



NAIA CONVENTION RECAP

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | APRIL 13-17, 2018



Whew! I'm still trying to catch my breath after wrapping up an exciting national convention yesterday. Thank you to the more than 420 attendees who braved the unseasonably cold weather to take part. The 2018 convention was the largest in the last 20 years!

Undoubtedly, the most pressing topic at convention was divisions in basketball. The COP approved the recommendations made by the Divisions in Basketball Task Force and the NAIA will move to one division for both men's and women's basketball with a scholarship limit of eight. I greatly appreciate the thorough and comprehensive effort made by this task force. It was a difficult decision, but one which I think will benefit the NAIA in the longterm. (Postseason format will be determined by the NAC, most likely in June.)



This year's theme was simple - **Experience NAIA**. It's an invitation to take a closer look at the efforts and initiatives that make our association great, whether you're a current or prospective member. One such initiative is Return on Athletics™ (ROA).

Through ROA, the NAIA is identifying measurable, quantifiable benefits in regards to athletics at our member institutions. We shared the results of a [recent pilot study](#) which included eight institutions and the feedback was amazingly positive. Our members want more of what ROA offers and we will continue to deliver.

I hope you find this recap informative, but please don't hesitate to reach out to the national office with any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Jim Carr
President and Chief Executive Officer

P.S. It's a safe bet there will be no snow at the 2019 National Convention, which will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida on April 11-15, 2019. We hope to see you there!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Columbia, South Carolina
Active Member



LINCOLN COLLEGE
Lincoln, Illinois
Active Member



COTTEY COLLEGE
Nevada, Missouri
Active Member



OTTAWA UNIVERSITY - ARIZONA
Surprise, Arizona
Active Member



FLORIDA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Hialeah, Florida
Associate Member



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SCHUYLKILL CAMPUS
Schuylkill Haven, Penn.
Active Member



GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
Poultney, Vermont
Active Member



THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
Crestview Hills, Kentucky
Active Member

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS (COP)

- The COP approved the 2018-19 new members, as well as associate members Cleary University (Mich.), Rust College (Miss.), and University of the Virgin Islands for active membership.
- The COP voted to move to a single division in both men's and women's basketball, effective for the 2020-21 academic year, with a maximum limit of eight scholarships for each. The vote concluded nearly two years of NAIA basketball research and data analysis, led by a task force with representatives from member institutions.
- The task force also recommended a postseason format including 64 postseason qualifiers and a 16 team final site tournament to the NAC. A final format will be voted upon by the NAC, most likely in June 2018.
- The COP approved recommendations regarding postseason expenses including:
 1. Implement an annual dues structure for football schools;
 2. Set one host rights fee amount for all rounds of the Football Championship Series (FCS);
 3. Require all FCS traveling teams, whether drive or fly, to be responsible for the initial \$10K in travel expenses for each round; and
 4. Implement a financial model that includes reimbursement opportunities for schools that host multiple FCS rounds.
- The COP requested the formation of a Financial Aid Task Force to study financial aid limits and countable aid for all sports. The task force, made up of presidents, athletics directors, faculty, and enrollment/financial aid experts, will examine financial aid through the lens of ROA™. Research and recommendations will be presented to NAIA membership by spring 2020.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (NAC)

- With the COP's approval of one basketball division, the NAC Championship Competition Committee supports a 64-team national championship field proposed by the task force and the men's basketball coaches association. The Championship Competition Committee, chaired by Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Commissioner Scott Crawford, plans to bring a formal motion to the NAC in June related to overall format.
- The NAC unanimously approved a change to the countable opponent criteria (NAC Policy XXV, Section A, Item 12) that aligns the rule with the primary Canadian Athletic Associations. The update allows for institutions that belong to Universities Canada, the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association, and Canadian U Sports to be considered countable.
- The sports of men's and women's soccer and men's and women's tennis were approved to extend the pilot of a national selection committee as a postseason selection protocol.
- The expansion of the men's and women's soccer national championship tournament field to 46 teams (a 14-team increase from the previous format) was approved. Due to the increase in the number of teams, the opening round format changes to 15, three-team events. Because of the financial implications of this proposal, final approval will be requested from the NAIA Council of Presidents during a conference call in May. Pending COP approval, the format will begin in fall 2018 as proposed.
- Men's volleyball was approved to transition to national championship status starting with the 2018-19 season.
- Women's wrestling was approved for invitational status beginning in 2018-19.
- The NAC approved a men's and women's cross country sport motion that requires a conference's second and third automatic berths to the national championship be ranked among the top 30 teams in the final poll. That automatic berth will be moved into the at-large pool if the team does not fall within the ranking.
- Four amendments to the NAIA Drug Testing Policy were unanimously approved. The amendments include:
 1. Appeal to the National Drug Testing and Education Committee (NDT&E) has been changed to "challenge." This allows the committee to easily distinguish an "appeal" to NCC, a majority of which are within Section 8.
 2. Addition of a several sentences describing the "appeal" to NCC.
 3. Removal of the required pre-authorization of medical exemption for anabolic agents or peptide hormones.
 4. Clarification of language surrounding the intent to challenge notification that an institution provides to national office.

REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION (RA)

- The annual business meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers was held in Orlando, Florida on March 26, 2018.
- Registrar Debbie Gannon (Grand View University) was elected vice chair of the NAIA RA Executive Board.
- Continued efforts are being made to increase NAIA registrar attendance at the annual business meeting.
- A manual is being created for new NAIA registrars about the RA and how to get involved.

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE (NEC)

- Dr. Paul Sadler (Wayland Baptist University), Sooner Athletic Conference Eligibility Chair, was welcomed as a new member to NEC. Dr. Sadler will serve in an observatory role for 2018-19 and replace Valerie Beeson when she rotates off at the 2019 National Convention.
 - NEC discussed interpretation as it pertains to Article VI, Section B, Item 9C wherein: Charge the student with a second season of competition in that sport if the ineligible student reestablishes eligibility within the same season the student was declared ineligible and participates after reestablishing eligibility.
 - NEC discussed interpretation as it pertains to Article VI, Section B, Item 4 wherein: Require the institution to withhold the student in question from competing in one or more contests during the current or next sport season and/or charge the student with one or more additional seasons of competition and/or ban the student from further intercollegiate competition.
 - Two projects were approved to move forward from legislative services: an online, interpretation library for membership and an annotative handbook to be included in the 2018-2019 handbook available August 1.
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FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (FARA)

- Findings from the Initial Eligibility Task Force were shared.
 - New rules education initiatives will be rolled out by legislative services this summer including a rules education web page, a new survey, interpretation library, and new handbook supplements.
 - Erin McDonnell Jones (Bellevue University) was nominated as FARA secretary for the 2018-19 year.
 - FARA nominated five individuals for at-large positions including: Jim Zimmerman (University of Saint Mary), Mark Brown (Mid America Nazarene University), Malissa Vaughn (Bethel University), Kim Zainea (Cornerstone University), and Jan Bell (St. Thomas University).
 - Dave Bass (Valley City State College) was selected to represent FARA on the Council for Student-Athletes.
 - Terry Harris (Louisiana State University-Shreveport) was selected for the Duer Awards Committee.
 - Marsha Harris (Baker University) was selected for the Liston Awards Committee.
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COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES (CFAR)

- Byron Noordewier (Northwestern College), Initial Eligibility Task Force Chair, shared task force findings.
- Dr. Matt Mize (Indiana Wesleyan University) was selected as CFAR Vice Chair for 2018-2019.
- Dr. Paul Sadler (Wayland Baptist University) was selected for the National Eligibility Committee (NEC) and Marsha Lashley (Missouri Valley College) was selected for the Competitive Experience Committee (CEC).
- CFAR voted for a new policy to be included in the 2018-2019 handbook which will build off of the current CFAR policy Section III, Item 5, that discusses the exceptions to receiving an NAIA Eligibility Center decision for year two, invitational sports, and new members.
- CFAR nominated Craig Dryer (Indiana Tech) for the Liston Award Committee.

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

- Membership voted in Dr. Scott Crawford, commissioner of the KCAC, for an at-large position on the NCC.
- NCC approved three new policies:
 1. NAC: Canadian leagues included in accountable contest criteria
 2. CFAR: Invitational sports and new member institutions ability to waive Eligibility Center exception
 3. CSA: Officers structure and terms

CONDUCT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (CEC)

- The committee discussed calls and emails that legislative services has received reporting complaints by students and parents.
- The process for members, students, parents who wish to file an official complaint with the national office was addressed. The CEC discussed implementing a process wherein the party providing the complaint must first exhaust all reporting lines to the institution before coming forward to the national office.
- After convention, ADA will nominate a new member of CEC. Mark Pope, commissioner of The Sun Conference, will retire in June.



SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (SIDA)

NAIA-SIDA board members, President Jim Carr and other national office administrators met with CoSIDA leaders Doug Vance, Will Roleson, Barb Kowal, and Beau White. They discussed the creation and future funding of a stand-alone NAIA team for the CoSIDA Academic All-America program. The national office is providing one-time funding for the first year of the program starting with the 2018-19 academic year. The NAIA-SIDA Board is also looking at ways to raise sponsorship dollars to help with this initiative.

Other topics included joint programming with CoSIDA at the College Division Day at the NAIA-SIDA Convention in June, a communications plan to educate NAIA SIDs on importance of joining CoSIDA membership, and continuing ways to increase visibility and position of campus SIDs.

Donnie Smith (Southeastern University) was honored with the 2017 SID of the Year Award.

ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES (ASA)

- Student-athletes worked to expand and refine the strategy for student-athlete development with a focus on: 1) health and safety, 2) personal and professional development, and 3) leadership and character development.
- Anne Weber-Callaghan (Savannah College of Art and Design) was voted in as the new chair for 2018-19 and Nishesh Yadav (Doane University) was voted in as the new vice chair for 2018-19.
- The ASA kicked off convention with a community service project with Catholic Charities, pictured at left.

ATHLETICS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ADA)

- Chelcie Abajian, the NAIA's liaison to NACDA, gave a report on the current status of ADA membership, which currently sits at 157 paid members. Work continues on developing a set of managing documents for the ADA.
- The ADA Mentorship program continues to be a valuable resource for NAIA members. There are currently 36 members participating.
- The basketball divisions task force, which originated from the ADA, is nearing conclusion of its work. The group put forward recommendations on aid limits and format to the COP and NAC, and looks to those groups to continue with the work that has been done to this point.
- The ADA has secured several sponsors through its sponsorships committee, the first of its kind in the NAIA. This group will continue to seek ways to attract new ADA sponsors and find added revenue for program funding.
- The ADA Board of Directors received an update on Return on Athletics™ (ROA) from NAIA CEO Jim Carr. The group recognized a shared interest in using ROA to better understand college athletics and help institutions meet their goals.
- Nominations for the new ADA 3rd Vice President include: Ashley Walyuchow (Houston-Victoria), Jeff Lanham (University of Rio Grande), and Matt Beaudry (Michigan-Dearborn).

COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES (CSA)

- Discussion continued regarding a legislative policy requiring a mandatory day off per week for all student-athletes.
- Athletic Trainer Michael Nolan (Missouri Baptist) was elected new CSA chair, effective June 1.
- CSA discussed a possible student-athlete leadership summit to strengthen the ability of the ASA to influence the association about key initiatives.

CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION (CCA)

- Paige Salveter, NAIA vice president of marketing, presented an update regarding the official recruiting initiative. The plan helped improve brand awareness, but time will tell whether or not qualified officials are coming to the NAIA. The CCA will continue to evaluate whether to continue to invest funds in this area.
- The association agreed in concept to create the CCA Team of Character award, which would replace the current Team of Character award. The group recommended asking the ASA to have a joint ownership in the award, including involvement in the selection of the winner.
- The group's annual round tables included discussions on the duties and benefit of conference sports information directors and the use of institutional sports information directors at conference championships.

COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (CEC)

- Clay Robinson (Lewis-Clark State University) is rotating off CFAR and will therefore no longer serve as chair. He will remain as a committee member.
- Marsha Lashley (Missouri Valley College) is welcomed as the new CEC chair.
- The committee decided to withdraw proposal 18-B-11 based on the potential unknown implications of the changes. They are committed to bringing forth legislation in the future which accomplishes their intent of ensuring fairness in competition across all sports in the NAIA.

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2018 LEGISLATION RESULTS

18-C-01	Council of Presidents Executive Committee Composition	Allow the COP Executive Committee to include more than three appointed members.	Pass
18-C-02	National Coordinating Committee Terms	Clarify the chair and vice chair of NAC, CFAR and CSA will remain on NCC for duration of term as chair or vice chair of the respective council.	Pass
18-B-01	Frequency of Play – Contest Designations	Establish that a contest’s status as a scrimmage, exhibition or game will become unchangeable once the contest begins.	Pass
18-B-02	Frequency of Play and Medical Hardships: Bowling	Establish 14 contests and zero additional scrimmage dates as the maximum number of contests for a bowling team may compete, and establish three contests as the maximum limit a student may compete in to be eligible to receive a medical hardship in bowling.	Pass
18-B-03	Frequency of Play – Mandatory Day Off	To require that each team take at least one day off from all athletically related activities during each of its 24 weeks.	Withdrawn
18-B-04	Frequency of Play – Football Regulations	Create regulations for football practices requiring a five-day acclimatization period for all students, and creating daily limits for physical contact practices and total practice hours.	Pass
18-B-05	Per-Sport Membership	Permit the AII to offer per-sport membership status	Pass
18-B-06	Eligibility Chair Qualification	Clarify that a conference may select someone as its eligibility chair who has significant eligibility experience, but who has not previously served in one of the enumerated positions.	Pass
18-B-07	Athletics Compliance Administrator	Create a role description for an athletics compliance administrator, and establish a corresponding association.	Pass
18-B-08	Financial Assistance – Occasional Meals	Create an exception to allow an institutional representative or approved booster to provide an occasional meal not to exceed \$30 or the value of student-athlete per diem (whichever is more expensive) to prospective or enrolled students.	Pass
18-B-09	Financial Assistance – Natural Disasters or Emergency	Create an exception to allow an institution or third party organization to provide financial assistance in cases of natural disasters or emergencies.	Pass

18-B-10	Season of Competition: Unattached Exception	Remove existing elements of exception that prohibits an institution from providing meals, lodging and athletic insurance. Implement new criteria that prohibits a coach from paying an entry fee for a student, and prohibits a student from being coached in order for a student to be considered unattached.	Pass
18-B-11	Season of Competition	Limit the number of time the unattached exception can be used by a given student and permit the exception to apply only to intercollegiate competition. Clarify non-intercollegiate seasons will be determined based off the Evaluative Criteria. Recognize another association's determination of a student's unattached status. Create an exception for national or Olympic level competition.	Withdrawn
18-B-12	Season of Competition: Unattached Exception – Application to Non-NAIA Institutions	Allow the NAIA to accept at face value another athletic association's determination of non-intercollegiate seasons of competition regarding unattached status.	Pass
18-B-13	Eligibility Center Requirement	Clarify the requirement that all first-time NAIA participants must receive an eligible determination from the NAIA Eligibility Center prior to competition.	Pass
18-B-14	Freshman Eligibility – ACT/SAT Score	Reinstate ACT score of 18, and adopt the corresponding SAT score, per the May 2018 concordance tables.	Pass
18-B-15	Class Rank Submissions	Allow class rank to be submitted via the NAIA High School Portal, or as an exception submit a class rank letter.	Pass
18-B-16	Freshman Eligibility – HiSet Exam	Allow receipt of HiSet certificate to serve as satisfaction of GPA requirement for freshmen.	Pass
18-B-17	Transfer Residency Requirement: Release	If a transfer written release is requested but a response is not received within 30 days, the release will be deemed granted provided appropriate verification of the request can be produced.	Pass
18-B-18	Submission of Eligibility Certificates	Remove provision that allows an institution to submit a letter in place of an eligibility certificate when recertifying carryover sports.	Pass
18-B-19	Drug Testing – Team Competition Results	Clarify any decision about reporting results of a team competition stemming from a positive test will be decided by the NDTEC.	Pass
18-B-20	Drug Testing – Appeals to NCC	Permit decisions of the NDTEC to be appealed to the NCC if required grounds have been met.	Pass