



National Administrative Council (NAC) June 2026 Meeting Summary

The National Administrative Council (NAC) met for its final meeting of the 2025-26 academic year on June 17, 2026. Below is a summary of actions taken by the council.

National Administrative Council Policy

Approved updates to NAC governance policies related to council membership, term limits, and leadership succession. The revisions reaffirm three-year terms for elected conference representatives and at-large members, establish two-year terms for NAC officers and subcommittee leadership positions, and create a defined succession model in which subcommittee vice-chairs automatically advance to chair after completing their vice-chair term. The changes also provide exceptions to standard term limits for individuals serving in NAC and subcommittee leadership roles, allowing them to complete their leadership terms and, in certain cases, remain in service for an additional year to support continuity and retain institutional knowledge.

NAC Vice Chair Election

NAC approved the election of Jayme Pendergast as Vice Chair of the National Administrative Council.

Five-Year Calendar

Approved the [Five-Year Calendar](#) (includes conference tournament deadlines, entry deadlines, early round dates and national championship dates).

Rules Changes

Approved rules changes in the following sports:

- [Football](#)
 - Approved the prohibition of NCAA Rule 1-4-11-b, which permits coach-to-player communication technology, in all NAIA-hosted football contests. The NAC also directed the NAIA Football Coaches Association to further discuss and evaluate the rule and its potential future application during its 2027 AFCA meetings.
- [Men's and Women's Soccer](#)
- [Women's Volleyball](#)

NAIA First and Second Round Basketball Facility Certification

Approved the following modifications to the current basketball facility certification requirements:

- 4 secure locker rooms located in or adjacent to the venue.
- Each participating team is provided with a secure locker room for use before, during and after the contest.

- All four locker rooms must contain lockers and space adequate to accommodate the official travel party.
- All participating teams will be provided with direct access to toilets, sinks, showers, and hot water that will not be shared with their opponent.
 - Such amenities must be designated exclusively for team use and may not be shared with the public during competition.
 - Amenities located outside of the locker room area must be within a short walking distance within the same facility and accessible without requiring teams to pass through public spectator areas.

NAIA Red Banner Scholar Award

Approved the creation of the Red Banner Scholar Award, beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. The award will be presented at each NAIA National Championship Final Site and will recognize the championship participant with the highest cumulative institutional GPA among eligible NAIA Scholar-Athletes competing in the event. The award utilizes the existing NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination and approval process and requires no additional submissions from member institutions.

- The recipient will be selected from the pool of approved NAIA Scholar-Athletes competing at each national championship final site.
- Student-athletes must be listed on the active championship roster or qualified participant list.
- No additional nomination process is required beyond the existing NAIA Scholar-Athlete program.
- Selection will be conducted by the National Office using official Scholar-Athlete data already submitted by institutions.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.

Bowling

- Approved a permanent designation of the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships (ITC) Sectional and National events as NAIA-approved postseason competitions. As a result, participation in these events will not count toward an institution's 24-week season limitation or frequency-of-play limits.
- Approved a change to the Men's and Women's Bowling National Championship schedule to begin competition on Wednesday.
- Approved updates to bowling uniform regulations to align NAIA competition requirements with current USBC standards. The revisions establish consistent team uniform expectations, permit up to four sponsors, team, or brand logos (with specified exemptions), standardize logo placement and size restrictions, require uniform logo consistency across all team members, and allow for

mandatory championship event sponsor logos when required by USBC event management.

- Approved updates to the Bowling All-America selection criteria, including the addition of a 400-frame minimum participation requirement and a revised weighted statistical evaluation model. The updated criteria will incorporate Top 10 finishes, strike percentage, average, average differential, fill percentage, first-ball average, makeable spare percentage, and single-pin conversion percentage to provide a more comprehensive assessment of individual performance.

Competitive Cheer

- Approved the removal of the NAIA-specific modification related to interrupted performances and adopted Varsity's event guidelines for performance interruptions. The updated policy establishes standardized procedures for handling interruptions caused by unforeseen circumstances, team equipment failures, injuries, illnesses, uniform malfunctions, and emergency situations, including provisions for re-performances, scoring, athlete safety, and return-to-participation requirements. This change aligns NAIA championship procedures with the industry-standard Varsity event model.
- Approved revisions to cheer judging requirements to allow qualifying conference tournaments to utilize the same minimum and maximum judging panel structure as regular-season events. The updated policy recommends up to seven judges, with a minimum of four, for regular-season and conference qualifying events, while maintaining a required seven-judge panel for the NAIA National Championship.
- Approved updates to the Cheer All-America selection process to improve consistency and standardization of video submissions. The revised policy establishes specific video formatting, athlete identification, skill sequencing, and recording requirements, with failure to follow the prescribed format potentially resulting in disqualification. The changes are intended to create a more equitable evaluation process and improve judging accuracy.
- Approved an update to the Cheer All-America tryout requirements establishing a standardized triple-jump sequence for all participants. The required sequence—pike, right hurdler, and toe touch—must be performed in a continuous connected series without any preparation between jumps, ensuring consistency and comparability across all All-America evaluations.
- Approved updates to the Cheer All-America tryout stunt requirements to align with the NCA evaluation model and create greater consistency across stunt categories. The revised standards establish new required skill sequences for

group stunts, coed stunts, and two-person stunts, including specified tosses, liberty transitions, tick-tocks, heel stretches, and dismounts that must be performed in a continuous sequence as part of the All-America evaluation process.

Competitive Dance

- Approved the removal of the NAIA-specific modification related to interrupted performances and adopted Varsity's event guidelines for performance interruptions. The updated policy establishes standardized procedures for handling interruptions caused by unforeseen circumstances, team equipment failures, injuries, illnesses, uniform malfunctions, and emergency situations, including provisions for re-performances, scoring, athlete safety, and return-to-participation requirements. This change aligns NAIA championship procedures with the industry-standard Varsity event model
- Approved an update to the NAIA competition flooring requirements to align with Varsity event standards. The revised policy establishes minimum performance area dimensions of 38 feet deep by 49 feet wide on a wood or Marley floor surface and clarifies venue requirements related to sound systems, lighting, and athlete visibility during competition.
- Approved the removal of the NAIA-specific footwear safety modification and adopted the current NDA rules governing dance footwear. This change aligns NAIA competition standards with NDA regulations regarding the use of shoes and other approved footwear during performances. Shoes on both feet are recommended, but not required, while on the performance surface. If dancers choose to wear shoes, footwear with wheels (e.g., roller skates, roller blades, or Heelys) is prohibited. Competing in only socks and/or footed tights is not permitted.
- Approved revisions to dance judging requirements to allow qualifying conference tournaments to utilize the same minimum and maximum judging panel structure as regular-season events. The updated policy recommends up to six judges, with a minimum of four, for regular-season and conference qualifying events, while maintaining a required six-judge panel for the NAIA National Championship.

Swimming and Diving

- Approved a revised pool deck seating assignment process for the national championship. The top 16 scoring teams from the previous season will participate in a seating draft, with selection order based on each program's combined men's and women's national championship point average (single-

gender institutions will use their full score). Remaining deck assignments will be determined by current championship swimmer/diver roster size, with coaches working alongside the committee to finalize seating locations.

- Approved a modification to the national championship officiating structure allowing swimming officials to also serve as diving judges during the NAIA Swimming & Diving National Championship.
- Approved the publication of seven NAIA Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving Team Rankings each season. Rankings will be published by the National Office using SwimCloud's Championship Ranking.
- Approved a tiebreaking procedure for the NAIA Coach of the Year award. In the event of a tie in the final voting, the recipient will be determined by a vote of the onsite Rules Committee, Host Director, and Media Coordinator to ensure a single award winner is selected.
- Approved a clarification to the relay-only swimmer provision for the NAIA Swimming & Diving National Championship. The updated policy limits each qualifying team to a maximum of one relay-only swimmer and clarifies that teams adding an officially invited swimmer through the scratch/alternate process are not eligible to add an additional relay-only swimmer. Teams utilizing the scratch process will continue to be governed solely by the existing alternate procedures, ensuring consistent roster management and championship qualification standards.
- Approved an amendment to the relay-only swimmer rule allowing a relay-only swimmer to compete in any of the five relay events at the NAIA Swimming & Diving National Championship, provided the institution has achieved at least one NAIA relay qualifying standard.
- Approved a revision to the diving qualification process that will select the top eight divers per board, per gender, for the NAIA Swimming & Diving National Championship. To be eligible for selection, divers must achieve the applicable national qualifying score and required degree of difficulty standards.

Women's Flag Football

- Approved granting NAIA Championship status to Women's Flag Football beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.
- Approved a 12-team, single-elimination format for the NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship beginning in 2026-27.
- Approved the Women's Flag Football Coaches Association Constitution and Bylaws.
- Approved an increase in quarter length from 12 minutes to 15 minutes in Women's Flag Football competition

Tennis

- Approved a revision to the Tennis Coach of the Year selection process, placing responsibility for the award with the All-America Committee. Under the new process, all coaches who qualify a team for the national championship will automatically be included on the ballot, and write-in candidates will also be permitted for consideration.
- Approved a revision to the tennis automatic qualification process requiring a conference's second automatic qualifier to be ranked in the Top 25 of both the UTR and ITA rankings when the conference sponsors 12 or more teams.

Women's Beach Volleyball

- Approved a modification to the Women's Beach Volleyball Invitational calendar beginning in 2028, moving the championship one week later than the previously established dates. The updated schedule sets the Invitational for April 27–29, 2028; April 26–28, 2029; May 2–4, 2030; and May 1–3, 2031.

Men's Volleyball

- Approved an expansion of the NAIA Men's Volleyball National Championship to a 16-team, single-elimination format beginning in 2027.

Women's Volleyball

- Approved moving ARC ratings from a secondary criterion to a primary criterion in the national selection criteria.