



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
Attendees: Katelyn Sherman, Ave Maria; Clare Hanson, Benedictine; Mallory Bahr, Columbia (Mo.); Caitlin Erickson, Culver Stockton; Maddy Reed, Culver Stockton; Bianaca Rojas, Georgetown; Alexis DiGioranno, Indiana Tech; Lauren Chizmar, Keiser; Alexia Martinez, Keiser; Max Ruhl, Missouri Baptist; Morgan McGhee, Reinhardt; Tyler Yelken, SCAD Savannah; Emily Cabrena, SCAD Savannah; Addie Records, UHSP; Kelly Buikus, Cumberland (Ky.); Abby Schultz, NAIA
- II. Approval of the 2024 WLAX Business Meeting Minutes Kelly Buikus
First/Second: Hanson/Sherman
Vote: 11-0-0
- III. Reports
a. National Office Report Abby Schultz
Discussion: Sport motions come out of coaches associations which move on to the National Administrative Council (NAC). Abby Schultz is taking over as the Senior Championship Manager and Dustin Wilke, The Sun Conference Commissioner, is the NAC liaison for Women's Lacrosse. The NAC meets four times a year and WLAX motions are heard at the January meeting.

The 2025-26 Championship will be in Decatur, Alabama. This will be a three year contract in Decatur. Decatur has hosted NAIA Championships in the past & is looking forward to bringing in both Men's & Women's Lacrosse.

Two new institutions were approved for active membership beginning fall 2026 (currently neither sponsor WLAX):
 - 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 has entered a 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.

The NAC is conducting a comprehensive review of all National Selection Committee processes to ensure consistency, fairness, and alignment across sports.

As part of this effort, the NAC has:

- Realigned Areas Rating Committees (ARCs) to establish comparable structures across most sports
- Standardized key operational practices, including:
 - Each National Selection Committee meeting four times per season
 - ARC ratings released on a unified four-cycle schedule
 - Final ARC ratings published on the same day the National Selection Committee meets

These updates aim to enhance transparency, uniformity, and clarity in the national selection process.

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.

b. IWLCA Updates

Katy Sherman

Discussion: IWLCA film exchange is one that you opt into, not mandatory. Make sure that Hudl camera has HD card in it and you are filming at a high enough resolution that teams can see reliable film. Recommendation may be coming forth from IWLCA on how to standardize Senior Days. NAIA doesn't have to follow but there could be a blueprint coming forward to assist with standardizing and planning of senior days.

IWLCA has a lot of committees, get involved. Reminder the more NAIA coaches that we can have serving on committees, the more our voice is heard amongst the association.



Katy's term as IWLCA – NAIA Rep is done in June and she is not going to rerun. The position will be open after this year, consider applying if you are interested.

c. Executive Committee Reports Executive Committee

Discussion:

Over the past year, change has taken place that has been put forward from the executive committee. For instance, adding 15-20 minutes to practices at the Championship has helped for a better experience. Not having to play back-to-back will be huge moving forward with the merge of Men's & Women's Lacrosse into the same week.

All-American committee went well this past year. Twelve different teams were represented on All-Americans. Make sure that you nominate your athletes for all awards – NAIA awards & IWLCA awards. IWLCA does Player of the Week and includes NAIA in those Players of the Week, be sure to nominate them. Considering having the secretary of the executive committee create a GroupMe of WLAX coaches to be able to place these awards links, information, etc. NAIA WLAX Coaches Corner also has NAIA specific information as a landing page for all NAIA information.

d. 2025 Championship Report Katy Sherman

Discussion: Concerns from last year with hotels & breakfast are being addressed with a new site location. NAIA branding is going to continue to increase. The support between Men's & Women's Lacrosse in the same week will hopefully continue to grow the sport. Live stream moving to a free platform is going to continue to only help grow the sport. Social media was really good last year. Continuing to make the experience at a Championship next level.

Desire to do All-American awards prior to the National Championship and announce them at the banquet. Men's Lacrosse would have to follow suit. This would include All-American, Coach of the Year, & Player of the Year.

Motion: To announce All-American awards at the Student Athlete Experience Banquet prior to the start of the NAIA National Championship.

Vote: 11-0-0

Desire to add in Semifinal awards to the awards handed out at the Championship. NAIA will look into that.

IV. New Business Kelly Buikus

a. Sport Motions

Discussion: None submitted.

v. Executive Committee Elections Kelly Buikus

Nominations:

1st VP – Katy Sherman (Ave Maria), Max Ruhl (Missouri Baptist)



3rd VP – Caitlin Erickson (Culver Stockton)

Will send out a form to solicit for more nominations.

VI. Open Discussion

Kelly Buikus

Discussion:

Benedictine coaches presented information pertaining to the upcoming college enrollment crisis (birth rate) effecting all higher education in the United States. Data pulled together by Benedictine coaches on NAIA roster sizes & NAIA WLAX schools for 12 month undistributed enrollment (2015-2023). Reach out to Clare if you would like to learn more about her research.

VII. Adjournment

Kelly Buikus

Motion to adjourn: Kelly Buikus/Max Ruhl

Vote: 11-0-0

**Sponsors throughout meeting*