
Introduced the new student registration system, the new PlayNAIA.org mobile site and the new texting opportunities for student registrants.

Encouraged attendees to see the NAIA Eligibility Center website at PlayNAIA.org for resources.

Academic Study Task Force
- Featured a general session presentation by John Leavens, NAIA Executive Vice President, and Dr. Byron Noordewier, Northwestern College (Iowa), Task Force & CFAR Chair.
- Met with various stakeholder groups throughout convention to present findings and solicit feedback, especially on the topic of how to collect additional data on students once they are on an NAIA campus.
- Noted that findings presented focused on a small group of eligible transfer students whose academic profiles include indicators suggesting the students will not have long-term academic success (e.g., low GPA, required use of non-term credits to be eligible, credits earned from 3 or more schools, multiple activity and developmental courses).
- Asked membership to examine how NAIA rules may be allowing for low academic performers to become eligible and to offer suggestions for how to continue collecting appropriate data on students so that conclusions can be reached about the impact NAIA rules have on the long-term academic success of these transfer students.

Champions of Character
- Introduced the Live 5 team that has created the theoretical foundation for the specific programmatic and research proposals that have been created in the development of Live 5. Noted that they were in an intense review and revision of the five core value definitions and descriptions, along with the first script for Learn to Live 5: Introduction to the values-based concepts.
- Reviewed changes to the Scorecard and the allotment of the award. These changes include a tier system: Gold (90+pts, max 1 ejections); Silver (75+pts, max 2 ejections); Bronze (60+pts, max 4 ejections) and noted that ejections specific to the scorecard that will be counted include arguing with or disrespecting officials, profanity, and fighting. Team and institutional probation also will have an impact on the institution’s Scorecard. 2013-2014 Scorecard changes will come later this summer.
- Noted that there has been an implementation of a Champions of Character conference committees’ webpage that assists with explanations of program elements, resources and best practices among conferences.

Affiliated groups
Conference commissioners association (CCA)
- Received updates from staff on various areas of the strategic plan: strengthening conferences, marketing and communications, the Eligibility Center, Champions of Character, membership initiatives, and revenue generation. During the strengthening conferences discussion, the CCA passed a motion to recommend CCA representation on the COP-appointed committee that will be responsible for periodic reviews of conference self-evaluations.
- Received reports on several new initiatives, including the Academic Study Task Force, the Drug Education and Testing Task Force, and a diversity initiative proposal for future NAIA national conventions.
- Heard from three NAIA corporate partners that conducted sessions during the business meeting. Select Sport America, the official soccer ball, sponsored the lunch and presented a new incentive-based program for conferences to consider. Strategic Marketing Network, a new sponsor in the promotional items category, introduced the company and the wide variety of products available.
- Heard a proposal from staff to launch a program through which all conferences would require officials in seven team sports to purchase NAIA-branded shirts to wear during NAIA contests. Honig’s Whistle Stop, the official referee apparel company of the NAIA, would be the only vendor licensed to provide this apparel, and the NAIA national office and conferences would share in the
royalty revenue. Commissioners approved a motion to adopt a pilot program for men’s and women’s basketball in 2013-14, and conferences could opt-out of making the apparel mandatory for all their officials. NAIA staff will distribute information to commissioners in May with details of the program and the revenue sharing model.

- Noted that, during the Tuesday Presidents Forum, commissioners participated with presidents in a panel discussion on the White Paper on NAIA Conferences and the related conference evaluation process that will begin in July. Panelists agreed that buy-in from conference presidents and administrators is crucial to implementing the white paper requirements and putting all conferences on a path toward being competitive with their regional counterparts.
- Received an update from the NAC business meeting, the announcement of an Appalachian Athletic Conference partnership with the AAU to promote Tennessee AAU girls basketball players to NAIA coaches, and discussion on a Dear Colleague letter from the Office of Civil Rights related to student-athletes with disabilities.
- Noted that the CCA workshop topic was "Structural, Tax, and Legal Issues for NAIA Conferences." Mike McCann from Kansas City law firm Spencer Fane provided legal advice for commissioners to consider as they operate their conference offices.

Athletics Directors Association (ADA)
- Conducted its annual business meeting on Saturday, April 20. Special guest speakers included CoSIDA President Blake Timm and John Phillips, athletics director at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Fla.)
- Recognized the 2011-12 conference ADs of the year.
- Announced Angie Fincannon from Taylor University as the incoming ADA secretary.
- Reports from committees included the NAC, workshops and special project committees, a discussion graduation rates, 5th-year eligibility and a report from the Unaffiliated Group task force.
- Heard a welcome from ADA President Jeff Bain that included stressing the conventions slogan, Today Opportunities, Tomorrow leaders, and stressed the importance of using the professional growth workshops to help everyone improve individually. Eric Chapman from the staff spoke about corporate sponsorships and encouraged ADA members to provide feedback and direction, while Lori Thomas spoke to membership initiatives.

NAIA-Sports Information Directors Association (NAIA-SIDA)
- Noted that Blake Timm, CoSIDA College Division Management Advisory Committee (CDMAC) Chair, attended the Convention. Timm represented the CoSIDA professional organization for all sports information and communications personnel. This was the third year that a CoSIDA rep attended. Timm spoke to various leadership groups, including the Athletic Director’s Association (ADA) and the Conference Commissioner’s Association (CCA). His message revolved around CoSIDA positioning itself to be a resource for all other collegiate athletic administrators. Also, the CoSIDA Convention will occur in conjunction with the NACDA Convention and all other affiliates. This new partnership will help the rest of the college athletics world gain insight into the latest developments and trends in communications.
- Noted that four board members from NAIA-SIDA were in attendance: Cindy Potter of Columbia (Mo.), Aaron Sagraves of Davenport (Mich.), Jay Stancil of Union (Ky.) and Steve Wilson of Park (Mo.).
- Sponsored one Roundtable during Sunday’s festivities. The Roundtable was led by Aaron Sagraves and his topic was video-streaming and how to produce a high-quality broadcast with a wide range of resources.
- Supported a workshop titled the “Value of mobile technology and social media within College Athletic Departments.” The presenters were Perry Puccetti and Mary Noulles of Triple-I Corp. The discussion revolved around mobile technology and how to use it in a very busy, complex world. The PowerPoint presentation and other information can be found on the Triple-I website [here](#).
Noted that NAIA-SIDA will continue to work with various leadership groups within the NAIA on the evolving role of the Sports Information Director. A big part of this is the professional development that occurs at NAIA-SIDA Convention, which takes place June 11 in Daytona Beach, Fla., and hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The day is filled with workshops, business meeting, guest speakers and the Ike Pearson Awards Dinner. The day’s activities take place at the Daytona International Speedway.

More Convention News:

- Opening Session
- State of the Association
- Power of the NAIA
- Keynote-Engage the Power of Who
- Awards Luncheon
- New Members