



**BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**  
*of the* **NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
September 18, 2024



**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order.**

Troy Tucker, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. EST on September 18, 2024.

**2. Roll Call.**

Present: Troy Tucker (Board Chair); Kerri-Ann McTiernan (Vice Chair); Mary Young (Women's Senior Administrator); Rob Nielson (Men's Senior Administrator); Jerry Smith (R1); Mike St. John (R2); Kristen Schuth (R3); Darin Monroe (R4); Deron Clark (R5); Mike Saddler (R6); Bobby Hudson (R7); Rob Chaney (R8); Marci Henry (R9); Lind Hartsell (R10); Thom McDonald (R11); Dale Vos (R12); Kurt Kohler (R13); Tim Drain (R14); Chris DePew (R15); Darren Pannier (R16); David Elder (R17); Joel Bate (R18); Katie Amundson (R19); Jo Ann Rogers (R20); Tommy Stewart (R21); Dean Myrick (R22); Ron Riggle (R24); Dr. Myles Shelton (PC Southwest); Dr. Dan Kinney, Jr. (PC Central); Dr. Tom Huebner (PC Southeast); Dr. Michael Calvert (PC Northwest); Michelle Ivey (At-Large); Melissa Grau (At-Large); Michelle Silcox (At-Large); Dr. Derrick Worrels (At-Large);

Absent: Steve Martin (R23); Dr. Margaret McMenamin (PC Northeast); Dr. Tony Miksa (PC East Central); Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib (At-Large)

NJCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance: Dr. Christopher Parker (NJCAA President and CEO); Jeff White (Counsel to the Board of Regents), Christopher Haley (Vice President of Membership and Development)

Other NJCAA Staff Members in Attendance: Michelle Meadows; Dr. Brett Monaghan; Kerri Askew; Wanda Bodey; Samantha Lowder; Carly Pitts; Lauren Pritchett; Tyler Broderick; Andrew Givens; Rod Lovett; Danielle Lafferty; Kyle Eager; Kalyn Fetter; Jerry McCarty; Madison Mathis; Lydia Morris; Ryan Jurden; Zach McKinstry; Anthony Taylor; John Blazek; Jessica Hernandez; Diana Beltran; Toni Brown; Jack Maynard; Bobby Alexander; Avery Tucker; Jim Siedliski.

**3. Recognition of Guests.**

No guests were reported.

**4. Approval of Agenda.**

**MOTION** to approve the agenda by Jerry Smith; **SECONDED** by Melissa Grau. **PASSES**

**5. NJCAA National Office Updates**

Mr. Tucker began by discussing why this special meeting was called. He explained that Dr. Parker felt it was important to share updates from the National Office and to hear directly from his team what is going on.

Mr. Tucker commented that he believes things are going well and that in his opinion it has been a smooth transition into the fall.

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Dr. Parker was recognized to begin the National Office report. As the National Office experienced transition over the summer, it was important for the staff to re-commit to a servant leadership mentality, and how the staff are working to move the Association forward.

Graduate assistants Avery Tucker, Jackson Maynard, and Bobby Alexander were recognized and explained why they chose to be a part of the NJCAA and how they are learning to best serve the membership of the NJCAA.

Dr. Brett Monaghan shared a quote he uses often, “If service is below, leadership is beyond you,” and explained how that is our mission moving forward and that will be a key component to what the Board will hear throughout this meeting.

Dr. Parker then explained the establishment of core values in the National Office, and we are now working to implement those into the strategic plan.

Michelle Meadows explained that the six core values that have been adopted must be attributes that we live by on a daily basis and how they are being implemented throughout different areas of the operation.

Madison Mathis reviewed each of the core values: Trust, Integrity, Accountability, Stewardship, Strategic, and Engagement, and asked the Board of Regents to join us in adopting these six core values.

Dr. Monaghan gave an overview of what his division will review on the call, including championships, marketing and multimedia, and sports governance.

Andrew Givens gave an update on multimedia and discussed some of the work that Zach McKinstry has worked on. In marketing, he spoke on the current team members, and asked the Board for their continued help in making sure our information is updated online.

Kyle Eager gave an update on Presto and how he spends 40-50% of his week working with them each week. Upcoming work will include the new statistics website and full website upgrades which will begin in early 2025 for a fall 2025 rollout.

Jerry McCarty discussed improvements to weekly rankings and polls. Other improvements will include clickability for individual schools in polls.

Zach McKinstry announced that the National Office is finalizing the new hire for a multimedia associate. He explained the success of the NJCAA Game of the Week and the Board for their help in sharing stories of student-athletes, both past and present.

Rod Lovett spoke on a goal to improve communication among sport chairs. He gave an update on the Sports Governance Committee, the Region Realignment Committee. He reminded everyone of the Coaches Association dues timeline and Hall of Fame nomination deadlines and gave an update on the work being done to bring commonality to all of the Coaches Association bylaws and constitution.

Anthony Taylor introduced himself to the Board of Regents and explained his role as Governance Associate.

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John Blazek discussed the previous day's call with Region Directors, coordinators, and assigners on new rules for the year, and there are plans to do one for each sporting season next year.

Dnaielle Lafferty spoke on how processes can be improved for championships and insert the six core values in developing those championships in order to provide our student-athletes with the best experience possible. She stated that the team also benchmarked with the NAIA on best practices and how we can improve in both the short-term and long-term.

Kalyn Fetter provided an update on the relationship with Levy Awards including direct region ordering and changes in timelines to make things better for our membership.

Lydia Morris discussed implementing community service projects at championships events, using Division I Baseball, Division II Baseball, and Division III Football as examples.

Ryan Jurden spoke on the host sites for the fall season and briefly discussed the fall pre-championship packets slated to come out in early October.

Christopher Haley apprised the Board of updates on the membership, educational initiatives for the year, like the Aspiring Leaders Program. The National Office has also developed an online resource page for risk management for members to use. Mr. Haley continued to speak on the corporate partnership program within the NJCAA noting its growth over the past five years and the relationship the NJCAA has with VanWagner, the Association's third-party affiliate in corporate partnerships, advertising, and broadcast rights.

Jim Siedliski, VanWagner General Manager for the NJCAA, spoke on VanWagner's commitment to find new and innovative partnerships which will serve to benefit both the NJCAA and its member institutions.

Mr. Givens described his goals for community engagement and gave an update on NJCAA Day, scheduled for October 17, which has already been announced. He also spoke on the NJCAA Foundation, updating new roles for himself and Mr. Haley as co-assistant executive directors under the leadership of Dr. Parker, and the goal to build local and national partnerships.

Jessica Hernandez gave an update on the 2025 NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame awards event.

Jeff White addressed items in the legal and governance space, including advocacy at the state and federal level to gain recognition, and he feels that the NJCAA has been successful in that regard. Multiple staff and legislative aides have reached out to the NJCAA to gauge our opinions. Much of this is on hold as the settlement offer from the federal court regarding the NCAA case. Title IX updates are something we continue to monitor and as we provide value for our members in the NJCAA. There have been proposed sport-specific changes to Title IX, which have been put on the back burner for the time being. There are also proposed Title VI changes scheduled to come out as well. Mr. White stated that there continues to be efforts to improve educational offerings, including an appeals digest, which will be forthcoming in the October Board of Regents meeting.

Wanda Bodey thanked the Appeals Committee and gave an update on the new virtual process, now in its second year. She gave an overview of the work of the committee and a need for a bylaw clarification which will be coming in October.

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Carly Pitts spoke on auditing, noting that there have been 39 completed so far. She announced that the NJCAA will be producing a new audit video to help with that process and that will be available for viewing by the winter.

Lauren Pritchett introduced herself and explained her work in reviewing the casebook.

Tyler Broderick spoke on sportsmanship charts for soccer and baseball, roster templates, and ejections. As of September 18, ejections are at 227, up from last year's number of 216. Non-collegials are down to eight from 11, over the same period.

Sam Lowder discussed current work being done in the portal, explaining that we have collected information on more than 190,000 student-athletes over the past three academic years, and the more than 40,000 letters-of-intent that have been issued this year alone.

Michelle Meadows gave an update on how the finance and operations division is continually working to improve processes and efficiencies, maintaining high levels of integrity on information reported and stewardship of resources used.

Diana Beltran spoke the annual financial audit and the development of championship specific income and expense reports.

Dr. Parker spoke briefly on the strategic plan, and explained that Kerri Askew is spearheading that effort. Mrs. Askew explained how the data is being collected and asked the Board for their help in collecting that data. Dr. Parker explained that the ten areas have been put into five pillars and that will be shared by the October Board meeting.

Dr. Parker continued to talk about staff recognition, noting Toni Brown's work on developing this new program. Mrs. Brown introduced the MVP Employee Recognition Program and how employees can be recognized. Two awardees will be announced each quarter, one from internal nominations from fellow teammates at the National Office, and one from external nominations from the membership, the process which will be shared soon.

Dr. Parker finished by reiterating the commitment to a servant leadership mindset.

Ms. Meadows gave an update on personnel. Bailey Grossetti, Toni Brown, and Ryan Jurden will be leaving that National Office team in the coming week. There are three positions currently posted: Championship and Events Associate, Multimedia Associate, and Athletics Communications Associate. All these positions are budget neutral.

Mr. Haley gave an update on the 2024-25 membership renewals and Coaches Association dues payments. More than 90% of the membership has already begun the process, and regular communication has commenced with those who need to complete the process by the October 31 deadline.

## **6. Board Chair Updates.**

Mr. Tucker thanked the staff for their presentation and reiterated the positivity he feels from the National Office to help solve issues for the membership.

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He reminded the Board that the Sports Governance Committee and Eligibility Committee will be meeting in Charlotte, NC on October 8-10 for their three-day retreat and thanked them in advance for the work that they will do.

**7. Adjournment.**

Chair Tucker announced that the pre-Board of Regents Q&A has been moved to Friday, October 11.

Mr. Haley was recognized to update the Board of Regents. As was announced this past spring, the governance portion of the website is a permanent addition moving forward. Having all BOR materials in one location will help prevent having to send multiple supplement emails before meetings. This will begin with the release of the October BOR agenda on Thursday, September 19. The final process change is how items are numbered. All discussion and action items are now denoted with a four-digit number.

Chair Tucker thanked everyone once again and reminded the group of the next Board meeting in October.

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m. EST.