



## 2026 NAIA-MSCA Business Meeting Agenda

United Soccer Coaches Convention – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown – Room Franklin 05

January 15 at 11:00AM (EST)

### I. WELCOME

(Bryan Courtney)

#### a. Introduction of Executive Committee

1. President – Bryan Courtney, Graceland University (Ia.)
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – James Cottage, Ottawa University (Ks.)
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jake Alvernia, Brewton-Parker College (Ga.)
4. Secretary – Keelan Barker, Indiana Tech

### II. REPORTS

(Executive Committee)

- a. National Selection Committee Report
- b. All-American Committee Report
- c. Final Site Report
- d. Legislative Process – *Appendix A*
- e. National Office Update – *Appendix B*

Bryan Courtney  
James Cottage  
Keelan Barker  
Rick Daum, NAIA  
Rick Daum, NAIA

### III. RECOGNITIONS

(Rick Daum)

- a. National Coach of the Year

### IV. SPONSORSHIP VISITS

- a. Marines
- b. NCSA

Captain Michael Robinson  
Justin Wright, Natalie Bonaroti, Emily Wetz

### V. APPROVAL OF 2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

(Bryan Courtney)

- a. *Appendix C*

### VI. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

(Bryan Courtney)

- a. Sport Motion #1: All-American Selection Committee Composition
- b. Sport Motion #2: All-American Selection Committee Term Limits
- c. Sport Motion #3: Facility Certification Requirements
- d. Bylaw Proposal #1: Allowable Games
- e. Open Discussion

### VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

(Bryan Courtney)

- a. Secretary Nominations

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Bryan Courtney)



## 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](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.



## Appendix B – National Office Update

### Approved Legislation from the 2025 NAIA Convention

Updated First & Second Round facility certification requirements in multiple sports were passed. The updates focused on locker room standards, press row capacity and scoreboard specifications.

### Approved Policy from the 2025 NAIA-MSCA Business Meeting

1. To make a change in the current RPI percentages to the following:
  - a. Winning Percentage – 25%
  - b. Opponents Winning Percentage – 50%
  - c. Opponents Opponents Winning Percentage – 25%
2. To create a video exchange requiring the mandatory submission of the most recent post-season game and the last home game in the regular season.

### 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.)**, 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](mailto: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 Soccer increased from 24 to 26

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 5<sup>th</sup> season of competition (SOC)?

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.







## Appendix C – 2025 NAIA-MSCA Business Meeting Minutes

United Soccer Coaches Convention – Chicago, Illinois  
McCormick Place Convention Center Room 176B  
January 9, 2025 at 11:00AM (CT)

### Call to Order

Richard Duffy

**Attendees:** Jason Weides, Concordia (Neb.); Tommy Neinhaus, William Woods; Mark Zathey, Madonna (Mi.); Vladimir Simic, Missouri Valley; Kevin Wardlaw, MidAmerica Nazarene (Ks.); Nick Potter, Huntington (In.); Omar Gallo, Holy Cross (In.); Bret Boylan, Tennessee Southern; Thomas Pazo, Lindsey Wilson (Ky.); Jon Forsythe, Olivet Nazarene (Il.); Saif Alsafer, Dalton State (Ga.), Gavin Oldham, Keiser; Jake Alvernia, Missouri Baptist; Bryan Courtney, Graceland (Ia.); Richard Duffy, Rocky Mountain; Rick Daum, NAIA.

### Sponsor Visits:

NCSA covers how to connect to assist with recruiting. Select covers plans for continued ball use and color schemes.

### Committee Report – National Selection

Richard Duffy

**Discussion:** President speaks to how teams were selected.

### Committee Report – All American

Bryan Courtney

**Discussion:** Bryan speaks to meeting two times to select players to the All American lists for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> team. How the process works and how extensive efforts are made to contact coaches for more information for players with whom the All American Selection Committee is not as familiar with regarding stats, or play in general.

### Committee Report – Final Site

Jacob Alvernia

**Discussion:** Jake speaks to the logistics and support given to the coaches and teams that attended. B29 hanger for the banquet was a highlight.

### National Office Report

Rick Daum

**Discussion:** Rick Daum highlights strategic objectives of increasing brand recognition of the NAIA and efforts to recruit and retain members. Men's soccer is headed to Orange beach for 2025 - 2027. Biggest feedback was Wichita isn't a great place to hold the tournament in that month in terms of weather. Streaming has now been made free through Urban Edge Network and the NAIA Network. Early response to this change which began in Fall 2024 has been very positive.

### Approval of 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

Richard Duffy

**Motion:** Oldham/Weides

**Vote:** 15-0-0

### Old Business

Rick Daum

**Discussion:** Recapped conversations with United Soccer Coaches to build bridge and extend opportunities for NAIA Coaches. Infrastructure and planning is not yet in place for that to happen with United Soccer Coaches,

however it is something the USC would be willing to initiate solutions that bring value to NAIA membership down the road.

**Sport Motion #1:** Film Sharing

**Discussion:** General background was given on how it was introduced prior and how the technology is better now to move forward to support this motion. There is other sports that do this such as football, basketball, volleyball, etc. Thoughts are this would give us a better standing going forward with all teams going in with information to be successful.

Question asked if more quality controls should be added to the motion. Suggestion was made to keep it intentionally broad (ie: not specify camera equipment or video quality levels) to give it the best chance of adoption.

**Hostile Amendment:** Add \$500 penalty for institutions that fail to comply with the motion.

**Motion/Second:** Weides / Alsafer

**Vote:** 13-0-1 (Yes-No-Abstain)

Continued discussion that if this is implemented it will be important to communicate in advance to programs that this is an expectation if they are to qualify for postseason play.

**Motion/Second:** Weides / Oldham

**Vote:** 12-1-1 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Sport Motion #2:** Automatic Qualifier Increase

**Discussion:** Qualification guarantees based on conference size has long been a discussion at all levels of the NAIA. This is a complicated discussion that has far-reaching implications. Debate over the merits of guaranteeing spots to large conferences and seeing the benefits of how this can strengthen conferences vs. the negatives of taking up limited at-large spots which could go to more deserving teams.

**Motion/Second:** Oldham / Neinhaus

**Vote:** 3-10-1 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Sport Motion #3:** Automatic Qualifier Decrease

**Discussion:** Point was made that the NAIA currently strikes a good balance between guaranteed berths and at-large slots.

**Motion/Second:** Wardlaw / Oldham

**Vote:** 1-13-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Sport Motion #4:** ARC Term Limits

**Discussion:** The benefits of this motion are that it protects the committee's integrity in ensuring that no members can occupy positions for too many consecutive years. While selection committee members don't believe there is unethical manipulation of the process, it is recognized that longstanding members could have unintentional biases, and a forced rotation would help minimize this. The weaknesses of this proposal lie in continual rotations of ARC Chairs will lead to inexperience in a very difficult and important role.

**Motion/Second:** Weides / Neinhaus

**Vote:** 7-3-4 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Sport Motion #5:** RPI Weighting Adjustment

**Discussion:** The RPI proposal is an adjustment to correct for a perceived overemphasis on the value of wins in the current iteration. The committee studied the current RPI vs. proposed RPI weighting and the teams rated highest in the proposed weighting performed the best in this year's tournament. This proposal also aligns with the traditional weights given to the inputs that most other sports use when calculating the RPI. Discussion if this proposal should be adopted beginning in 2026 as opposed to starting in 2025 as most teams already have their

schedules made. The argument was made that if the group is in agreement with the need for a re-weighting of the metric than it is important to fix this problem as soon as possible.

**Motion/Second:** Wardlaw / Neinhaus

**Vote:** 12-1-1 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Motion (from the floor):** Add two at-large coaches to the National Selection Committee.

**Discussion:** If the goal is to get more coaches involved and reduce the influence of individual committee members, one way to accomplish this is to continue to add positions to the makeup of the committee.

**Motion/Second:** Alsafeer / Weides

**Vote:** 13-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)

**Open Discussion:**

Question was asked as to why the RPI is now run through conference tournament games. National Office shared that included in the 2012 motion to implement the MRPI, there was specific language requiring the MRPI analytic to end at the end of regular season play due to the fact that the MRPI committee need time for verification that data inputs were correct before the national tournament field was finalized. With the move to the RPI system, which involves no hand-calculations for the analytic, the prior rationale used no longer applies. In all other sports the RPI calculation includes all countable games, including conference tournament play.

**Secretary Nominations:** Saif Alsafeer, Dalton State (Ga.). Additional nominations will be opened by email request.

**Adjourn:** 1:05 PM CT

**Motion/Second:** Oldham / Alsafeer

**Vote:** 14-0-0 (Yes-No-Abstain)



## Men's Soccer Sport Motion #1

### **MOTION:**

Expand the All-American Selection Committee from 9 to 10 coaches by adding one more "at-large" coach position, with the requirement that each of the five ARC regions is represented.

### **RATIONALE:**

This motion would create a more equitable approach to how the All-Americans are currently chosen. It would provide more coaches and expand the ability to have seen players from across different regions. This would increase knowledge of the committee as and seek to reduce voting bias from the committee.

There are currently 4 "At-Large" positions on the committee. Adding a 5<sup>th</sup> matches the number of ARC regions.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

The current policy dictating selection committee formation is below:

*The NAIA Men's Soccer All-America teams are chosen by the NAIA-MSCA Executive Committee during the NAIA National Championship. In addition to the NAIA-MSCA Executive Committee, four coaches (selected by the Executive Committee prior to the start of the season) also serve on the All-American Selection Committee. It is recommended that the four additional Selection Committee members represent four different geographic regions of the country.*

Current committee composition is as follows:

(5) Executive Committee

- Past President
- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Secretary

(4) At-Large Members

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

### **START DATE:**

2026-2027



## Men's Soccer Sport Motion #2

### **MOTION:**

"At-Large" members of the All-American selection committee (separate from the Executive Committee) are allowed to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive years.

After 2 consecutive years of service years they must remain off the selection committee for 2 years before being selected again.

### **RATIONALE:**

This motion would create a more equitable approach to how the All-Americans are currently chosen. Also, it would provide more coaches and expand the ability to have seen players from across different regions. Both of the expansion and term limits of committee members would increase the knowledge of the committee as well as prevent bias voting from the committee.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

After the NAIA removed honorable mention it has limited the amount of players that are awarded. Because of this the committee is challenged with narrowing down from a lot of quality players. This motion would allow for a more clear voting/selection process.

The current policy dictating selection committee formation is below:

*The NAIA Men's Soccer All-America teams are chosen by the NAIA-MSCA Executive Committee during the NAIA National Championship. In addition to the NAIA-MSCA Executive Committee, four coaches (selected by the Executive Committee prior to the start of the season) also serve on the All-American Selection Committee. It is recommended that the four additional Selection Committee members represent four different geographic regions of the country.*

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

### **START DATE:**

2026-2027



## Men's Soccer Sport Motion #3

### **MOTION:**

Move that all institutions selected to host first and second round NAIA Men's and Women's Soccer National Championship matches be required to identify and secure a certified backup competition site at the time of host application.

The backup site must: Be reviewed and approved through the same certification process as the primary host site; Be disclosed to participating institutions at the time of championship selection and included in the official championship packet; and Be available for use in the event that the primary host site becomes unplayable or unusable due to weather, lighting, field conditions, or other circumstances outside institutional control. Final authority to relocate a match from the primary host site to the certified backup site shall remain with the NAIA National Office.

### **RATIONALE:**

The intent of this motion is to improve the student-athlete and team experience during the opening rounds of the NAIA Soccer National Championships by reducing uncertainty, confusion, and last-minute logistical challenges caused by unforeseen facility or weather issues. In recent championship cycles, unplayable fields, lighting limitations, and weather-related concerns have resulted in: Last-minute venue changes, Extended and unplanned travel for visiting teams after arrival, Confusion regarding match locations and timelines, and Increased stress on student-athletes, coaches, and game administrators. By requiring a certified backup site to be identified and approved in advance, all participating teams will: Have clarity regarding potential alternate locations, Be able to plan travel and recovery more effectively, and Experience a more organized, equitable, and professionally managed championship environment. This proposal does not eliminate the possibility of site changes, but rather ensures that any necessary changes are planned, communicated, and approved prior to championship play.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

The first and second rounds of the NAIA Soccer National Championships frequently occur during periods of unpredictable weather. While host institutions make strong efforts to prepare their facilities, conditions such as excessive rain, frozen surfaces, lighting failures, or field deterioration have occasionally rendered approved host sites unplayable. In several recent instances, institutions originally designated as hosts were unable to function as true hosts on match day, requiring visiting teams—after already traveling long distances—to relocate to unfamiliar sites, sometimes with little notice and additional travel time. These situations have created a "scramble" for suitable facilities, requiring rapid certification, rushed communication, and difficult decision-making under time pressure. This motion aims to address those challenges proactively rather than reactively.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no direct financial implications for the NAIA National Office as a result of this motion. Any costs associated with securing and maintaining a certified backup site would be the responsibility of the host institution and incorporated into the existing championship hosting application and planning process. The motion does not mandate additional staffing, reimbursement, or championship funding, and instead focuses on improved advance planning and risk management.

### **START DATE:**

2026-2027



## Men's Soccer Legislative Proposal #1

### **MOTION:**

To amend the NAIA Soccer Spring dates by increasing the maximum number of permissible spring contest dates from three (3) to six (6) games and eliminate the current provision that allows institutions to use unused fall competition dates to expand their spring match allotment.

### **RATIONALE:**

Increasing the spring match allowance enhances player development, promotes athlete safety, and raises the overall competitive standard within NAIA soccer. Under the current model, institutions may carry unused fall competition dates into the spring, incentivizing teams to shorten their fall schedule matches in order to obtain additional spring match opportunities. This practice results in inconsistent fall scheduling, incomplete competitive data, and a less effective and less accurate RPI. By establishing a standalone allowance of up to 6 spring contests and removing the ability to roll unused fall dates into the spring, institutions can return to playing a full fall schedule while still maintaining meaningful and developmentally appropriate spring competition. This structure improves the integrity and reliability of the RPI, ensures national scheduling consistency, and aligns more closely with modern training and performance standards. The increase also supports student-athlete experience, strengthens retention and recruitment, and reduces the abrupt competitive load transition from spring to fall that contributes to early-season injuries. Importantly, the adjustment adds flexibility, allowing institutions to schedule fewer than 6 contests based on budget, staffing, or academic calendars, without imposing additional requirements.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

The current allowance of 3 spring games for NAIA Men's Soccer has remained unchanged despite significant evolution in coaching methodology, sports science, and student-athlete expectations. Comparative associations, including NCAA and NJCAA programs, have adopted more robust spring competition opportunities to support development and player welfare. Over recent years, NAIA coaches and players have repeatedly identified the limited number of spring matches as a constraint on development, retention, and competitive readiness. This motion seeks to modernize the spring calendar in line with current best practices while maintaining the NAIA's flexible, institution-friendly structure.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Minimal. Institutions maintain full control over how many of the 6 allowable games they choose to schedule. Any additional cost (officials, travel, staffing) is optional and varies by institution. Many programs can add matches locally with little to no additional expense, and home games can generate community engagement and small revenue offsets. This motion does not obligate institutions to expand budgets. It simply permits them the flexibility to do so if their resources allow.

### **START DATE:**

2026-2027