



National
Administrative
Council

National Administrative Council (NAC) August 2026 Meeting Summary

The National Administrative Council (NAC) met for its first meeting of the 2026-27 academic year on August 12, 2026. Below is a summary of actions taken by the council.

NAC Vice Chair Election

Cindy Potter, Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics at Columbia College (Mo.), was elected Vice Chair of the National Administrative Council (NAC).

Committee Vice Chair Appointments

Approved the following NAC Committee Vice Chair appointments:

- Postseason Selection, Qualification & Ratings: Tommy Chasanoff, Associate Athletic Director – Sports Information, University of the Cumberlands
- Experience & Enhancement: Meg Schebler, Commissioner, Continental Athletic Conference
- Rules: Donny Mayfield, Director of Athletics, Tennessee Wesleyan University
- Polls, Awards & Statistics: Chris Wells, Commissioner, Mid-South Conference

NAC Sport Liaison Assignments

Approved the following NAC Sport Liaison assignments for the 2027 national championships:

- Women's Wrestling: Britt Einerson, Assistant Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Grand View University
- Softball: Brandie Paul, Athletics Director, University of Tennessee Southern

NAIA National Championship Withdrawals, Disqualifications and Forfeitures

Approved a national championship policy establishing procedures for withdrawals, disqualifications, forfeitures and participation by ineligible student-athletes. Once the official championship field is released, a team that withdraws, is disqualified or is unable to participate will not be replaced by another automatic qualifier or at-large selection, except in sports with established alternate qualification or participant procedures. If a team withdraws after playing a championship contest, all completed contest results, honors, awards, recognitions, placings, statistics and records will stand, and championship results, brackets and standings will not be adjusted or allow another team to advance. If an ineligible student-athlete participates in a national championship contest, any contest in which the student-athlete participated will be forfeited. Honors, awards, recognitions, placings and advancement earned by the offending team or student-athlete will be vacated, while final championship results, standings and brackets will not be adjusted to elevate another participant. Statistics and records from forfeited contests will be removed from official championship records.

Qualification Plans

Approved the 2026-27 Qualification Plans, which can be accessed through [NAIA Connect](#).



National Championship Bracketing – Final Site Fields of 16 Teams or Fewer

Approved prioritizing bracket integrity and true seeding for championships that advance directly to final-site competition with fields of 16 teams or fewer. This policy applies to Men's and Women's Bowling, Women's Flag Football, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Men's Volleyball, and Women's Beach Volleyball. For these championships, matchups will not be adjusted based on conference affiliation; brackets will remain as seeded by the respective National Selection Committee. This policy applies only to championships that advance directly to the final site and does not impact championships that conduct First and Second Rounds or Opening Rounds prior to final-site competition.

NAIA RPI

- Approved removing teams suspended from postseason play from the at-large consideration field. For each suspended team removed, the consideration field will be expanded by one team, ensuring the established number of postseason-eligible teams remains under consideration for at-large selection.
- Approved requiring a team to play at least 25% of its maximum allowable contests against NAIA opponents to be included in the final RPI release.

Sport	Minimum NAIA Opponents
Baseball	13
Basketball – Men	7
Basketball – Women	7
Lacrosse – Men	5
Lacrosse – Women	5
Soccer – Men	5
Soccer – Women	5
Softball	13
Volleyball – Men	7
Volleyball – Women	7

Sport Rule Changes

Approved rule changes in the following sports:

- [Men's Lacrosse](#)
- [Swimming and Diving](#)



Ambulance Coverage at National Championships

Approved requiring an ambulance designated as "on-call" to have a response time of 12 minutes or less. If the response time exceeds 12 minutes, an ambulance will be required to be on-site at the championship.

NAIA Marathon

- Approved NAIA Marathon as a special event for the 2026-27 academic year. The NAIA Marathon will be held in conjunction with the BMW Marathon in Dallas, Texas.

Baseball

- Approved modifying the Baseball World Series schedule to play two games on Thursday and two games on Friday, replacing the previously scheduled four games on Friday. Teams will continue to arrive Tuesday and practice Wednesday, with the championship schedule from Saturday through the conclusion of the event remaining unchanged. The approved format includes a three-year sunset clause, during which no changes to the format may be made by the Council or coaches. [Updated Bracket](#)

Women's Beach Volleyball

- Approved Women's Beach Volleyball for championship status
- Approved an eight-team, three-day championship format featuring two four-team pools. The top three teams from each pool advance to bracket play, culminating with semifinals and the national championship match.

Competitive Cheer & Dance

- Approved allowing Competitive Cheer and Dance conference championships and national qualifying events to take place over a two-day period, with preliminary rounds conducted on day one and final rounds on day two.

Football

- Approved amendments to the NAC Football Affiliated Conference Policy establishing the requirements for certified football conferences, including football-specific conferences, to qualify teams to the Football Championship Series.
 - A certified football conference must have at least six active members in good standing that sponsor intercollegiate football.
 - At least six active members in good standing must declare their intent to participate in the NAIA championship program.
 - Conferences with fewer than 10 members must play an intraconference round-robin schedule. Conferences with 10 or more members must play at least seven intra-conference games.
 - The conference must have a written charter/constitution on file with the NAIA Department of Championships.



- The conference must be certified by the NAIA prior to May 1 each year by submitting a conference certification form to the NAIA Department of Championships.
- The conference must certify its method for determining a conference champion in the event of a tie.
- Automatic qualification berths will be awarded in accordance with the NAIA Automatic Qualification Policy, with conferences meeting applicable membership thresholds eligible to receive multiple automatic qualification berths as established by NAIA policy.
- A football-specific conference certified by the NAIA will be eligible for automatic qualification under the same membership and scheduling requirements as any other certified football conference.
- Independent institutions not recognized as members of a certified football conference must be members in good standing, sponsor football, declare their intent to participate in the NAIA football program, and be selected as an at-large qualifier by the Football National Selection Committee to qualify for the Football Championship Series.
- In conjunction with the approved amendment to the NAC Football Affiliated Conference Policy, the Council approved a revised football automatic qualification model of one automatic berth for conferences with six or more schools and two automatic berths for conferences with 12 or more schools, effective with the 2027-28 academic year.

Men's Wrestling

- Approved procedures for replacing wrestlers who withdraw after brackets are released. If a seeded wrestler withdraws, remaining seeds move up, the first alternate becomes the No. 16 seed, and the bracket is redrawn. If an unseeded wrestler withdraws, the alternate is placed into the open position when possible; if a teammate conflict exists, bracket positions will be adjusted through a random draw among eligible unseeded wrestlers without redrawing the bracket.
- Approved removing common tournament finishes and past National Championship or Conference Tournament finishes as secondary seeding criteria. Seeding will focus on head-to-head results, results against common opponents, and overall records, with the quality and strength of opponents and schedule taking precedence over win-loss record.
- Approved removing the National Oversight Committee, with the exception of the NAC Liaison, from the National Seeding Committee conference call. The National Oversight Committee will continue to meet following the call to review and decide any outstanding seeding proposals not resolved by the National Seeding Committee.
- Approved modifying the point differential requirements for proposed seed changes. Wrestlers within 20 points of one another may be considered for a seed switch when there is a head-to-head result, while wrestlers within 10 points may be considered based on common opponents. Seeding discussions will begin with the wrestler receiving the highest vote total and proceed down the list within each weight class.



- Approved changing the requirement for a seed switch from unanimous approval to 70% approval by the National Seeding Committee. All committee members may vote, and if the 70% threshold is not met, the proposed seed switch will be referred to the National Oversight Committee for a final decision.

Women's Wrestling

- Approved procedures for replacing wrestlers who withdraw after brackets are released. If a seeded wrestler withdraws, remaining seeds move up, the first alternate becomes the lowest seed, and the affected championship brackets are redrawn. If an unseeded wrestler withdraws, the alternate is placed into the appropriate weight class without adjusting seeded wrestlers, and the applicable championship brackets are redrawn.
- Approved increasing the number of seeded wrestlers from eight to 12 per weight class at the NAIA National Championships, with a three-year sunset clause on the approved change.
- Approved requiring seeding discussions to begin with the wrestler receiving the highest vote total and proceed down the list within each weight class.
- Approved an NAIA modification allowing a one-pound weight allowance for all wrestlers during back-to-back team competition and when a team competes within a 48-hour window, measured by event start time. The allowance applies to all wrestlers competing in the subsequent event, including wrestlers on opposing teams who did not compete the previous day. The maximum allowance is one pound regardless of the number of consecutive events, all competitions must be official team dates of competition, and the allowance does not alter a wrestler's weight-loss descent plan for subsequent weigh-ins.