



NAC Executive Committee Summary

September 2025

Below is a summary of actions taken by the NAC Executive Committee during its September 2025 meeting.

Rules Changes and Modifications

Approved rules changes and modifications for:

- [2026 and 2027 Softball Rules Changes](#)
 - Rule 2.7 adoption will follow the Division II and III implementation timeline and be effective for the 2027 season: To require the use of the double base at first base beginning with the 2026 season for Division I and the 2027 season for Divisions II and III. It shall be a one- or two-piece unit, 15 inches by 30 inches, and manufactured to be of equal height between 1½ to 3½ inches thick. The fair portion shall be white and the foul portion shall be a contrasting color (e.g., orange).
 - Rule 2.15, previously approved by the NAC in January 2023:
 - By January 1, 2027, to require sideline and home run fences constructed of a hard material (e.g., wood, concrete or brick) to be padded. Padding must begin not higher than 1 foot off the ground and extend to the top of the wood, concrete or brick or 6 feet from the ground, whichever is shorter. This is required for any field hosting NAIA softball competition
- [2026 and 2027 Women's Lacrosse Rules Changes](#)
- [2025-26 Rules Modifications for Beach Volleyball](#)

National Conduct and Ethics Committee

Approved the appointment of Courtnei Davis, M.S., Louisiana State University Alexandria, as a member of the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Women's Flag Football

Approved Women's Flag Football National Invitational Policies from the NAIA Women's Flag Football Steering Committee effective for the 2026 season.

Postseason Eligibility

- Teams must complete at least 10 contests to qualify for postseason play.

Postseason Selection

- Selection conducted by a National Selection Committee.

Committee Composition

- ARC Representatives plus three at-large members.
- Coaches will participate at the ARC level but not be members of the selection committee

Preseason Poll

- **Preseason Coaches' Poll:**
 - Two voters per conference/grouping (8 total).
 - Released February 3, 2026.

Rankings

- **Selection Committee Polls:**
 - Top 10 rankings beginning March 16–17, 2026.

Automatic Qualification (AQ) Policy

- 1 AQ for every 6 participating institutions.
- 2 AQs for every 12 participating institutions.

Conference Tournament Deadline

- All conference tournaments must conclude by April 25, 2026.

Invitational Championship

- **Dates:** May 6–9, 2026
- **Format:** 8-team double-elimination, Wednesday–Saturday
 - **Wednesday:** Opening Round (Seeds 1–8)
 - **Thursday:** Quarterfinals & Elimination Games (Games 5–10)
 - **Friday:** Final Rounds (Games 11–13)
 - **Saturday:** Championship (Game 14, plus Game 15 if necessary)

Postseason Roster

- Maximum 24 players in uniform.
- Up to 4 support staff (not including athletic trainers/media).

Awards Structure

Weekly Honors

- **Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week**
- 10 scheduled weeks: Feb. 17 – Apr. 21, 2026.

Postseason Awards

- All-America Teams: First & Second Teams (17 players each).
- Player of the Year
- Coach of the Year

- All-Tournament Team (14 players)
- Invitational MVP

Team Awards

- Championship Trophy
- Runner-Up Trophy
- Championship Team Individual Plaques
- Runner-Up Individual Plaques

Reporting Results and Statistics

- All contest results must be reported to NAIA Stats (Presto Stats) within:
 - 24 hours for game results.
 - 72 hours for final statistics.
- Failure to report:
 - 2 consecutive weeks or 4 total weeks = ineligible for leaderboards.
 - Penalties:
 - 1st violation: Warning.
 - 2nd violation: \$500 fine + loss of postseason awards.
 - 3rd violation: \$1,000 fine.
 - 4th violation: \$1,000 fine, with further action at Membership Services' discretion.
- Fines due within 30 days of notification.

Women's Wrestling Allocations

During the 2024–25 academic year, six conferences sponsored women's wrestling; however, that number will drop to five in 2025–26. Because the previous national qualifier allocation system was tied directly to the number of sponsoring conferences, it created instability and required frequent adjustments. To address this issue, a new allocation process has been approved, providing consistency, sustainability, and clarity. The adopted model is flexible across varying numbers of sponsoring conferences, ensuring long-term stability while reducing the need for continual revisions.

Conference Allocations Based on Rankings:

- Each conference championship with at least six teams will be allocated qualifiers based on the Final NAIA Rankings, with up to 17 nationally ranked athletes per weight class (approx. 170 qualifiers).
- Each conference is guaranteed at least one athlete per weight class, even if no athletes appear in the top 17. In such cases, the slot reduces the number of National At-Large berths.

Conference Wild Cards:

- Each eligible conference receives an equal number of Wild Card allocations to distribute at their discretion.
- Example: A 4th-place finisher in a weight class where the conference had three allocations may be selected as a Wild Card based on season performance.

Distribution of Conference Wild Cards:

- 4 Conferences – 32 Wild Cards (8 per conference)

- 5 Conferences – 30 Wild Cards (6 per conference)
- 6 Conferences – 30 Wild Cards (5 per conference)
- 7 Conferences – 35 Wild Cards (5 per conference)
- 8 Conferences – 32 Wild Cards (4 per conference)

National At-Large Berths:

- Remaining qualifiers (to reach a field of 210 athletes) will be determined by the Rankings and Oversight Committees.
- The number of At-Large berths will vary depending on the number of conferences sponsoring the sport.

Women's Volleyball ARC Ratings

Approved increasing the number of teams eligible to be rated within each ARC from 10 to 16, due to the reduction of ARCs from six to five.

Men's Tennis ARC Alignment

Approved moving the Great Southwest Athletic Conference (GSAC) from the South ARC to the Midwest ARC for the 2025-26 season to align with the GSAC's alignment in women's tennis.

- North – Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Crossroads League,
- South – Continental Athletic Conference, HBCU Athletic Conference, Southern States Athletic Conference, The Sun Conference
- Midwest – Great Plains Athletic Conference, Great Southwest Athletic Conference, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference
- East – Appalachian Athletic Conference, Mid-South Conference, River States Conference

Competitive Cheer

Approved a request from Oklahoma Wesleyan University to amend its Competitive Cheer Declaration of Intent from "Sponsoring Varsity without Postseason" to "Sponsoring Varsity with Postseason" for the 2025-26 season.

Heart of America Athletic Conference Men's Tennis

Approved a request from the Heart of America Athletic Conference to add Our Lady of the Lake (Texas), Xavier University of Louisiana, and Texas A&M University – Texarkana as per-sport members in men's tennis for the 2025-26 season.