



NAIA Tennis Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel
May 11, 2026, at 3:00pm

I. Welcome

Marc Lux

a. Introduction of Officers

- i. President – Marc Lux, William Carey
- ii. Vice President – Andrew Dickens, Southeastern
- iii. Secretary – Abigail Lemberger Hughes, William Woods
- iv. Past President – Eric Mahone, Holy Cross
- v. NAC Liaison – Larry DeSimpelare, Crossroads League Commissioner

II. Attendance

Abigail L-Hughes

a. Coaches to introduce themselves.

III. Specific to national championship

Fred Aubuchon

- a. Every Head Coach must check-in at the Championship Desk to sign their lineup each day.
- b. Both Coaches must sign off on the results before leaving the facility. The winning coach must ensure that the clipboard with the results is turned in to the Championship Desk.
- c. GroupMe communications.
- d. Weather issues.
 - i. Scott and Preston will make all decisions on delays and resuming play.
 - ii. If possible, we will not play men's and women's at the same time.
 - iii. If courts need to be dried, we may ask for volunteers from each team onsite to assist with this process. Please do not make us hunt you down. Check GroupMe!
- e. Athletic Training – At this time, Preston Lasley is conducting an Athletic Training meeting in another room.
- f. Media – Any media concerns should be brought to Ed Cassiere at the Championship Desk.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Marc Lux

- a. Packet available.
- b. Move, and a second is required; vote.

v. Approval of Minutes

Marc Lux

- a. Minutes from 2025 Meeting included in packet.
- b. Move, and a second is required; vote.

VI. Special Guests

Marc Lux

- a. Championship Committee – Kai Fong, Lewis-Clark State; James Gleghorn, IWU; Bart Kennedy, Milligan.

- b. Red Banner Interns – Henry Arcand, Marian; Robert Moulthrop, Mobile; Madison Pickett, Grand View; and Xander Pickett, Grand View.
- c. National Partners/Sponsors
 - i. Chase Hodges, Senior Vice President/UTR Sports
 - ii. Devin Crotzer, USTA
 - iii. Andy Stecher, Wilson
 - iv. Fine Designs will be at the Mobile Tennis Center
 - v. Ichor Water will be made available at the Mobile Tennis Center until contents are depleted.
 - vi. The Good Game, expecting at Banquet.

VII. Reports

Marc Lux

- a. National Office Report
 - i. Sport Motion voting process
 - ii. Quorum needed 93
 - 1. Men – 89
 - 2. Women – 97
 - iii. New schools in 2026-27

Fred Aubuchon

- b. National Selection Committee
- c. Eligibility and Amateurism Committee
- d. Awards and Hall of Fame Committee
- e. Advisory and Special Projects
- f. All-America Committee

Marc Lux

Eric Mahone

Andrew Dickens

Eric Mahone

Kai Fong

VIII. Old Business

Marc Lux

- a. Third Coach in NAIA Nationals.

IX. New Business

Marc Lux

- a. Sport Motions included in packet.
- b. Move, and a second is required for each motion.
 - i. Sport Motion #1 – Conference second AQ requirements.
 - ii. Sport Motion #2 – Coach of the Year selection process.
 - iii. Open for Sport Motions on the floor.

x. Executive Committee

Marc Lux

- a. Current E.C. until July 31, 2026.
- b. The new E.C. will begin on August 1, 2026.
- c. Open position – Secretary
 - i. Accepting nominations (voting will be done by ballot).

xi. Open Discussion

Marc Lux

- a. Season line-ups and impact at Conference and Nationals.

xii. Adjournment

Marc Lux

- a. Move and second required.



NAIA Tennis Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel
May 12, 2025, at 3:00pm
Mobile, Alabama

I. Welcome

Eric Mahone

a. Introduction of Officers

- i. President – Eric Mahone, Holy Cross
- ii. Vice President – Marc Lux, William Carey
- iii. Secretary – Andrew Dickens, Southeastern
- iv. Past President – Tom Bates, Middle Georgia State
- v. NAC Liaison – Larry DeSimpelare, Crossroads League Commissioner

II. Attendance

Andrew Dickens

- a. Derrick Hubble, Bethel, TN; Jamal Henry, Bethel, IN; Lisa Hart, Concordia, NE; Thiago Lins, Cumberland, TN; Meenashki Sunduram, Dillard; Hannah Keeling, Georgia Gwinnett; Andy Lewis, Grace; Eric Mahone, Holy Cross; Ignacio Poncio, Huntington; Daniel Finn, Keiser; Robert McAdoo, Keiser; Kai Fong, Lewis-Clark State; Bonolo Arroyo Valenzuela, Lewis-Clark State; Eric Bernabeu, Lindsey Wilson; Melinda Descant, LSU-Alexandria; Matt Llewellyn, Loyola; Tyler Scanlan, Marian; Craig Holman, McPherson; Tom Bates, Middle Georgia State; Scott Goodyear, Missouri Baptist; Alex Struck, Morningside; Joe Epkey, Oakland City; Colin Dixon, Oakland City; Julia Mongin, Oklahoma Wesleyan; Dylan Bole, Ottawa, KS; Samuel Murphy, Ottawa, AZ; Dave Watts, Our Lady of the Lake; Menford Owusu, SCAD-Atlanta; Patrick Page, SCAD-Savannah; Andrew Dickens, Southeastern; Francisco Gallardo, Tennessee Wesleyan; Bill Riddle, Tennessee Southern; Jeff Brown, Northwestern Ohio; Chin Tan, Cumberlands, KY; Marc Lux, William Carey; Abigail Lemberger Hughes, William Woods; Alan Green, Xavier; Fred Aubuchon, NAIA; Rebecca Walter, NAIA Intern; Chase Vizzini, NAIA Intern;

III. Specific to National Championship

Fred Aubuchon

- a. Every Head Coach must check-in at the Championship Desk to sign their lineup each day.
- b. Our Staff should be onsite as you are finishing your match and will collect results. Both Coaches must sign off on the final results before leaving the facility.
- c. GroupMe communications.
 - i. This is the primary communication tool for the Championship Staff to communicate with everyone; including information on weather and potential delays.
 - ii. Not to be used as a social chat.
 - iii. Direct messaging is permitted.

- d. Weather issues.
 - i. Scott and Preston will make all decisions on delays and resuming play.
 - ii. If at all possible, we will not play men's and women's at the same time.
 - iii. If courts need to be dried, we will need 2 volunteers from each team onsite to assist with this process. Please do not make us hunt you down.

IV. Approval of Agenda Eric Mahone

- a. Packet available.
- b. Moved – Pat, SCAD Savannah
- c. Second – Abigail, William Woods

V. Approval of Minutes Eric Mahone

- a. Minutes from 2024 minutes included in packet.
- b. Moved – Craig, McPherson
- c. Second – Abigail, William Woods

VI. Special Guests Eric Mahone

- a. (not on agenda) Introduction of Interns – Rebecca Walter and Chase Vizzini
- b. Chase Hodges, Senior Vice President/UTR Sports
 - i. Emphasized the value of UTR in NAIA competition.
 - ii. Discussed match tracking and rankings.
 - iii. UTR gets scores directly from Presto.
 - iv. UTR fall tournament in Rome, GA.
 - 1. Successful in 2024, plan for 2025.
 - v. UTR provided shirts, fanny packs, and socks to players at Nationals.
- c. Devin Crotzer, USTA
 - i. Outlined USTA support for college tennis.
 - ii. Shared resources and partnership opportunities.
 - iii. Promoted involvement in USTA programming and pathways.
 - iv. Set up a booth for USTA careers for student-athletes.

VII. Reports

- a. National Selection Committee Eric Mahone
 - i. Primary and Secondary Criteria were utilized in this year's selections and seeding.
 - ii. Changes will need to be made for next year as we are losing a majority of the Primary Criteria with the loss of the Coaches Top 25 and RV Ratings.
- b. Eligibility and Amateurism Committee Eric Mahone
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Awards and Hall of Fame Committee Marc Lux
 - i. First, Second and Third Team All- American (16 players)

- ii. Any Conference player of the Year who has not been selected to the First, Second or Third Team will be automatically added to the Third Team.
- iii. There are 121 Men's All-American Nominee's and 140 Women's All- American Nominee's.
- iv. All-Americans are to be determined by Friday and will be announced next week after the NAIA Championships
- v. Players of the Year will be announced after each Championship Match
- vi. Hall of Fame – Please email Marc Lux if you would like to recommend someone for the NAIA Tennis Hall of Fame.

d. Advisory and Special Projects

Tom Bates

- i. Nothing to report.

e. National Office Report

Fred Aubuchon

- i. Wilson Tennis Balls

- ii. Score Reporting into Presto

- 1. Coaches/SIDs need to enter all eligible matches.
- 2. JV matches are not countable matches and Tennis only permits one scrimmage per season.
- 3. Crucial for Analytics and National Selection.

- iii. Beginners guide to submitting Sport Motions included in packet.

- iv. National Office update included in packet.

VIII. Old Business

Eric Mahone

- a. No Old Business.

IX. New Business

Eric Mahone

- a. Sport Motions included in packet.

- b. Move and second required for each motion.

- i. Sport Motion #1 – New Primary and Secondary Criteria

- 1. Moved – Thiago, Cumberland
- 2. Second – Tyler, Marian
- 3. Discussion – Motion was amended to add ARC Ratings as Secondary Criteria.
 - a. Moved – Craig, McPherson
 - b. Second – Derrick, Bethel, TN

- 4. Motion Passed – 26 – 0 – 4

- ii. Sport Motion #2 – Increase Official Party at Nationals

- 1. Moved – Daniel, Keiser
- 2. Second – Ignacio, Huntington
- 3. Motion Passed – 30 – 0 – 0

iii. Sport Motion #3 – Avoid Playing Men’s and Women’s at Same Time in the National Tournament.

1. Moved – Derrick, Bethel, TN
2. Second – Daniel, Keiser
3. Motion Passed – 30 – 0 – 0

iv. Sport Motion #4 – Realignment of ARC’s.

1. Motion withdrawn
2. Discussion – Committee will be formed and led by Executive Committee to discuss options and then present to National Office and NAC at a future date.

x. Executive Committee

Eric Mahone

- a. Current E.C. until July 31, 2025, listed in the Introduction.
- b. The new E.C. will begin August 1, 2025.
- c. Open position – Secretary
 - i. Nominations

1. Ignacio Poncio, Huntington
2. Tyler Scanlan, Marian
3. Abigail Lemberger, William Woods
4. Alan Green, Xavier (withdrawn)

xI. Open Discussion

Eric Mahone

xII. Adjournment

Eric Mahone

- a. Moved – Craig, McPherson
- b. Second – Abigail, William Woods
- c. Motion Passed – 30 – 0 – 0

Coaches Association – National Office Report

NAIA Legislative Process – Attached

Use the Legislative Services handout to explain the difference between sport policy and NAIA bylaws, as well as the avenues available for making amendments to each.

Explain the voting process, including:

- On-site straw polls
- Electronic ballots distributed for full votes
- Requirement that 50% of coaches—either in attendance or participating electronically—must vote to move an issue forward to the NAC

NAIA's Role in Coaches Associations

The Sport Manager is present to help coaches associations navigate issues and provide guidance on topics and processes. We do not make decisions; rather, we serve as facilitators to advance the issues that you, the coaches, want to implement within your sport.

NAC's Role

Introduce the NAC representative.

The NAC initiates operational policies for conferences/CAC, national championships, national statistical services, national awards, and event management.

The NAC meets four times a year (January, April, June, and August) to review motions. Review when sport-specific motions will be considered by the NAC.

Sponsorship Update

UTR: Title Sponsor; Official Analytic and Technology provider to NAIA Tennis.

Official Ball: Wilson Tennis Balls. Provided for Conference and National Championship Tournaments. Also, providing warm-up/practice balls at National Championships.

Site Selection

The championship will continue in Mobile through the 2028 season.

Applicable Approved Legislation from the 2026 Convention

Include any applicable, sport-specific, approved legislation in your agenda materials and review it during the business meeting.

The NAC approved the removal of Coaches from National Selection Committees, and future NSC's will be comprised of Athletic Administrators and Conference Commissioners.

NAIA Membership Recruitment and Retention

Five 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
- **Christian College (Ark.)**
- **United States Sports University (Ala.)**
- **Georgia Southern University**
- **Nevada State University**

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.

Tennis is still under consideration for future streaming.

Postseason Roster Adjustments (If Applicable)

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 Tennis: **12 → 14**
- Football: **57 → 62**
- Men's & Women's Soccer: **24 → 26**
- Men's & Women's Volleyball: **18 → 20**
- Men's & Women's Basketball: **15 → 17**
- Baseball: **26 → 28**
- Softball: **20 → 22**
- Men's & Women's Golf: **7 → 9**
- Men's & Women's Bowling: **8 → 10**

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

The NAC met in late April 2026 and supported adding 1 Coach per team, increasing the Official Party from 2 to 3 Staff Members.

Opening Round Host Site Policy Update

A new evaluation system has been approved to assess host institutions during national championship preliminary rounds. The system includes two categories of offenses—primary and secondary—to ensure consistent hosting standards.

Offense Structure:

- One primary offense = one strike
- Two secondary offenses = one strike

Consequences:

- **One strike:** Institution becomes ineligible to host that sport's opening round the following year
- **Two strikes within the same year:** Institution becomes ineligible to host *any* postseason event the following year

To support host sites, the national office is implementing a daily reporting system for preliminary round locations to identify and correct issues in real time.

Postseason Selection

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:

- 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.

At the 2026 Convention, the NAC approved the following:

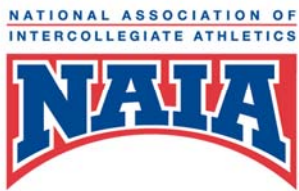
The NAC approved the removal of Coaches from National Selection Committees, and future NSC's will be comprised of Athletic Administrators and Conference Commissioners.

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.



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)

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.





National
Administrative
Council

Tennis Sport Motion #1

Coaches Vote:

MOTION:

For a conference that has 12 or more teams, the second automatic bid team must be ranked in the top 25 in UTR or ITA ranking to receive the automatic bid.
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RATIONALE:

To ensure we send the top teams to the national tournament. Men's and women's golf already have this in place.
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HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Teams that have received a second AQ have often been seeded at the bottom (seed 24) and never advance past the first round.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

START DATE:

2026-2027



National
Administrative
Council

Tennis Sport Motion #2

Coaches Vote:

MOTION:

To change the selection process for Coach of the Year to a ballot vote at the conclusion of the championship. All coaches who qualify for the national championships will automatically be on the ballot, and write-ins will be accepted. The ballot would be held in conjunction with full-body voting on sports motions and open Officer positions.

RATIONALE:

The current process does not factor in the whole season, team improvements, barriers faced, sportsmanship, and overall integrity and respect throughout the year and the championships. This change would allow more coaches to be in the running for Coach of the Year, and it would reflect a full year of play rather than just the championships.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Currently, the coach of the year award is automatically given to the winning team at the national tournament.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

START DATE:

2026-2027
