



NAIA National Wrestling Coaches Association

Annual Business Meeting Minutes | NWCA Convention – Baltimore, Maryland

Friday, July 31, 2026, at 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in Mt. Washington, Baltimore Convention Center

Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. in Baltimore AB in the Baltimore Convention Center

I. CALL TO ORDER *THOMAS POMPEI, NWCA PRESIDENT*

Call to Order at 2:17 p.m. EST by Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech

Attendees: Tyler Smith, Brewton-Parker College (Ga.); Aris Knight, Brewton-Parker College (Ga.); Graham Karwath, Central Methodist University (Mo.); Braden Ledford, Friends University (Kan.); Grant Henderson, Grand View University (Iowa); Alex Driggers, Hope International University (Calif.); Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech (Ind.); Cole Manion, Keiser University (Fla.); Riece Graham, Life University (Ga.); Jameel Bryant, Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.); Caleb McElfresh, Missouri Baptist University (Mo.); Tyson Thivierge, Montana State University-Northern (Mont.); Rulin Pederson, Morningside University (Iowa); Justin Ensign, Oklahoma City University (Okla.); Travis Patrick Southeastern University (Fla.); Mario Rio De La Torre, Southeastern University (Fla.); Isaac Crowell, Southeastern University (Fla.); Jason Schweer, University of Rio Grande (Ohio); Corey Ruff, University of the Cumberlands (Ky.); Tracy Hubbard, Williams Baptist University (Ark.); Jason Bryant, NAIA Championship Announcer; Candice Fabry, NAIA; Bruce Tate, NAIA

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA *THOMAS POMPEI, NWCA PRESIDENT*

Motion to Approve: Patrick/Manion

Vote: 18-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF 2025 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES *THOMAS POMPEI, NWCA PRESIDENT*

Motion to Approve: Karwath/Henderson

Vote: 17-0-1

IV. NAIA NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT *CANDICE FABRY, NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP MANAGER*

- a. National Office Report
 - a. NAIA Legislative Process
 - i. Any motions that are approved here at the business meeting will then need to be voted on by the full coaches association, and if supported, the motions will then go to the NAC for final approval to be implemented.
 - ii. The NAC will meet on August 11 and 12
 - b. National Championship Site
 - i. 2027 Championship will be in Wichita
 - ii. Bids for 2028 and beyond are beginning to be evaluated.
 - c. National Championship Streaming
 - i. The 2027 Championship will be simulcast through Flo and the NAIA Network.
 - d. 5 Seasons of Competition
 - i. NAIA Path Forward Task Force is meeting in Kansas City, July 30-31 to consider options, with the goal of presenting a recommendation to the Council of Presidents in September.
- b. 2026-27 NAIA Men's Wrestling Qualification Plan
- c. 2026-27 Ratings Dates
 - a. Thursday, October 22, 2026 – *Preseason Rank*

- b. Thursday, November 19, 2026
- c. Thursday, December 10, 2026
- d. Wednesday, December 23, 2026
- e. Thursday, January 21, 2027
- f. Wednesday, February 10, 2027 – *National Tournament Allocations*

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Executive Committee, *Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech*
 - Working with the executive committee on continuing to make our National Tournament as great as possible. The executive committee is working on submitting the following sports motions. Coaches Rank release dates, a new national tournament seeding process, an updated proposal on seeding/redrawing the bracket when scratches occur, and reducing the number of credentials at nationals to help clear up the floor. KC Rock will be moving into the President role following this meeting. We will be looking for a new secretary.
- b. Coaches' Manual/Constitution Rules, *Rik Dahl, Northwestern*
 - The committee would like to thank Candice and the NAIA for their leadership and support over the years as we have worked hard to make sure our coaches' manual is up-to-date and reflective of the work the Executive Committee and the coaches' body have put into making NAIA wrestling relevant in today's wrestling world. We look forward to getting the most up-to-date manual and resources to you in late August or early September.
 - If you are a conference chair, make sure to communicate with Candice the names of those serving on our standing committees (i.e., Bracketing, Ratings and Oversight, Manual, Honors and Awards, and Qualifying Standards). Also, make sure to comb through the manual when it is released to ensure you are privy to what is expected of you throughout the upcoming season
- c. Bracketing, *Tyson Thivierge, Montana State-Northern*
 - The Bracketing Committee is NOT responsible for any kind of seeding! We simply have to review each bracket to make sure that no teammates are on the same side of the bracket. We have a zoom meeting with the bracketing committee prior to the National Championships in order to find such mistakes. IF there are teammates on the same side, one seeded and one not seeded, we will look to move the non-seeded wrestler to the opposite side of the bracket. To move the non-seeded wrestlers, we will look to the opposite side of the bracket for another non-seeded individual and we will assign numbers and draw a random number out of a hat to move the appropriate selection with the teammate who is NON SEEDDED. IF both teammates are seeded and on the same side, no adjustments are considered.
 - These processes come straight out of the Coaches Manual on page 9 under 'Separating Teammates in the National Brackets'
- d. National Ratings Oversight Committee, *Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech*
 - Ranking and Oversight are in a good place. We are always looking at better ways to streamline processes and ensure we get the best 32 guys to the national tournament.
- e. USA Wrestling, *Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech*
 - Attended all yearly online meetings. Will be attending the USAW board meeting in august in Colorado Springs.
- f. NWCA Report, *Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech*
 - Convention is right around the corner. Business meetings are set up during the convention. Our Hall of Fame has an excellent class of 5 people being inducted this year. The Hall of Fame is taking shape and growing. We have a database of Hall of Fame-worthy athletes and coaches that we will use moving forward to help with selections. Need to create a committee for this.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Sport Motions
 - a. Motion #1 - Process for Dropped Wrestlers at National Championship
Discussion: No discussion.
Motion to Approve: Patrick/Thivierge
Vote: 18-0-0

- b. Motion #2 - Removing Secondary Criteria from Seeding and Bracketing Guidelines for National Championship
Discussion: Focusing on the primary criteria in discussions keeps the current year's work in the forefront. The primary criteria would be the only discussion and notes utilized within the National Seeding Conference call and would be the only information shared with the National Oversight Committee post-call.
Motion to Approve: Manion/Ensign
Vote: 16-2-0
 - c. Motion #3 - Removing National Oversight Committee from Conference Call with National Seeding Committee
Discussion: No discussion.
Motion to Approve: Manion/Patrick
Vote: 17-1-0
 - d. Motion #4 - National Seeding Committee Conference Call change of point differential and rank order of discussion
Discussion: No discussion.
Motion to Approve: Henderson/Patrick
Vote: 17-0-1
 - e. Motion #5 - National Seeding Committee Conference Call quorum for decision-making
Discussion: No discussion
Motion to Approve: Manion/Henderson
Vote: 18-0-0
 - f. Motion on the Floor: Removing the top two and bottom two votes from the National Seeding Committee vote tallies before vote totals are presented for the National Seeding Committee Conference Call and National Oversight Committee. (Henderson, Grand View (Iowa))
Discussion: With the expansion to nine conferences, four more votes will be conducted, and the potential for outliers to impact results increases.
Motion to Approve: Manion/Patrick
Vote: 18-0-0
- b. Nominations for vacancies of 2nd Vice President and Secretary on the Executive Committee
Discussion: With the departure of KC Rock, the vote will be sent to the coaching body, and all coaches will select two coaches to join the Executive Committee. Discussion all centered around the need for representation from across the country and multiple conferences on the Executive Committee. Each candidate will be asked to share a short paragraph to why they would like to join the Executive Committee.
Executive Committee as of September 1st, 2027:
Past President – Thomas Pompei, *Indiana Tech of Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference*
President – Dana Vote, *Doane University (Neb.) of Great Plains Athletic Conference*
1st President – Travis Patrick, *Southeastern University (Fla.) of Southern States Athletic Conference*
- Nominations:
- a. Dustyn Azure, *Eastern Oregon University of Cascade Collegiate Conferences*
 - b. Tyson Theiverage, *Montana State University-Northern of Cascade Collegiate Conferences*
 - c. Grant Henderson, *Grand View University (Iowa) of Heart of America Athletic Conference*
 - d. Cole Manion, *Keiser University (Florida) of Southern States Athletic Conference*
 - e. Justin Engisn, *Oklahoma City University of Sooner Athletic Conference*
 - f. Bo Bettison, *St Ambrose University (Iowa) of Heart of America Athletic Conference*

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

National Championship session start times to be considered by NAIA and host site to assist with supporting rest time and opportunities for food post-championship.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Theiverage/Henderson

Vote: 18-0-0



Men's Wrestling Motion #1

Proposal: Thomas Pompei, Indiana Tech (Ind.)

MOTION:

National Tournament Bracket Procedures: When a wrestler withdraws from the championship after the bracket release, an alternate is identified in accordance with the NAIA Wrestling Selection Procedures. The following procedures will then be applied.

1. Withdrawal of a Seeded Wrestler

If a seeded wrestler withdraws:

- a. All seeded wrestlers in the weight class will move up one seed position.
- b. The first-seeded alternate will become the 16th seed, and the second-seeded alternate will become the first-seeded alternate.
- c. The alternate list for that weight class will be contacted, beginning with the wrestler having the highest point total, until an available wrestler accepts the alternate position. That wrestler will be added to the championship field as an unseeded wrestler.
- d. The championship bracket for that weight class will be redrawn at the on-site National Bracketing Committee meeting.

2. Withdrawal of an Unseeded Wrestler

If an unseeded wrestler withdraws, the identified alternate will replace the withdrawn wrestler using the following procedure at the on-site National Bracketing Committee meeting.

a. No teammate conflict

- i. If placing the alternate into the withdrawn wrestler's bracket position does not result in the alternate being on the same side of the bracket as a teammate, the alternate will be placed directly into that position. The bracket will not be redrawn.

b. Teammate conflict

- i. If placing the alternate into the withdrawn wrestler's bracket position results in the alternate being on the same side of the bracket as a teammate, the Bracketing Committee will:
 - i. Identify all unseeded wrestlers on the opposite side of the bracket who could exchange bracket positions with the alternate without creating a teammate conflict.
 - ii. Randomly draw one wrestler from the eligible pool.
 - iii. Exchange the bracket positions of the selected wrestler and the alternate. The bracket will not be redrawn.

RATIONALE:

Putting the rules in writing so that all coaches know what happens if an alternate is entering the bracket, and minimizing the amount of changes to the bracket, so that as many coaches as possible have been prepping for their opening round match-up for a week.

When a seeded wrestler is withdrawn, too many switches need to be made, and a full redraw is necessary. When one unseeded wrestler is replaced, we are trying to make as few changes as possible and minimize disruption to everyone's preparation.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

Process has been implemented in previous championships, but needs to be in writing in policies to ensure all coaches are aware of procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027



Men's Wrestling Motion #2

Proposal: KC Rock, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.)

MOTION:

Remove secondary criteria from the seeding and bracketing guidelines and procedures for the National Championship.

Remove secondary criteria

1. Common tournament place finishes
2. Past National Championship or Conference Tournament finishes
3. Overall records – quality/strength of opponents and schedule hold precedence, win-loss record

RATIONALE:

Simplify the process by using current, in-season head-to-head and common-opponent victories.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The process has been difficult to decide how many years back to go for past-year finishes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027



Men's Wrestling Motion #3

Proposal: KC Rock, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.)

MOTION:

Remove National Oversight Committee, with the exception of the NAC Liaison, from the Conference Call to discuss seeding changes that need to be made. The National Oversight Committee will continue to meet after the conference call to discuss and decide any outstanding seed proposal cases not resolved during the National Seeding Committee conference call.

Proposal: "The National Seeding Committee will meet via conference call to discuss any seeding changes that may need to be made."

Current verbiage: "The National Seeding Committee and National Oversight Committee will meet via conference call to discuss any seeding changes that may need to be made."

RATIONALE:

The National Oversight Committee and National Seeding Committee operate separately throughout the process, from the seeding votes to the rationale request and the discussions and decisions on seed switches. Therefore, this separation on the conference call would continue to cleanly divide it up from start to finish, in an effort to minimize any potential bias.

The NAC Liaison, who serves as a member of the three-person oversight committee, will remain on the conference call to ensure the integrity of the selection and seeding process.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The National Oversight Committee sat in on the conference call.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027



Men's Wrestling Motion #4

Proposal: KC Rock, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.)

MOTION:

National Seeding Committee Conference Call: Change point differential requirement to propose seed switch and identify rank order of discussion.

Proposal: "In the Seeding committee meeting, a discussion and vote will take place to switch wrestlers' seeds if wrestlers are within 20 points of each other and there is a head-to-head, or if wrestlers are within 10 points of each other for common opponents. Discussions of wrestlers' moving seeds will always begin with the highest vote total and work down the list for each weight class."

Current verbiage: "Only individuals whose point totals are within 10 points can be discussed."

RATIONALE:

Clarify the process and procedures for productive discussions of potential seed switches for members of the National Seeding Committee.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The rank order of the discussion was not identified. Additionally, no specific point amount has been identified to propose head-to-head seed switches.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027



Men's Wrestling Motion #5

Proposal: KC Rock, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.)

MOTION:

National Seeding Committee Conference Call: Change from a unanimous decision from the National Seeding Committee to switch seeds to a 70% quorum.

Proposal: "With a proposed switch, it will require a quorum of 70% to vote in favor of the seed switch to secure. All members of the National Seeding Committee are permitted to vote. If a quorum is not met, the decision to switch the wrestlers' seeds will be referred to the National Oversight Committee."

Current verbiage: "For a change to be made, it must be a unanimous decision among the National Seeding Committee. If the National Seeding Committee is not able to come to a unanimous decision, the National Oversight Committee will make the ultimate decision."

RATIONALE:

At times, some members felt that a committee member would vote in opposition to the majority, so that the decision would go to the National Oversight Committee rather than be decided on the conference call. This quorum of 70% also aligns with other sports' selection committee procedures when it comes to voting teams into at-large or seeds.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

none

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027



Men's Wrestling Motion On the Floor

Proposal: Grant Henderson, Grand View University (Iowa)

MOTION:

To remove the top two and bottom two votes from the National Seeding Committee vote tallies before vote totals are presented for the National Seeding Committee Conference Call and the National Oversight Committee.

Previously, only the top and bottom votes were removed before calculating.

RATIONALE:

With an increase of 8 to 9 qualifying conferences, there will be four more votes cast for the National Seeding. In the past, with the top and bottom votes removed, 14 of the 16 total votes produced the data. This would keep the number at 14 votes of the 18 total votes cast.

HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

none

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

none

START DATE:

2026-2027