



Athletic Administrators Council Meeting
Chair – Stephanie Helgeson, University of Minnesota Crookston
July 10, 2025

Updated Info Item No. 3 - 7/7/25 - 10 a.m.

8:30 a.m.
Courtyard by Marriott – Moorhead, Minn.
Salon G

Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks. (Stephanie Helgeson)
2. Approval of Past Minutes. (Helgeson) – *Action Anticipated*
 - a. January 2025. [Supplement No. 1]
3. Championships and Awards Committee. (Nate Davis) [Handout] – *Action Anticipated*
4. Administrator Engagement at Conference Championships. (Helgeson)
5. Emerging Sports. (Erin Lind)
 - a. Women's Wrestling. (Jon Hart)
 - b. Women's Flag Football.
6. Reports from the Summer Sport Meetings. – *Action Anticipated*
 - a. Women's Tennis. (Jeni Walsh) [Supplement No. 2]
 - b. Swimming & Diving. (Nora Lieser) [Supplement No. 3]
 - c. Cross Country. (Mike Powicki) [Supplement No. 4]
 - d. Track & Field. (Powicki) [Supplement No. 5]
 - e. Women's Golf. (Linda Anderson) [Supplement No. 6]
 - f. Men's Golf. (Anderson) [Supplement No. 7]
 - g. Wrestling. (Chad Markuson) [Supplement No. 8]
 - h. Volleyball. (Holly Schreiner) [Supplement No. 9]
 - i. Softball. (Jordan Boisner) [Supplement No. 10 & 11]
 - j. Baseball. (Marcus Wagner)
 - k. Football. (Josh Morton)
 - l. Women's Soccer. (Allison Monson)
 - m. Athletic Trainers. (Bridget Steffes) [Supplement No. 12]
7. Miscellaneous. (Helgeson)
 - a. Future AAC Meetings: August 21, September 18, October 16, and November 20
 - b. Fall Game Management Zooms.

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Athletic Administrators Council Meeting Report
January 16, 2025**

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To approve the minutes from the July 11, 2024, Athletic Administrators Council Meeting.

Unanimously Approved by the Athletic Administrators Council.

Officiating Committee.

2. Recommendation. To adopt the \$10 Escalation of Fees Model for Officiating with a three-year cycle to include the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 academic years as shown in Supplement A.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The Officiating Committee felt that moving forward with a \$10 escalation of officiating fees continues to close the gap in certain sports, while in other sports, such as basketball, keeps the NSIC at the forefront of other leagues when it comes to officiating fees. An important aspect to note with the financial impact of the escalation model is that multiple variables (i.e. membership & schedule structure) are changing between the 2024-25 academic year and the 2025-26 academic year that have an impact on costs outside any fee increase. Due to the multiple changing variables, the financial impact is larger the first year of the cycle (increase in fees in 2025-26 from the 2024-25 academic year) compared to the incremental increases between the following two years of the cycle (i.e. increase in fees in 2026-27 from the 2025-26 academic year). In the sport of football, the proposed rates would maintain conference status towards the top half of Division II while in the sport of volleyball it would be above local Division III conferences and comparable within the Division II leagues in the region. For the sports of women's soccer, baseball, and softball the rates proposed would be above local Division III conferences, comparable for Division II leagues in the region, and average within Division II. Additionally, by shifting baseball away from a discounted structure to a single game fee, it places baseball in a healthier position as well as a similar structure to other conferences. Men's and women's basketball rates would maintain the conference status towards the top of the region. Overall, a consistent message was vocalized; that the \$10 escalation will allow the conference to remain competitive in rates to attract and retain high quality officials.

Unanimously Approved by the Athletic Administrators Council.

Soccer.

3. Recommendation. To adopt the following language in the NSIC Soccer sport handbook for item 4.4 pertaining to match times during the conference tournament.

***Match Times.** First round tournament matches played at the four highest seeds cannot start any later than 5 p.m. Start times for the semifinals matches are preferred to start no earlier than 11:00 a.m. and no later than 6:00 p.m. to provide the soccer championship host institution with flexibility in scheduling for Friday semifinals. Additionally, the Championship match on Sunday is to have a preferred start time of 2:00 p.m. Start times for semifinal and championship*

matches can be adjusted outside of the preferred start times by the conference office and host institution due to daylight savings time or other concerns with potential facility restrictions (i.e., no stadium lights).

Effective Date. 2025 Season.

Rationale. Making the language adjustments/additions allows the conference office to adjust the start times that would be permissible per the sport handbook even if out of the preferred start times due to outside factors such as daylight savings time and a potential host site that does not have stadium lights. This change continues to provide the opportunity for an institution that has earned the right to host, to be the final site for the conference tournament and not limit them due to having a facility without lights. The coaches were in favor of providing this flexibility for the conference office and host institution to work together in setting start times that might be outside the preferred times.

Unanimously Approved by the Athletic Administrators Council.

4. Recommendation. To adopt the following language in the NSIC Soccer sport handbook for item 3.6.5 regarding the use of video review.

Video Review. *Video Review with a minimum of the single midline Spiideo camera is required for all NSIC matches. The host institution will provide at least a tablet size device on the field for replay, to be used at the referee's discretion. Criteria for implementing video review will follow what is outlined in the NCAA Playing Rules.*

Effective Date. 2025 Season.

Rationale. The coaching group was for implementing a requirement to have video review at all institutions conference matches as they already all have the capability to do review with the current Spiideo midline camera set up that is already being used for league exchange. The only other investment needed for this recommendation is to provide a tablet device at field level at center field. There was not a coach that was against implementing video review but abstained as they had other concerns with the implementation and education of the use of video review with officials. It was noted by the group that the inconsistency at each institution if video review is available has been a concern and having it implemented at each institution will alleviate that and allow for better messaging and training of officials on the uses of it. The coaches noted that the use is solely at the discretion of the center official, and coaches are not allowed to influence their decision or show a sideline tablet to the official in trying to get them to review.

Unanimously Approved by the Athletic Administrators Council.

Volleyball.

5. Recommendation. To amend the match time language (3.1) in the volleyball handbook by adding the grayed language outlined below:

3.1 Match Time. Weeknight matches (Tuesday/Thursday/Friday) will start at 6:00 p.m. unless agreed upon by all participating institutions. A Saturday start shall be no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and no later than 4:00 p.m. unless there is an exception agreed upon by participating institutions. Default time put into the NSIC officiating site for Saturdays will be 2:00 p.m. **All start times must**

be determined and submitted to the conference office by June 15th. After June 15th, any start time changes must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Currently no timeline for when start times need to be determined prior to the season is outlined in the volleyball handbook. Outlining a timeline will allow institutions to better prepare for the season both as a host and traveling institution, additionally the language provides clarity of process if a time change is desired after the initial deadline date.

Unanimously Approved by the Athletic Administrators Council.

Informational Items.

1. Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes. The group reviewed the minutes from the July 11, 2024, Athletic Administrators Council meeting. There was no further discussion, and a recommendation was made to approve the minutes.
2. Officiating Committee Recommendation. Pam Gohl, Minnesota State University Moorhead, provided an update on behalf of the NSIC Officiating Committee, providing information about the proposed escalating fee model with an increase of \$10 per year. Discussion was had; it was noted the proposed escalation model is essential for ensuring the long-term health of the NSIC and the respective coordinators of officials believe these changes will position the league well and show respect for the dedication of officials. A recommendation was made to adopt the \$10 escalation fee model and can be referenced as action item two. Discussion was also had on volleyball line judges in the conference. Currently, line judges are secured by institutions with payment structures varying widely across the conference. The group expressed a desire to evaluate how line judges are secured and the standard of training, noting the important role line judges play in officiating volleyball matches. As next steps, a working group of administrators will be formed to evaluate strategies to elevate line judges.
3. Fall Sports Post Season Meeting Reports.
 - a. Soccer. Two recommendations came forward from the soccer coaching group, one related to match times during the conference tournament and the other to video replay. The group discussed the benefits of creating consistency across the conference for replay. It was noted, video replay may not have been utilized a great deal during the 2024 season but requiring at least one camera at all sites will provide more consistency of when it can be used. Matt Tiano, coordinator of officials, will ensure the roster of officials is educated on utilizing video replay. Two recommendations were made and can be referenced as action items three and four.
 - b. Volleyball. One recommendation was brought forward from the coaching group to create a timeline for determining match times; the recommendation can be referenced as action item five. The group discussed the volleyball schedule format, with interest from the coaching group to transition to a single round-robin format. Currently, the conference operates on a three-year approved schedule cycle. Concern was brought up that allowing a coaching group to modify the existing schedule at this stage could create further disruptions in other sports. It was agreed that the approved conference schedules (2025-27) will maintain their current format. A change in schedule format can be evaluated during the next schedule development process.

4. Spring Sport Reminders.

- a. Baseball. Brief reminders were given to the group. Of note, there is an order of priority for rescheduling options. Per NCAA rules one visible pitch clock is required; at a neutral site if this is not possible, the umpire will manage the pitch clock timing.
- b. Softball. Reminders were provided regarding rescheduling. The group was encouraged to review the softball handbook in advance of the season.
- c. Women's Tennis. Reminders from the NSIC handbook were shared with the group. It was emphasized there must be at least one qualified official present for the match as well as an athletic trainer present. The host institution is responsible for assigning the officials, and the head coach must sign the scorecard before leaving the facility after the match concludes.

5. Miscellaneous Items.

- a. Final Schedule Confirmations. The group was reminded of the importance of the schedule confirmation process. Current and upcoming schedule confirmation requests are for the Spring of 2025 and Fall of 2025.
- b. Future AAC Meetings. A reminder was given of the upcoming AAC meetings; February 20, March 20, April 17, and May 15.

Participants.

**Unable to attend*

Name, Title	Institution
Josh Morton, Director of Athletics	Augustana University
Dr. Kimberly Miller, Senior Woman Administrator	Augustana University
Britt Lauritsen, Director of Athletics	Bemidji State University
Chelsea Stoltzenberg, Senior Woman Administrator*	Bemidji State University
Regan McAthie, Director of Athletics	Concordia University, St. Paul
Allison Meadows, Senior Woman Administrator*	Concordia University, St. Paul
Austin Hieb, Director of Athletics	University of Jamestown
Hannah Griffin, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Jamestown
Marcus Wagner, Director of Athletics	University of Mary
Jeni Walsh, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Mary
Stephanie Helgeson, Director of Athletics	University of Minnesota Crookston
Bridget Steffes, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Minnesota Crookston
Forrest Karr, Director of Athletics	University of Minnesota Duluth
Abbey Strong, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Minnesota Duluth
Kevin Buisman, Director of Athletics	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Lori Meyer, Senior Woman Administrator	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Chad Markuson, Director of Athletics	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Pam Gohl, Senior Woman Administrator	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kevin Harmon, Director of Athletics	Minot State University
Jordan Boisner, Senior Woman Administrator	Minot State University
Nate Davis, Director of Athletics	Northern State University
Terri Holmes, Senior Woman Administrator	Northern State University
Jon Hart, Director of Athletics	University of Sioux Falls
Jen Flowers, Director of Athletics	Southwest Minnesota State University
Allison Monson, Senior Woman Administrator	Southwest Minnesota State University

Holly Schreiner, Director of Athletics	St. Cloud State University
Nora Lieser, Senior Woman Administrator*	St. Cloud State University
Mike Powicki, Director of Athletics	Wayne State College
Linda Anderson, Senior Woman Administrator	Wayne State College
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

2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 Officiating Fee Proposal
\$10 Escalation of Fees Model

	2024-25	2025-26	Financial Impact 2025-26	2026-27	Financial Impact 2026-27	2027-28	Financial Impact 2027-28
Football	\$380 (WH), \$330 (Rest)	\$390 (WH), \$340 (Rest)	An increase of \$350 per institution from 2024-25	\$400 (WH), \$350 (Rest)	An increase of \$350 per institution from 2025-26	\$410 (WH), \$360 (Rest)	An increase of \$350 per institution from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates would maintain conference status towards the top half of the Division.					
Volleyball	\$200, \$0.45/mile round trip, \$50 PD back to back	\$210, \$0.45/mile round trip, \$50 PD back to back	An increase of \$600 per institution from 2024-25	\$220, \$0.45/mile round trip, \$50 PD back to back	An increase of \$200 per institution from 2025-26	\$230, \$0.45/mile round trip, \$50 PD back to back	An increase of \$200 per institution from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates are above local DIII conferences, comparable within the Division II region, and average within Division II.					
Soccer	\$230 (Center), \$180 (AR), \$25-125 mileage, \$35 PD back to back	\$240 (Center), \$190 (AR), \$25-125 mileage, \$35 PD back to back	An increase of \$520 per institution from 2024-25	\$250 (Center), \$200 (AR), \$25-125 mileage, \$35 PD back to back	An increase of \$225 per institution from 2025-26	\$260 (Center), \$210 (AR), \$25-125 mileage, \$35 PD back to back	An increase of \$225 per institution from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates are above local DIII conferences, comparable for Division II region, and average within Division II.					
M/W Basketball	\$365, bonus of \$15/game when work 15+ regular season games	\$375, bonus of \$15/game when work 15+ regular season games	An increase of \$660 per institution (includes both genders) from 2024-25	\$385, bonus of \$15/game when work 15+ regular season games	An increase of \$660 per institution (includes both genders) from 2025-26	\$395, bonus of \$15/game when work 15+ regular season games	An increase of \$660 per institution (includes both genders) from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates would maintain conference status towards the top of the region.					
Baseball	\$230/single, \$420/DH, \$610/3-game set, \$810/4-game set, \$50 PD when working back to back days	\$240/game, \$50 PD when working back to back days	An increase of \$1,905 per institution from 2024-25	\$250/game, \$50 PD when working back to back days	An increase of \$590 per institution from 2025-26	\$260/game, when working back to back days	An increase of \$590 per institution from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates are above local DIII conferences, comparable within the Division II region, and average within Division II.					
Softball	\$145/single, \$290/DH, \$25-100 mileage	\$155/game, \$25-100 mileage	An increase of \$885 per institution from 2024-25	\$165/game, \$25-100 mileage	An increase of \$450 per institution from 2025-26	\$175/game, \$25-100 mileage	An increase of \$450 per institution from 2026-27
		Rationale: Proposed rates are above local DIII conferences, comparable for Division II region, and average within Division II.					
Total Financial Impact		An increase of \$4,920 per institution from 2024-25		An increase of \$2,475 per institution from 2025-26		An increase of \$2,475 per institution from 2026-27	

Note: Financial impact analysis based on conference contests.

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Championship & Awards Committee Report**

July 1, 2025

Action Items.

Freshman of the Year Language

1. Recommendation. To adjust all sport's Freshman of the Year language to state that no student-athlete can win the award twice in the same sport.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. With new NCAA legislation, a student-athlete could compete as freshman and not use a season of competition and then compete as a red-shirt freshman the following year. This language would allow coaches the autonomy to nominate a student-athlete if they feel they are worthy of the award prior to knowing if the student-athlete will meet the NCAA bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.7 exception at the conclusion of the season. The student-athlete, if not awarded Freshman of the Year during their exempt year, could then be nominated during their red-shirt freshman year, however, the clarifying language would not allow any student-athlete to earn the award twice in the same sport.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Newcomer of the Year Language

2. Recommendation. To adjust all sport's Newcomer of the Year language to state "The newcomer of the year must be in their first season of competition at their institution in their sport. No student-athlete can win the award twice in the same sport."

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The language clarifies who is eligible for the NSIC Newcomer of the Year awards. With new NCAA legislation, a student-athlete could compete in their initial year of collegiate enrollment and not use a season of competition and then compete as a red-shirt freshman the following year. This language would allow coaches the autonomy to nominate a student-athlete if they feel they are worthy of the award prior to knowing if the student-athlete will meet the NCAA bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.7 exception at the conclusion of the season. The student-athlete, if not awarded Newcomer of the Year during their exempt year, could then be nominated during their red-shirt freshman year, however, the clarifying language would not allow any student-athlete to earn the award twice in the same sport. Additionally, with the University of Jamestown entering the league in 2025-26, the language clarifies that to be eligible for Newcomer of the Year a student-athlete must be in their first season of competition at their institution in their sport, not their first year of NSIC competition.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Baseball

3. Recommendation. To adopt Assistant Coach of the Year as an Individual Award nominated and voted on by the head baseball coaches.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The coaches wanted to adopt this award once the moratorium has concluded on award changes after the 2024-25 academic year. This award would boost an assistant coach's resume to earn National honors as an assistant coach. In other sports, this award has been implemented for the same reasons and the group felt this would also be beneficial for assistant coaches to advance in their careers in becoming head coaches in the future.

Unanimously approved by the Baseball Coaches.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Volleyball

4. Recommendation. To add "Assistant Coach of the Year" to the volleyball specialty awards.

Effective Date. 2025 Season.

Rationale. The group felt its assistant coaches provide tremendous value to their programs and the value they bring to teams is not currently recognized in the head coach of the year award. For process, head coaches would nominate an assistant coach from their staff and would include a short bio about the coach in their nomination, nominations/voting would take place at the same time as all-conference nominations/voting.

Unanimously Approved by Coaching Group.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Baseball

5. Recommendation. To adopt Defensive Player of the Year as an Individual Award which would be voted on by the head baseball coaches. The defensive player of the year would be selected from one of the nine members of the all-defensive team.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The coaches wanted to adopt this award once the moratorium concluded on award changes after the 2024-25 academic year. The coaches felt that they have their Defensive Team of the Year but from that team they would vote for one individual to be the Defensive Player of the Year. The group felt that while the all-defensive team highlights the best defensive players, there should be an honor for the top defensive player of the year in the league.

Unanimously approved by the Baseball Coaches.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Soccer

6. Recommendation. To adopt Midfielder of the Year as an Individual Award nominated and voted on by the head coaches in item 7.3 of the NSIC Soccer sport handbook. To remove Freshman of the Year and adjust Offensive Player of the Year to be Forward of the Year.

7.3 *Individual Awards. Coaches may nominate one player for Forward of the Year, Defender of the Year, Midfielder of the Year, and Goalkeeper of the Year. Coaches will vote for one player in each category. The player receiving the most votes in each category shall be the Forward of the Year, the Defender of the Year, Midfielder of the Year, Goalkeeper of the Year, respectively.*

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The coaches feel midfielders often get bypassed in both the Offensive Player of the Year voting & the Defensive Player of the Year voting. This award would recognize a player who creates offensively for the entire team but doesn't statistically stack up with a forward for the Offensive Player of the Year award or gets overlooked by a backline player (defender) but can be the defensive glue of the team. This award would replace the Freshman of the Year award, which keeps soccer at six specialty awards total: Coach of the Year, Defender of the Year, Forward of the Year, Goalkeeper of the Year, Midfielder of the Year, and Outstanding Senior Athlete of the Year.

Approved by the Soccer Coaches, 10-6-0.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Track & Field

7. Recommendation. To add NSIC Freshman of the Year to the specialty awards selected following the NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. With the addition of transfers each year, the coaching group felt it would be advantageous for incoming freshmen to have their own award versus being in the pool with transfer students for newcomer of the year. The performances over the past years prove there is enough talent in both the transfers entering the league and the freshman (or red-shirt freshmen) to award both following each championship.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Track & Field

8. Recommendation. To have the third-place relay teams (both indoor and outdoor) be recognized as all-conference performers.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. Track & field expanded its all-conference members back in 2010 when the league expanded. This includes the top 3 finishers in each event and the top two relay finishers. The coaching group felt that with 15 teams, a top 3 placing in a relay would warrant all-conference status, like the other races. There would be no added expenses, except for the printing of certificates.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Men's Basketball

9. Recommendation. To revert to one north division and one south division player of the week. The weekly releases would highlight a North Player of the Week and a South Player of the Week, eliminate the Shining 5 and go back to listing top performers by division.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. With the addition of the University of Jamestown, the NSIC will have 16 institutions sponsoring men's basketball which allows the league to return to North and South divisions. The group thought that highlighting one player of the week per division means more to the student-athlete than being a part of the Shining 5.

Unanimously Approved by the coaching group.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Women's Basketball

10. Recommendation. To revert to one north division and one south division player of the week while keeping the Shining 5. The weekly releases would highlight a North Player of the Week and a South Player of the Week, with 3 other players making the Shining 5.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. With the addition of the University of Jamestown, the NSIC will have 16 institutions sponsoring women's basketball which allows the league to return to North and South divisions. The group agreed that highlighting one player of the week per division in addition to three others to form the Shining 5 each week would continue to recognize worthy performances each week, while giving schools the opportunity promote their student-athletes and sport.

Unanimously Approved by the coaching group.

Unanimously Approved by Championship & Awards Committee

Informational Items.

1. Newcomer and Freshman of the Year. The group discussed the clarifying language for this upcoming year with the new NCAA legislation regarding student-athletes competing during their initial year of collegiate enrollment without utilizing a season of competition and with the addition of the University of Jamestown. Recommendations were made for clarifying language for all sports freshmen and newcomer of the year awards. Individual sports would still be able to add additional eligibility information to their handbooks if needed.
2. Assistant Coach of the Year. The group reviewed the recommendations from baseball and volleyball to add an assistant coach of the year. The group felt that these sports fell in line with other NSIC sports that have an assistant coach of the year and earning the award would help their resume for coaches' association awards and for applying for a head coaching position in the future.
3. Baseball/Soccer/Track & Field Specialty Awards. The group reviewed the requests from baseball, soccer and track & field to add or adjust specialty awards.

The group felt that adding a defensive player of the year in baseball made sense, as it fell into the NSIC All-Conference philosophy for specialty awards. Baseball relies heavily on defensive play, and while there is an all-defensive team award, selecting the top defensive player from that group would allow another student-athlete to be honored for their outstanding play.

The soccer coaches recommended to adjust their specialty awards to recognize a forward of the year rather than offensive player of the year and to add a midfielder of the year. The coaching group felt in order to have midfielder of the year approved, they would need to remove freshman of the year. The compromise would allow a first team all-conference midfielder to be recognized in the specialty awards rather than a freshman, who may not have a season where they would qualify for first team all-conference. Discussion was had regarding the removal of Freshman of the Year – whether it was necessary to remove the award understanding other sports’ specialty award additions were accepted by the championships & awards committee. Additionally, it was discussed with the removal of freshman of the year, soccer would be the only NSIC sport without a newcomer or freshman of the year specialty award.

The track & field coaches requested the addition of freshman of the year in addition to their newcomer of the year. The championships & awards committee felt with the amount of student-athletes competing in indoor and outdoor track & field, that spotlighting specifically a freshman (or red-shirt freshman) would help recognize those incoming student-athletes and not group them in with transfer student-athletes.

During the entire discussion the championships & awards committee reviewed the total number of specialty awards that were awarded annually in each sport. The group understood this was an important factor, to keep these within the philosophy of the league. If all baseball recommendations were approved, they would have the most specialty awards in the league at eight (including outstanding senior of the year), followed by track & field (if their recommendation was approved) and football at seven. Soccer would remain at six specialty awards.

4. Track & Field 3rd Place Relay. The group approved the recommendation to award the third place relay teams at the NSIC indoor and outdoor championships with All-NSIC honors. The recommendation and rationale can be referenced above.
5. Basketball Player of the Week. The group reviewed the men’s and women’s basketball coaches recommendations for players of the week. The group felt that similar to the specialty awards, “like sports” do not need to mirror each other. Football is the only other sport with divisions, and it only awards an offense, defense and special teams player selected from both divisions each week. With the unanimous decision from both coaching groups, the championships & awards committee approved the coaches’ recommendations, which can be referenced above.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Stephanie Helgeson, Athletic Director	University of Minnesota Crookston
Chad Marcuson, Athletic Director	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Nate Davis, Athletic Director	Northern State University
Nick Kornder, Assistant 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
Women's Tennis Coaches Summer Meeting**

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Action Items.

1. **Recommendation.** To have Josh Lunak of the University of Minnesota Crookston serve as coaches' chair for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic year.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Coach Lunak was nominated by his peers and being a member of the NCAA Coaches' Connection in the past made him a great fit for the position.

Unanimously approved by coaching group.

2. **Recommendation.** To select Match Pointe in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as host for the 2026, 2027 and 2028 NSIC Tennis Tournament.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Match Pointe has hosted the previous conference tournaments and serves as a fantastic venue. The facility pricing will be consistent for the next three tournaments, as Match Pointe will continue to provide an outstanding experience for student-athletes and fans.

Approved 8-0-1 by coaching group.

3. **Recommendation.** To adjust the tournament bracket format to have the 4/5 seed play the earlier match in the quarterfinals.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. The current bracket has the 4/5 quarterfinal match played second on the first day with the advancing team moving on to play the first match of the day in the semifinals. Moving the 4/5 quarterfinal to the first quarterfinal will allow for equal rest for both quarterfinal winners.

Unanimously approved by coaching group.

4. **Recommendation.** To adjust the NSIC Handbook in section 5.2.3 to read:
All student-athletes being nominated for post-season awards must have a winning percentage of .500 or higher in NSIC play; or any player with over six matches played at No. 1 singles or doubles in NSIC play. A student-athlete can only be nominated on one doubles team.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. This adds clarifying language to who can be nominated for All-Conference at NSIC singles or doubles

Unanimously approved by coaching group.

5. Recommendation. To adjust the NSIC Handbook in section 5.3.2 to read:
Each institution may nominate one student-athlete for Player of Year and/or Freshman of the Year.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. The group felt that there should not be minimum qualifications on records for student-athletes nominated for Player of the Year or Freshman of the Year. The group felt the best players would still be recognized, however, coaches would have the autonomy to nominate players they felt were deserving.

Unanimously approved by coaching group.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed and thanked for their time. A warm welcome was given to Drew Hawthorne of Minnesota State as he has been named head coach.
2. NSIC Strategic Plan. The group was informed that the conference office worked with the membership as well as the NSIC strategic planning committee to create the 2025-30 NSIC Strategic Plan. The Board of Directors approved the strategic plan in their May meeting. The coaches were encouraged to browse through the strategic plan and look through our five main areas of focus.
3. Future Tournament Site. The coaches were reminded that the location for the 2026 conference tournament had not yet been determined. The conference office worked with Huether Family Match Pointe in Sioux Falls and received a three-year contract to host the NSIC Tennis Championships in 2026, 2027 & 2028. The group voted on this which can be referenced under action items.
4. Future Schedules. The group was informed that the Athletic Administrators Council approved the 2026 and 2027 11-team conference schedule including the parameter of allowing flexibility to switch the order of opponents within a given weekend. The schedules were provided to the group for their reference. A reminder was given that 2026 schedule dates are to be submitted via the google document by October 1, 2025.
5. Handbook Review.
 - a. Tournament Format. The coaching group was reminded that the University of Jamestown is not eligible for NCAA post season, and therefore, cannot participate in the NSIC Conference Tournament because there is an automatic qualifier attached to the championship. The elimination of UJ keeps the conference at 10 teams eligible to qualify with 6 making the tournament.
 - b. Timing of Quarterfinal Contests. With the current tournament format, the second quarterfinal match of the day turns around and plays the first semi-final match the following day. The group reviewed this structure, and a recommendation was brought forward to switch the quarterfinal matches around.
 - c. All Conference Review. The group had healthy discussion on clarifying language in the handbook regarding all-conference awards and specialty awards. Recommendations can be referenced under action items.

6. NCAA Coaches Connection Updates. No updates were given at this time. Josh Lunak will continue to serve in the role for one more year. It was asked that another coach replace Coach Lunak following this year.
7. NSIC Women's Tennis Coaches' Chair. The group was informed that Berit Merrill, St. Cloud State University, will be rolling off this summer as chair. Nominations were solicited to select the next coaches' chair, of which the duration is two years. The group voted on Josh Lunak, University of Minnesota Crookston to be the next NSIC Tennis Coaches' Chair through 2027.
8. Miscellaneous. The coaches were reminded that the official ball of the NSIC is the Wilson U.S. Open Extra Duty. It was noted the coaching group may put some thought towards the 30-minute warm up criteria during the NSIC conference tournament.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Marc Kurtz, Head Coach	Augustana University
Kyle Fodness, Head Coach	Bemidji State University
Cameron Jackson, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Jeni Walsh, Senior Woman Administrator, Sport Liaison	University of Mary
Erik Porter, Head Coach	University of Mary
Josh Lunak, Head Coach	University of Minnesota, Crookston
Jessica Worden, Head Coach	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Drew Hawthorne, Head Coach	University of Minnesota State, Mankato
Alexis Konecne, Head Coach*	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Chad Markuson, Director of Athletics	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kevin Grebin, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Berit Merrill, Head Coach*	St. Cloud State University
Tom Sanvik, Head Coach*	Winona State University
Nick Kornder, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Tatum Rhoades, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Swimming & Diving Coaches Summer Meeting Report
June 11, 2025

Action Items.

None.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks. The group was welcome and thanked for their time. An introduction was given to Nora Lieser, St. Cloud State University, who is serving as the sport liaison.
2. Review of NSIC Swimming & Diving Handbook. The group was reminded of the updates made to the NSIC handbook following the group's post season meeting. Of note, the chair rotation will transition to Augustana for the 2025-26 season and timeline clarification was added to the specialty awards nomination process. Discussion was had about the criteria for the Swimmer of the Meet award. It was agreed to review the criteria further in a future meeting.
3. NSIC Championship Working Group Update. An update on the championship working group was provided. In mid-May the working group, made up of a mixture of coaches and administrators, met to begin discussion on future championship planning. An area of focus during the first meeting was the workload involved for a host institution. From a workload standpoint, discussion was had on aspects of the championship including the schedule of events format/duration, practice day, exhibition swimmers, and hosting responsibilities. It was noted that MSU Moorhead has provided feedback that it does not have the capacity to host the 2026 NSIC Championship or every year in a row, prompting a conversation about alternative approaches to distributing hosting duties. Feedback was gathered from the group to assist the working group in its discussion. The group reaffirmed a strong preference to continue holding the championship at the Hulbert Aquatic Center for multiple years. The group agreed it liked the format of conducting diving prelims concurrently during swimming prelims. Discussion was had about introducing a diving B Final to enhance the meet with minimal time added. A straw poll was conducted, and the working group will take those results into consideration during its next meeting.
4. DII Swimming & Diving Committee Update. Andrew Makepeace, Augustana University, provided an update on behalf of the DII Swimming & Diving Committee. During the 2025-26 academic year, the triennial championship budget cycle will be reviewed to identify potential adjustments, including considerations for increasing the roster cap and addressing travel expenses for additional coaches. Coaches were encouraged to become members of the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) and to attend the annual meeting in Chicago next year.
5. NCAA DII Coaches Connection Update. Nathan Owen, Minnesota State University, Mankato, provided an update on behalf of Coaches Connection. Of note, the group was encouraged to utilize a 'best practices' document that was developed to help answer questions regarding use of contests and dates of competition.
6. Relay Meet Idea. During its post season meeting, the group started discussion on holding a relay meet for conference teams to have an opportunity to compete against one another prior to the NSIC championship. The group had further discussion on the idea, discussing possible locations, members of the group interested in hosting/organizing the relay meet, and potential timing to

conduct the meet during the regular season. There was consensus that the end of September/early October and a rotating location would be ideal. It was noted that the relay meet would not be required for institutions, rather an opportunity for those that would like to participate. The group will continue its discussion via email to identify a date and institution interested in organizing the relay meet for the 2026-27 season.

7. NSIC Strategic Plan Update. The group was provided the 2025-30 NSIC strategic plan which was recently approved by the NSIC Board of Directors and were encouraged to review the plan.
8. Miscellaneous. Brief discussion was had on identifying a ‘last chance meet’ date/location prior to the season. Further conversation will be had via email as some members were in the process of identifying a potential date it could host a ‘last chance meet’.

Participants.

**Not in attendance*

Name, Title	Institution
Andrew Makepeace, Head Coach	Augustana University
Rachel Busch, Head Coach	Concordia University, St. Paul
Ben Smith, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Abby Loel, Head Coach	University of Mary
Nathan Owens, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Charlie King, Head Coach	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kaden Huntrods, Head Coach*	Northern State University
Rickey Perkins, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Marty Wahle, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Jeff Hegle, Head Coach	St. Cloud State University
Nora Lieser, Sport Liaison	St. Cloud State University
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Taytum Rhoades, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Cross Country Coaches Meeting Report
June 16, 2025**

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To approve Augustana University as the host for the 2026 NSIC Cross Country Championships at Yankton Trails in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Augustana has hosted multiple meets, including NSIC Championships, in the past and has done a wonderful job of giving the student-athletes a first-class experience. Augustana will also be hosting the 2026 NCAA Regional meet, allowing student-athletes to have familiarity with the post season course.

Unanimously approved by the Cross Country Coaches.

Informational Items.

1. NSIC Strategic Plan. The new 2025-2030 NSIC Strategic Plan was shared with the coaches during their meeting along with the five areas of focus that it includes. Those are Academic & Life Skills, Athletics Operations & Compliance, Game Day & Championships, Membership and Positioning, and Health & Wellness. It was noted that the Conference Council and Board of Directors will help the conference office establish key priorities each year of the plan to complete the strategic plan at the conclusion of the 2029-2030 academic year.
2. NSIC Webcasting. The NSIC Board of Directors recently requested that the Conference Office seek vendor interest in the leagues digital content and through that seeking rights fees or paywall capabilities as the current Hudl agreement will end in June 2026. They were encouraged to speak with their Athletic Director if they had thoughts/questions/concerns regarding this topic.
3. NCAA Coaches Connection Update. Jonathan Breitbarth, Concordia University, St. Paul, gave an updated regarding the 2027-2030 NCAA budgeting requests. There was per diem and transportation as cross country is one of the few sports that cover all costs to travel to the regional meet. There was also discussion about enhancing the NCAA Championships. There will likely be more enhancements to the championships versus giving out per diem. There is also discussion about NCAA qualifications for teams, and this will be looked at for future championships. The group was urged to contact Coach Breitbarth if they have any questions or concerns.
4. 2025 NSIC Championship Update. Marlon Brink, Wayne State College, gave an update on the 2025 NSIC Cross Country Championships. The event will be held Friday, October 24 with the women at 12 p.m. and men at 1:15 p.m. There will be details and more information shared with the coaching group in the coming weeks/months. The course will look different than in past years following construction on campus. Wayne State will host a home meet on September 26, 2025, to help prepare for the NSIC Championships.
5. Handbook Revisions. The group reviewed the 2024 NSIC Cross Country handbook. There will need to be adjustments to Appendix VI in the handbook with the championship being moved up one day. Appendix II must also be updated with the University of Jamestown in the rotation.

6. Future NSIC Championships. Augustana submitted a bid for hosting the 2026 NSIC Championship, information can be referenced in action item number one. The bid proposal was to host the championship at Yankton Trails in Sioux Falls.
7. Miscellaneous. None.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Scott Tanis	Augustana University
Mike Lynch	Bemidji State University
Jonathan Breitbarth, Jacob Dennison, Allison Meadows	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jarvis Jelen	University of Jamestown
Cale Korbelik, Chris Lessard	University of Mary
Steven Krouse	University of Minnesota Crookston
Karly Brautigam, Brette Jensen	University of Minnesota Duluth
Mike Turgeon, Jen Blue, Ben Held	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Ryan Milner	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Jordan Aus, Steven Schultz	Minot State University
Lynne Dingman, Megan Kuehl	Northern State University
Eric Chilson	University of Sioux Falls
Gabrielle Brown*	St. Cloud State University
Kirk Nauman	Southwest Minnesota State University
Marlon Brink, Carly Fehringer, Travis Kamm	Wayne State College
Mason Rebarchek (Chair), John Hibshman	Winona State University
Mike Powicki, Wayne State (Liaison)	Wayne State College
Nick Kornder	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to attend*

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Track & Field Meeting Report
June 16, 2025

Supplement No. 5

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To increase the host stipend from the conference office for the outdoor track & field championships by \$3,000 to a total of \$11,000 and to increase the team entrance fee to \$500 per gender.

Effective Date. 2025-26 season.

Rationale. The financial impact of hosting the NSIC Outdoor Track & Field Championship has increased over the past years. Increasing the stipend from the conference office and the team entrance fee will minimize the financial burden on hosting. The increase would provide an extra \$6,300 for the host institution as the league will be adding one more team in 2025-26 with the University of Jamestown.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

2. Recommendation. To have Minnesota State University, Mankato host the 2027 NSIC Outdoor Track & Field Championship in Mankato, Minnesota.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. Minnesota State has hosted many meets including NSIC Championships in the past at their outdoor facility. The Minnesota State staff has done a tremendous job in the past of running championships and will provide a first-class experience for all involved.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

3. Recommendation. To approve the 2025-26 NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championship schedule as shown in Supplement T&F - A.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. NSIC Indoor Championship schedules are reviewed each year by the coaches. MSU has hosted the indoor annually for the past several years. The schedule presented has been adjusted over the years to best fit the championship. The coaches did agree to adjust Friday's schedule to move the 5000m to the beginning of the day and to end the day with the distance medley relay.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

4. Recommendation. To remove the prelims in the 1500m for the outdoor championship, with 18 max in one section and 12 being in the fast heat. The 1500m times would be removed from Friday's event with no other times adjusted.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. The NSIC Championship is the last opportunity to run a fast race and qualify for nationals. Running a final only would allow more rest for the 1500m athlete. Historically, there have been years when a prelim was run, only to eliminate less than a handful of runners. It may also allow the opportunity to double in other events.

Approved by the Track & Field Coaches, 23-3-0.

5. Recommendation. To approve the 2026 NSIC Outdoor Track & Field Championship schedule at Minnesota Duluth as shown in Supplement T&F - B.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. NSIC Outdoor Championship schedules are reviewed each year by the coaches. Minnesota Duluth has hosted three times in the past, including last year and adjustments have been made to accommodate the throws, allowing coaches to travel between events when possible. The removal of the outdoor 1500m prelim would not alter the Friday schedule as there would be a pause between races. The javelin was moved back 15 minutes to accommodate discus throwers in the first flight of the javelin.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

6. Recommendation. To have the third-place relay teams (both indoor and outdoor) be recognized as all-conference performers.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. Track and field expanded its all-conference members back in 2010 when the league expanded. This includes the top 3 finishers in each event and the top two relay finishers. The coaching group felt that with 16 teams, the top 3 placed in a relay would warrant all-conference status, like the other races. There would be no added expenses, except for the printing of certificates.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

Forwarded to Champs & Awards Committee

7. Recommendation. To add NSIC Freshman of the Year to the specialty awards selected following the NSIC Indoor and Outdoor seasons.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. With the addition of transfers each year, the coaching group felt it would be advantageous for incoming freshmen to have their own award versus being in the pool with transfer students for newcomer of the year. The performances over the past years prove there is enough talent in both the transfers entering the league and the freshman (or red-shirt freshmen) to award both following each championship.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

Forwarded to Champs & Awards Committee

8. Recommendation. If recommendation 7 is defeated: To change NSIC Newcomer of the Year to NSIC Freshman of the Year in the specialty awards selected following the NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships. To be eligible for the award a student-athlete would need to be in their true or red shirt freshman season of competition.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. With the number of transfers continuing to increase and the coaching group felt having a true or redshirt freshman was a better fit for the award versus highlighting an upperclassman that transferred into the league later in their career.

Unanimously approved by the Track & Field Coaches.

Forwarded to Champs & Awards Committee

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed and thanked for their time.
2. NCAA Coaches' Connection. Kirk Nauman, Southwest Minnesota State University, updated the group on the budget talks with the coaches' connection and expansion of the NCAA Championships. The Division II eligibility was discussed and season eligibility and competition. There was also discussion on how the NCAA selection could be adjusted in the future. The group was urged to review the latest Coaches' Connection minutes on this topic and to email Coach Nauman if they would like to express their thoughts on the subject.
3. Outdoor Championship Budget. The group was informed that the NSIC Administrators had approved new language for the NSIC Indoor Championships pertaining to NSIC stipend and school entry fee. A proposal that mirrored the indoor language was presented for the outdoor championship. The group submitted a recommendation. The group felt the recommendation was a step in the right direction to help the host institutions.
4. Indoor Championship Review.
Waterfall Start. The group was reminded that there was discussion on adding a waterfall start for the mile race and the distance medley relay to help keep student-athletes safe at the start. A request was made to add it to the technical manual a double waterfall for the mile and the DMR.
90-Minute Check-in. There was discussion about communication with student athletes about adjusting the heats after the 90-minute mark. The section limit was determined in the past by the distance coaches to have a maximum of 24 student-athletes in a section. The readjustment of sections could be done, but it would have to be communicated, and sections could be reseeded at the 90-minute mark. The group agreed that the tech manual will be adjusted to state that the section will be reseeded after the 90-minute declaration. The declared list will be adjusted for the 15 fastest in a heat.
Indoor Schedule. The group reviewed possible schedule adjustments to the NSIC Indoor meet, moving the DMR to the end of the day. There was also an option of moving the DMR to end of day and moving the 5000m to the beginning of the day. The group made a recommendation which can be referenced above.
5. NSIC Outdoor Championship Review. The group discussed the removal of the 1500m prelims from the outdoor championship. Additional language to the handbook would be if there are 18 or less competitors, it would be one section final, while 19 would be two sections with 12 competitors in the fast section. Cale Korbelik of the University of Mary brought up conference wind league marks and if the group should look at implementing wind limits. He would gather data from past years and look to bring this back to the group in the future.
6. 2026 NSIC Outdoor Championship Schedule. The group reviewed and finalized the 2026 NSIC Outdoor Championship Schedule, which can be referenced in the recommendations above. There was an adjustment to the men's javelin start time to 1:15 p.m. to allow a discus finalist to make it to the event if they are in the first flight. If the 1500m prelim is approved for removal, the Friday times would just remove those two races and not affect the rest of the start times.
7. 2027 NSIC Outdoor Championship Bid. The group reviewed the bid from Minnesota State to host the 2027 NSIC Outdoor Championships and made the recommendation above.
8. NSIC Track & Field Awards. The group was reminded of the two recommendations that were to be forwarded to the NSIC Championships & Awards committee for their review. A recommendation was made to add Freshman of the Year. If the award was denied, then the group asked to replace Newcomer of the Year with Freshman of the Year.
9. Handbook Revisions. An updated version of the handbook was shared with the coaches for their review. They were asked to review this in detail and send back their approval to the NSIC Office prior to the start of the fall season. NSIC Athlete of the Week criteria needed to be adjusted to remove "automatic qualifiers." It was also decided to change the timeline to have high jump progression be shared by

Tuesday at noon. Finally, the University of Jamestown will need to be added to Appendix II.

10. Miscellaneous. The group was asked about Direct Athletics and Athletic.net for posting of results. The Coaching group felt that TFFRS was still a good resource and was easy to use. They are going to review both systems over the next academic year and discuss options next summer.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Scott Tanis	Augustana University
Mike Lynch	Bemidji State University
Jonathan Breitbarth, Jacob Dennison, Allison Meadows	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jarvis Jelen	University of Jamestown
Cale Korbelik, Chris Lessard	University of Mary
Karly Brautigam, Brette Jensen	University of Minnesota Duluth
Mike Turgeon, Jen Blue, Ben Held	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Ryan Milner	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Jordan Aus, Steven Schultz	Minot State University
Lynne Dingman, Megan Kuehl	Northern State University
Eric Chilson	University of Sioux Falls
Gabrielle Brown*	St. Cloud State University
Kirk Nauman	Southwest Minnesota State University
Marlon Brink, Carly Fehringer, Travis Kamm	Wayne State College
Mason Rebarchek (Chair), John Hibshman	Winona State University
Mike Powicki, Wayne State (Liaison)	Wayne State College
Nick Kornder	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to attend*

2026 NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championships

Even Year Schedule of Events

Date: Final NCAA Qualifying Weekend

Friday

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field Events</u>	<u>Round</u>
9:20 am	National Anthem & NSIC Creed	
9:30 am	Heptathlon 60m	Final
*10:15 am	Heptathlon Long Jump	
*11:30 am	Heptathlon Shot Put	
*12:45 pm	Heptathlon High Jump	
12:00 pm	Pole Vault (M)	Prelim/Final
12:00 pm	Long Jump (W)	Prelim/Final
1:00 pm	Weight Throw (W)	Prelim/Final
2:30 pm	Long Jump (M)	Prelim/Final
3:30 pm	Pole Vault (W)	Prelim/Final
3:30 pm	Weight Throw (M)	Prelim/Final
4:00 pm	High Jump (W)	Prelim/Final

<u>Time</u>	<u>Running Events</u>	<u>Round</u>
11:30 am	5000 Meters (W)	Final (2 Section) #
12:15 pm	5000 Meters (M)	Final (2 Section) #
1:45 pm	60 Meter Hurdles (W)	Prelim
2:00 pm	60 Meter Hurdles (M)	Prelim
2:15 pm	400 Meters (W)	Prelim
2:30 pm	400 Meters (M)	Prelim
2:45 pm	600 Meters (W)	Prelim
3:00 pm	600 Meters (M)	Prelim
3:15 pm	60 Meters (W)	Prelim
3:30 pm	60 Meters (M)	Prelim
3:45 pm	800 Meters (W)	Prelim
4:00 pm	800 Meters (M)	Prelim
4:15 pm	1000 Meters (W)	Prelim
4:30 pm	1000 Meters (M)	Prelim
4:45 pm	200 Meters (W)	Prelim
5:00 pm	200 Meters (M)	Prelim
5:15 pm	DMR (W)	Final
5:30 pm	DMR (M)	Final

*Heptathlon times are approximate after first event.

If combined event entries are over 12 then two flights will be used for LJ, SP, HJ. Flights will be based off of HJ pits.

No declaration period is required for the 5k. However, coaches must make any final scratches in the event at least 90 minutes before the start of each gender's first section of the event so that reseeding or an elimination of a section may be done if necessary.

Saturday

<u>Time</u>	<u>Field Events</u>	<u>Round</u>
8:50 am	National Anthem & NSIC Creed	
9:00 am	Pentathlon 60mH	Final
*9:45 pm	Pentathlon High Jump	
*11:30 am	Pentathlon Shot Put	
*12:15 pm	Pentathlon Long Jump	
9:45 am	Heptathlon 60mH	Final
*11:00 am	Heptathlon Vault	
1:00 pm	Shot Put (W)	Prelim/Final
1:00 pm	High Jump (M)	Final
1:30 pm#	Triple Jump (W)	Prelim/Final
3:30 pm	Shot Put (M)	Prelim/Final
3:45 pm#	Triple Jump (M)	Prelim/Final

<u>Time</u>	<u>Running Events</u>	<u>Round</u>
TBD	Heptathlon 1000m	
TBD	Pentathlon 800m	
1:30 pm	Mile (W)	Final
1:50 pm	Mile (M)	Final
2:10 pm	60 Meter Hurdles (W)	Final
2:25 pm	60 Meter Hurdles (M)	Final
2:40 pm	400 Meters (W)	Final
2:50 pm	400 Meters (M)	Final
3:00 pm	600 Meters (W)	Final
3:10 pm	600 Meters (M)	Final
3:20 pm	60 Meters (W)	Final
3:30 pm	60 Meters (M)	Final
3:40 pm	800 Meters (W)	Final
3:50 pm	800 Meters (M)	Final
4:00 pm	1000 Meters (W)	Final
4:10 pm	1000 Meters (M)	Final
4:20 pm	200 Meters (W)	Final
4:30 pm	200 Meters (M)	Final
4:40 pm	3000 Meters (W)	Final (2 Sections) #
5:05 pm	3000 Meters (M)	Final (2 Sections) #
5:30 pm	4x400 Meter Relay (W)	Final (2 Sections)**
5:50 pm	4x400 Meter Relay (M)	Final (2 Sections)
6:25 pm	Awards Ceremony	

*Heptathlon & Pentathlon times are approximate after first event.

If combined entries are over 12 then two flights will be used for HJ, SP, LJ. Flights will be based off of HJ Pits.

**4x400 should be moved earlier by 10 minutes per section of 3000 Meters that would be removed due to field size.

#Triple Jump starts 20 minutes after the boards are set following the Pentathlon Long Jump or start time whichever is later. The next gender Triple Jumps starts 20 minutes after the boards are set.

Must declare for Women's 3k by 3:10p and Men's 3k by 3:35pm. If 24 or fewer athletes declare will be combined to 1 heat.

2026 NSIC Outdoor Track & Field Championships

Even Number Year Schedule of Events - Date: Final NCAA Qualifying Weekend

Thursday

Combined Events

12:55 pm	National Anthem/Pledge
1:00 pm	Decathlon 100 Meters
1:30 pm	Heptathlon 100 Meter Hurdles
~1:45 pm	Decathlon Long Jump
~2:15 pm	Heptathlon High Jump
~3:00 pm	Decathlon Shot Put
~4:00 pm	Heptathlon Shot Put
~4:15 pm	Decathlon High Jump
~5:15 pm	Heptathlon 200 Meters
~6:00 pm	Decathlon 400 Meters

FRIDAY

Combined Events

8:55 am	National Anthem/Pledge
9:00 am	Decathlon 110 Meter Hurdles
9:30 am	Heptathlon Long Jump
~9:45 am	Decathlon Discus
~10:45 am	Heptathlon Javelin
~11:15 am	Decathlon Pole Vault
~12:00 pm	Heptathlon 800 Meters
~2:45 pm	Decathlon Javelin
~4:10 pm	Decathlon 1500 Meters

Friday

All running events are preliminaries except 10K & 3000m Steeplechase

Time Field Event

12:30 pm	Hammer (W)
12:30 pm	High Jump (M)
12:30 pm	Long Jump (W)
1:15 pm	Hammer (M)
2:45 pm	Shot Put (W)
3:00 pm	Pole Vault (M)
3:30 pm	High Jump (W)
3:30 pm	Long Jump (M)
*	Shot Put (M)

*Men's SP will be a rolling start after completion of women's SP.

Time Running Event

10:00 am	10,000 Meters (W) - Final
11:00 am	10,000 Meters (M) - Final
12:00 pm	Heptathlon 800 Meters (W)
12:50 pm	3000 Meter Steeple (W) - Final
1:10 pm	3000 Meter Steeple (M) - Final
1:30 pm	1500 Meter (W)
1:45 pm	1500 Meter (M)
2:00 pm	100 Meter Hurdles (W)
2:15 pm	110 Meter Hurdles (M)
2:30 pm	400 Meters (W)
2:45 pm	400 Meters (M)
3:00 pm	100 Meters (W)
3:15 pm	100 Meters (M)
3:30 pm	800 Meters (W)
3:50 pm	800 Meters (M)
4:10 pm	Decathlon 1500 Meters (M)
4:20 pm	400 Meter Hurdles (W)
4:40 pm	400 Meter Hurdles (M)
5:00 pm	200 Meters (W)
5:15 pm	200 Meters (M)

Saturday

Relays will be run as 2-section final with the fast section running last

Time Field Events

9:55 am	National Anthem/Pledge
10:00 am	Javelin (W)
11:00 am	Triple Jump (M)
11:00 am	Pole Vault (W)
11:30 am	Discus (M)
1:15 pm	Javelin (M)
2:00 pm	Triple Jump (W)
2:30 pm	Discus (W)

Time Running Events

1:05 pm	4x100 Meter Relay (W)
1:15 pm	4x100 Meter Relay (M)
1:25 pm	1500 Meter Run (W)
1:40 pm	1500 Meter Run (M)
1:55 pm	100 Meter Hurdles (W)
2:10 pm	110 Meter Hurdles (M)
2:20 pm	400 Meters (W)
2:25 pm	400 Meters (M)
2:35 pm	100 Meters (W)
2:40 pm	100 Meters (M)
2:45 pm	800 Meters (W)
2:50 pm	800 Meters (M)
3:00 pm	400 Meter Hurdles (W)
3:10 pm	400 Meter Hurdles (M)
3:20 pm	200 Meters (W)
3:25 pm	200 Meters (M)
3:35 pm	5000 Meters (W)
4:00 pm	5000 Meters (M)
4:25 pm	4x400 Meter Relay (W)
4:40 pm	4x400 Meter Relay (M)
5:00 pm	Awards Ceremony

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Women's Golf Coaches Summer Meeting Report**
June 4, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To elect Coralee Jorgensen, Augustana University as the Women's Golf Coaches Chair for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years.

Effective Date. July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Coaching Group, 7-6-0.

2. Recommendation. To adjust the language in item 2.9.1.4 of the NSIC Women's Golf Handbook regarding the sixth player/substitute for the NSIC Championship.

2.9.1.4 *Should institutions bring a sixth player as a substitute, that player will be listed on the team's official roster as a substitute and will be allowed to play all rounds of the conference championship as an individual if not substituted into the official five-player lineup. The sixth player is eligible to win the individual title of the championship.*

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. Adopting this policy allows for a better student-athlete experience for the sixth player by allowing them to play the course each day to even win an individual title. This student-athlete is also able to be substituted into the team scoring lineup on a given day and by playing each day could earn them a spot in the official team scoring lineup. There is very little cost as the teams were already able to bring a sixth player to the championship therefore only costing a little more in greens fees. This also removes any issues with a sixth player providing advice to teammates as they must follow spectator rules if not participating.

Unanimously approved by the Coaching Group.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The Coaches were welcomed to the meeting by Andy Sailer, NSIC Assistant Commissioner, and Coralee Jorgensen, Augustana University, and teams were congratulated on their successes this season along with Augustana, Minnesota State, and Wayne State for making it to the NCAA Championships and Winona State and Sioux Falls both sending an individual to the NCAA Regional.
2. 2026 NSIC Championship Site. The group was reminded of the Championship dates of April 21-24, 2026, at Adams Pointe Golf Club in Blue Springs, Missouri.
3. 2025-26 Tournament Scheduling. The group reviewed the tournaments scheduled for each weekend of the upcoming season. Coaches were encouraged to share other tournaments throughout the season in case members of the group needed to schedule other contests. During the discussion, coaches were reminded about the importance of scheduling in-region competition to be considered for post-season play. The group was also reminded to update the scheduling Google Sheet document, so they had an electronic form for the schedule as well.
4. NCAA Coaches Connection Updates. Ross Webskowsky, Southwest Minnesota State University, provided the group with a short update on what the coaches' connection has been discussing in their last few meetings. The main thing that is being discussed is the practice hours that are permissible each week based on NCAA rules. The Coaches Connection is trying to get more hours to be permissible due to them not

being able to practice like they play with 36-hole rounds. They are also discussing a proposal for the number of competition dates to increase to 24 dates of competition. Coaches were in favor of both concepts and would be in support of these proposals if they were to go into NCAA legislation.

5. NSIC Sport Handbook Review. One item of discussion was around the use of the NCAA format for player substitutions during the NSIC Championship and changing it slightly so that the sixth player would play as an individual at the conference tournament. The coaches had a great deal of discussion about this topic and by doing this they felt that it would continue to elevate the student-athlete experience. This also allows that player to have the potential to win an individual title in the championship. This recommendation can be found as Action Item No. 2. The other area discussed was around all-conference voting versus using the ranking system via Scoreboard by Clippd to determine first and second team all-conference. They discussed whether there was some type of data point that could be used or to have more weight than another to help determine the all-conference and help coaches vote based off that. It was discussed that the documents that the RAC gets could be used but no one gets that unless they are on the committee. The coaches were not in favor of a point system and would rather continue to have the coaches vote on the first and second team. The coaches did discuss a little about holding all-conference voting until after regionals or nationals to help make sure all the data is accurate and provides more for those teams and individuals that have moved on further than just the regular season and conference tournaments. Ultimately, they ended up in the space that the awards should be based on regular season and conference tournament.
6. NSIC Strategic Plan. The new 2025-2030 NSIC Strategic Plan was shared with the coaches during their meeting along with the five areas of focus that it includes. Those are Academic & Life Skills, Athletics Operations & Compliance, Game Day & Championships, Membership and Positioning, and Health & Wellness. It was noted that the Conference Council and Board of Directors will help the conference office establish key priorities each year of the plan to complete the strategic plan at the conclusion of the 2029-2030 academic year.
7. Miscellaneous.
 - a. Coaches Chair Nominations/Voting. The group was asked to submit nominations for coaches' chair by noon and then a ballot will go out on Thursday to vote for coaches' chair to serve a term of July 2025 through June 2027.
 - b. NCAA Women's Golf National Committee. The coaches were informed that Alex Schmitz, Minnesota State University, Mankato was selected to serve on the Women's Golf National Committee by the NCAA and will also serve as the Regional Advisory Committee Chair as well.

Participants.

Name	Institution
Coralee Jorgensen, Head Coach	Augustana University
Erica Gartner, Head Coach	Bemidji State University
Peter Maki, Head Coach	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jared Lentz, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Marion Hernandez, Head Coach	University of Mary
Brady Heppner, Head Coach	University of Minnesota Crookston
Alex Schmitz, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Brock Ellingson, Head Coach	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Eli Mihalick, Head Coach	Minot State University
Wade Merry, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Ross Webskowski, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Nick Swaney, Head Coach	Wayne State College
Jeff Straight, Director of Golf	Winona State University
Linda Anderson, SWA/Sport Liaison	Wayne State College
Andy Sailer, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Nick Kornder, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Men's Golf Coaches Summer Meeting Report**
June 4, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To elect Ekren Miller, Bemidji State University as the Men's Golf Coaches Chair for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic years.

Effective Date. July 1, 2025.

Unanimously approved by the Coaching Group.

2. Recommendation. To adopt Paradise Pointe Golf Complex as the 2026 NSIC Men's Golf Championship site.

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. The golf course staff at Paradise Pointe have provided the women's teams and the men's teams previously with great hospitality and they shut down the course to the public through the duration of the championships held there and allow the conference office to use it however needed. The cost of hosting the championship at Paradise Pointe was less than the other course with it being \$125 per student athlete for four rounds of golf. With the men's tournament in 2027 being during the week the coaches liked the idea of only making a one-year commitment to Paradise Pointe to allow for the other courses that were solicited to potentially host in the future.

Approved by the Coaching Group, 9-0-0.

3. Recommendation. To adjust the language in item 2.4.1.4 of the NSIC Men's Golf Handbook regarding the sixth player/substitute for the NSIC Championship.

2.4.1.4 *Should institutions bring a sixth player as a substitute, that player will be listed on the team's official roster as a substitute and will be allowed to play all rounds of the conference championship as an individual if not substituted into the official five-player lineup. The sixth player is eligible to win the individual title of the championship.*

Effective Date. 2025-26 Academic Year.

Rationale. Adopting this policy allows for a better student-athlete experience for the sixth player by allowing them to play the course each day to even win an individual title. This student-athlete is also able to be substituted into the team scoring lineup on a given day and by playing each day could earn them a spot in the official team scoring lineup. There is very little cost as the teams were already able to bring a sixth player to the championship therefore only costing a little more in greens fees. This also removes any issues with a sixth player providing advice to teammates as they must follow spectator rules if not participating.

Approved by the Coaching Group, 9-0-0.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed to the meeting by Ekren Miller, Coaches Chair, Bemidji State University and Andy Sailer, Assistant Commissioner. Teams were congratulated on their successes this past season along with Winona State and Concordia-St. Paul making it to the NCAA Championships.
2. 2026 NSIC Championship. The group had a lengthy discussion regarding the 2026 NSIC Championship as the conference received two offers to host the tournament for the upcoming year. With the options provided, it was noted that the sport of golf has truly grown, and it has become more difficult to find sites willing to host, especially on a weekend. Based on the two options and the amenities surrounding both courses, the coaches felt that Paradise Pointe was the better option of the two. With the men's tournament in 2027 being during the week, the coaches liked the idea of only making a one-year commitment to Paradise Pointe to allow for the other courses that were solicited to potentially host during the week. The coaches did discuss running both the men's and women's championships at the same course at the same time but with the field size that it is not possible with coaches with overlapping programs. The other issue was if weather happens and delays a start that could cause many issues in completing both championships. The coach's recommendation can be found as Action Item No. 2.
3. 2025-26 Tournament Scheduling. The group reviewed the tournaments scheduled for each weekend of the upcoming season. Coaches were encouraged to share other possible tournaments throughout the season in case members of the group needed to schedule other contests. During the discussion, coaches were reminded about the importance of scheduling in-region competition to be considered for post-season play. The group was also reminded to update the scheduling Google Sheet document, so they had an electronic form for the schedule as well.
4. NCAA Coaches Connection Updates. Jeff Straight, Winona State University, provided the group with a short update on what the coaches connection. The main thing that is being discussed is the practice hours that are permissible each week based on NCAA rules. The Coaches Connection is trying to get more hours to be permissible due to them not being able to practice like they play with 36-hole rounds. They are also discussing a proposal for the number of competition dates to increase to 24 dates of competition. Coaches were in favor of both concepts and would be in support of these proposals if they were to go into NCAA legislation.
5. NSIC Sport Handbook Review. The group reviewed the NSIC Men's Golf Handbook. One item of discussion was around the use of the NCAA format for player substitutions during the NSIC Championship and changing it slightly so that the sixth player would play as an individual at the conference tournament. The coaches had a great deal of discussion about this topic and by doing this they felt that it would continue to elevate the student-athlete experience. This also allows that player to have the potential to win an individual title in the championship. This recommendation can be found as Action Item No. 3. The other area that was discussed was around all-conference voting versus using the ranking system via Scoreboard by Clippd to determine first and second team all-conference. They discussed whether there was some type of data point that could be used or to have more weight than another to help determine the all-conference and help coaches vote based off that. It was discussed that the documents that the RAC gets could be used but no one gets that unless they are on the committee. The coaches were not in favor of a point system and would rather continue to have the coaches vote on the first and second team. The coaches did discuss a little about holding all-conference voting until after regionals or nationals to help make sure all the data is accurate and provides more for those teams and individuals that have moved on further than just the regular season and conference tournaments. Ultimately, they ended up in the space that the awards should be based on regular season and conference tournament.
6. NSIC Strategic Plan. The new 2025-2030 NSIC Strategic Plan was shared with the coaches during their meeting along with the five areas of focus that it includes. Those are Academic & Life Skills, Athletics Operations & Compliance, Game Day & Championships, Membership and Positioning, and Health & Wellness. It was noted that the Conference Council and Board of Directors will help the conference office

establish key priorities each year of the plan to complete the strategic plan at the conclusion of the 2029-2030 academic year.

7. Miscellaneous.

- a. NCAA Men's Golf RAC Interest. The coaches were asked if they had an interest in serving on the NCAA Men's Golf Regional Advisory Committee and if interested to email Andy at the conference office by Friday, June 6.
- b. Coaches Chair Nominations/Voting. The group was asked to submit nominations for coaches' chair by noon and then a ballot will go out on Thursday to vote for coaches' chair to serve a term of July 2025 through June 2027.

Participants.

Name	Institution
Mike Krsnak, Head Coach	Augustana University
Ekren Miller, Head Coach	Bemidji State University
Peter Maki, Head Coach	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jared Lentz, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Laif Olson, Head Coach	University of Mary
Brad Heppner, Head Coach*	University of Minnesota Crookston
Alex Schmitz, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Eli Mihalick, Head Coach	Minot State University
Wade Merry, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Jeff Straight, Director of Golf	Winona State University
Linda Anderson, SWA/Liaison	Wayne State College
Andy Sailer, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Nick Kornder, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to attend*

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Wrestling Coaches Summer Meeting Report**
June 3, 2025

Action Items.

None.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed to the meeting by Andy Sailer, NSIC Assistant Commissioner and Chayse Jackson, Coaches Chair, Southwest Minnesota State University. Teams were congratulated on all their successes this season.
2. 2025-26 Conference Schedule. The coaches were shown their 2025-26 conference schedule after institutions have used their flexibility in moving duals to different dates of competition. It was noted that the schedule would be shared again after the meeting once a final change is made to a dual conflict.
3. NCAA Coaches Connection Updates. Chayse Jackson, Southwest Minnesota State University, provided the coaches with a brief recap from the recent coaches' connection meetings. Going into the fall of next season there are 75 wrestling programs in Division II. With the potential of getting more teams in Division II they are looking at trying to get more qualifiers into the Regionals. For their discussions they have a couple priorities they are looking at to get more qualifiers and they are the following: 1) 20 more qualifiers, 2) 10 qualifiers, 3) a two-day regional format. They are also looking at a formula for qualifiers so they would provide the blanket number of qualifiers for each region and then some wildcards on which those student athletes would have to meet qualifications based on three items (wins over qualifiers, a certain win percentage in DII and meet a set number of competitions within the year). Then those that would meet the criteria would be submitted to be able to be voted on. They have also discussed the changing of National seeding to where it would be like what is done at regionals.
4. Handbook Review. The group reviewed the current wrestling handbook to consider any necessary revisions for next season. There were only two reminders to the group in practice times for visiting teams which is prescribed in the handbook as item 2.3.6 as well as a reminder of video review needing to have the official clock time within the video review system as outlined in item 2.3.10 of the handbook. The coaches had no areas of their handbook that they wanted to adjust or add, therefore there was no action taken on any handbook items for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year.
5. NSIC Strategic Plan. The new 2025-2030 NSIC Strategic Plan was shared with the coaches during their meeting along with the five areas of focus that it includes. Those are Academic & Life Skills, Athletics Operations & Compliance, Game Day & Championships, Membership and Positioning, and Health & Wellness. It was noted that the Conference Council and Board of Directors will help the conference office establish key priorities each year of the plan in order to complete the strategic plan at the conclusion of the 2029-2030 academic year.
6. NSIC Webcasting. The NSIC Board of Directors recently requested that the Conference Office seek vendor interest in the leagues digital content and through that seeking rights fees or paywall capabilities as the current Hudl agreement will end in June 2026. They were encouraged to speak with their Athletic Director if they had thoughts/questions/concerns regarding this topic.

7. Miscellaneous.

- a. Officials Payments & RefQuest. The coaches were reminded that due to the NCAA Officiating Reform that was started this past year it will affect how the wrestling officials are being paid moving forward. It was mentioned that their administrators will pay officials that work their contests through this platform and the administrators will be having a call regarding this change. The coaches were told their process in how they get officials assigned for their contests will not change, just how those officials will be paid.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Jason Reitmeier, Head Coach	Augustana University
Gresh Jones, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Adam Aho, Head Coach	University of Mary
Jim Makovsky, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Kris Nelson, Head Coach*	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Caden Steffen, Assistant Coach	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Evan Forde, Head Coach	Minot State University
Josh Nolan, Head Coach	Northern State University
Matt Meuleners, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Chayse Jackson, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Steve Costanzo, Head Coach	St. Cloud State University
Nick Becker, Head Coach	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Chad Markuson, Athletic Director/Wrestling Liaison	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Andy Sailer, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Nick Kornder, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to attend*

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Volleyball Line Judge Working Group Meeting Report
May 22, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To implement the *Volleyball Line Judges Education Model* as outlined in Supplement VB - A for the 2025 volleyball season. Further to implement the *Volleyball Line Judges Assigned by NSIC Coordinator of Officials Model* as outlined in Supplement VB - B for the 2026 volleyball season.

Effective Date. 2025 season; 2026 season.

Rationale. Implementing the *Volleyball Line Judges Education Model* for the 2025 season and then the *Volleyball Line Judges Assigned by NSIC Coordinator of Officials Model* for the 2026 season provides a tiered approach to elevating line judging in the sport of volleyball. Additionally, outlining a delayed implementation date for the *Volleyball Line Judges Assigned by NSIC Coordinator of Officials Model* provides an opportunity for institutions to consider the model's financial impacts in advance of its budget cycle for the 2026 season.

Approved by the Working Group 6-0.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The purpose of the meeting is to review the Athletic Administrators Council's feedback on the working group's initial proposal and to discuss potential avenues to elevate line judging in the sport of volleyball.
2. Review of Athletic Administrators Council's Feedback. An overview of the feedback gathered from the Athletic Administrators Council (AAC) following the presentation of the working group's initial proposal was provided. Eight institutions were in support of the proposal as written to have line judges assigned by the NSIC Coordinator of Officials utilizing a conference-wide fee structure of \$100 match fee with a travel structure of \$0.45 per mile round trip and \$50 per diem when working back to back days when not returning home. Three institutions were neutral on the proposal noting, mixed feedback was received from current line judges the institution(s) utilize, additionally comments of support for the proposal were shared while also recognizing the set up the institution(s) has to currently secure line judges works well for their institution. Five institutions were opposed to the proposal as written. Institutions opposed to the proposal stated support for increasing expectations and education for line judges but had concerns with the financial impact of transitioning to a conference wide fee.
3. Future Line Judge Strategies Discussion. Discussion was had on an education model that was developed based on AAC feedback. The group engaged in healthy discussion about the desire to transition line judges to being assigned by the NSIC Coordinator of Officials as well as incremental strategies that can be implemented prior to line judges being assigned by the NSIC Coordinator of Officials. The group felt implementing an education model for the 2025 season while recommending a transition to line judges being assigned by the NSIC Coordinator of

Officials during the 2026 season provided an appropriate tiered approach to elevating line judges in the sport of volleyball. A recommendation was made and can be referenced as action item one.

4. Next Steps. The meeting report and tiered recommendation will be shared with administrators and coaches in the coming week. During the summer meetings, administrators will consider the working group's recommendation.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Dr. Kimberly Miller, Senior Woman Administrator	Augustana University
Jeni Walsh, Senior Woman Administrator	University of Mary
Stephanie Helgeson, Director of Athletics*	University of Minnesota Crookston
Kevin Harmon, Director of Athletics	Minot State University
Terri Holmes, Senior Woman Administrator	Northern State University
Jen Flowers, Director of Athletics*	Southwest Minnesota State University
Holly Schreiner, Director of Athletics	St. Cloud State University
Linda Anderson, Senior Woman Administrator	Wayne State College
Erin Lind, Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to Attend.*

Volleyball Line Judges Education Model

Institutions are responsible for training and securing volleyball line judges for all home matches and are responsible for their own line judge expenses. Institutions have the autonomy of who will manage the training/securing of line judges (i.e. game management personnel, coach) on their campus. To assist institutions in training their line judges, the NSIC will provide the following PAVO line judge training resources to institutions:

- Line judge training manual
- Line judge training video
- Line judge best practices
- PAVO line judge certification exam

In advance of the season, institutions will provide the conference office/NSIC Coordinator of Officials the names and contact information for all individuals whom the institution plans to utilize as a line judge for the season. The distribution list will be utilized to provide additional education to line judges in advance and during the season:

- The NSIC Coordinator of Officials will provide an educational preseason training zoom/video.
- During the season, the NSIC Coordinator of Officials will provide continuing education.

On match day line judges will have the following expectations:

- Attire: white polo, navy slacks, white shoes.
- Pre-match: Arrive 45 minutes prior to match start time and meet with the R1 & R2 officials.
- Adhere to professional expectations.
- Post match: Debrief with R1 & R2 officials for 15-20 minutes after the match.

Feedback Process:

Coaches will have the opportunity to provide feedback about line judges through match reports established by the conference office/NSIC Coordinator of Officials.

Volleyball Line Judges Assigned by NSIC Coordinator of Officials Model

For the NSIC Coordinator of Volleyball Officials to assign line judges for all member institutions' home matches utilizing a conference wide fee structure of \$100 match fee, mileage of \$0.45/mile round trip, and \$50 per diem when working back to back days when not returning home. For all conference matches, institutions will share line judge expenses equally. For non-conference matches, host institutions will be responsible for their own line judge expenses. Further to implement the following expectations for line judges working volleyball contests in the NSIC:

Line Judge Expectations

Preseason

- Line Judge Education Curriculum.
 - Review PAVO training video and materials.
 - Pass the current year PAVO written exam.
 - View and answer questions in the NSIC preseason video from Coordinator of Officials.
- Registration with RefQuest NCAA Central Hub.
- Sign an independent contract with the conference office.
- Mark calendar availability in RefQuest and respond timely to accept or decline assignments.

In-Season

- Keep calendar availability up to date.
- Assignments that are accepted are to be fulfilled. If a conflict arises with a scheduled contest, individuals are to communicate with the Coordinator of Officials to request a change.
- Timely responses to Coordinator of Officials' communications.
- Continuing education from the Coordinator of Officials throughout the season.
- Local and regional match assignments.

Match Day

- Attire: white polo, navy slacks, white shoes.
- Pre-match: Arrive 45 minutes prior to match start time and meet with the R1 & R2 officials.
- Adhere to professional expectations.
- Post match: Debrief with R1 & R2 officials for 15-20 minutes after the match.

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Softball Coaches Summer Meeting Report**
June 9, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To implement the following travel partner pairings in the sport of softball: Concordia-St. Paul/St. Cloud State and Minnesota State/Winona State.

Effective Date. Immediately.

Rationale. The current travel partner pairings for the involved four teams are: Concordia-St. Paul/Winona State and Minnesota State/St. Cloud State. Currently, in the 2026 & 2027 conference schedules one travel partner pairing across the conference includes two institutions that have an institutional dome – Minnesota State and St. Cloud State – while the remaining travel partner pairings have zero or one institutional dome. Re-pairing Minnesota State with Winona State (137 miles apart) and St. Cloud State with Concordia-St. Paul (75 miles apart) remains within the previously established travel partner mileage parameters while allowing both sets of travel partners to have one institutional dome available for weather reschedules, rather than one pair have two institutional domes available and the other pair have zero institutional domes available. Further, distributing institutional domes amongst travel partner pairings increases rescheduling opportunities for all teams across the conference.

Unanimously approved by the coaching group.

2. Recommendation. To amend the order of games at the conference tournament on day one to have the seven/ten seeded match up take place first and the eight/nine seeded match up take place second.

Effective Date. 2026 NSIC Softball Tournament.

Rationale. The softball tournament format utilizes the highest/lowest remaining seeds from the seven through ten seeds to determine matchups for day two. Currently, the eight/nine matchup is first, thus the winner of the match up does not know who it is playing until the conclusion of the seven/ten match up. Switching the order of games allows the advancing teams to know who they are playing on day two after the conclusion of their respective game.

Unanimously approved by the coaching group.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks. The group was welcomed; special welcomes were given to Kevin Gall, University of Jamestown, and Kristle Wolcott, Minnesota State University, Mankato, attending their first meetings.
2. NSIC Officiating. Jason Smith, NSIC Coordinator of Officials, joined the meeting. An overview of the season was provided. Appreciation was shared for the feedback coaches provided throughout the season and for the advanced communication of schedule changes. The 2026 season will be a rule change year; it is anticipated that the new rules will be published in August.

- a. Sideline & Home Run Fences NCAA Update. A reminder was provided that by January 1, 2027, the NCAA playing rules will require all sideline and home run fences constructed of wood, concrete or brick to have padding. The requirement will apply to any field hosting NCAA softball competition.
3. Review of NSIC Softball Handbook. The group reviewed the NSIC softball handbook.
 - a. All-Conference/Specialty Awards. A historical overview of the NSIC Championships & Awards Committee's work and the triennial cycle for accepting adjustments to all-conference/specialty awards was provided. Of note, the Championships & Awards Committee established a standard set of specialty awards that can be awarded. Specialty awards available for coaches include coach of the year and assistant coach of the year. The recommendation brought forward by the coaching group last summer to change the coach of the year award to coaching staff of the year was denied by the Championships & Awards Committee. Discussion was had regarding any potential adjustments to softball's specialty awards; no adjustments were recommended. Discussion was had about minimum criteria for pitcher and pitcher/utility all-conference nominations. It was agreed to form a working group to evaluate nomination criteria for pitcher and pitcher/utility positions.
 - b. 2026 Schedule & Makeup Policy Language. The 2026 season begins a new conference schedule structure with 16 teams and conference play taking place over seven weeks. Healthy discussion was had on makeup policies for the new schedule structure. The group expressed a desire to provide further flexibility for weekend contests as well as review the cold weather policy. It was agreed to form a working group to review the cold weather and makeup policies. Discussion was had about travel partner pairings with the new 16-team format, in particular about adjusting two travel partner pairings to distribute institutional domes. Currently, one travel partner pairing across the conference includes two institutions that have an institutional dome – Minnesota State and St. Cloud State. The coaching group expressed a strong desire to re-pair Minnesota State with Winona State and St. Cloud State with Concordia-St. Paul to allow both sets of travel partners to have one institutional dome available for weather reschedules, rather than one pair have two domes available and the other pair have zero institutional domes available. A recommendation to adjust the two travel partner pairings was made and can be referenced as action item one.
4. NSIC Softball Tournament.
 - a. 2025 Recap & Feedback. Augustana University was thanked for hosting the 2025 NSIC tournament. Feedback was gathered on the use of an off official to review video replay. The group shared positive feedback and voiced support for continuing the use of an off official for replay in future years. Discussion was had on the timing of the eight/nine and seven/ten games on day one of the tournament related to the use of lowest and highest remaining seeds for day two's match ups. Currently, the eight/nine matchup is first, thus the winner of the match up does not know who it is playing until the conclusion of the seven/ten match up. A recommendation was made to switch the order of the games, which can be referenced as action item two.
 - b. 2026 Tournament. A reminder was given that the 2026 NSIC tournament will take place at Augustana University May 6-9, 2026.
 - c. Future Tournament Discussion. Discussion was had regarding future tournament format and sites. 2025 was the second year of utilizing a single elimination format and conducting the tournament at a campus site. The feedback shared was positive regarding

the single elimination format and holding the tournament at a member institution's facility. It was noted that several institutions are interested in hosting future tournaments. The group agreed to open a bid process for future tournament sites.

5. DII Softball Committee/Regional Advisory Committee Update. Gretta Melsted, Augustana University, provided an update on behalf of the DII Softball Committee and Regional Advisory Committee. Information about selection criteria and aspects the committee reviews in relation to non-conference opponents was provided. Information was also shared that DII is reviewing the use of NPI for selections in future years.
6. NCAA DII Coaches Connection Update. Jordan Petersen, Bemidji State University, provided an update on behalf of Coaches Connection. The coaches connection recently discussed all-conference awards structures, it was noted the NSIC is very similar to how other conferences structure their awards.
7. NFCA Update. Greg Jones, Winona State University, provided an update on behalf of the NFCA head coaches committee and encouraged members of the group to join the NFCA.
8. Rawlings Contract. The group was provided the Rawlings contract which is through May 31, 2027.
9. NSIC Strategic Plan Update. The group was provided the 2025-30 NSIC strategic plan which was recently approved by the NSIC Board of Directors and were encouraged to review the plan.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Gretta Melsted, Head Coach	Augustana University
Jordan Petersen, Head Coach	Bemidji State University
Bob Bartel, Head Coach	Concordia University, St. Paul
Kevin Gall, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Amy Schmeckpeper, Head Coach	University of Mary
Ashton Sangster, Head Coach	University of Minnesota Crookston
Nat Wagner, Head Coach	University of Minnesota Duluth
Kristle Wolcott, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Vanessa Kellems, Head Coach	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Sal Rodriguez, Head Coach	Minot State University
Kaley Ness, Head Coach	Northern State University
Madie Brink, Interim Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Bailey Bouaman, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Mitch Roberts, Head Coach	St. Cloud State University
Christy Warnock, Head Coach	Wayne State College
Greg Jones, Head Coach	Winona State University
Terri Holmes, Sport Liaison	Northern State University
Jordan Boisner, Incoming Sport Liaison	Minot State University
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Jason Smith, Coordinator of Officials	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Softball Makeup & Cold Weather Policy Working Group Meeting Report
June 23, 2025

Action Items.

1. Recommendation. To adjust the softball makeup policies as outlined in Supplement SB - A.

Effective Date. 2026 Season.

Rationale. The adjusted permissible window of play for weekend series provides greater flexibility to reschedule games due to weather with the new conference schedule structure. Tuesday is left unavailable for weekend series rescheduling to allow for a guaranteed day that can be utilized by student-athletes for on-campus academic aspects. Additional adjustments to the makeup policy language provide clarity and align the policies with the new conference schedule structure.

Unanimously approved by the working group.

Approved by the coaching group 14-0.

2. Recommendation. To adjust the softball cold weather game day policy as follows:

~~It is recommended that all conference games not be started if the “feels like temperature” is at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The official source for the “feels like temperature” is the WeatherSentry (WxSentry App) or at <http://weather.dtn.com>. The game may still be played if both coaches are in agreement but the “feels like temperature” is not reached. Once a game has started, the umpire in chief along with the on-site administrator will be the judges as to the suspension, resumption, or termination of the play due to poor weather.~~

Games shall not be started if the “feels like temperature” is below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The official source for the “feels like temperature” is the WeatherSentry (WxSentry App) or at <http://weather.dtn.com>. If the “feels like temperature” at the start of the game does not reach 30 degrees, the game shall not be played at the scheduled time. The game may be delayed if the forecast indicates the “feels like temperature” will reach 30 degrees at a later time. Once a game has started, the umpire-in-chief along with the on-site administrator will be the judges as to the suspension, resumption, or termination of play based on weather conditions and the health and safety of all participants.

Effective Date. 2026 Season.

Rationale. With the current cold weather game day policy, coaches have felt obligated to mutually agree to playing games when the “feels like temperature” has not reached the recommended temperature, which has negatively impacted the student-athlete experience. The adjusted softball cold weather game day policy provides a clear line of the “feels like temperature” that must be reached to start a softball game and removes the pressure to mutually agree to a lower temperature. Adjusting the “feels like temperature” to 30 degrees Fahrenheit provides a couple degrees of flexibility from the previously recommended “feels like temperature” of 32 degrees to start a softball game while setting a “feel like temperature” that provides a quality student-athlete experience.

Unanimously approved by the working group.

Approved by the coaching group 13-1.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome & Charge. The group was thanked for volunteering to be apart of the working group. The charge of the working group is to follow up on the coaches' summer meeting conversation to review the cold weather and conference scheduling makeup policies.
2. 2026 & 2027 NSIC Schedules. The 2026 season begins a new conference schedule structure. An overview of the 16-team, seven week schedule structure was provided.
3. Makeup Policy Discussion. The group engaged in healthy discussion about expanding the permissible window of days to reschedule weekend series with the new conference schedule structure. The group felt with the new schedule structure featuring only one midweek series, there is the opportunity to provide greater flexibility in rescheduling when weather impacts the ability for games to be played on the weekend. The group agreed that the priority is to play the contests on their originally scheduled weekend dates, however when weather impacts arise, having additional flexibility will increase opportunities for games to be played. A recommendation was made and can be referenced as action item one.
4. Cold Weather Policy Discussion. An overview of the coaches' discussion during its summer meeting on the cold weather policy was provided. Healthy discussion was had by the group on shifting to a policy that sets a "feels like temperature" that must be reached to start a softball game and removes the pressure to mutually agree to play in a lower temperature. Different scenarios were discussed, for example if the "feels like temperature" is not reached or drops after a game starts. It was noted the softball handbook has language in place that outlines expectations of teams if a start time is delayed. Additionally, the group felt comfortable that the real "feels like temperature" must be reached to start each individual game of a double header. A recommendation was made and can be referenced as action item two.
5. Next Steps. An electronic vote request for the two recommendations will be sent to the full coaching group for consideration.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Gretta Melsted, Head Coach	Augustana University
Bailey Bouaman, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Christy Warnock, Head Coach	Wayne State College
Greg Jones, Head Coach	Winona State University
Terri Holmes, Sport Liaison	Northern State University
Jordan Boisner, Incoming Sport Liaison	Minot State University
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

Softball Conference Scheduling & Makeup Policies

Conference Scheduling.

1. It is permissible to play the weekend games between the Wednesday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend. ~~Weekend games must be played on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday during the weekend for which they are originally scheduled.~~ If games cannot be played in this timeframe, they will be considered lost and not able to be made up. ~~Midweek games must be played on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during the week they are originally scheduled for. If the games are not played in this timeframe, they will be considered lost and not able to be made up.~~ For the ~~travel partner series~~ first midweek listed on the conference schedule (i.e., in 2025 the midweek located in week 2), institutions have the flexibility to move the doubleheader to a different date of competition between February 1 and the end of the conference season provided mutual agreement by the involved institutions' administration. The conference series scheduled during each week will take priority over the ~~first midweek~~ travel partner series that is being shifted in dates. (*Revised: 7/13/2023*)
 - a. **First Week of the NSIC Season.** For the first weekend of the NSIC Season it is permissible to play the weekend games between the Monday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend (i.e. for the 2026 season the permissible dates of play are Monday, March 16 – Monday, March 23). (*Adopted: 7/11/2024*)
 - b. **Easter Week.** For Easter weekend, teams cannot play or travel on Easter Sunday. ~~It is permissible to play the weekend games on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.~~ (*Revised: 7/13/2023*)
 - c. **Week Travel Partner Series is Originally Scheduled.** For the week the travel partner series is originally scheduled (week 4), it is permissible to play the weekend games between the Thursday of the week and the Monday immediately following the weekend.
 - d. **Final Week of the NSIC Season.** For the last weekend of the NSIC season, ~~it is permissible to play the weekend games on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday;~~ the Sunday leading into the conference tournament will be considered the last permissible date of conference play. (*Revised: 7/13/2023*)

Halted Game Policy.

1. NSIC doubleheaders will not recognize a halted game with the exception of the Conference Tournament.
2. The halted game will be recorded as a no contest.
3. A game stopped after five or more innings with the score tied is considered a regulation tie game and not a halted game and may not be resumed. Rule 6.15 and 6.18 in the NCAA Rulebook. This is for conference doubleheaders and not the Conference Tournament.
4. Weekend games will follow the Halted Game Policy indicated in the NCAA Softball Rules (6.18.3), stating that if game one is under five innings and is postponed, when play resumes it must start at exactly the point of it being suspended.

Make-Up Policies.

1. Conference games take precedent over non-conference games for makeup.
2. A home site is defined as a site/location/field within the city or within 25 miles of the homes team's community.
3. The involved institutions will communicate prior to leaving campus to determine whether changes in scheduling should be made according to weather only. It must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions to change the schedule. If the involved institutions cannot come to an agreement, then the Conference Office will get involved.
4. **Weekend Make-up Policy.** This policy is for competition of the ~~six~~ **seven** conference weekends.
 - a. Two seven-inning games shall be played on each day. If any part of the game is started and cannot be completed, that game shall be counted according to the NCAA Softball Rules. If only one game is able to be played due to weather, the series shall be considered complete.

Softball Conference Scheduling & Makeup Policies

- b. If inclement weather postpones the finish or start of a doubleheader, the traveling team must stay in the host city until 5 p.m. that evening to determine if weather allows for the game to be continued at any site within the host community.
 - c. Games and schedules of each institution should be considered independently of their travel partner. If one travel partner can play and the other cannot, the expectation is that the games able to be played are completed.
 - d. The following order of options shall be followed when re-scheduling weekend games:
 - i. Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled home team(s).
 - ii. One location for all 4 teams using any home site (using 25-mile radius) of 4 competing teams.
 - 1. Home site(s) of scheduled home team(s) should be first option; followed by home site(s) of scheduled away team(s). **Note: for week 5 of the conference schedule when teams play one home/one away within the weekend, d.ii.1. is not applicable.**
 - iii. Site reversal: Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled away team(s).
- * Once step iv. is reached institutions may "opt-out" if the financial arrangements are not agreeable**
- iv. One neutral site location for all 4 teams. (Revised: 8/24/2023)
 - v. Multiple neutral site locations.

- e. There will be a travel day maximum of three nights once any of the traveling institutions have departed from their campus to complete the weekend's games (i.e. if a team travels Thursday night, the teams have Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to complete the weekend games). The visiting team must stay three nights, if necessary, with the games on the last permissible day starting no later than 3 p.m. If a series cannot be played within the permissible travel window, the games will be considered cancelled, and no makeup is allowed. If teams are able to complete travel in one day (up and back, no overnight required) for the weekend games, games may be scheduled/played outside the three night travel window (i.e. teams could play one series on Friday and the second series on Monday).
- f. If two teams have traveled for a weekend series and no games are played on day one at both sites, then the original schedule shall be played on the subsequent two days.
- g. If one team travels and is able to play day one and their travel partner is unable to travel on day one, then the team that traveled will have scheduling priority over its travel partner.

Example: Team A and B are travel partners and Team C and D are travel partners. Team A traveled to team C and played. Team B did not leave their campus to play team D. Since Team A played their scheduled game, they would travel to team D for their next game. Team B would in turn play their first game with Team C and the next day play Team D.
- h. If both traveling teams have left their campus and two teams play and two teams do not play on day one, then the two teams that did not play on day one shall play on day two. The teams that played on day one would sit idle and play their next opponent on day three.

Example: Day 1 Team A and C play, Team B and D do not play. Day two would be Team B playing Team D and Team A and Team C sitting idle. Day three would be Team A playing Team D and Team B playing Team C.
- i. Institutions will be able to determine game time. An early start is recommended to accommodate all institutions involved.
- j. If just one team is scheduled to travel for the series and no games are played on day one, then the original schedule shall be played on the subsequent two days.

5. ~~Midweek~~ Travel Partner Series Make-up Policy.

- a. The following order of options shall be followed when re-scheduling ~~mid-week~~ the travel partner series:
 - i. Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled home team.
 - ii. Site reversal: Home site (using 25-mile radius) of scheduled away team.

Softball Conference Scheduling & Makeup Policies

Once step iii. is reached institutions may “opt-out” if the financial arrangements are not agreeable
iii. A Neutral site location. (Revised: 8/24/2023)

- b. Once a team travels for a ~~midweek game~~ travel partner series the games must be played that day. No more than one night on the road for the traveling team.

6. **Site Reversal.** A reversal of sites is allowable under the following criteria (Revised: 8/24/2023):

- a. The use of a site reversal must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration. The NSIC Re-Schedule Form must be completed and signed by both team's administration and the conference office before a team departs for a game. The form may be communicated electronically.
- b. The original visiting team shall reimburse its budgeted costs for travel, meals, and lodging.
- c. The originally scheduled home team shall remain the home team in competition, provide game balls, incur the costs of the umpire fees, and provide coverage per the Athletic Trainers' Handbook.
- d. The team that becomes the host site team shall assume all game expenses, keep all revenue, be responsible for game administration and other responsibilities as outlined below for the series:
 1. Bat Testing.
 2. Perform Official Scoring Duties.
 3. Supply water and ice for the other team.
- e. For site reversal contests, live statistics are not required. For information regarding webcasting, reference the NSIC Webcasting handbook.
- f. If a reversal of sites occurs there will be no impact on the following year's schedule.

7. **Neutral Site.** The use of a neutral site is allowable under the following criteria (Revised: 8/24/2023):

- a. The use of a neutral site must be mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration. The NSIC Re-Schedule Form must be completed and signed by both team's administration and the conference office before a team departs for a game. The form may be communicated electronically.
- b. The facility costs will be split equally between the involved institutions and each institution will be responsible for their teams' travel costs (i.e., transportation, meals, lodging), unless mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration.
- c. The originally scheduled home team shall remain the home team in competition and incur the costs of the umpire fees.
- d. The originally scheduled home team shall be responsible for game administration and other responsibilities as outlined below for the series, unless mutually agreed upon by the involved institutions' administration to designate a different team/institution for the responsibilities:
 1. Bat Testing.
 2. Athletic Training Coverage.
 3. Perform Official Scoring Duties.
 4. Provide Game Balls.
- e. For neutral site contests, live statistics are not required. For information regarding webcasting, reference the NSIC Webcasting handbook.

8. Any financial expenses incurred between institutions due to a neutral site or site reversal must be reconciled on or prior to June 30 of the same fiscal year in which the expenses were incurred. Failure to reconcile expenses by the aforementioned timeline will result in the financial exchange of expenses as null and void. (Adopted: 7/11/2024)

**Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Athletic Trainers Council Summer Meeting Report
June 16, 2025**

Action Items.

None.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed and thanked for their time. A warm welcome was given to Mitch Lang of the University of Jamestown as it was his first meeting with the group.
2. USCAH Presentation. Angie Beisner, USCAH Senior Director, presented to the group in a variety of spaces including NCAA guidelines, emergency action plans, and the partnership with the NSIC. They were encouraged to utilize the partnership in ways they can and take part in programming they do throughout the year to earn continuing education credits.
 - a. USCAH Programming Feedback. It was brought up that when membership is attending different webinars or events, the programming can be tailored to Division I. It was discussed that this concern should be brought up to USCAH and encourage them to have more programming throughout the academic year that is tailored to Division II.
3. Sickle Cell Solubility Test – NCAA Official Interpretation & Educational Column. The group was provided information about the NCAA official interpretation and educational column that was recently published regarding the sickle cell solubility test legislation. For an effective date of the official interpretation, the NCAA provided clarification that the official interpretation is for incoming student-athletes on/after the May 23, 2025, official interpretation issuance date, it is not retroactive. Clarification regarding the names of tests that are accepted to satisfy the sickle cell legislation is being worked through by the NCAA Sports Science Institute and the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports. Additional guidance will be shared with the group as it is learned from the NCAA.
4. NCAA DII Identity Workshop. Jessa Schlafke, University of Minnesota Duluth provided an overview of the NCAA DII Identity Workshop she attended this year. Since attending the workshop, there is greater clarity on sickle cell protocol, but still more to come from the NCAA. A few primary takeaways included the importance of mental health and the diverse approaches institutions are adopting, detailed scenarios outlining how athletic trainers should manage situations, and the importance of being informed in advance about workout plans and communication with head coaches and strength and conditioning coaches. Additional topics included leadership development and enhancing staff morale. The group was encouraged to nominate and solicit participation in future opportunities when solicited by the conference office.
5. WeatherSentry DTN. Continuing with WeatherSentry for the 2025-26 academic year as it is the official NCAA weather app. Some institutions utilized the Perry Weather trial and had good things to say, but the group did not put forth a recommendation to make a switch to another platform. They will continue to monitor this each year moving forward.
6. Extreme Weather Policy. The group had a conversation around air quality and different resources they are utilizing to determine the decision. WeatherSentry does not have that feature as part of the app, therefore institutions shared their use in varying resources with the group for what has worked for them.

7. NSIC Athletic Trainers Handbook Review. The group reviewed the handbook for the 2025-26 academic year, and no changes were made.
8. NCAA Sport Science Institute Resources.
 - a. [Mental Health Best Practices Quick Learn Module.](#)
 - b. [NCAA Mental Health Page.](#)
 - c. [NCAA SSI Spotlight: Athletic Training Workforce.](#)
 - d. [Other SSI Spotlight Resources.](#)
9. NSIC Strategic Plan. The new 2025-2030 NSIC Strategic Plan was shared with the coaches during their meeting along with the five areas of focus that it includes. Those are Academic & Life Skills, Athletics Operations & Compliance, Game Day & Championships, Membership and Positioning, and Health & Wellness. It was noted that the Conference Council and Board of Directors will help the conference office establish key priorities each year of the plan to complete the strategic plan at the conclusion of the 2029-2030 academic year.
10. Miscellaneous Items.
 - a. [NSIC Athletic Training Google Sheet.](#) The google spreadsheet pertaining to athletic training staffing was once again shared with the group and they were encouraged to update the document so that everyone knew where institutions were at with traveling and staffing etc. as it is very helpful during the year.
 - b. Athletic Training Staffing for Track & Field Championships. The group had some discussion surrounding teams required to travel with an athletic trainer for NSIC track and field championships due to the number of athletes the host institution is having to manage in addition to their own. It was stated that this past year for outdoor track and field there was no communication by some institutions they were not traveling and then the host had to manage all their athletes and there was not a small number for each team. It was noted that two institutions that did not send an athletic trainer were also hosting other NSIC Championships that same weekend. There was also discussion surrounding the institutions that did travel and Athletic Trainer on if they could help the host with teams that didn't have their own AT but institutions in North Dakota are not licensed and would be liable for caring for other athletes that were not their own. No recommendations were made but just more of a point of information for everyone to make sure communication is being made with the host institution so they can prepare as well as send a list of possible student athletes they may see as well as a stocked training kit.

Participants.

Name, Title	Institution
Brian Gerry, Head Athletic Trainer	Augustana University
Alexis Hildahl, Athletic Trainer	Augustana University
Jaci Clauson, Athletic Trainer	Augustana University
Nick Loging, Athletic Trainer	Augustana University
Eric Sand, Head Athletic Trainer*	Bemidji State University
Kayla Hennum, Athletic Trainer	Bemidji State University
Ted Trzynka, Head Athletic Trainer	Concordia University, St. Paul
Mitch Lang, Head Athletic Trainer	University of Jamestown
Ray Hall, Head Athletic Trainer	University of Mary
Steven Krouse, Head Athletic Trainer	University of Minnesota Crookston
Shelby Conard, Associate Head Athletic Trainer	University of Minnesota Crookston

Charla Buxbaum, Asst. AD Sports Medicine & Performance	University of Minnesota Duluth
Jessa Schlafke, Athletic Trainer	University of Minnesota Duluth
Matt Schmidt, Director Maverick Health & Performance/Head Athletic Trainer*	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Cailey Priem, Assoc. Head Athletic Trainer/Insurance	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Shannon Curtin, Head Athletic Trainer	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Kennedy Holwerda, Assistant Athletic Trainer	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Nicole Love, Athletic Trainer	Minot State University
Janelle Haas, Head Athletic Trainer	Northern State University
Emily DeGroot, Head Athletic Trainer	University of Sioux Falls
Amy Schmiesing, Head Athletic Trainer	Southwest Minnesota State University
Rachel Johnson, Head Athletic Trainer	St. Cloud State University
Muffin Morris, Head Athletic Trainer	Wayne State College
Stacey Czaplewski, Head Athletic Trainer	Winona State University
Bridget Steffes, SWA/Liaison	University of Minnesota Crookston
Andy Sailer, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Allison Cordes, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Taytum Rhoades, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

**Unable to attend*