

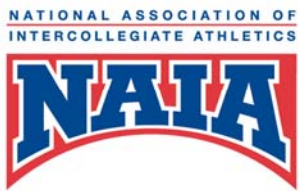


## **NAIA Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, November 20 2025 – 9:00a (CT)**  
**Location: St. Pete Beach, Florida**  
**Room: Banyan/Cirtus Glaze/Jazmine**

- |       |                                                    |                     |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| I.    | Call to Order                                      | Kelly Buikus        |
| II.   | Approval of the 2024 WLAX Business Meeting Minutes | Kelly Buikus        |
| III.  | Reports                                            |                     |
|       | a. National Office Report                          | Abby Schultz        |
|       | b. IWLCA Updates                                   | Katy Sherman        |
|       | c. Executive Committee Reports                     | Executive Committee |
|       | d. 2025 Championship Report                        | Katy Sherman        |
| IV.   | New Business                                       |                     |
|       | a. Sport Motions                                   | Kelly Buikus        |
| V.    | Executive Committee Elections                      | Kelly Buikus        |
| VI.   | Open Discussion                                    | Kelly Buikus        |
| VII.  | Conference Breakouts                               | Kelly Buikus        |
| VIII. | Adjournment                                        | Kelly Buikus        |

*\*Sponsors throughout meeting*



## **Coach's Guide: Legislation, Policies & Sport Rules**

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](http://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](http://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](http://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.





## 2024 NAIA-WLCA Business Meeting Minutes

IWLCA Convention – St. Petersburg, Florida

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel, Harborview/Sky Room

Thursday, November 21, 2024 | 12:45pm – 2:30pm

Call to Order

Kelly Buikus

Attendees: Kelly Buikus, Cumberland (Ky.); Katy Sherman, Ave. Maria (Fl.); Clare Hanson, Benedictine (Ks.); Mackenzie Peterson, Benedictine (Ks.); Bella Ricchiazzi, Cumberland (Ky.); Lauren Chizmar, Keiser (Fl.); Alexis Martinez, Keiser (Fl.); Caitlin Erickson, Culver-Stockton (Mo.); Maddy Reed, Culver-Stockton (Mo.); Bandon Allwood, Siena Heights (Mi.); Alex Sklack, Siena Heights (Mi.); Alexis DiGiovanni, Indiana Tech; Addie Records, UHSP (Mo.); Allie Storke, Marian (In.); Joshua Burns, Missouri Valley; James Davis, Missouri Valley; Bianca Rojas, Georgetown (Ky.); Max Ruhl, Missouri Baptist; Mary vonKronenberger, The Sun Conference; Dustin Wilke, The Sun Conference

National Office Report

Rick Daum

**Discussion:** National Championships will continue in Savannah in 2025 and likely in 2026. National Office is making continued efforts to grow and retain membership schools. Branding is a focus in the upcoming strategic plan with the National Office hiring a strategic marketing firm to enhance the image of the NAIA name. Other focuses include improving NAIA Connect, the new technology platform, for membership.

Executive Committee Report

Kelly Buikus

**Discussion:** More parity in NAIA WLAX than ever. Its important that if membership desires changes to get involved. Easy places to start are at your conference level, by joining the executive committee or in the IWLCA. Important to take the time and effort to recognize your programs for their accomplishments. Improvements to the National Championship include improving the practice facilities, consolidating teams in hotels near the venue, and improvements to rest areas at venue before or after teams take the field for their game.

Old Business

Kelly Buikus

- a. Approval of Minutes from 2023 NAIA-IWLCA Business Meeting
  - a. **Motion to Approve: Buikus/Sherman**
  - b. **Vote: 11-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**



New Business

a. Motion 1: Adopt the RPI as selection criteria

**Discussion:** Members who participated in the selection committee explained that there is a significant gap in analytical data points available for the committee when examining teams. There is a need for additional criteria that helps paint the picture of the seasons that teams had. Point made that RPI is not an analytic that should be used over other current metrics and that it must be used to provide more context in addition to what is already there. It was noted that RPI can be a weak analytic when very few games appear on a team's schedule. There is no way to counter this, but it has been used with some effectiveness in NAIA soccer where teams play a similar amount of games. This analytic will only include games NAIA teams play against NAIA opponents.

**Vote: 10-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**

b. Motion 2: Adopt record vs. top 10 RPI

**Discussion:** Variations of this proposal is something that other selection committees in the NAIA have access to in sports such as soccer and basketball.

**Vote: 10-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**

c. Motion 3: Move SOS to secondary criteria

**Discussion:** Debate on how much weight should be placed on strength of schedule. Selection committee members believe that while this is important, it needs to be considered as a secondary criteria instead of a primary criteria. Members on the selection committee noted that this is an important motion to pass because it allows the committee to assign a data point to SOS where it is calculated by  $(OWP * .67) + (OOWP * .33)$ , when it is currently used as an "eye test" to compare teams schedules.

**Vote: 6-0-4 (Yes-No-Abstain)**

d. Motion 4: Remove SOS vs. non-NAIA opponents from criteria

**Discussion:** Selection committee members noted that it is difficult to weigh what a game against an NCAA team actually represents when comparing resume's of NAIA teams. Due to the fact that there are many NCAA teams and very little comparable matchups that NAIA teams also play, it is hard to quantify the impact of a win or loss against a NCAA institution. Counterpoint was made that the NCAA publishes their own ranking system for Women's Lacrosse and that can be used to measure the relative strength of a game against an NCAA team. It was mentioned that if this motion passes, it could influence NAIA institutions to play more games within our membership which could be a benefit.

**Vote: 10-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**



e. Motion 5: Add Freshman of the Year

**Discussion:** It is important to have this originate at the conference level and then progress to a national award. Currently, about half of the conferences that sponsor women's lacrosse participate in a similar award. This is an idea that has potential, but more conferences need to get on board with implementing this award before it is fought for as a national award.

**Motion to Table: Buikus/Erickson**

**Vote: 10-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**

f. Topic: National Championship dates adoption in 2026

**Discussion:** NAIA is considering merging the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Championships into the same weekend as early as 2026. This would serve to provide an off day after each round for both genders. The majority of attendees preferred the Men's dates for the reasons of allowing northern teams to avoid harshest weather conditions during the season. This could also allow for time to schedule more non-conference games at the beginning of the year. Coaches understand that additional expenses will be incurred by institutions who qualify as their students may have to stay after graduation. Opinions will be passed along to the National Office. No vote taken.

Adjournment:

**Motion to Approve: Buikus/Sherman**

**Vote: 10-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)**