

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Football Summer Meeting Report
July 7, 2026

Action Items.

1. Recommendation: To add to pregame protocol that at the 75-minute mark, both teams must meet at a space designated by the home team to test the kill switch on at least one helmet from each team.

Effective Date: Immediate.

Rationale: The group agreed to a universal policy in the pre-game protocol for testing coach to player communication devices for both teams. The timing allows the visiting team time to get to the field and suited up before testing devices while allowing for ample time before the game starts. With each facility being unique, the space will be designated by home team and shared with the opposing teams prior to arrival.

Unanimously approved by football coaching group.

2. Recommendation: To adjust the language under 3.3 Squad Size; increasing the travel roster limit from 64 to 66.

Effective Date: Immediate.

Rationale: The coaching group discussed the NCAA voting on moving roster to 66 so this would align with the NCAA limit. With the five year eligibility window seeming to be the future direction of Division II, the group also felt, that if budgets allowed, they could travel and play addition players without as many restrictions as in the past.

Approved by football coaching group 9-5.

3. Recommendation: Allow visiting teams to provide their own ball personnel for their sideline.

Effective Date: Immediate.

Rationale: To have your own personnel on your sideline, which could help limit the number of footballs lost by visiting team.

Defeated by football coaching group 5-9.

4. Recommendation: To submit all three angles from SkyCoach to Hudl for film exchange.

Effective Date: Immediate.

Rationale: This adds clarifying language to handbook with the requirement of three angles for the 2026 season.

Unanimously approved by football coaching group.

5. Recommendation: To add additional information to 5.2.3 of handbook that states “any updates to the 2-deep after Monday should be updated no later than Thursday at 12 p.m.”

Effective Date: Immediate.

Rationale: This will help give updated information to CSC for the upcoming contest which can be shared with media for them to have the most up to date information come game day.

Approved by football coaching group 10-0-4.

Informational Items.

1. Welcome. The group was welcomed, and everyone introduced themselves. The Monday night white hat calls were discussed, and feedback would be gathered later in the meeting. The first call will be Monday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m.
2. NSIC Football Officiating Program Update. Justin Ingalls provided an update on the officiating program. Mr. Ingalls shared data that was submitted to the NCAA, dealing with replay stoppage averages. There will be additional challenges this season and an extra replay camera will now be required (both endzones and all 22).
It was asked why the NSIC ranked so low in penalty yards per game. It was mentioned the NSIC plays a clean game with less minor penalties (false starts/delay of games). Coaching and the coaching that happens with officials play major roles in this.
Mr. Ingalls requested that coaches submit play numbers on Hudl for review or a description of the play to help find the plays more easily.
There is one new referee and seven new officials in the league this season, which will begin on August 27.
3. Sky Coach Sideline Replay Review and Updates. It will be required to have three cameras for 2026 season (both end zones and all 22 sideline).
4. New/Recent Rule. The targeting rule has been adjusted. If targeting is upheld, the player is disqualified for rest of game, but not the first half of the next game if it is their first offense. A second targeting call during the season on the same player would trigger a disqualification of the first half of the next game. All calls are contained in the current season (including post season) – no roll over to the next season from a call in the final contest.
A disqualified player can be on the sideline with pads off. Ejected player must leave the field.
Scrimmage kick formations were reviewed. If five players numbered 50-79 there are no restrictions. If there are numbering exceptions there are restrictions, of having a two-by-two and must be in the tackle box. Offensive pass interference will now be a 10-yard penalty. If fair catch is made, team can attempt a kick if decision is made before ball is set. Field goal rules are applied on a make or miss.
Fair catch kicks were also reviewed.

Coach to Player Communication. Coach to Player communication is allowed but only one player can be on the field utilizing the device (except for kick-off) and must have green dot on helmet for offense and defense. There is universal kill switch to shut off communication for both teams at 15 seconds. If device is down, the other team can still utilize their own. If the kill switch is not working, per NCAA rules, the player to coach communication cannot be used. If player is on the field with device and no green dot on helmet, player is suspended.

No coaches were able to practice utilization in the spring. Game management will discuss kill switch usage and best practices (when to test in pregame protocol).

5. Film Situations. Replay and Challenge Communication – Head Coach and Officiating Crew (Nold, Severson)
Coaches will have an additional challenge (2 total) and will initiate by informing sideline official and throwing challenge flag onto the field. Head Coach must be present and clearly communicate with officials. Videos were reviewed of potential video review and challenge situations.
6. Film Situations. Requirements for Legal O and D Formations only and Pre-snap Movement (Crosby, McGowan)
There was an emphasis on an extra point on hitting the snapper as long as they are able to get head up and defend. There also has to be an open lane between the snapper and the punter. Leaping on field goal when within a yard of LOS and not moving forward is allowed.
7. Film Situations – UNR, UNS, TGT Categories
(Burt, Severson)
The group was shown examples of clear targeting and a non-targeting calls. Reviewed when a receiver is no longer defenseless and becomes a runner.
8. Open Discussion and Final Preparations (Ingalls)
 - a. Pack will coordinate and help with pulling together video clips for review/content
 - b. Spring Football Game/Scrimmage Opportunities Discussion (Ingalls, UMOA Guest – Matt Gallegher) Upper Midwest Officials Association looking for partnership.

Football Coaches Business Meeting

1. Division II Championships Committee Updates for Football. (Regan McAthie) This will be the first year that championship selections will be provided by NPI. The dials for fall sports have been set. The selection will still be based on regional rankings. Recommendation to require that football has at least one non-conference opponent on its schedule to be considered for championship selection. Coaches discussed challenges with finding non-conference opponents and budget constraints. Proposal by DII Champs Committee to move to 8 person officiating crews across the board.
2. NCAA Coaches Connection Update. Legislation Committee update: looking to gather feedback on transfer portal legislation.
3. Planning for the 2026 Season/Handbook Revisions.
 - a. Player to Coach Communication Implementation: Game management will meet to go over policies and implementation in adding to the pregame protocol. Coaches discussed the best time to check the kill switch technology pre-game. If the kill switch is not working, it will not work for either team.
 - b. Travel Roster Review: 64 allowed to travel on roster which is on the lower end of conferences. There was a motion and second to increase travel roster limits from 64 to 66 for the upcoming season. There was a motion and second to allow Augustana and Sioux Falls to have unlimited travel rosters which was defeated by the coaching group.
 - c. NSIC Football Timeout Policy – TV Media Timeouts
UMD and NSU are the other two schools that plan to use the NSIC media timeout policy.
 - d. Game Day Ball Personnel: Discussion of providing your own ball personnel for away games (2 people). In Division I teams provide their own.
 - e. Replay Camera Angles for Skycoach: Coaches discussed uploading all three camera angles into Hudl.
 - f. Hudl Film Exchange. Email to head coaches requesting the name and emails last week in July.

- g. **Two Deep/Depth Chart:** There was discussion on the accuracy of the two-deeps and the timing of the Monday deadline.
4. **Education on Recruitment Tampering.** As part of the NSIC strategic plan, the conference is providing education on recruitment tampering to all coaching groups during 2026 spring/summer meetings and to student-athletes during the 2026 SAAC Summit. Education was provided and the group was encouraged to share the education with their respective coaching staff.
 5. **2027 and 2028 Schedules.** The group had the 2027 and 2028 schedules, which were approved back in January.
 6. **Miscellaneous.** There was clarification on which camera angles could be used for officials review. The two end zones, and the 22 sideline are the only three angles that should be used by SkyCoach, Officials Review and what is submitted to Hudl.

Participants.

Name	Institution
Jerry Olszewski	Augustana University
Brent Bolte, Head Coach*	Bemidji State University
Joshua Schumacher, Head Coach*	Concordia University, St. Paul
Jordan Armstrong, Off Coord.	
Regan McAthie, Director of Athletics	Concordia University, St. Paul
Tom Dosch, Head Coach	University of Jamestown
Shann Schillinger, Head Coach	University of Mary
Curt Wiese, Head Coach	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Todd Hoffner, Head Coach	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Steve Laqua, Head Coach	Minnesota State University Moorhead
Ian Shields, Head Coach	Minot State University
Mike Schmidt, Head Coach	Northern State University
Jim Glogowski, Head Coach	University of Sioux Falls
Scott Underwood, Head Coach	Southwest Minnesota State University
Logan Masters, Head Coach	Wayne State College
Brian Curtin, Head Coach	Winona State University
Jon Hart, Director of Athletics (Liaison)	University of Sioux Falls
Erin Lind, Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Nick Kornder, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Andrea Palmen, Assistant Commissioner	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

*Did not attend