



National
Administrative
Council

National Administrative Council (NAC) January 2026 Meeting Summary

The National Administrative Council (NAC) met for its second meeting of the 2025-26 academic year on January 21, 2026. Below is a summary of actions taken by the council.

NAIA Statistical Reporting Policy Change

Approved the following changes to the NAIA's Statistical Reporting policy beginning with the 2026-27 academic year:

The host institution is responsible for recording official statistics, for all participating teams, for those sports in which a weekly national statistical report is conducted. This includes all contests for a tournament, classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event of the like that an institution hosts, regardless of the venue or whether the host institution is competing. Those sports include men's and women's volleyball, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, softball, and baseball.

The home team of a tournament, classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event must provide statistical services for all games, regardless of the venue. Only in the event of a single-opponent contest may a team declare that official statistics will not be provided. In such cases, the home team must notify the opposing team (or teams) at least 72 hours prior to the contest.

Both institutions are required to report their official statistics to the national statistical service within **24 hours** following the conclusion of the contest. The method of submission must be through the official statistical software of the NAIA and/or submission to the National Coaches Association software.

If the opposing team believes an error exists in the official statistics, an appeal may be filed with the home team within **48 hours** following the conclusion of the contest. Upon agreement, both institutions must make the appropriate statistical corrections.

Appeals related to an institution's failure to meet the 24-hour statistical reporting requirement must be submitted to the **Director of Athletics Communications** within 24 hours of the reporting deadline.

Rule Changes

- [Approved USA Volleyball Beach Rules 2025-2027](#)
- [Approved USA Volleyball Indoor Rules 2025-2027](#)

Baseball

- Approved expansion of the NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round to include 48 teams. This is an increase of two teams, beginning with the 2027 national championship.
- Approved a format change to the NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round, effective with the 2027 national championship.
- Beginning in 2027 the NAIA Baseball Opening Round and World Series will feature:
 - 8 Opening Round sites, each site will be a six-team double elimination opening round.
 - 8-team World Series
 - Two 4-team double elimination brackets
 - Winners of the two double elimination brackets will advance to a best-of-three championship series
 - The format will use a straight play-through bracket. Opening Round champions will advance directly into the World Series bracket, with their placement determined by the overall national seed of the highest-seeded team in their Opening Round bracket. Teams will not be reseeded at the World Series—bracket positions are locked based on the original seeding structure.

Cross Country

- Approved increasing the Men's & Women's Cross Country oversight committee from 3 members to 5 members. Committee made up of 4 coaches & the NAC sport liaison, effective for the 2026 season.
- Approved allowing the Cross Country Men's & Women's Oversight Committee to pull a ballot during any rating period with a two-thirds vote (4 of 5), effective for the 2026 season, effective for the 2026 season.

Men's and Women's Golf

- Approved sport motion to allow each team participating in the NAIA National Championship to play six designated players in the official practice, effective at the 2027 national championship.
- Approved the following formats for NAIA regular season golf
 - Play six, count four scores
 - Play five, count four scores
 - Match play
- Approved the [NAIA Golf Hard Card](#) for the 2026 season.

- Approved adopting Clippd/Scoreboard or scoring applications with a third-party integration to Clippd as the mandatory scoring platform for NAIA Golf, effective for the 2026-27 season.

Men's Lacrosse

- Approved a motion that allows conferences to submit up to four Second Team All- Conference honorees to be included in the National All-America Ballot; however, these additional nominees are only eligible for selection to the second or third team All-America, effective for the 2026 season.
- Approved a motion announce All-American, Player of the Year, & Coach of the Year national awards at the Student-Athlete Experience prior to the start of the National Championship, effective for the 2026 season.

Women's Lacrosse

- Approved a motion announce All-American, Player of the Year, & Coach of the Year national awards at the Student-Athlete Experience prior to the start of the National Championship, effective for the 2026 season.

Softball

- Approved a motion to reset the snake seeding for the 2026 NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
48	47	35	38	37	33	32	36	31	34
		46	42	41	45	44	40	43	39

Teams will be placed in the Opening Rounds based on the following criteria:

- 1) Financial Considerations*
- 2) Geographical Considerations*
- 3) Final Seeding*

- Approved a format change to the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round, effective with the 2027 national championship.
 - Beginning in 2027 the NAIA Softball Opening Round and World Series will feature:
 - 8 Opening Round sites, each site will be a six-team double elimination opening round.
 - 8-team World Series
 - Two 4-team double elimination brackets
 - After the first round at the World Series, teams can crossover between brackets in the elimination round.
 - Winners of the two double-elimination brackets will advance to a best-of-three championship series

- The format will use a straight play-through bracket. Opening Round champions will advance directly into the World Series bracket, with their placement determined by the overall national seed of the highest-seeded team in their Opening Round bracket. Teams will not be reseeded at the World Series—bracket positions are locked based on the original seeding structure.

Track and Field

- Approved a motion to set national qualifying “A” standard and “B” standard marks by three-year average of 10th best and 20th best performance respectively on TFRRS national qualifying list. Marks will be rounded to the nearest 1000th of a second or centimeter respectively. Exception for the vertical jumps. For these events the 20th best performance will be used to set the “B” standard, and the “A” standard will be 3 centimeters above for the high jump and 10 centimeters above for pole vault.
- Approved a change in the allotted time of the protest window at the national indoor and outdoor championships from 30 minutes to 15 minutes after the official results are posted and time stamped, effective immediately at the 2026 national championships.
- Approved a motion to move the NAIA Outdoor 5,000m race straight to a final if there are 24 or fewer qualified athletes, effective immediately at the 2026 national championships.
- Approved granting teams the ability to use an indoor facility during the outdoor season to qualify for NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships. Performances would be as-is with no adjustments for the track dimensions, effective for the 2027 National Championship.
- Approved marks achieved from a javelin runway with a non-synthetic surface be permitted to count toward qualification for all future NAIA national track & field championships, provided the runway is part of an existing, currently approved facility. The exemption shall apply only to facilities in their current condition. Beginning Fall 2026, if the facility is resurfaced or newly constructed, it must meet the NCAA rulebook requirements up to and include a synthetic surface for all runways.

Men’s Volleyball

- Approved the additional of two reviewable decisions to be added to the NAIA Men’s Volleyball Rules Modifications, Challenge Review System (CRS):

- 4.8 Whether or not a player's foot/feet or other body part completely crossed the line resulting in interference with the opponent's play.
- 4.9 Whether or not the encroachment presented a safety hazard to opponents.

Men's and Women's Wrestling

- Approved the NAC Rules Committee to serve as the official body for all matters reported to the NAIA related to potential violations of the wrestling weight management rules, and the penalty(s) for any confirmed violations to follow the requirements outlined in NCAA Men's Wrestling Rule 8, Art. 1, and Art. 2.