

National Administrative Council 2026 Convention Full Body Meeting Recap

The National Administrative Council (NAC) met during the 2026 NAIA National Convention on Friday, April 10, 2026. Below is a summary of actions taken by the council.

National Selection Committee Restructure

The NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC) has approved a significant restructuring of National Selection Committees (NSCs), effective in the 2026–27 academic year, to enhance the integrity, consistency, and transparency of the postseason selection process.

Under the new model, NSCs will be composed exclusively of trained athletics administrators, with coaches no longer serving as voting members. Coaches will continue to play a critical evaluative role through Area Rating Committees (ARCs), which will provide foundational input for national selection decisions.

This change is guided by key principles including increased transparency and accountability, consistency across sports, data-driven decision-making, standardized processes, and a clearly defined role for coaches.

NSCs will adopt a standardized structure (ARC + 3 model), ensuring balanced representation while limiting overrepresentation from any single conference or region. A formalized chair selection process will reinforce accountability and adherence to policy.

To further improve transparency and member understanding, NSCs will introduce regular in-season polls aligned with ARC rating cycles. Additional enhancements include standardized training, strengthened conflict-of-interest policies, and improved communication resources.

Overall, the updated model separates evaluation (ARCs) from final selection and seeding (NSCs), reinforcing objectivity while preserving the value of coach input.

Facility Certification Standards

The Experience & Enhancement (EE) Committee will establish a working group to evaluate the facility certification standards following the first year of implementation. This review will focus on assessing clarity, consistency in application, and overall effectiveness, with any recommended refinements brought forward based on feedback and observed challenges during the initial year.

Football

- Permit the use of wearable technology for coach-to-player communication during NAIA football games, limited to non-audio devices (e.g., digital wristbands) worn on the wrist. Communication is restricted to in-game play calls and tactical information, with no limit on the number of participating student-athletes or the flow of data. All devices must remain non-disruptive to game administration and not interfere with officials' duties or equipment.

Men's Soccer

- Expand the All-America Selection Committee from nine to ten coaches by adding one additional at-large position, ensuring representation from each of the five ARC regions.
- Expand the National Tournament field from 40 to 48 teams; however, as this change would exceed the postseason access ratio established by the NAIA Council of Presidents, it will require additional review and approval from the Council of Presidents before implementation.

Women's Soccer

- Expand the National Tournament field from 40 to 48 teams; however, as this change would exceed the postseason access ratio established by the NAIA Council of Presidents, it will require additional review and approval from the Council of Presidents before implementation.

Women's Volleyball

- Approved adding winning percentage and removed Results versus all teams under consideration as a primary criterion for national championship selection.
 - **Updated Criteria:**
 - **Primary (No weight or order)**
 - **NAIA RPI**
 - **Massey Ratings**
 - **NAIA Strength of Schedule**
 - **Winning Percentage**
 - **Secondary (No weight or order)**
 - **ARC Information**
 - **Common Opponents**
 - **Head-to-Head**
 - **Last 10 matches**
 - **Conference Record**
- Revise the national film exchange policy to require teams to upload their most recent game film to the video exchange program, removing the restriction related to games against non-championship field opponents. (NAC placed a three-year sunset period on any future proposals to modify this policy).
- NAIA Opening Round host institutions are required to remove portable basketball hoops from the volleyball playable area. Failure to comply will be considered a violation of Opening Round policy and may result in a strike toward future ineligibility to host Opening Rounds.
- Require NAIA Opening Round host institutions to utilize a three-ball system during all matches. Failure to comply will be considered a violation of Opening Round policy and may result in a strike toward future ineligibility to host Opening Rounds.
- Establish a minimum participation requirement for NAIA All-America consideration, requiring student-athletes to compete in at least 66% of their team's total sets during the regular season and conference tournament (excluding the national tournament).

Men's Volleyball

- Amend Rule 6.3 to require that all matches be played in a best-of-five format, eliminating the option for best-of-three matches and ensuring consistency across varsity collegiate competition.
- Adjust the All-America Selection Committee composition to ensure representation from each conference, expanding the committee's overall perspective on qualified candidates nationwide. If the Executive Committee does not provide full conference representation, an ARC Chair or designee will be added to complete that representation. Should gaps still remain, the Executive Committee may appoint a representative from any unrepresented conference.
- Define the National Coach of the Year candidate pool to include all Conference Volleyball Coaches of the Year and head coaches of teams participating in the national tournament.
- Expand the NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team from five to seven members, including the MVP, with selections continuing to be made by the Tournament Committee per existing bylaws. The Sportsman of the Year will remain a separate recognition and is not required to be included among the seven All-Tournament Team members.
- Adopt a 12-team, single-elimination format for the NAIA National Championship, effective with the 2028 championship (2027–28 academic year). The top four seeds will receive a first-round bye to the quarterfinals, with remaining seeds competing in the opening round. The championship will follow a structured progression from opening round (Tuesday), quarterfinals (Wednesday), semifinals (Friday), and finals (Saturday).

