



2026 Fall Meetings Summary

The NAIA Fall Meetings took place September 27-29, 2026, in Kansas City, Missouri.

COP ADVANCES FIVE SEASONS OF COMPETITION PROPOSAL

The COP advanced a legislative proposal that would extend eligibility to five seasons of competition. The proposal allows for a fifth season within 10 terms of attendance, lengthening the NAIA's current policy by one season. If approved, the fifth season will be available to all 2026-27 incoming and current student-athletes.

The proposal requires that student-athletes complete 96 credits to be eligible for a fifth season, as well as the discontinuation of the 20% rule as it pertains to seasons of competition. (The 20% threshold for financial aid limits will remain unchanged and is not a part of the proposal.)

The official proposal, along with FAQs and other resources, will be posted on the NAIA website on Monday, October 5. Members will be notified once the webpage is live.

There will be a virtual Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, October 22 at 1 p.m. Central. The virtual Business Meeting, which is when membership will vote on the proposal, will be on Wednesday, November 4 at 1 p.m. Central. As is the case with all legislative proposals, each school and conference will have one delegate who votes on its behalf. More information will be shared next week.

2027-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Work has started on developing the NAIA's 2027-2030 Strategic Plan. The COP, ADA, and CCA meetings all included a planning session to gain feedback about the desired direction of the association. The national office will present the plan to COP for approval at the spring 2027 meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The COP unanimously approved the addition of four new members, three of which are currently NCAA DII and DIII institutions. All four institutions were approved for active membership, effective July 1, 2027.



Christian Brothers University
Memphis, Tennessee



Manchester University
North Manchester, Indiana



Salem University
Salem, West Virginia



Yavapai College
Prescott, Arizona



Athletics
Directors
Association

The ADA reviewed their strategic plan and heard subcommittee updates, including:

- Strategic Communications: Expanding the ADA's storytelling and social media presence and highlighting athletic director expertise.
- Education: Continuing AD roundtables and exploring mentorship and subject-matter expertise opportunities.
- The Right Way to Play: Developing a practical best-practice framework to help athletic departments evaluate key operational areas based on their size and resources.
- Membership, Awards & Student-Athlete Experience: Strengthening engagement with new, lapsed, and non-member ADs; promoting awards and recognition; and creating opportunities to share student-athlete experience best practices.

The ADA Board also discussed concerns and implications related to NIL, brand advocacy and the recent temporary voucher process, and engaged in in-depth feedback on concepts from the Bylaws Review Working Group.



Conference
Commissioners
Association

The CCA meeting included:

- Reviewing and redesigning the new commissioner onboarding curriculum
- Examining best practices related to conference partnerships, media, and monetization
- Discussing the advantages of the formal NACDA partnership and weighing whether the benefits are worth the cost

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