



COACHES ASSOCIATION

NJCAA SPORTS GOVERNANCE MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2025

1. **Call to order.** Brett Monaghan called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM EST.

2. **Roll call.**

Present: Darin Monroe, Ron Riggle, Dean Myrick, Alison Mohr, Sadiya Jones, Rob Nielson, Rod Lovett, Anthony Taylor, Rob Chaney, Melissa Grau, Marci Henry, Mary Young and Derrick Worrels, Jake Ripple, Dean Myrick, Frank McCathran, Josh Fowler, Rob Nielson

Absent:

Other staff in Attendance: Andrew Givens, Wanda Bodey, Kyle Eager

3. **Josh Fowler, Presto.** Josh responded to a query from Marci, indicating that currently there is an option for no contest. However, he mentioned that the system could be modified to account for wins and losses when teams compete against non-member schools, without affecting the overall statistics. He reassured the group that the proposed changes could be implemented by the fall. This would involve a dropdown filter to display only the statistics of member schools, along with two distinct reports: one encompassing all games and the other focusing solely on member schools. Dean inquired about the possibility of sorting by divisions I, II, and III, to which Josh agreed to consult with his team and provide an update to Brett within three weeks. Although the timeline for this adjustment may extend, Josh committed to discussing the specifics with his team to finalize the details.

4. **Sport Committee Topic Highlights from Rod.** The **Softball**/baseball Letter of Intent (LOI) discussions proceeded without any objections, maintaining the number at 24, even if baseball's numbers were to increase. There was a consensus against reducing the LOI figures. Rod mentioned that the order of events is important, as the agendas are due next week, meaning that official items will be presented then; for now, the discussions are informal. The NCAA Softball is set to update its rulebook this June. Additionally, the group deliberated a division II request to extend the time between games from two hours to two and a half hours. The topic of limiting the number of individuals permitted in the dugout was also addressed, proposing a cap of 24 players and 6 additional personnel, although the specific roles of these six individuals were not defined; they could include trainers, managers, coaches, etc. Lastly, there was a discussion regarding the possibility of transferring scrimmage dates from the fall season to the spring. **Volleyball** is addressing concerns at both the 5th, 7th, and 9th place games. Brett participated in a meeting with DI representatives, who expressed their opposition to the elimination of games. Marci concurred those coaches will maintain this as a topic for discussion but will not expedite the decision-making process. DII is considering possible changes to the brackets, and there is a strong push for the establishment of a coaches' contact database as well as a sophomore recruiting database. Rod raised the issue of the challenges faced by NJCAA in hosting videos on their website, particularly if the names differ from those in the portal, to avoid confusion with the NCAA transfer portal. **Men's Volleyball** is striving to achieve championship status for the 2025-2026 season. **Baseball** is contemplating discussions regarding the same timeline as softball, while also evaluating the start date for their first game, as they believe the current timing is premature. The committee also proposed the introduction of a relief pitcher of the year award for All-American recognition. There are no specific uniform number

requirements for the official postseason roster; instead, teams will be allowed to include their entire roster. Ron raised concerns about how to manage this during the regular season. Marci inquired whether the NJCAA roster sizes might increase as NCAA roster sizes decrease. There is significant interest in increasing the number of Letters of Intent (LOIs), particularly with the figure of thirty in mind, while maintaining scholarships at 24. However, tracking this for the national office may pose challenges, as the LOI and scholarship numbers do not align. **Bowling** is seeking to raise its fees from \$500/\$100 to \$550/\$110. The **Clay Target** program within the NJCAA requires a comprehensive reassessment to broaden its appeal to student-athletes. The committee seeks to incorporate a diverse range of shooting disciplines and updated terminology. Continuing to focus solely on Clay will not foster growth. Mary Young pointed out that her institution has successfully expanded its offerings to include skeet and sporting clays alongside trap shooting, which has positively contributed to the sport's development. Mary inquired whether the NJCAA should appoint an official member to facilitate the growth of this sport. Melissa acknowledged the existing knowledge within the group but suggested that the challenge may lie in the execution, a sentiment that was concurred by members of the sports governance committee. **Cheer** faced several official challenges following their inaugural championship in the NJCAA. Brett addressed this issue, highlighting the dissatisfaction expressed by some coaches regarding the scoring system, while also acknowledging that other coaches were pleased with the outcomes. In **flag football**, there is a discussion about the possibility of shifting the sport's season from spring to fall. **Basketball** is considering relocating the All-American selection process back to the convention. This change may result in a delay in the announcement of All-American selections, with the possibility of increasing the poll from 25 to 30 teams. There was also a discussion about expanding to 32 teams, although such a change is unlikely to occur soon and may take several years to implement. The Division II poll is scheduled for January 6, 2026, amid concerns that the current schedule allows for too many games to be played without any polls for an entire month, during which significant changes can occur. Additionally, there was a discussion regarding the restructuring of the Division II women's basketball tournament. In Division III, there is also a proposal to increase the tournament size from 12 to 16 teams. In **soccer**, discussions focused on the travel party and increasing the roster size to 30 players. The implementation of four officials for matches was also agreed upon. Referees will be responsible for managing bench decorum and substitutions, and a five-goal differential cap will be introduced to discourage teams from excessively running up the score to influence potential tiebreakers. There was a conversation about establishing overall and positional rankings for All-American selections. Other soccer-related discussions included the expansion of Division III men's soccer to 12 teams and maintaining the same pool play format, with the highest seeds competing on the third day for both Division I and Division III. **Swim** discussions are focusing on addressing a potential loophole in the 18-competitor rule. Women's **wrestling** is expected to advance to the national championship from the invitational stage. There is ongoing dialogue regarding the seeding of the top three finishers in each district, as well as the participation of unattached athletes traveling with their teams. Transportation has been requested, but no additional services are being sought. Furthermore, they will not be associated with the school through uniform singlets, nor will they receive coaching from the coach. Rod noted that this issue must be discussed with Wanda, as it pertains to compliance matters. Brett addressed the topic of **tennis**, differentiating between scholarship and non-scholarship divisions. The aim is to establish Division II tennis across the membership based on survey results. Discussions will persist as elections take place this summer. An update on the **half marathon** includes adjustments to the beverage allowance during the race, while **cross country** will implement a rotation of races across all divisions. The **football** redshirt rule, which was passed a year ago, remains under review by sport governance. There is a growing interest in expanding the national playoff from four to six teams, and a survey will be distributed to all Division I football

programs to assess interest levels. Additionally, Division III is considering the minimum number of games required for selection as an All-American, proposing to raise the minimum number of games played by NJCAA to six, and is also exploring the possibility of implementing replay for national games. Concerns have risen regarding the feasibility of scheduling Division III football, particularly considering the negative implications of scheduling against Division I teams. This situation is likely to result in a decrease in NJCAA games and an increase in the scheduling of club teams. **DII Golf** advocates scheduling national events on distinct weeks to enable coaches who oversee both men's and women's teams to participate. DIII has not provided minutes for its sport committee meetings. An official request for Jamestown to automatically host has been denied. Brett has communicated this decision, and Darin received a motion from Ron Riggle, which was seconded by Jake Ripple. The motion was unanimously approved, stipulating that the host school will not receive an automatic bid.

5. **Transportation in handbook ruling.** There remains some uncertainty regarding the interpretation of the ruling. Wanda was reached out to, and Marci expressed that travel without participating in a game or scrimmage could serve as a means for team bonding, contrasting with previous practices. However, if a measurable outcome can be demonstrated, such travel may be deemed acceptable. It is essential to provide clear and consistent language so that members are fully aware of their permissible actions. Marci proposed that competition should be included as a necessary criterion. Additionally, she recommended modifying the language to permit team bonding and activities under these circumstances. Marci also concurred with maintaining the time commitment aspect, specifically referring to the forty-eight-hour rule. Darin indicated that the problem may involve extending leadership activities into personal leisure pursuits.

6. **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM EST