

University of North Alabama

Athletic Committee Minutes

April 24, 2026

Pierce Hospitality Suite at 2:00 PM

Due to multiple people on the agenda having to miss the meeting (Athletic Director, Compliance Representative, and Faculty Athletics Representative), plus others having to miss the meeting due to the city schools not being in session (and thus being with their children), this meeting was cancelled. We likely would not have made quorum anyway.

Written reports from the Athletic Director and the Compliance Representative were submitted and distributed to the committee on Monday April 27 for their review. Those reports are below. There was not a report from the Faculty Athletics Representative.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Bank Independent Stadium Construction Update

- **Construction remains on schedule for the September 19, 2026 home opener, with several major milestones achieved this spring.**

Key Milestones Completed

- **Mike D. Lane Field Grand Opening was held on February 14, 2026.**
- **Four additional box suites have been sold, and suite holders have selected their interior upgrades.**
- **Exterior branding and lettering have been installed on the stadium façade.**
- **All areas are close to dried in, with equipment startup scheduled over the next three weeks.**

Current Work in Progress

- **Completion of the full seating bowl and surrounding hardscape.**
- **Installation of exterior brick and EIFS.**
- **Ongoing window installation, HVAC and electrical work.**
- **Drywall and tile installation throughout interior spaces.**

Upcoming Visible Milestones

- **May: Installation of the video board and chairback seating.**
- **July: Installation of the new Tencate Pivot no-infill turf system.**

Bank Independent Stadium Ticket Sales Update

- **Priority point sales for Tier 1 opened on March 11, 2026, and demand has been exceptionally strong.**
- **Half of all stadium club seats sold on Day 1.**
- **35% of 2025 season ticket revenue was collected on the first day alone.**
- **By Day 6, reserved club seats were sold out, and total season ticket revenue had already surpassed the full 2025 season.**
- **The 50-yard line seating section on the press box side is sold out.**
- **Faculty/staff sales open in May.**
- **General public sales begin June 1, following all priority point tiers, faculty and staff pre-sales.**

Conference Realignment

- **The University of West Florida will join the UAC/ASUN Consortium beginning in 2026–27, becoming the 17th member of the group.**
- **UWF will compete in football as part of the UAC; all other sports will compete in the ASUN.**
- **UWF will replace Sacramento State as a home football opponent on UNA’s 2026 schedule.**

Game Day Enhancements

- **UNA successfully launched alcohol sales at softball in April. The rollout will expand to additional facilities in 2026-27.**

Facilities/Fundraising Updates

Hilda B. Anderson Softball Stadium Renovations

- **Recent improvements include:**
 - a. Installation of purple wall padding throughout the facility.**
 - b. Addition of premium drink railing and furniture on the right-field patio.**
 - c. Completion of a full locker room renovation.**
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Competitive Success

UNA programs continue to perform at a high level this spring:

- **Baseball and Softball are both currently in first place in their respective standings.**
 - **Men's and Women's Tennis have each been selected to the 2026 NIT, marking another milestone for both programs.**
 - **Men's Golf has been invited to the NGI (NCAA D1 NIT)**
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Sport Expansion

Flag Football

- **34 new female student-athletes have committed to join the inaugural UNA women's flag football team, which will open competition in Spring 2027.**
- **Since UNA's announcements, numerous Division I and II schools have announced their intention to add the sport, including in-state at West Alabama and Spring Hill.**

Distance Based Track and Field

- **11 new female student-athlete and 14 new male student-athletes have committed to the program.**
- **Roster is expected to grow this summer with track and field transfer portal opening in May.**

COMPLIANCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Transfer Portal Data:

- **53 student-athletes from UNA have entered the NCAA Transfer Portal**
 - **26 have signed (that is documented)**
 - **Basketball window just closed so we expect several of those to sign.**
- **May 1-15 Spring Transfer Portal Window will open.**

5 in 5 Eligibility Review:

- **Division I Board of Directors are reviewing eligibility for college athletics.**
- **Review is looking at a possible 5 years of eligibility**
 - **Start on 19th Birthday or High School graduation, whichever happens first.**
 - **No waivers or redshirts would apply**

- **President Charlie Baker is pushing for emergency legislation on this. Should know more this week.**

President Trump's Executive Order

- **Effective August 1, 2026**
 - **Going through NCAA terms and conditions**
- **Topics to cover:**
 - **Protecting Women's and Olympic Sports**
 - **Eligibility Limits**
 - **Age based**
 - **Five Year Period**
 - **Transfer Rules**
 - **One Time**
 - **One additional if obtained degree**
 - **Professional athletes can't return to college sports**
 - **Medical Care**
 - **Academic Importance**

Several proposals regarding transfer portal dates and windows have passed this semester.

Football, Basketball, Softball, and Golf

Academics:

- **Anticipate to graduate 41 student-athletes this Spring**
- **Special Commencement Ceremonies for Baseball and Softball**
 - **Softball- May 1st 5:15pm**
 - **Baseball- May 3rd 4:30pm**
- **Student-Athlete Graduation Reception**
 - **Pierce Suite**
 - **May 8th- 1:00pm**

Would love for you all to join us at these special events!

Community:

- **Student-Athletes have participated in 4,300+ community service hours to date for this semester**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr. T. Scott Lyons
Athletic Committee Chair
April 27, 2026
2025-2026