



2025 NAIA-MGCA Business Meeting Agenda

MGCA Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada

Tuesday, December 9, 3:15pm – 5:00pm (all times Local)

Planet Hollywood Hotel, Sunset 2

I. WELCOME

(Evans Nichols)

- a. Introduction of Executive Committee
 - 1. Evans Nichols, Reinhardt (Ga.) – President
 - 2. Kevin Long, Texas Wesleyan – First Vice President
 - 3. Chris Bulter, Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) – Third Vice President
 - 4. Scott Seymour, MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) – Secretary
 - 5. Richard Williams, Cumberland (Tenn.) – Past President

II. REPORTS

(Marc Burchard)

- a. Legislation, Policy, & Sport Rule Guide (Appendix A)
- b. National Office Report (Appendix B)
- c. 5 Seasons of Competition FAQ

III. SPONSORSHIP VISITS

- a. TBD

IV. OLD BUSINESS

(Evans Nichols)

- a. Approval of the 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

V. NEW BUSINESS

(Evans Nichols)

- a. Sport motions
 - a. Official Practice Round Participation
 - b. Permissible Formats
 - c. Required Scoring Platforms
 - d. JV/B-Team Participation Guidelines
- b. Open Discussion
- c. Executive Committee Election
 - a. Secretary

VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Evans Nichols)



Appendix A – Legislation, Policies & Sport Rules Guide

A coaches association takes action through sport motions, but different processes apply for motions that implicate sport rules, policy changes and legislative amendments.

Sport Rule: Sport rules are those specific rules that dictate on-field conduct and playing rules of the game. The NAIA has adopted the NCAA rulebook in nearly all sports (exceptions: tennis, golf, competitive cheer and dance, and bowling), though specific NAIA rule modifications can be made by the coaches association and National Administrative Council (NAC). The NAIA may have some general policies that apply to game management or conduct in competition (e.g. suspensions resulting from ejections, etc.), but these NAIA policies only apply if the sport rule is silent or more lenient. Sport rule books can be found on each "Coaches Corner" page (www.naia.org)

How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Must be approved by NAC
- Will be considered an NAIA rule modification

Policy: Regulations found in the official policy sections of the handbook. Each governing council of the NAIA has a policy section that covers specific topics within that council's purview. The NAC oversees all coaches association and any issues arising from coaches associations. Policy can be changed at the will of the council. NAC, COP, CFAR and CSA policy can be found in the NAIA Handbook (www.naia.org/legislative)

How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Changes to NAC Policy: Must be approved by full NAC (occurs at convention or NACDA). Will be added to the NAC policy.
- Changes to COP, CFAR or CSA policy: Coaches associations do not have a direct line to propose changes in these policies. Should a sport motion apply to one of these policy sections, the sport's officers and national office liaison can share the motion with the applicable council as a recommendation. It will be that council's discretion to determine if any action is warranted.

Legislation: Anything found in the NAIA Constitution or Bylaws. Any change or amendment to the constitution or bylaws can only be done through a vote of the full membership at the annual NAIA national convention. The constitution and bylaws can be found in the NAIA Handbook (www.naia.org/legislative)

How to make a change:

- Any association, council, standing committee or conference can sponsor a legislative amendment, and in some cases a co-sponsor is required. (Coaches associations must receive co-sponsorship from any of those groups except another coaches association.)
- Proposals must be submitted to the office by mid-January.
- All submitted proposals that have requisite co-sponsorship will be voted on by the full membership at the annual convention.



Appendix B – National Office Update

Approved Legislation from the 2025 NAIA Convention

A bylaw amendment has passed to change the 20% season of competition calculation for both men's and women's golf from being expressed and counted in terms of "contests" to instead being expressed and counted in terms of "rounds".

NAIA Membership Recruitment and Retention

Two new institutions were approved for active membership beginning fall 2026:

- **Wesleyan College (Ga.)**, planning to join the Southern States Athletic Conference
- **Andrew College (Ga.)**, also planning to join the Southern States Athletic Conference

The NAIA has enhanced its membership recruitment and retention efforts, with a particular focus on NCAA Division II and III institutions. As part of these initiatives, the "Why NAIA" website was refreshed to better highlight the value and advantages of NAIA membership. This strategy has been effective; last year, the NAIA received 12 membership applications—the highest number in the past decade.

Collaboration plays a key role, with NAIA members involved in 80% of current recruitment efforts. Members are encouraged to support this work by connecting the NAIA with potential schools. If you know of interested institutions or helpful contacts, please reach out to **Nick Davidson at ndavidson@naia.org**.

NAIA Championship Streaming

The NAIA is entering year two of its agreement with **Urban Edge Network (UEN)**. Over the past year, many NAIA conferences have also partnered with UEN, enhancing visibility and alignment across the association.

In year two, the national office has expanded coverage to include early-round competitions during national championships.

For fall 2025:

- All women's volleyball opening-round matches were streamed for free
- Host sites also had the option to stream early rounds in men's and women's soccer, as well as football

Postseason Roster Adjustments

The Council approved increases to the number of student-athletes permitted in uniform for postseason competition across several sports, effective for the **2025–26 academic year**.

Updated postseason roster limits:

- Men's & Women's Golf: **7 → 9**

These updates are intended to better reflect sport participation needs and help institutions manage postseason roster requirements.

Five Seasons of Competition

The Path Forward Task Force (PFTF), created after the April 2025 NAIA Convention, has spent six months evaluating rapidly evolving areas of college athletics. One resulting recommendation is the consideration of **five seasons of competition**, recognizing the need to balance higher education principles with competitive positioning relative to other associations.

The PFTF shared its recommendations with the Council of Presidents in October 2025, after which the Council chose to proceed with a legislative proposal.

Efforts are underway to share information with the membership to help institutions form informed perspectives. A membership survey will be distributed in early December, and feedback will inform the final legislative proposal. As the sponsoring body, the Council of Presidents will have authority over its final drafting.



5 Seasons of Competition FAQs

1. Who would be eligible to use a 5th season of competition (SOC)?

The 5th SOC option would be available to all NAIA student-athletes. That would apply equally to students who enter the NAIA as freshmen (academically and/or athletically) and as transfer students at any point.

2. Does that mean a student-athlete could play 4 SOC's at an NCAA institution, then transfer to an NAIA school to play a 5th SOC?

Yes. The option being discussed does not have any requirements based on age, degree status, tenure of the student-athlete, or residency at an NAIA institution.

3. If a 5th SOC was permitted, would the 20% rule still apply or would we go back to a student being charged a SOC immediately upon entering a competition?

That is an open question at this point, and an issue on which we will be seeking input from the membership before drafting the legislation.

For decades the NAIA rule stated a student was charged a season of competition if they participated in any competition at all, commonly referred to as "one play, one pitch, one minute" rule. In 2021, the NAIA changed its rule to say a student would not be charged an SOC until the student competed in 20% of the season and/or played in postseason competition. The intention was to create a solution that addressed large roster sizes and finite playing opportunities, student-athlete experience and retention challenges.

While the 20% rule has been generally accepted as a positive change, if the NAIA was to allow 5 SOC's, early feedback suggests a desire for stricter limits to ensure 5 SOC's does not get stretched to 6+ SOC's.

4. If a 5th SOC was permitted, would medical hardships be available?

That is an open question at this point, and an issue on which we will be seeking input from the membership before drafting the legislation. The medical hardship opportunity essentially became moot once the NAIA rule changed to a student not being charged a SOC until they competed in 20% of the season, as 20% was also the threshold upon which a medical hardship could no longer be awarded. If the NAIA moves to 5 SOC's, the inclusion of medical hardships would be part of the conversation about how SOC's are charged.



5. Would the 10 terms of attendance (TOA) rule be changed or adjusted at all?

No. The proposal being discussed only changes the seasons of competition. The 10 semester / 15 quarter TOAs would not be adjusted. Even if 5 SOC is approved, student-athletes' eligibility will be terminated after 10 semester TOAs / 15 quarter TOAs.

6. Does that mean every student would be out of eligibility after 5 years on campus?

Not exactly.

In theory, yes, as 10 semesters / 15 quarters equates to five academic years. However, inherent in the definition of terms of attendance (TOAs) is the fact that a student is not charged a TOA unless they (a) compete for the school in competition during that term, or (b) are enrolled full-time during a fall/spring semester or fall/winter/spring quarter (summer terms do not count as TOAs).

That means that under the TOA approach, a student-athlete can take time off or continue going to school as a part-time student without accumulating additional TOAs. This is true under current rules as well. The result is that student-athletes may "preserve" TOAs either because of personal circumstances or specific academic planning, or as a way of strategically elongating their eligibility.

The TOA model is not a definitive cap on four years on campus currently and similarly would not be a definitive cap on five years if the 5 SOC rule was adopted.

7. Would every institution have to allow all students to play 5 SOC's?

As with all NAIA rules, an institution is free to institute a stricter standard than the NAIA rule (the institution cannot institute a more lenient standard). If the NAIA rule was changed to permit 5 SOC's, that would be the maximum limit for any NAIA student-athlete. An institution would be free to withhold a 5th SOC opportunity for some/all student-athletes if it chose to do so. How it would execute such an approach would be entirely up to the institution.

8. For any legislation that is proposed, how will it be determined what appears in the final draft and who is making those decisions?

The Path Forward Task Force (PFTF) was created following the NAIA Convention in April 2025 and spent the last six months studying various areas of college athletics that are rapidly evolving. Out of that study came a recommendation to consider five seasons of competition, noting that the NAIA needs to ensure that athletics remains tied to a higher education structure while at the same time position the NAIA favorably and competitively as compared to other athletic associations. The PFTF shared its recommendations with the Council of Presidents in October 2025, at which time the council chose to move forward with a legislative proposal.



Efforts are underway to share the proposal and related information with membership to enable members to reach informed perspectives regarding various elements of such a proposal. These perspectives will be collected via a membership survey in early December and used to help inform a final legislative proposal. As the sponsoring body, the Council of Presidents will have authority over drafting the final proposal.

9. What is the existing SOC rule in the NCAA, and are there any changes being considered?

Because each NCAA division creates its own rules, there are differences.

- **NCAA DI:** Current limit is 4 SOC's within a five-year clock, though there is a waiver currently in place (the Pavia waiver) that enables select students to use a 5th SOC in the 2025-26 academic year only. Currently, there are no stated plans to extend this waiver. Meanwhile, the NCAA continues to fight in court against Pavia and several other lawsuits that challenge the NCAA's ability to maintain a 4 SOC limit. The NCAA's legal team is fighting to preserve its right to limit eligibility to 4 SOC's.
- **NCAA DII:** Current limit is 4 SOC's within 10 semester TOAs, though there is a legislative proposal that would change the rule to be 5 SOC's within 10 semester TOAs. DII membership will vote on this proposal in January 2026 at the NCAA convention. Anecdotal information suggests there are mixed opinions within DII membership at present.
- **NCAA DIII:** Current limit is 4 SOC's within 10 semester TOAs. There is no indication that DIII is interested in any rule changes.

10. How does the Pavia waiver in the NCAA apply to this? (The Pavia waiver was an exception created in Dec. 2024 that stated any student-athlete with at least one previous SOC at a non-NCAA school and who would have exhausted eligibility in 2024-25 would be eligible to compete one more season in 2025-26 within NCAA Division I.)

It does not apply directly, though there are indirect impacts. The Pavia waiver will expire at the end of spring 2026, meaning DI rules would revert to the traditional 4 SOC's within a five-year clock approach.

However, the Pavia lawsuit not only set off a firestorm of legal challenges to the NCAA's ability to maintain a 4 SOC limit, but also the waiver itself. The outcomes of these legal challenges remain to be seen and could affect the industry well into the future. The waiver also created the environment in which high-caliber student-athletes were being recruited away from non-DI schools to play a 5th SOC in DI – that led NCAA DII to propose a rule change to move towards 5 SOC's for everyone.



11. We don't know the outcome from the NCAA DII proposal yet and won't until DII's business meeting in late January. How does that factor into what the NAIA decides to do?

Ultimately, the NAIA must make decisions that are in the best interests of the NAIA, though being aware of other athletic associations' decisions is an important factor in NAIA leaders' deliberations. The NAIA has a January 14 deadline to submit proposed legislation, meaning the Council of Presidents will move forward with a proposal that will permit 5 SOC's. The Jan. 14 deadline is the threshold to submit a legislative proposal, though NAIA rules permit proposals to be altered or withdrawn at any point up until the NAIA's annual business meeting in April. Whatever the outcome of NCAA DII's 5 SOC proposal in late January, it will be considered by the Council of Presidents and Path Forward Task Force alongside other considerations like NAIA membership feedback to determine if the COP's proposal should be amended, withdrawn, or remain unchanged.





2024 NAIA-MGCA Business Meeting Minutes

GCAA National Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada

Wednesday, December 11, 1:30-3:30pm (all times Local)

Planet Hollywood, Room Sunset 2

Attendees: Ben Rickett, Dalton State (Ga.), Brandon Miller, Keiser (Fla.), Jeff Mixon, William Carey (Miss.), Dave Myers, Oregon Tech, Robert Moore, Fisk (Tenn.), Jeff Tadtman, Ottawa (Kan.), Skyler Good, Hastings (Neb.), Kevin Long, Texas Wesleyan, Mike Cook, Coastal Georgia, Evans Nichols, Reinhardt (Ga.), Richard Williams, Cumberland (Tenn.), Bruce Tate, NAIA, Austin Bennett, NAIA

IV. GCAA REPORT

Adam Mackey – GCAA Liaison

- a. Adam Mackey announced that he will no longer serve as the NAIA-GCAA liaison due to restructuring in the association.
- b. Trey Duffey, Director of Membership Services, was introduced as the new GCAA liaison. NAIA Kansas Wesleyan alum.

V. NAIA NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

- a. NAIA National Office Report by Bruce Tate – Attached
- b. Review of NAIA Legislative Process
 - i. Sport motions approved by the coaches' association will go to the National Administrative Council for final review.
 - a. The NAC is made up of conference commissioners, athletics directors, sports information directors and athletic trainers.
 - b. An online ballot will be sent to all men's golf coaches following the business meeting.
 - c. Only motions that pass the straw poll at the business meeting will be included in the online ballot.
 - ii. Bylaw Amendments require a co-sponsor, which is not another coaches' association in the NAIA. Co-sponsors can be a conference, council, or another association within the NAIA governance structure.
 - a. By-law amendments are approved by full NAIA membership at the NAIA Business Meeting held at the annual NAIA Convention.
 - iii. Site Selection – TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL, Quad Cities & St. Ambrose, 25-26 Men's Golf Championship
 - iv. Approved Legislation from 2024 Convention – Golf start date for practice is 2nd Monday in August
 - v. NAIA Connect
 - a. NAIA Connect launched in spring 2024, replaced NAIA Help. ECP, Rules Education Training, and Postseason rosters are handled through NAIA Connect. Username is institutional email with ".naia" at the end. Please contact NAIA Connect Support at the email address provided.
 - vi. NAIA Membership Recruitment and Retention
 - a. Two new members were approved for active membership in fall 2025: Mount Mary University (Wisc.) and Trinity Western University (B.C.). NAIA currently enhancing membership and retention efforts. Please contact Nick Davidson if you have any questions or institutions interested in joining.
 - vii. NAIA Championship Streaming
 - a. NAIA entered agreement with Urban Edge Network and Visaic to offer free streaming services of NAIA Championship events. Golf is currently not being stream but with new partnership the option is now be explored.
 - viii. NAIA Brand Advocacy
 - a. NAIA introduced brand advocacy as a core pillar in its new strategic plan. Working with a KC base marketing firm to enhance visibility and reputation. Be on the lookout for additional information later this spring.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Reminded about Approved Weather Contingency Policy – [Men's & Women's Golf National Championship](#)
- b. National Championship Experience Feedback
 - a. All coaches were pleased with the national championship experience hosted by Dalton State and the city of Dalton, Ga. Official Monday practice round – Best experience for those who have participated in national tournaments. Stated it was well organized, receive well by coaches and student-athletes, set-up based on Tuesday 1st round play, 1-15 morning round, shotgun start, remaining field afternoon round, shotgun start, both have 5 hours to complete practice round. Buffet lunch served in between rounds. Buffet lunch provided Tuesday and Wednesday was appreciated and would like to see provided moving forward if able. Thursday and Friday on teams still understandable. Buffett lunch would be preferred over box lunch options. Box lunches at TPC were good but see if able to provide a buffet option. Banquet/Student Experience and Teaming Up for Character event tough to schedule in with current Monday practice round. Dalton State focus was to make the national championship the student athlete experience. Community involvement, support, and donations help make the event special. Water, Gatorade, and snacks were provided every 3 holes.
- c. Clippd Software Feedback
 - a. Rich stated about the cost of the live scoring but has some concerns about the \$800 amount for men's and women's event. Discussed is important all programs to keep Clippd software update with team's rosters and schedules. Please with status of Clippd software and encourages all to use consistently.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Sport Motions – Attached
 - I. Golf Sport Motion #1 – Optional Practice Round. Eliminate the one permitted optional practice round on Saturday and Sunday before the national tournament. **First: Miller, Keiser (Fla.)/Second: Mixon, William Carey (Miss.) Vote: 11-0-0**
 - II. Golf Sport Legislative Proposal #1 – Red Shirt Policy. The standard regular season number of rounds allowed for NAIA men's and women's golf be set at a total of 36. A player may compete in up to 7 rounds during the regular season and retain a season of competition. **First: Mixon, William Carey (Miss.)/Second: Rickett, Dalton State (Ga.) Vote: 11-0-0**
 - III. Golf Sport Motion #2 – Monday Practice Round. To create a standard national championship official practice round format for all NAIA Men's and Women's Golf Championships. **Motion on the floor. Vote 11-0-0**

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

- a. President – Evans Nichols – Reinhart
- b. 1st Vice President – Elise Warne – William Penn
- c. 2nd Vice President – VACANT – Nominations
- d. Secretary – VACANT – Nominations
- e. Past President – Rich Williams – Cumberland
- f. **Need nominations for 2nd VP & Secretary**
 - a. Rich William finishes one year term as President, transitions to Past President role
 - b. Elise Warne resigned HC coach position and executive committee
 - c. Evans Nichols transitions to first year as President
 - d. Evans asked for nominations for 1st VP, 2nd VP, and Secretary positions
 - e. Nominations
 - i. [Kevin Long, Texas Wesleyan](#)
 - ii. [Dustyn Reinstette, U of Pikeville \(Kent.\)](#)
 - iii. [Scott Seymour, MidAmerica Nazarene \(Kan.\)](#)

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

- a. Evans encouraged all to reach out to their fellow coaches to join GCAA and attend the convention. Participation and attendance have decreased. GCAA and WGCA look at cost and/or discount to be members of both associations. Encourage from top down to get coaches to join from AD's. Coaches have changed pricing of their events based on if a coach is a member of the association or not. Encourage to join for the benefits of national recognition for student-athletes.
- b. Post Season Substitutions process reviewed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion: First Willilams, Cumberland /Second Long, Texas Wesleyan



Men's Golf Sport Motion #1

Coaches Vote:

(Yes-No-Abstain)

MOTION:

To allow each team participating in the NAIA National Championship to play six designated players in the official practice round.

RATIONALE:

The current format is that a team must designate five players who will compete in the official practice round. With the recent elimination of the unofficial practice round, the current format creates a challenging scenario in which a team may have to substitute in a player for national championship competition who has not had the opportunity to take swings at the national championship course.

This proposal will also improve the experience of the roster attending the national championship. Allowing a sixth player is expected to have minimal impact on overall pace of play, as any delay occurs briefly on the teeing ground and does not affect approach shots, short game, or putting.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Due to the loss of the optional extra practice round, substitutes are not permitted to play the championship course. This has led to a decrease in the student-athlete experience.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Likely no financial impact as course is already reserved for NAIA Championship use for 1 official practice round and 4 championship rounds by the host.

START DATE:

2026-2027 Academic Year



Men's Golf Sport Motion #2

Coaches Vote:

(Yes-No-Abstain)

MOTION:

Approve the following formats as approved for NAIA regular season golf.

- Play 6, count 4 scores
- Play 5, count 4 scores
- Match play

RATIONALE:

Currently the NAIA handbook states that all events must be 5 count 4 scores. Clippd/Scoreboard allows 6 count 4 as an official tournament format. NCAA allows this format as well.

There is a trend of 6 count 4 across the NCAA. Including the variety of approved formats could provide more playing opportunities for more players. This does not affect the point system of Clippd/Scoreboard.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Slight increase in entry fee and meals provided when bringing a team to a tournament in the format of play 6, count 4 scores. Hotel room nights would not change based on how most teams divide blocks amongst their travel party.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Slight increase in entry fee and meals provided when bringing a team to a tournament in the format of play 6, count 4 scores.

Hotel room nights would not change based on how most teams divide blocks amongst their travel party.

START DATE:

2026-2027 Academic Year



Men's Golf Sport Motion #3

Coaches Vote:

(Yes-No-Abstain)

MOTION:

Adopt Clippd/Scoreboard or scoring applications with a third-party integration to Clippd as the mandatory scoring platform for NAIA Women's Golf. This will prevent delays in reporting tournament information to the Clippd/Scoreboard ranking system.

RATIONALE:

Currently there are no guidelines as to what platform must be used for live scoring. As Women's Golf that currently uses rating to select the at-large teams into the Championship field, the timeline for official scores to report inside of Clippd is critical in establishing accurate rankings.

When tournaments are not submitted in a timely manner it hurts the accuracy of the Women's Golf Rankings.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Currently several options are available for scoring. However, there are only two that are integrated. The others require manual data entry which takes time. There were several instances this fall where data entry was delayed thus negatively affecting the raters with invalid information. This caused delays in rankings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Currently, statistical programs marked with an "*" are permissible under this proposal. These programs offer competitive price points which will be attractive to our institutions. Generally available programs are listed below with costs per tournament:

*Clippd/Scoreboard - \$395

*Leaderboard King - \$265 / \$395 – (single vs. combo Men's/Women's events)

Golfstat - \$400

Birdiefire - \$299 / \$599 (basic vs. elite option)

Smartgolf - \$200

START DATE:

2026-2027 Academic Year



Men's Golf Sport Motion #4

Coaches Vote:

(Yes-No-Abstain)

MOTION:

Programs are not allowed to use any players from their roster for a "B/JV" who are currently ranked in the top 5 of their team based on the Clippd Individual. Rankings are released in mid-October and once the official rankings are established, the proposed rule goes into effect for the remainder of the year.

Should a player's rank fluctuate, he/she may be eligible for "B/JV" events throughout the year.

RATIONALE:

In the past, there have been programs who have used the "B/JV" team as warm-up or practice events for the "A" team.

These rounds do not count against the "A" team official ranking thus allowing teams to preserve their ranking while allowing their top players to compete

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

In the recent past teams have been using b/jv teams to play events to get on course competition experience without it affecting their team scoring averages and/or national rank.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

START DATE:

2026-2027 Academic Year