



Sports Governance Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2026

Attendance: Darin Monroe, Derrick Worrels, Mark Tucker, Alison Mohr, Rod Lovett, Dean Myrick, Kurt Kohler, Michael Landers, Lorayne Chandler, Kerri-Ann McTiernan, Mary Young, Brycen McKeehan

Sport Committee Selection

- The committee discussed the process at which sports committees are selected each year. They discuss wanting to increase efficiency, specialized expertise, and a better path for sport growth for each NJCAA committee. A topic that was brought up is wanting to have a broader membership engagement and having more opportunities for individuals to serve.

Non-Collegial Language

- The group also discusses the current language and process for reporting individual rejection. It is noted that the penalties have corrected behavior historically, but elevating two individual ejections into a non-collegial is unnecessary.
- The committee has set the threshold for 3 or more individuals that are ejected from the same play to meet the requirement of a non-collegial. This will remove the "one-for-one" scenarios to ensure administrators can focus on mass participation rather than routine officiating matters.
- The Sports Governane Committee would also like to align Tiered Sanction points with serious offenses. This allows the committee to focus on the threats to sportsmanship and the game integrity rather than escalating isolated incidents.

Non-Gameday Related Meals

- Under the current language, non-game day related meals start August 1st. The committee brings up the point that many fall sport athletes arrive at campus

housing or begin team activities prior to the August 1st date. This update would allow non-gameday related meals to be provided during this time.

Offseason Funds

- With the new Non-Gamedat Related Meals proposal, this bylaw would then conflict with the meals allowance.
- The proposed change is to change the wording to allow funds for non-gameday related meals during the offseason but for nothing else.

Scholarship Only: Scheduling Club/Prep/JV Programs

- Would allow four-year college JV scheduling to maintain positive relationships our colleges have with them. It also serves as a great recruiting opportunity for our student-athletes looking to transfer to four-year schools to continue their athletic career. Knowing the NJCAA policy, it would be at the discretion of each NJCAA member whether they schedule JV contests or not.
- NJCAA members shall only schedule regular season contests against colleges who are members of the NJCAA, NJCAA approved military programs, Northwest Athletic Conference, California Community College Athletic Association, or NAIA/NCAA/NCCAA affiliated four-year college varsity/junior varsity programs. Teams can schedule up to 10% maximum of their schedule based upon the sports procedure chart.

Non-Scholarship: Scheduling Club/Prep/JV Programs

- This would allow four-year college JV scheduling to maintain positive relationships our colleges have with them. It also serves as a great recruiting opportunity for our student-athletes looking to transfer to four-year schools to continue their athletic career. Knowing the NJCAA policy, it would be at the discretion of each NJCAA member whether they schedule JV contests or not. Since non-scholarship colleges do not have a level below them like NJCAA DI and DII colleges do, competing against 4-year JV programs and counting the results and stats helps non-scholarship programs fill schedules with contests that benefit them and are worth the financial commitment to those contests.

Termination of Season or Sport

- The purpose of this proposal is to ensure that the NJCAA National Office has the most up to date and accurate information regarding active teams. June 1st and November 1st are firm deadlines to ensure that scheduling and divisional alignments are based on an accurate participating number.

- Clear notification also protects the eligibility of the student athletes and allows them to transfer to another institution. This notification system and tiered sanction penalty, the NJCAA incentivizes schools to make decisions in advance and protects the budgets of the institutions.

Travel Roster Limitations – National Tournament

- The committee also discusses the travel roster limitation at the National Tournament. Establishing a maximum travel roster based on Letter of Intent (LOI) limits ensures that postseason expenses remain proportional to a program's standard operational size. This policy protects host budgets from unpredictable costs related to banquets, gifts, and accommodations. It ensures that championship events remain financially viable for host institutions. Host institutions and the NJCAA must manage strict logistical constraints, including hotel room blocks, banquet seating capacities, and the procurement of awards/gifts. By setting a hard cap on the "official" roster (LOI + 33% or 40%), hosts can provide a high-quality experience with guaranteed resources for all essential participants, rather than diluting the experience to accommodate unlimited travel parties.
- There is a buffer provided for staff coaches, managers, athletic trainers, and other team personnel.

National Tournament Start Date

- The group defines the National Tournament start date as the first official day of the championship event. This grants the districts and regions the authority to determine their own qualifier formats.

Game Day Administrator

- **Mandate:** Require a designated institutional representative at every contest to improve event management and safety.
 - **Proof Problem:** Opponents can allege absence; there's no standardized evidence of presence (e.g., signature in scorebook is non-binding and time-limited).
 - **Role Definition:** "Designated institutional representative" is unclear—police on duty, volunteers, work-study students, and non-employees present liability and authority questions; campuses differ on HR onboarding and authorization.

- Illness/last-minute absence—unclear if contests proceed, if forfeits apply, or if fines are levied despite reasonable proximity/coverage.
- Path Forward: Advance the proposal to the Board to obtain formal feedback and define: employee-only requirement vs HR-approved volunteers, acceptable proof of presence (audit trail beyond scorebook signatures), contingency protocols (last-minute substitution authority), and sanction schema that distinguishes diligence from negligence.

Eligibility: At-Large Bids Without Postseason Participation

- If a team cannot or does not play in its regional postseason, it should not advance; regions must fix tournament formats to ensure best teams participate.
- Structural inequities (e.g., Region 8 Panhandle limits) and mandated cross-division schedules can unfairly exclude strong teams; an at-large path without postseason participation may be warranted in specific cases.
- Eligibility needs a clear rule on at-large consideration for non-postseason participants, paired with regional accountability to correct tournament formats; committees must avoid policing region structures while preventing deliberate postseason “opt-outs” for rest or gamesmanship.

Dual Membership and Two-Year Limit

- Article Five currently allows teams to forgo NJCAA postseason and compete in another organization if they choose not to participate in the NJCAA postseason
- Bylaws state member colleges may not sponsor athletic programs that participate beyond the two-year level; four-year degree expansion and retention incentives push campuses to consider four-year athletic continuity, creating tension with NJCAA identity and fairness.
- Two distinct decisions are required: (1) whether dual association participation is allowed concurrently for the same sport when rosters are non-overlapping; (2) whether any program composition involving juniors/seniors/fifth-year athletes violates the “beyond two-year” prohibition, regardless of association. The committee must define coaching staff separation, facility/resource sharing limits, recruiting conflict safeguards, and explicit compliance checks to prevent competitive advantage if competition is allowed.