



Football 2025-26 NAC Updates

The following motions were approved by the NAC Executive Committee:

- Approved moving the NAIA Football National Championship game to Saturday following the Football Championship Series (FCS) Semifinals, beginning in 2025. The 2025 NAIA Football National Championship game will be played on Saturday, December 20.

Approved updated National Championship Selection Criteria:

Primary:

- Overall Record/Winning Percentage
- ARC Rating
- Massey Rating
- NAIA Football Performance Index
- Record versus Teams ranked in ARCs

Secondary:

- Conference Standing
- Competition Level/Results vs. Non-NAIA Opponents
- Head-to-Head
- Opponents Record

Additional Information for Consideration:

- Team Schedule
- Home/Away/Neutral Records
- Score
- Common Opponents
- Injury Status (Players out in key games, etc.)
- Team Statistics

*[NAIA Football Performance Index](#) will be posted on the NAIA Football Coaches Corner and calculated automatically throughout the season. The performance index will be calculated based on the opponent's final regular season record, not at the time the game was played.

*Due to the removal of ratings from selection criteria, teams will be seeded 1-20 by the National Selection Committee.

- The Council approved an increase from 57 to 62 student-athletes in uniform for Football effective for the 2025-26 academic year.

The Council placed a five-year moratorium on any requests for increased roster sizes from all coaches' associations, unless there is a change in the sport's invitational/championship status.

- During NAIA-FCS play, a maximum of six standard tablets may be used for video In-game Video (sport rule modification to Rule 1-4-11-a. Exception 3).
- To allow NAIA-FCS hosts to use instant replay if available in 2024-25.
- Football will move to Coaches Polls in Fall 2025. Ratings will be removed from selection criteria in 2025-26 season.
 - Each conference will be represented by a voter
 - National oversight process will be eliminated
 - Polls will not be used as criterion by the National Selection Committee
- Approved NCAA Football rules changes effective for the start of the 2024 NAIA Football season. Those rule changes have been attached to this email, the ones that have a strikeout do not apply to NAIA competition.

A few notes on these rule changes:

- Tablets for In-game Video
 - *With this passing through NCAA, this trumps the NAIA Football Sport Motion that was passed in April. This ruling will take the place of the previous sport motion.*
 - More details:
 - The press box is included as part of the coach's box.
 - While some tablet will have a keyboard, a laptop is not considered a tablet.
 - Tablets cannot be plugged into televisions on the sidelines.
 - Similar to headsets, the rule does not prevent one team from using even if the other team's become inoperable...unless there is a conference policy.
- First Down Timing Rules
 - This was previously adopted by the NAIA in 2023.
- Replay – Halftime Intermission

- This only applies to those using sideline replay. There is an exception for those that only use replay for halftime review of Targeting, which applies to all NAIA postseason contests.
- Dead Ball & Loose Ball
 - Only pertains to those that will be using sideline replay.
- Penalty Enforcement after Replay Review
 - Only pertains to those that will be using sideline replay.