



Sports Governance Meeting Minutes

January 7th, 2026

Attendance: Darin Monroe, Kurt Kohler, Michael Landers, Alison Mohr, Ron Riggles, Melissa Grau, Mark Tucker, Dom Dimaggio, Derrick Worrels, Mary Young, Dean Myrick, Lorayne Chandler, Brycen McKeehan, Rod Lovett, Tyler Broderick, Brett Monaghan

Redefining Non-Collegial Conduct

This section covers the committee's review and revision of the "non-collegial conduct" bylaw. The primary objective was to distinguish isolated, two-player altercations from larger brawls, preventing them from automatically triggering non-collegial. The discussion details the proposed language change—raising the threshold from two to three ejections in a single incident—and clarifies the National Office's retained authority to investigate any incident, culminating in a unanimous vote to approve the new definition. Tyler Broderick from the National Office reported a recent increase in non-collegial incidents, noting that men's soccer incidents had nearly doubled. The committee's goal was to amend the policy where an altercation involving just two players (one from each team) who are both ejected is automatically classified as a "non-collegial incident." The consensus was that such an event should be viewed as two separate ejections rather than an incident that earns a school tiered sanction points. The proposed new language defines non-collegial conduct as an incident with three or more ejections. This change prevents two-player incidents from automatically triggering the classification. The definition still includes "bench-clearing altercations" (defined as even one person leaving the bench), altercations with spectators, and contests not completed due to misconduct. After discussion, the committee agreed to remove a clarifying phrase ("one from each team") to ensure the rule covers scenarios where two players from the same team are ejected for fighting each other. To preserve oversight, the committee affirmed the National Office's right to request additional information on any ejection and to elevate a two-ejection incident to non-collegial status after further review. The motion to approve the updated definition of non-collegial conduct

passed unanimously. It was also agreed that all corresponding sections of the NJCAA handbook would be updated to reflect the change from “two” to “three.”

Determining the National Tournament Start Date

This section details the committee’s debate over when the “national tournament” officially begins for the purpose of applying NJCAA rules, such as roster limits and tournament formats. The discussion contrasts the current “region/district” start with a proposed “final national tournament site” start. Arguments focus on the lack of consistency across regions, the difficulty of enforcement at the regional level, and the desire to grant regions autonomy over their qualifying tournaments. The committee voted to formally define the national tournament as beginning at the final tournament site, not at the preceding regional or district level. The core issue was the widespread confusion and inconsistency caused by the current rule, which designates the start of the national tournament at the region or district level. Several members argued that a regional tournament is not perceived as part of the final national championship and that applying national rules at this stage creates problems. Forcing teams to cut players for a regional tournament was cited as a major pain point, especially when playing against familiar regional opponents. Proponents of the change advocated for greater regional autonomy, allowing each region to determine its own tournament format, seeding criteria, and rules to best select its representative for the final championship. This approach, it was argued, simplifies enforcement for the NJCAA and places the responsibility for qualification standards on the regions themselves. While some concern was raised about losing consistency from the start of the postseason, the majority felt that the “district in the middle” created more conflict than clarity. The motion to officially define the start of the national tournament at the final championship site passed.

Establishing Standardized Roster and Personnel Limitations

This section documents the extensive and complex discussion to create a consistent, formula-based system for national tournament roster limitations across all sports. The debate centered on achieving fairness and predictability for hosts and teams, while addressing the different needs of scholarship and non-scholarship divisions. The committee successfully passed a comprehensive motion establishing an all-inclusive personnel cap (players, coaches, staff) for both scholarship and non-scholarship programs, calculated as a percentage increase over the maximum number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) for each sport.

The committee tackled the long-standing issue of roster limits to create a consistent and equitable policy across all sports, which currently range from strict caps to no limits at all. The primary drivers for establishing a standard were the significant planning challenges faced by national tournament hosts regarding banquets, credentials, hotels, and athlete gifts, as well as ensuring quality student-athlete experience. Initial discussions revolved around whether to have limits at all. However, the need for consistency and host predictability led the committee to pursue a formula-based approach tied to the maximum number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) for each sport. After several motions failed—including setting scholarship limits equal to LOI max—the committee arrived at a comprehensive solution. Instead of capping only athletes, the new rule establishes a limit on the total number of team personnel (players, coaches, trainers, managers, etc.), giving individual teams the flexibility to decide their own roster composition.

The final, approved motion established the following all-inclusive personnel caps:

- **Scholarship Divisions:** Total personnel is limited to **LOI Max + 33%**.
 - Examples: Baseball (40), Basketball (20), Football (113), Soccer/Softball (32), Volleyball (19).
- **Non-Scholarship Divisions:** Total personnel is limited to **LOI Max + 40%**.
 - Examples: Baseball (42), Basketball (21), Football (119), Soccer/Softball (34), Volleyball (20).

This structure provides a consistent, predictable framework for hosts while granting teams autonomy in how they allocate their personnel spots for the national tournament.