



NAIA Women's Basketball Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, April 4, 2026 – 3:30pm (CT)
Location: Room 223 – Phoenix Convention Center

- I. Call to Order Chris Nelson
Attendees: Style Estill, Defiance; Michael Trujillo, Embry-Riddle (Ariz.); Paige Horn, Embry-Riddle (Ariz.); Markell Cox, College of Saint Mary; Lisa Pflueger, IU Kokomo; Tiek Fields, Truett McConnell; Darren Worrell, St. Thomas; Candance Walker, St. Thomas; Ryan Stanely, Union Commonwealth; Jordan Vessels, Wayland Baptist; Keaton Davis, Wayland Baptist; Whytney Singleton, Our Lady of the Lake; Janette Burgin, Culver-Stockton; Cheyenne Grissom, Culver-Stockton; Alex Nys, Waldorf; Joel Stryker, Waldorf; Nicki Monahan-Keith, IU Northwest; Jessie Biggs, Indiana Tech; Reid Walling, Spartanburg Methodist; Makana Stone, Walla Walla; Zachary Exume, St. Ambrose; Taylor Flores, St. Ambrose; Maria Esteban, St. Ambrose; Imhotet-Ari Amen Ra Cal Poly Maritime Academy; Jack Matney, Olivet Nazarene; Lauren Glenn, Olivet Nazarene; Becky Mullis, Ozarks; Shawn Chaffin, IU East; Chris Nelson, Bethel (Tenn.); Abby Schultz, NAIA; Jack Watford, WBCA
- II. Sponsor Presentations Abby Schultz
- III. WBCA Business Shawn Chaffin
Discussion:
KayYow Cancer Fund celebrated Faulkner University being named NAIA KayYow Program of the Year. Reach out to KayYow if you are interested in hosting a pink out. Great resource to help raise awareness. Shawn Chaffin is the WBCA-NAIA representative and serves on the WBCA board. Jack Watford is NAIA's WBCA staff liaison. Highly encouraged to submit nominations for All-American teams and Coach of the Year. We have receive less nominations for these awards. There is no downside to nominating coaches. Trying to continue to grow WBCA membership in the NAIA.
- IV. Award Recognition Abby Schultz
 - a. NAIA Coach of the Year – *Suntana Anderson, Marian*
 - b. WBCA Coach of the Year – *Lauren Glenn, Olivet Nazarene*
 - c. NAIA Player of the Year – *Macy Sievers, Dordt*



- v. Old Business Chris Nelson
a. Approve 2025 NAIA Women's Basketball Minutes
Motion to approve: Trujillo/Cox
Vote: 17-0-0

- VI. New Business Chris Nelson
a. Committee Reports

i. Selection Committee Report

The entire process is around a 10 hour process on Wednesday the week of selection, followed by another look at it the next morning. Travel & financials impact the bracketing side only. Host sites should continue to be looked at and the hotels that teams are assigned to needs to be improved.

Officiating assignments have changed to have two from the host schools conference and one from an outside conference. This does not mean that an official may not have officiated in a different conference earlier that year, rather who the official deems their conference.

Every detail matters at the First & Second Round sites. Signage, bracket boards, the feel and community of these sites matter as not everyone makes it to Sioux City. Bring back First & Second Round credentials for Student-Athletes instead of just host staff.

ii. National Championship Report

Sioux City went well this year. Had some longer delays with replay than we would have hoped but ultimately needed to get the calls right. Great crowds throughout the week, especially Semifinals & Championship game. Would like to see an NAIA branded court like Men's Basketball has in Kansas City. Consider having practice times available in the venue prior to Thursday. Tracy Mulligan is the new NAIA Women's Basketball Supervisor of Officials and was onsite in Kansas City.

iii. All-America Committee Report

Smooth process this year. Lasted about 2.5 hours the morning of the Semifinals.

iv. NAIA National Office Report

NAIA Legislative Process – Explained the process for sport motions & bylaws. NAIA Senior Championship Manager is Abby Schultz & National Administrative Council (NAC) liaison is Drew Watson, Athletic Director at Southeastern University. NAC initiates operational policies for conferences/CAC, national championships, national statistical services, national awards, and event management. NAC meets quarterly to review motions and will review Women's Basketball motions at their June meetings.



v. NAIA Membership Recruitment & 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.)**, 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.

- vi. NAIA National Championship Streaming – First & Second Rounds & final site were all streamed for free on UEN & NAIA Network. Women’s Basketball Championship had 156,118 viewers.
- vii. 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 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.



viii. Five Seasons of Competition – a lot of conversations taking place over a fifth year of eligibility. There is a Path Forward Taskforce taking place to continue evaluating the rapidly evolving areas in college athletics. There was an Executive Order from President Trump yesterday that we don't have answers on how it will impact NAIA at this point. NAIA Convention is next week and there will continue to be conversations on these topics.

b. NAIA Reports

i. Sport Motions

1. **WBB Motion #1:** Non-Conference RPI to the criteria for National Selection.

Discussion: Conferences all play a different amount of non-conference games. Can range anywhere from 6-16 games that they are scheduling outside of conference which would skew the numbers. Creates an unfair advantage to schools who have a different amount of out of conference games. Logistically, there is no easy way to calculate this information. In the semi-automated system within Presto, you would have to select a date to stop that data at but every conference's play starts are various times throughout the season with typically a break around the holidays.

Call the Question: Nelson

Vote: 0-19-0

MBB Motion #1: To require a minimum of 22 hours of rest between start times of games in NAIA postseason play. If a team plays the latest game in a bracket at 7pm, the earliest they can play the following day is 5pm.

Discussion: 18 hours of rest hasn't been an issue. Classics are played all throughout the year with less rest time. If the visiting team is playing on the second day & wanting to leave after the game, hotels are not accommodating to letting teams stay past 11am. Few hours does make a difference if a team is going to stay another night or head home. Some conferences play back to back on Friday/Saturday and don't require 22 hours of rest.

Call the Question: Nelson

Vote: 0-19-0

MBB Motion #2: To allow NAIA conferences the option to select two separate coaches to represent the conference for the ARC and a voter in the NAIA Top 25 poll. This motion does not mandate the positions are held by separate coaches, however encourages the opportunity for the roles to be occupied by two coaches. Ther conference may choose to keep the same coach in both roles.

Discussion: This could create confusion. These two coaches would end up spending more time speaking to one another to ensure consistency instead of just one person



being consistent. Makes a mess to incorporate more people. Adding more people to the process becomes more chaotic. Conferences typically all have an oversight committee that has longevity and experience. Asks the questions in that oversight committee, have the hard conversations, shadow the voter etc. Oversight should provide those opportunities for coaches to get involved.

Call the Question: Nelson

Vote: 0-15-0

- VII. Nominations for NAIA/WBCA Executive Committee Chris Nelson
 - a. Chris Nelson, Bethel (Tenn.)

- VIII. Open Discussion Chris Nelson
 - a. Would love to see All-American honorable mentions come back. Recently went away from NAC, would need a few years to bring back a change to All-America teams.

- IX. Adjournment Chris Nelson
 - Motion to adjourn: Trujillo/Chaffin
 - Vote: 0-19-0