



Conference Council Meeting

Chair – Dr. Tim Dudley, University of Minnesota Crookston
July 9, 2025

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott – Moorhead, Minn.
Salon G

Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks. (Dr. Tim Dudley)
2. NSIC Mission, Vision & Values Statements. (Dudley) [Supplement No. 1]
3. Approval of January 2025 Minutes. (Dudley) [Supplement No. 2] – *Action Anticipated*
4. NCAA Committee Updates. (Dudley)
 - a. NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program. (Dr. Thomas Saylor)
 - b. Division II Championships Committee. (Regan McAthie)
 - c. Division II Management Council. (Jen Flowers)
 - d. Division II Athletic Directors Association. (Britt Lauritsen)
 - e. Division II Conference Commissioners Association. (Erin Lind)
5. Webcasting Request for Proposals. (Dudley/Lind)
6. NSIC SAAC Business Meeting. (Allison Meadows) [Supplement No. 3] – *Action Anticipated*
7. [2025-30 NSIC Strategic Plan](#). (Dudley/Lind)
 - a. 2025-26 Priorities Activity. [Supplement No.4]
8. NCAA Division II Management Council Vacancy. (Lind) [Supplement No. 5]
9. Summer Meeting Reviews.
 - a. Faculty Athletic Representatives. (Dudley)
 - b. College Sports Communicators. (Lauritsen)
 - c. Compliance Administrators. (Bridget Steffes)
10. Standing Business Items. (Dudley/NSIC Staff)
 - a. 2024-25 Year in Review. [Supplement No. 6]
 - b. NSIC Marketing & Corporate Partnerships Update. [Supplement No. 7 & 8]
 - c. NSIC Points of Pride & Academic Accomplishments. [Supplement No. 9 & 10]
 - d. 2025-26 NSIC Organizational Chart. [Supplement No. 11]
 - e. Future Meeting Schedule. [Supplement No. 12]
 - f. NSIC & Division II Leadership. [Supplement No. 13]
 - g. NCAA Conference Grant. [Supplement No. 14]
 - h. Sport Sponsorship Update. [Supplement No. 15]
11. Miscellaneous.



OUR MISSION

The NSIC is a model Division II conference that uses high-level athletics competition to develop champions in the classroom and community while empowering student-athletes to be impactful and positive leaders.

OUR VISION

We will create a culture that inspires personal and professional growth for all student-athletes, coaches and administrators, and we will operate with integrity to ensure fair, equitable and enriching athletics competitions.

OUR VALUES

OPPORTUNITY

Our member institutions offer comprehensive athletics programs that allow student-athletes to achieve their full potential in and beyond competition and provide coaches and administrators with the resources

WELL-BEING

We promote a balanced, safe and healthy experience in which student-athletes, coaches and administrators can achieve their personal and professional goals.

LEADERSHIP

Our athletics programs prepare student-athletes, coaches and administrators to serve as engaged citizens and leaders.

RESPECT

We foster an environment of cohesiveness and collaboration that values all persons.

CHARACTER

We believe participation in college sports builds personal integrity and accountability.

COMMUNITY

We exemplify servant leadership and celebrate the student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty, alumni and supporters who embrace and enhance their local communities as part of the NSIC family.

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Conference Council Meeting Report
January 16, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To approve the minutes from the July 10, 2024, Conference Council Meeting.

Unanimously Approved by the Conference Council.

Informational Items.

1. Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes. The group reviewed the minutes from the July 10, 2024, Conference Council Meeting. No further discussion was had, and a recommendation was made to approve the minutes.
2. 2025 NCAA Legislative Summary. The group was given a summary of the proposals on the floor at the 2025 NCAA Convention. Discussion was had on the football automatic qualification (AQ) proposal with pros and cons of the proposal shared. It was noted that if the football AQ proposal is adopted, championships policy would trigger a review of bracket expansion in football. Discussion was also had on the medical examination proposal. It was noted the bylaw 17 portion of the proposal is a common provision and will require Divisions I and III to adopt similar language for a legislative change to go into effect even if Division II adopts the medical examination proposal.
3. Strategic Planning Update. Jill Willson, Double L Consulting, provided an update on the recent progress and efforts made in the development of the future NSIC strategic plan. Gratitude for the invaluable contribution of the student-athletes' voices was shared. The in-person session was particularly beneficial, offering the strategic planning committee an opportunity to discuss aspirational goals and strategies for the development of the future strategic plan. For next steps, Double L Consulting will synthesize the key points raised during the in-person meeting and translate those ideas into actionable outcomes for the strategic planning committee to review. Jill reminded the group that the process remains ongoing and encouraged the group to continue sharing feedback.
4. University of Jamestown Update. Dr. Polly Peterson, University of Jamestown, provided an update on the University of Jamestown's (UJ) expedited process. Recently UJ had an onsite visit from the NCAA and received feedback on both areas the institution is doing well and recommendations. UJ expressed gratitude for the support it has received from the conference membership throughout the transition. A reminder was provided that UJ will begin competing in NSIC competition schedules in the fall of 2025. During the 2025-26 academic year, UJ is eligible to win regular season championships, but is ineligible to participate in NSIC championships that have an automatic qualification tied to it.
5. U.S. Council for Athletes' Health. Angie Beisner from the United States Council for Athletes' Health (USCAH) provided an update on the organization's ongoing initiatives aimed at supporting and educating the league. USCAH is focused on uplifting the conference through various programs, including mental health series, the student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC) group, and continuing education for athletic trainers. A reminder was provided that USCAH offers a Health Care Administration group, which is available to all athletic trainers. This group provides an opportunity for athletic trainers to access education, training, and updates relevant to their field. The current shortage of athletic trainers in collegiate athletics was discussed.

Institutions were encouraged to review a recent resource document released by the NCAA regarding hiring and retention of athletic trainers. A final reminder was given to utilize USCAH as a valuable resource moving forward.

6. NSIC Network Update. The group was reminded the current contract with Hudl expires in June of 2026. The 2024-25 academic year marks the second year of the Pilot Project, which involves moving select championships behind a paywall. An update was provided that the Board of Directors agreed during its 2025 spring meeting, it will discuss and act on a path to take with webcasting – pursue a pay-per-view or a free-to-view model. In preparation for the Board’s meetings, an executive summary is being built, which will be shared and discussed with the conference council in the coming months.
7. NCAA Committee Updates.
 - a. Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Davaris Cheeks, National SAAC Representative from Concordia University, St. Paul provided an informative overview to the council on how the legislative grids function at the Division II level. He guided the group through the current proposals, highlighting which ones the National SAAC support and which they oppose. National SAAC’s goals were outlined, which include empowering, enhancing, and empathizing; as were the two major initiatives from the year, execution of civic engagement efforts and the development of an internal resource document to support SAAC. Congressional engagement continues to remain highly active and additional resources will be provided in the coming months. Davaris’ term on National SAAC is complete at the end of Convention. Davaris was thanked for his tremendous service on National SAAC.
 - b. Division II Executive Board. Dr. Steven Shirley, Minot State University, provided an update from the NCAA Division II Executive Board. Several legal updates were provided that relate to the ongoing political changes impacting college athletics. An update was also provided in the space of sports wagering. The key issues of student-athletes not being classified as employees; name, image, and likeness; and the ability for the NCAA to receive federal anti-trust protection remain at the forefront of congressional engagement.
 - c. Division II Management Council. Commissioner Lind provided an update from Management Council. The council approved the use of surplus funds for the 2024-25 academic year, with \$8,000 allocated to each institution. The Sport Science Institute is working to reenergize the injury surveillance program. Data collected through this initiative has proven to be critical in supporting the health and safety efforts within the league. The group was informed that Jennifer Flowers, Southwest Minnesota State University, was appointed as an at-large member to the Management Council.
 - d. Division II Membership Committee. Melanie Brunson, Winona State University, informed the group Membership Committee’s next meeting will be in February.
 - e. Division II Championship Committee. Regan McAthie, Concordia-St. Paul, provided an update to the group regarding Championship Committee’s evaluation of potential changes to the selection process. The committee is considering moving from a committee-based selection system to a metric-based selection system. Two metrics discussed: KPI (Kevin Puga Index) and NPI (NCAA Power Index). Both metrics have their respective pros and cons. An experiment was conducted comparing the use of KPI, NPI, and NPI with adjusted dials similar to the current approach in Division III. The results showed an 85-94% match in the outcomes, providing valuable insights into the potential impact of switching to a metric-based system. The Championships Committee’s goal is to bring forward a recommendation on the selection system by June 2025.

- f. DII Athletic Directors Association. Britt Lauritsen, Bemidji State University, provided an update from DII ADA. The group was encouraged to attend NACDA, scheduled for June 8-11, as well as submit any potential topics for presentation that would be relevant or valuable. Current discussion topics for the conference include KPI vs NPI, athletic training, and the use of AI in athletic departments. The Spring Symposium for athletic directors is set for April 13-14 in Charlotte, with registration now open.

8. Miscellaneous Items.

- a. NSIC Summer Meeting Details. July 8-10 Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Participants.

**Unable to attend*

Name, Title	Institution
Dr. Marcia Entwistle, Faculty Athletic Representative	Augustana University
Josh Morton, Director of Athletics	Augustana University
Dr. Kimberly Miller, Senior Woman Administrator	Augustana University
Dr. Shannon Norman, Faculty Athletic Representative*	Bemidji State University
Britt Lauritsen, Director of Athletics	Bemidji State University
Chelsea Stoltenberg, Senior Woman Administrator*	Bemidji State University
Dr. Thomas Saylor, Faculty Athletic Representative*	Concordia University, St. Paul
Regan McAthie, Director of Athletics	Concordia University, St. Paul
Allison Meadows, Senior Woman Administrator*	Concordia University, St. Paul
Davaris Cheeks, National SAAC Representative	Concordia University, St. Paul
Dr. Polly Peterson, President	University of Jamestown
Mika Thorlakson, Faculty Athletic Representative	University of Jamestown
Austin Hieb, Director of Athletics	University of Jamestown
Hannah Griffin, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Jamestown
Jerome Richter, Executive Vice President	University of Mary
Dr. Carmen Cain, Faculty Athletic Representative	University of Mary
Marcus Wagner, Director of Athletics	University of Mary
Jeni Walsh, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Mary
Dr. Tim Dudley, Faculty Athletic Representative	University of Minnesota Crookston
Stephanie Helgeson, Director of Athletics	University of Minnesota Crookston
Bridget Steffes, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Minnesota Crookston
Dr. Katie Schofield, Faculty Athletic Representative	University of Minnesota Duluth
Forrest Karr, Director of Athletics	University of Minnesota Duluth
Abbey Strong, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Minnesota Duluth
Dr. Jeffrey Pribyl, Faculty Athletic Representative	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Kevin Buisman, Director of Athletics	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Lori Meyer, Senior Woman Administrator	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Dr. Timothy Downs, President	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Dr. Ellen Fagerstrom, Faculty Athletic Representative	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Chad Markuson, Director of Athletics	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Pam Gohl, Senior Woman Administrator	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Dr. Steven Shirley, President	Minot State University
Dr. Kristi Berg, Faculty Athletic Representative	Minot State University
Kevin Harmon, Director of Athletics	Minot State University
Jordan Boisner, Senior Woman Administrator	Minot State University
Dr. Chelsee Shortt, Faculty Athletic Representative	Northern State University

Nate Davis, Director of Athletics	Northern State University
Terri Holmes, Senior Woman Administrator	Northern State University
Mike Thompson, Faculty Athletic Representative*	University of Sioux Falls
Jon Hart, Director of Athletics	University of Sioux Falls
Dr. Sonya Vierstraete, Faculty Athletic Representative	Southwest Minnesota State University
Jen Flowers, Director of Athletics	Southwest Minnesota State University
Allison Monson, Senior Woman Administrator	Southwest Minnesota State University
Dr. William Hudson, Faculty Athletic Representative	St. Cloud State University
Holly Schreiner, Director of Athletics	St. Cloud State University
Nora Lieser, Senior Woman Administrator*	St. Cloud State University
Dr. Charles Parker, Faculty Athletic Representative	Wayne State College
Mike Powicki, Director of Athletics	Wayne State College
Linda Anderson, Senior Woman Administrator	Wayne State College
Marcy Faircloth, Faculty Athletic Representative*	Winona State University
Eric Schoh, Director of Athletics	Winona State University
Melanie Brunsdon, Senior Woman Administrator	Winona State University
Erin Lind, Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Taytum Rhoades, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
SAAC Business Meeting Report
May 20, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To approve the minutes from the May 21, 2024, Conference SAAC Business Meeting.

Approved by the Conference SAAC 14-0.

2. Recommendation. To approve the 2025-26 NSIC SAAC initiatives: Mental Health Awareness, utilizing the Green Bandana Project; Wellness & Belonging; It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk; and Life after College.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The group agreed that all the 2024-25 SAAC initiatives (Mental Health Awareness, utilizing the Green Bandana Project; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI); It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk; and Life After College) are still topics that should be continued during the 2025-26 academic year. The title for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion was adjusted to Wellness & Belonging to closely align with how the NCAA has renamed DEI.

Approved by the Conference SAAC 14-0.

3. Recommendation. To adopt the following timeline for when SAAC cup points must be submitted by:

SAAC Cups items in all categories except Make-A-Wish donations & Financial Contributions to Worthy Causes must be submitted to the conference office by the quarterly deadline in which the meeting/event/initiative/project takes place.

- *All items that take place in September & October must be submitted by November 15.*
- *All items that take place in November & December must be submitted by January 15.*
- *All items that take place in January & February must be submitted by March 15.*
- *All items that take place in March & April must be submitted by May 7.*

Receipts or check orders for Make-A-Wish/Financial Contributions to Worthy Causes must be submitted to the conference office by May 7.

Any items for the NSIC SAAC Cup submitted after the appropriate deadline will not count as points for the NSIC SAAC Cup.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year/2025-26 NSIC SAAC Cup.

Rationale. Currently the NSIC SAAC Cup criteria does not outline a timeline for when items need to be submitted in relation to when a meeting/event/initiative/project takes place. For example, an institution can wait to submit all items from the year at the end of the academic year. To improve the accuracy of standings released during the academic year and to increase

accountability for all SAAC groups to submit points in a timely fashion, the group agreed establishing a timeline for when SAAC cup items must be submitted in order to count as points towards the SAAC Cup was beneficial.

Approved by the Conference SAAC 14-0.

4. Recommendation. To add to the NSIC SAAC Cup criteria the following language:

To be eligible to win the NSIC SAAC Cup, at least one student-athlete from the institution must be in attendance for the duration of the SAAC Summit to accept the award. If the winning institution does not have at least one student-athlete in attendance, the NSIC SAAC Cup will be awarded to the institution with the next highest point total that has a student-athlete in attendance for the duration of the SAAC Summit.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year/2025-26 NSIC SAAC Cup.

Rationale. The group felt that having at least one student-athlete from the winning institution in attendance to accept the award and participate in the duration of the SAAC Summit is an important aspect of the SAAC Cup. Noting that the SAAC Cup sponsor is on-site to present the award, the SAAC Cup is a student-athlete driven award, and the SAAC Summit is an integral part of SAAC.

Approved by the Conference SAAC 14-0.

5. Recommendation. To add to the NSIC SAAC Cup criteria the following language:

At least one student-athlete from an institution must be in attendance for the duration of the SAAC Summit in order to be eligible to win the NSIC SAAC Cup the following academic year, with the exception of an institution that is still in class/finals.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year/2026-27 NSIC SAAC Cup.

Rationale. Currently the NSIC SAAC Cup criteria outlines that attendance at the SAAC Summit is added to the following academic year's SAAC Cup points (i.e. attendance at the 2026 SAAC Summit is added to the 2026-27 NSIC SAAC Cup points). The group felt it is important that institutions have at least one student-athlete in attendance for the duration of the SAAC Summit to be eligible to win the NSIC SAAC Cup the following year as SAAC Summit is an integral part of SAAC.

Approved by the Conference SAAC 14-0.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed and thanked for their commitment to elevating the conference and institutional SAAC by attending the SAAC Summit.
2. Approval of May 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The group reviewed the minutes from the May 21, 2024 Conference SAAC meeting. There was no further discussion, and a recommendation was made to accept the minutes.
3. National SAAC Update. Connor Fournier, Minnesota State University, Mankato and National SAAC representative for the NSIC, gave an update on behalf of National SAAC. Of note,

National SAAC reviewed the timing of the NCAA DII football championship, the group was in favor of keeping the timing as is and not pushing it back to January. National SAAC received an update on the DII Eligibility Working Group, a working group that has been formed to perform a comprehensive review of Division II eligibility rules. National SAAC provided feedback on the following four eligibility concepts the working group is considering: (a) four seasons of competition in 10 semesters, (b) four seasons of competition within a five-year clock following initial collegiate enrollment, (c) five seasons of competition within a five-year clock following initial collegiate enrollment, and (d) five seasons of competition in 10 semesters. Regarding sports wagering, DI, DII and DIII have concept drafts of deregulation of sports wagering on professional sports. If you have any questions or would like more information about National SAAC, please contact Connor at connor.fournier@mnsu.edu.

4. 2025-26 NSIC SAAC Initiatives. The group was thanked for their time in providing valuable feedback through the NSIC SAAC initiatives survey. An overview of the survey results was provided. The group had healthy discussion reflecting on the 2024-25 academic year and shared implementation ideas with one another. Of note, the mental health initiative scored the highest mark across all institutions on the reflection survey for wanting to continue the initiative. Members shared how their institution implemented the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion initiative – some partnered with their campus’ international and diversity center, some focused on creating environments of belonging across all student-athletes, while others engaged with Special Olympics. For It’s a Slam Dunk, Don’t Drive Drunk, the group discussed ways they can refresh this initiative on their campus. For the group’s newest initiative, Life After College, a mixture of feedback was given. Members shared how their institution implemented the Life After College initiative – some hosted alumni panels, some worked with their career center for programming, while others had outside companies provide skills development programming to student-athletes. Overall, the group agreed that these four initiatives were impactful and meaningful on their campuses. From discussion, the group agreed to continue the same four initiatives moving forward into the 2025-26 academic year, while transitioning the title of DEI to “Wellness and Belonging”. A recommendation was made and can be referenced as action item two.
5. NSIC SAAC Cup Review. The group reviewed the criteria to earn points towards the NSIC SAAC Cup. Discussion was held regarding a quarterly deadline to submit items that are allocated towards an institution’s point total. The timeline would allow for accountability and accuracy when SAAC Cup standings are released throughout the year. Healthy discussion was had regarding the importance of attending the SAAC Summit. The group agreed to add criteria to the SAAC Cup that in order for an institution to accept the award as well as be eligible for the award the following year, at least one student-athlete must attend the SAAC Summit. Lastly, the group discussed the percentage financial contributions count towards SAAC Cup points in relation to other events. A working group has been identified and will review the financial point system. Recommendations were made for the timeline and requirements in attending SAAC Summit, the recommendations can be referenced as action items three through five.
6. NSIC Strategic Plan Update. The group was informed that the NSIC strategic plan is a guiding tool for helping the conference move forward and grow in a strategic way. Over the past academic year, a working group made up of a variety of individuals, including student-athletes, reviewed and identified goals for the next five years. During its meeting, the NSIC Board of Directors approved the 2025-30 NSIC Strategic Plan. As part of the strategic plan, the group was asked for feedback on sportsmanship voting and the NSIC Influencers of Change Pledge. Members shared feedback that they felt the avenue for collecting sportsmanship voting worked well overall. For track and field, members noted it is hard to always provide accurate information due to all the different events in the sport. Members shared feedback on the NSIC Influencers of Change Pledge that they felt sharing the message prior to contests had a positive impact on fans.

7. Open Discussion. The group engaged in discussion on campus SAAC set up and planning initiatives for the 2025-26 academic year. Additionally, the group shared ways they are implementing mental health awareness including a new resource through Hilinski's Hope (www.hilinskishope.org).

Participants.

Name	Institution
Max Ramberg	Augustana University
Jack Setterlund	Concordia University, St. Paul
John Hulquest	University of Jamestown
Breanna Oettle	University of Jamestown
Jacob Van Lith	University of Jamestown
Chris Frazier	University of Mary
Olivia Gardner	University of Mary
Sarah Burgum	University of Minnesota Crookston
Riley Hanson	University of Minnesota Crookston
Lillian Wanzek	University of Minnesota Duluth
Madi Wodele	University of Minnesota Duluth
Connor Fournier	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Drake Hayward	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Addison Peed	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Emily McPhee	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Ayden Ochs	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kiara Olesch	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Alex Engel	Minot State University
Mallory Hoogensen	Minot State University
Skye Shelmerdine	Minot State University
Grace Humann	Northern State University
Anna Skachenko	Northern State University
Logan Anderson	University of Sioux Falls
Tatum Godinez	University of Sioux Falls
Meghan Jochimsen	University of Sioux Falls
Eddie Garcia	Southwest Minnesota State University
Leah Jones	Southwest Minnesota State University
Malachi Kohls	Southwest Minnesota State University
Claire Salzer	St. Cloud State University
Cayden Sumption	St. Cloud State University
Alexander Altman	Wayne State College
Macy Birkholz	Wayne State College
Quentin Dreyer	Wayne State College
AddyLane Johnson	Wayne State College
Brooklyn Kruse	Wayne State College
Simeon Weers	Wayne State College
Allison Meadows, Conference SAAC Liaison	Concordia University, St. Paul
Erin Lind, Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Taytum Rhoades, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference



ACADEMICS & LIFESKILLS

- Further celebrate academic achievement across the conference and on campuses.
 - Review all current academic awards to ensure they reflect the current student-athlete population considering the many paths student-athletes are taking (e.g., freshman enrolling with several credits from high school, graduate students, fifth-year students).
 - Evaluate adding team academic awards (e.g., recognize teams with a team GPA of 3.2 or higher).
 - Recognize graduates.
 - Recognize prominent civic/community engagement.
 - Celebrate academics at championships
- Develop a Student Success Model, including resources and a framework for faculty athletic representatives and the membership to use.
 - Create a sharing platform for faculty athletics representatives that includes job descriptions, attendance policies, academic expectations, and best practices for different aspects of the role.
- Develop initiatives to help student-athletes transition to life after college.
 - Evaluate type of programming to target different years in college – potentially life skills learned through sport for freshmen and sophomores (e.g., time management, navigating playing time) and after college life skills for juniors and seniors (e.g., creating resumes, financial literacy, health insurance).
 - Expand programming to reach all student-athletes on campus, not just SAAC members
 - Educate students on what campus resources are available for different academic/career pursuits.
 - Create an NSIC Leadership Academy to which student-athletes apply and are matched with administrators and coaches as mentors (similar to the D2ADA mentor program).





ATHLETICS OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE

- Create a resource to update student-athletes on key initiatives.
 - Provide updates on changes in Division II and how they affect the NSIC (i.e., quick hitters via a newsletter or podcast on new legislation and what it means).
 - Provide compliance education/training for other departments on campus that have a stake in compliance (e.g., registrar, financial aid, admissions, academic advising, FARs, etc.).
- Emphasize ethical conduct.
 - Maintain high level of decorum within conference/campus operations and decision making.
 - Enhance enforcement and penalties for ethical misconduct.
 - Reevaluate sportsmanship policies and initiatives.
 - Look to combine sportsmanship creed and influencers of change pledge to address ethical conduct and a conference culture of ethical decision making.
 - Review NSIC championships code of conduct and incorporate the Division II Championships code of conduct.
- Create/share best practices document for game day operations that provides minimum requirements for staffing appropriately.
 - Use game management policies that campuses have in place as a starting point.
- Continue NSIC onboarding programming for new coaches and administrators hired within the conference membership.





GAMEDAY AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Ensure consistent/equitable experiences for all NSIC championships.
 - Evaluate how host institutions are supported.
 - Review/update host requirements for on-campus championship sites.
 - Evaluate championship trophies and awards – create consistency across sports.
 - Review student-athlete gifts – evaluate changing annually and staying current with what student-athletes are interested in.
 - Evaluate consistency with community engagement at championships.
 - Evaluate consistency with media exposure, multimedia/streaming experiences and hype videos.
 - Strive to make conference championships a first-class experience that differentiates from regular-season contests, especially when a championship is held on campus.

- NSIC Network.
 - Evaluate webcasting goals.
 - Evaluate how to enforce and penalize institutions that do not meet minimum standards of webcasting.
 - Maintain quality and consistent standards for game day streaming.





MEMBERSHIP AND POSITIONING

- Consider the feasibility of retaining an outside vendor to evaluate the status and reach of the NSIC brand.
- Track on emerging sports within the conference footprint for potential expansion opportunities.
- Continue encouraging conference members to serve on NCAA committees and evaluate adding student-athletes to serve on NSIC committees.

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND LEADERSHIP

- Continue USCAH partnership and programming.
 - Be cognizant of how to intrinsically motivate staff and coaches to attend wellness programming.
- Educate student-athletes, coaches and staff on accessible resources and tools that may not require financial support.
 - Educate student-athletes with self-care tools (e.g., building resilience, grit).
 - Be creative with platforms/avenues that can educate student-athletes (e.g., social media, sports psychologist).





Management Council Representative Ballot

Each institution is allotted one ballot submission. Please select one individual from each of the three position areas.

Institution: _____

Athletic Director:

- _____ Britt Lauritsen, Bemidji State University
 _____ Kevin Buisman, Minnesota State University, Mankato
 _____ Mike Powicki, Wayne State College
 _____ Write-In, Please Identify: _____

Senior Woman Administrator:

- _____ Allison Monson, Southwest Minnesota State University
 _____ Write-In, Please Identify: _____

Faculty Athletics Representative:

- _____ Dr. Shannon Norman, Bemidji State University
 _____ Dr. Chelsee Shortt, Northern State University
 _____ Write-In, Please Identify: _____





YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

FALL SPORTS

Sport	Regular Season	Tournament	NCAA Team Participants
M - Cross Country	AUGIE		AUGIE, UMary, WSU
W - Cross Country	AUGIE		AUGIE, BSU, MSU
Football	AUGIE		CSP, MSU, SCSU
Soccer	MSU	MSU	CSP, SMSU, SCSU
Volleyball	SCSU	SCSU	

Fall Sport Highlights

Ryan Hartman
AUGIE's Ryan Hartman Finishes Second at NCAA Championships; WCC Places 3 in Top 20

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA TEAM
VOLLEYBALL
NCAA DIVISION II

Tregan Starkey
Concordia St. Paul

NSIC has 3 Teams Advance to NCAA Playoffs
MSU Advances to National Semifinals

NSIC has 3 Teams Advance to NCAA Playoffs

TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO
NSIC Sends 3 to Central Region Tournament
Minnesota State National Finalist

WINTER SPORTS

Sport	Regular Season	Tournament	NCAA Team Participants
Men's Basketball	CSP & SMSU	MSUM	CSP, MSUM, MINOT, SMSU, WSU
Women's Basketball	CSP	CSP	CSP, MSU, SMSU
Wrestling	SCSU		2 IND National Champions / 17 All-Americans
Swimming & Diving	AUGIE		1 IND National Champion / 13 All-Americans
W - IDTF	MSU		2 IND National Champions / 25 All-Americans
M - IDTF	MSU		10 All-Americans

Winter Sport Highlights

NATIONAL CHAMPION
123 LBS
NATHAN REED

NATIONAL CHAMPION
198 LBS
CAEL LARSON

NATIONAL CHAMPION
ADEYAN BREWSTER

NATIONAL CHAMPION
ADEYAN BREWSTER

NATIONAL CHAMPION
BRYN GREENWALD

NSIC has 5 Teams Advance to NCAA Playoffs

NSIC has 3 Teams Advance to NCAA Playoffs

BRYN GREENWALD'S AMAZING RACE
10 K.M. ET
5:30 P.M. ET
100 FREE
FRAZEE
10 MARCH

AUGIE's Bryn Greenwald earns All-American honors in S&D/T&F

SPRING SPORTS

Sport	Regular Season	Tournament	NCAA Team Participants
Baseball	MSU	MSU	MSU
Men's Golf	CSP		CSP, WSU
Women's Golf	MSU		AUGIE, MSU, WSC
Softball	AUGIE		AUGIE, MSU
Tennis	AUGIE	AUGIE	AUGIE
W - ODTF	MSU		1 IND National Champion / 20 All-Americans
M - ODTF	MSU		18 All-Americans

Spring Sport Highlights

NATIONAL CHAMPION
GRACE JOHNSON

MSU's Grace Johnson wins 100m Hurdles National Championship

MSU's 4x100 Relay Team finishes as National Runner Up

MSU's Matt Magers Named NCBWA Division II National Coach of the Year
MSU sets NSIC Record for Wins (35)

MSU Wins NSIC Championship
MSU's Emerson Charlie shoots NSIC 3 Round Low Score of 218

AUGIE Advances to NCAA Super Regional

NSIC **MARKETING & MEDIA**



The NSIC Spotlight, powered by gpac, completed its 23rd year in 2024-25. For the first 18 years, the NSIC Spotlight aired on local radio stations and more recently via podcast. The last four years the NSIC Spotlight has been a zoom interview, highlighting a student-athlete guest. The NSIC Spotlight continues to be “The Voice of the NSIC Student-Athletes” as the video is distributed to fans via social media outlets (YouTube, X, Facebook, and Instagram), with an audio only format also available via podcast.



The NSIC continues to reach fans via multiple social media platforms. The NSIC X, Facebook, and Instagram accounts continue to grow due to the content of photos, videos, and other graphics that are posted. Features, highlights, and interviews are posted on all platforms, and the use of sport-specific hashtags have helped all NSIC social platforms followership to grow.



During the 2024-25 academic year the NSIC Network continued its success with 1,628 broadcasts. The NSIC Network combines live streaming and on-demand video content from all 15 members and NSIC Championships. Fans watched all their favorite team's action on the NSIC Network via their TV, computer, or smartphone. The NSIC Network is available on OTT platforms such as Apple TV, Roku & Amazon FireTV as well as mobile apps in the Apple & Google Play stores. In its second year, the network started a pay-per-view pilot project putting select NSIC Championship contests behind a paywall. The program's revenue would support the NSIC Championship experience and gain actual data for the league to review regarding pay-per-view events.



CORPORATE PARTNERS



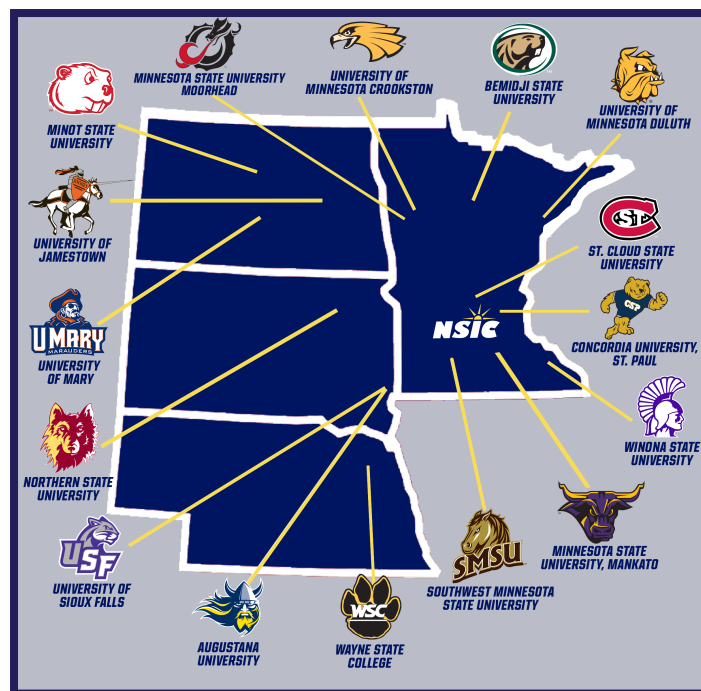
QUICK FACTS

FOUNDED: Northern Intercollegiate Conference (Men) & Northern Sun Conference (Women) merged in 1992 to form the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

AFFILIATION: NCAA Division II

MEN'S SPORTS: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field and Wrestling

WOMEN'S SPORTS: Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Tennis and Volleyball



ATHLETICS



INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 122 & 3 Relays

TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONS SINCE 2006: 27

NCAA ELITE 90 AWARD WINNERS: 19 student-athletes on 22 occasions

ACADEMICS

(2024-25 Academic Year)

ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM MEMBERS: 880 in Fall | 789 in Winter | 920 in Spring | 2,589 in Total
(Travel varsity team, 3.2 GPA or higher, sophomore status, one full academic year at institution)

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS:

265 Student-Athletes received NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic Awards (academic senior, GPA 3.75 or higher)

Average GPA of Elite 18 recipients is 3.99 (awarded to student-athlete with highest GPA at all NSIC championships)

DII Honda Athlete of the Year Honors - (4 NSIC occurrences - 2024, 2023, 2019, & 2010)

COMMUNITY

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: The NSIC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) implements the Green Bandana Project to emphasize mental wellness as a priority for students and all affiliated with NSIC member institutions.

IT'S A SLAM DUNK, DON'T DRIVE DRUNK: The NSIC SAAC encourages students & fans to always drive responsibly. At designated basketball games, SAAC groups engage their campus communities to raise awareness & encourage others to not drive impaired.

WELLNESS & BELONGING: Campus SAAC groups engage with various groups on their campuses to support and enhance wellness & belonging. Created by the NSIC SAAC, the NSIC Influencers of Change Pledge is read prior to all NSIC contests.

ENGAGEMENT AT NSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS: The NSIC incorporates community engagement activities at many of its championships, including hosting youth sport clinics & providing opportunities for NSIC student-athletes to interact with elementary school kids & community members at other local organizations.

265

**MYLES BRAND ALL-ACADEMIC WITH
DISTINCTION AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Presented to academic seniors
with a 3.75 GPA or higher

#NSICELITE18

Presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point
average participating at the final site for all 18 NSIC Championships.

3.99 AVERAGE GPA OF ELITE 18 RECIPIENTS



AUSTIN ANDREWS
MINNESOTA DULUTH
MEN'S BASKETBALL



LIZ DIERKS
AUGUSTANA
SOFTBALL

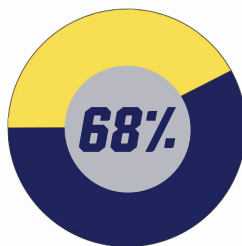
**CSC ACADEMIC
ALL-AMERICANS**
(2024-25 Fall & Winter)

24

Britton & Kelly

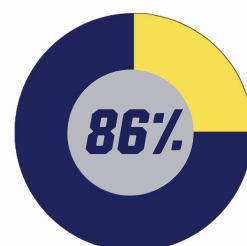
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Presented to the top NSIC male and female student-athletes, as voted
on by Faculty Athletic Representatives



NSIC FEDERAL GRADUATION RATE

*Non-Student-Athlete - 55%



NSIC ACADEMIC SUCCESS RATE

2589

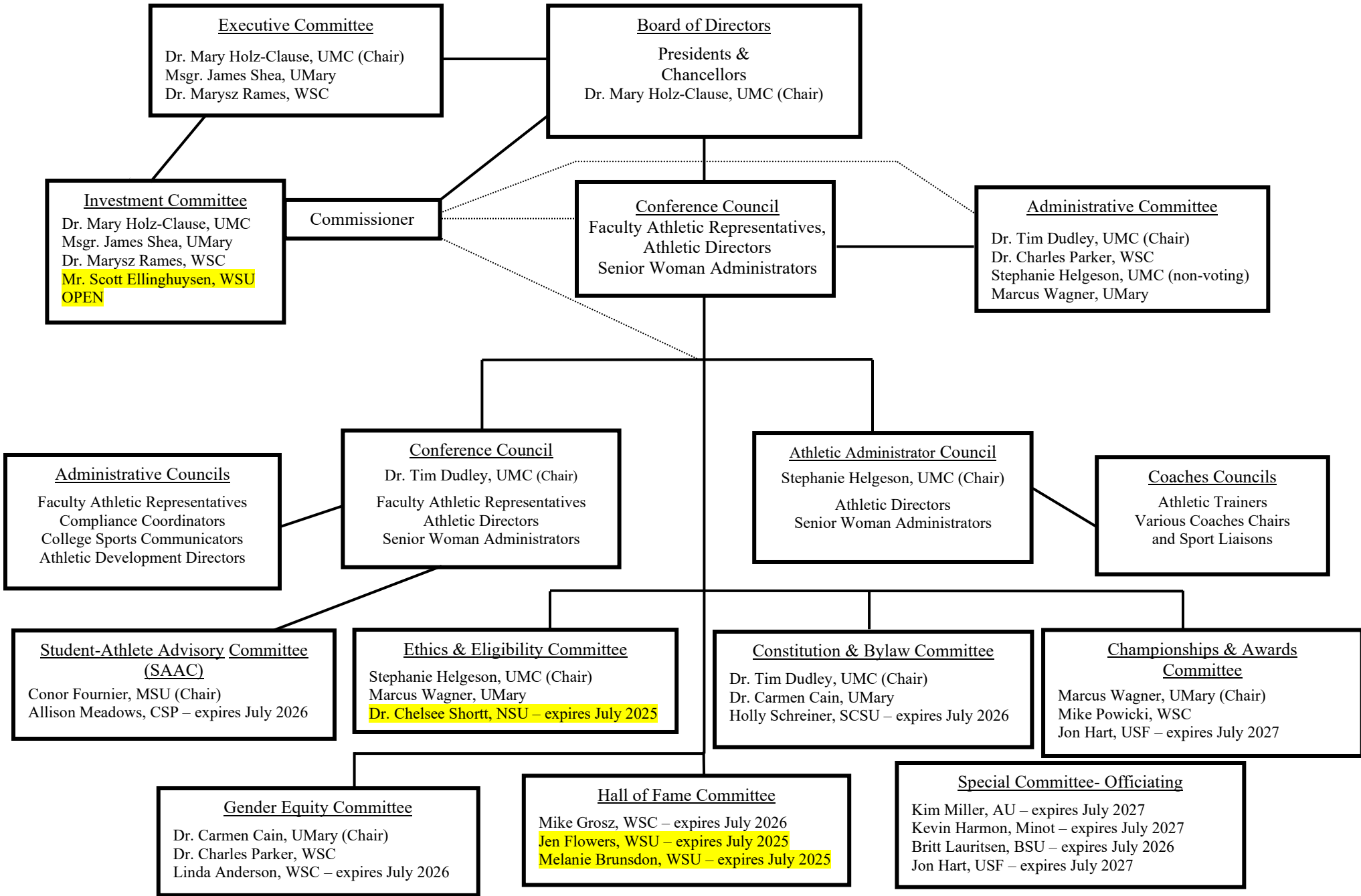
ALL-ACADEMIC STUDENT-ATHLETES

Football 333	Soccer 217	Volleyball 131	Men's Cross Country 86	Women's Cross Country 113	Wrestling 78	Men's Basketball 62	Women's Basketball 111	Swimming & Diving 131
Men's Indoor Track & Field 163	Women's Indoor Track & Field 244	Tennis 58	Men's Golf 46	Women's Golf 49	Baseball 201	Softball 148	Men's Outdoor Track & Field 168	Women's Outdoor Track & Field 250

Presented to members of varsity traveling teams with a 3.2 GPA or higher who have completed at least one year at their institution.



2025-26 NSIC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





Tentative 2025-26 NSIC Meeting Schedule

July 2025

September 29, 2026	NSIC Board of Directors/Athletic Directors Meeting
October 2025	Basketball Officials Clinic
December 2025	Fall Sports Meetings – Virtual
January 13-16, 2026	NSIC Athletic Administrator & Conference Council Meetings at NCAA Convention – Washington, DC
March & April 2026	Winter Sports Meetings – Virtual
May 2026	Spring Sports Meetings – Virtual
May 17-19, 2026	SAAC Summit
May 17-18, 2026	NSIC Board of Directors Meetings

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Leadership Positions 2025-26**

NCAA Committee Members

NCAA Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee	Erin Lind, NSIC
Division II Executive Board	Dr. Steven Shirley, Minot State
Division II Management Council	Erin Lind, NSIC (Vice Chair)
Division II Strategic Planning & Finance Committee	Erin Lind, NSIC
Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	Connor Fournier, Minnesota State
Division II Championships Committee	Regan McAthie, Concordia-St. Paul (Chair)
Division II Coaching Enhancement Grant Selection Committee	Allison Meadows, Concordia-St. Paul
Division II Committee on Infractions	Jason Sobolik, MSU Moorhead
Division II Membership Committee	Melanie Brunson, Winona State (Vice Chair)
Division II Strategic Alliance Matching Grant Selection Committee	Dr. Kimberly Miller, Augustana University
NCAA Innovations in Research & Practice Grant Program Committee	Dr. Thomas Saylor, Concordia-St. Paul
Division II Softball Committee	Gretta Melsted, Augustana
Division II Swimming & Diving Committee	Andrew Makepeace, Augustana
Division II Track & Field Committee	Shane Drahota, Minnesota State
Division II Wrestling Committee	Rocky Burkett, Northern State

NCAA Regional Advisory Committee Service (term expiration)

Baseball	Neil Lerner, Concordia University, St. Paul (September 2027) Holly Schreiner, St. Cloud State University (September 2026)
Men's Basketball	Chris Johnson, University of Sioux Falls (September 2028) Chad Markuson, Minnesota State University Moorhead (September 2026)
Women's Basketball	Emilee Thiesse, Minnesota State University, Mankato (September 2027) Nate Davis, Northern State University (September 2026)
Football	Brent Bolte, Bemidji State University (September 2026) Josh Morton, Augustana University (September 2028)
Men's Golf	Peter Maki, Concordia University, St. Paul (September 2028) Andy Sailer, NSIC (September 2026)
Women's Golf	Alex Schmitz, Minnesota State University, Mankato (September 2028) Allison Meadows, Concordia University, St. Paul (September 2028)
Women's Soccer	Emily Hester, Wayne State College (September 2028) Kevin Buisman, Minnesota State University, Mankato (September 2028)
Softball	Gretta Melsted, Augustana University (September 2028)* Britt Lauritsen, Bemidji State University (September 2028)
Women's Tennis	Marc Kurtz, Augustana University (September 2026) Taytum Rhoades, NSIC (September 2028)
Volleyball	Chad Braegelmann, St. Cloud State University (September 2027) Allison Monson, Southwest Minnesota State University (September 2028)

*National Committee Member

NSIC Sport Liaisons – three-year appointment (term expiration)

Baseball	Marcus Wagner, University of Mary AD (June 2028)
Men's Basketball	Jen Flowers, Winona State University. AD (June 2027)
Women's Basketball	Nate Davis, Northern State University AD (June 2027)
Cross Country	Mike Powicki, Wayne State College AD (June 2026)
Football	Josh Morton, Augustana University AD (June 2026)
Men's Golf	Britt Lauritsen, Bemidji State University AD (June 2027)
Women's Golf	Linda Anderson, Wayne State College SWA (June 2027)
Women's Soccer	Allison Monson, Southwest Minnesota State SWA (June 2028)
Softball	Jordan Boisner, Minot State University SWA (June 2028)
Women's Swimming & Diving	Nora Lieser, St. Cloud State University SWA (June 2027)
Women's Tennis	Jeni Walsh, University of Mary SWA (June 2027)
Track & Field	Mike Powicki, Wayne State College AD (June 2026)
Volleyball	Holly Schreiner, St. Cloud State University AD (June 2027)
Wrestling	Chad Markuson, Minnesota State University Moorhead AD (June 2026)
Athletic Trainers	Bridget Steffes, University of Minnesota Crookston SWA (June 2027)
College Sport Communicators	Britt Lauritsen, Bemidji State University AD (June 2028)
SAAC	Allison Meadows, Concordia University, St. Paul SWA (June 2026)

NCAA Coaches Connection

Baseball	Seth Wing, Winona State University
Men's Basketball	Justin Wieck, University of Minnesota Duluth
Women's Basketball	Tom Webb, Southwest Minnesota State University
Cross Country	Jon Breitbarth, Concordia University, St. Paul
Football	Mike Schmidt, Northern State University
Men's Golf	Jeff Straight, Winona State University
Women's Golf	Ross Webskowsky, Southwest Minnesota State University
Women's Soccer	Emily Hester, Wayne State College
Softball	Jordan Petersen, Bemidji State University
Women's Swimming & Diving	Nathan Owens, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Women's Tennis	Josh Lunak, University of Minnesota Crookston
Track & Field	Kirk Nauman, Southwest Minnesota State University
Volleyball	Tyler Boddy, Southwest Minnesota State University
Wrestling	Chayse Jackson, Southwest Minnesota State University



**Division II Conference Strategic Priorities Fund
2025-26**

A minimum of 10% must be spent within each focus area.

Academics and Life Skills

Academic Sub Grant \$

TOTAL: \$

Athletic Operations and Compliance

FAR Travel (Fall, Convention, Summer) \$

TOTAL: \$

Game Day/Conference and National Championship

Game Environment Sub Grant \$

TOTAL: \$

Membership and Positioning

Community Engagement Sub Grant \$

TOTAL: \$

Health and Wellness

SWA Travel (Convention, Summer) \$

TOTAL: \$

Overall Total: \$176,000

2025-26 NSIC Sport Sponsorship Report

																			Other DII Sport								Poss. DII Sports Adding Soon			
	MBA	MBB	MCC	MFB	MGO	MTKI	MTKO	MWR	WBB	WCC	WGO	WSO	WSB	WSW	WTE	WTKI	WTKO	WVB	WEQ	MSO	WLA	MSW	MTE	WWR	WSV	MVB				
AU	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X							
BSU	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X									WWR/Flag/MCC/MIDTF/MODTF			
CSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X									
UJ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X		X				
UM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
UMC	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X								MTKI/MTKO/WTKI/WTKO			
UMD	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X												
MSU	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
MSUM		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									WWR/Lacrosse/Hockey			
MISU	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X					X						
NSU	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X												
USF	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X						
SMSU	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X									WWR/Flag			
SCSU	X	X						X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X								
WSC	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X							X					
WSU	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X												
UWP*																														
Totals:	15	16	14	14	10	12	12	11	16	16	13	16	16	10	11	15	15	16	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	1				

*Associate Member

Sports which are sponsored by at least four full members (but less than six) institutions will be designated as emerging conference championship sports". Sports designated within this category would be allowed to organize regular season and post-season competition amongst conference members and other affiliate members or to compete outside the conference as affiliated members of another league. Sports in this category, however, would not be included in point calculations for the conference's All-Sports and Sportsmanship awards.