



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 7, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Regional realignment in women's lacrosse.**
  - a. Recommendation. Approve adjusting the regional alignment in women's lacrosse as specified in the attachment.
  - b. Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship (the 2025 season).
  - c. Rationale. The recommendation comes from a review the Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee conducted regarding whether to realign its regions given the expanded bracket and insertion of automatic qualifiers beginning in 2025. The recommendation is based on the following factors: (1) evenly distributing the number of teams in each region; (2) evening out the automatic qualifiers as much as possible among regions; and (3) minimizing traveling distance for teams. The Championships Committee supports the women's lacrosse committee's rationale and recommends approving the realignment as indicated.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. The realignment provides more equitable opportunities for teams in each region to be selected to the championship.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Nathan Gibson welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
- 2. Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its February 14-15 videoconference, as presented.
- 3. Division II Nominating Committee report.**
  - **Sport and playing rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments, effective as indicated:

- a. **NCAA Division II Baseball Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – West Region). **Jessica Harbison Weaver**, commissioner, Pacific West Conference.
- b. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy). **Brian Thornton**, senior associate athletics director, Point Loma Nazarene University, Pacific West Conference.
- c. **NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancies – Midwest and Southeast Regions). **Ken Badylak**, assistant athletics director, Kentucky Wesleyan University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference (Midwest Region); and **Michelle Caddigan**, director of athletics, Catawba College, South Atlantic Conference (Southeast Region).
- d. **NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy). **Bert Epting, Jr.**, vice president for athletics, Anderson University, South Atlantic Conference.
- e. **NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – West Region). Appoint **Christine Collins**, head women's basketball coach, Concordia University Irvine, Pacific West Conference.
- f. **NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – Southeast Region). **Jack Brunecz**, head cross country and track and field coach, King University, Conference Carolinas.
- g. **NCAA Football Rules Committee** (July 1, 2024, vacancy). **Eddie Weatherington**, senior associate commissioner, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
- h. **NCAA Division II Men's Golf Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancies – Central/Midwest and South Central/West Regions). **Chris Deibel**, head men's and women's golf coach, Ohio Dominican University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference (Midwest Region); and **David Lynn**, director of athletics, Oklahoma Christian University, Lone Star Conference (South Central Region).
- i. **NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – East Region). Appoint **Dominic Guarnieri**, head golf coach, University of Findlay, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
- j. **NCAA Division II Men's Lacrosse Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – North Region). **Brian Novotny**, head men's lacrosse coach, Seton Hill University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
- k. **NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Committee** (one immediate and one September 1, 2024, vacancy – Midwest and South Central Regions). **Brett Faro**, head men's soccer coach, Cedarville University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference (Midwest Region) (immediate); and **Jon Fridal**, head men's soccer coach, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (South Central Region).

1. **NCAA Division II Softball Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancies – Central and Southeast Regions). Appoint **Gretta Melsted**, head softball coach, Augustana University (South Dakota), Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Central Region); and **Dawn Turner**, deputy athletics director/senior woman administrator, Lander University, Peach Belt Conference (Southeast Region).
- m. **NCAA Softball Rules Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy). **Felicia Johnson**, senior associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, Virginia State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
- n. **NCAA Division II Women’s Volleyball Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancies – Atlantic and Central Regions). **Caitlin Peterson**, head women’s volleyball coach, University of Central Missouri, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (Central Region); and **Edric Poitier**, head women’s volleyball coach, Bowie State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (Atlantic Region).
- o. **NCAA Division II Wrestling Committee** (September 1, 2024, vacancy – Super Region 4). **Brandon Crawford**, head wrestling coach, Kentucky Wesleyan University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

#### 4. Sport committee reports.

- a. **Football.** The Championships Committee reviewed informational items from the Division II Football Committee’s February 12-13 annual meeting report, noting that it already addressed the action item during its February 14-15 meeting to refer to the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee whether the triennial budget process should be adjusted to allow for potentially expanding the football championship bracket before the next triennium.

#### b. Men’s golf.

- **Regional sites/hosts.** The Championships Committee approved the following regional sites for the 2025 and 2026 Division II Men’s Golf Championships:

Year	Region	Host/Venue
2025	East/Atlantic	Gannon University/Whispering Woods Golf Club
2025	South Central/West	California State University, San Bernardino/Victoria Club
2026	South Central/West	Visit Stockton and California Collegiate Athletic Association/The Reserve at Spanos Park

*(Note: Carol Rivera recused herself from the vote since her conference was one of the recommended hosts.)*

#### c. Women’s golf.

- **Regional sites/hosts.** The Championships Committee approved the following regional sites for the 2026 Division II Women's Golf Championships:

Year	Region	Host/Venue
2026	South	Lee University/Cleveland Country Club
2026	East	University of Findlay/Findlay Country Club

**d. Men's lacrosse.**

- **Regional alignment.** Given the recently approved bracket expansion and the addition of automatic qualifiers for the Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship in 2025, the Division II Men's Lacrosse Committee reviewed whether regional realignment was necessary. The committee is satisfied with the current structure of the championship and agreed not to recommend any regional alignment changes at this time (including not moving any teams from one region to another).

**e. Women's lacrosse.**

- **Regional alignment.** The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee also reviewed whether to realign its regions given the expanded bracket and insertion of AQs and recommended adjusting the regions as specified. (See the Nonlegislative Action Item.) While the Championships Committee approved the new alignment, members did discuss the impact on regular-season play and noted that ideally, moving the championship from a two-week format to a three-week format may allow further regional adjustments to optimize both the regular season and the championship itself. The women's lacrosse committee is considering that option and may submit a formal recommendation as part of the next triennial budget cycle.

- 5. Review of misconduct in men's soccer.** The Championships Committee reviewed correspondence from the institution involved in a men's soccer misconduct requesting that the committee reconsider the decision made during its February meeting to change the private reprimand issued by the Division II Men's Soccer Committee to a public reprimand based on the severity of the circumstances. The institution submitted new information that was not available at the time of the Championships Committee's decision that included additional penalties from the institution and the conference on the individual who committed the violations. After discussion, the Championships Committee agreed to rescind its decision based on the new information provided.

The Championships Committee also noted that its authority to change a sport committee's decision of a private reprimand to a public reprimand is a recent adjustment to the review process and, as such, institutions might not be fully aware yet that a sport committee's decision in this regard is not necessarily final. Given the possible confusion, the Championships Committee asked staff to instruct sport committees when corresponding with institutions going forward to note that the Championships Committee has the authority to alter a private

reprimand if it chooses to do so. (The Championship Committee does not have the purview to alter penalties other than changing a private reprimand to a public reprimand.)

**6. Other business.**

- **Baseball action clock update.** The Championships Committee was informed that the Division II representatives on the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee reviewed but did not support the request from the Division II Management Council to consider delaying the implementation date for the baseball action clock requirement. Consistent with the decision made regarding the request from Division III, the representatives' rationale focused on the impact on the student-athlete being able, with no visible clock, to properly understand where they are within the time limit during play. The representatives also used feedback from the Division II Coaches Connection's February call as additional rationale to support the current effective date for the requirement. Accordingly, the requirement will be effective as originally planned for the 2025 season.

**7. Future meetings and videoconferences.**

- April 4, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- May 2, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- June 17-18 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- July 11, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 8, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 29 (site selection meeting).

*Committee Chair:* Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

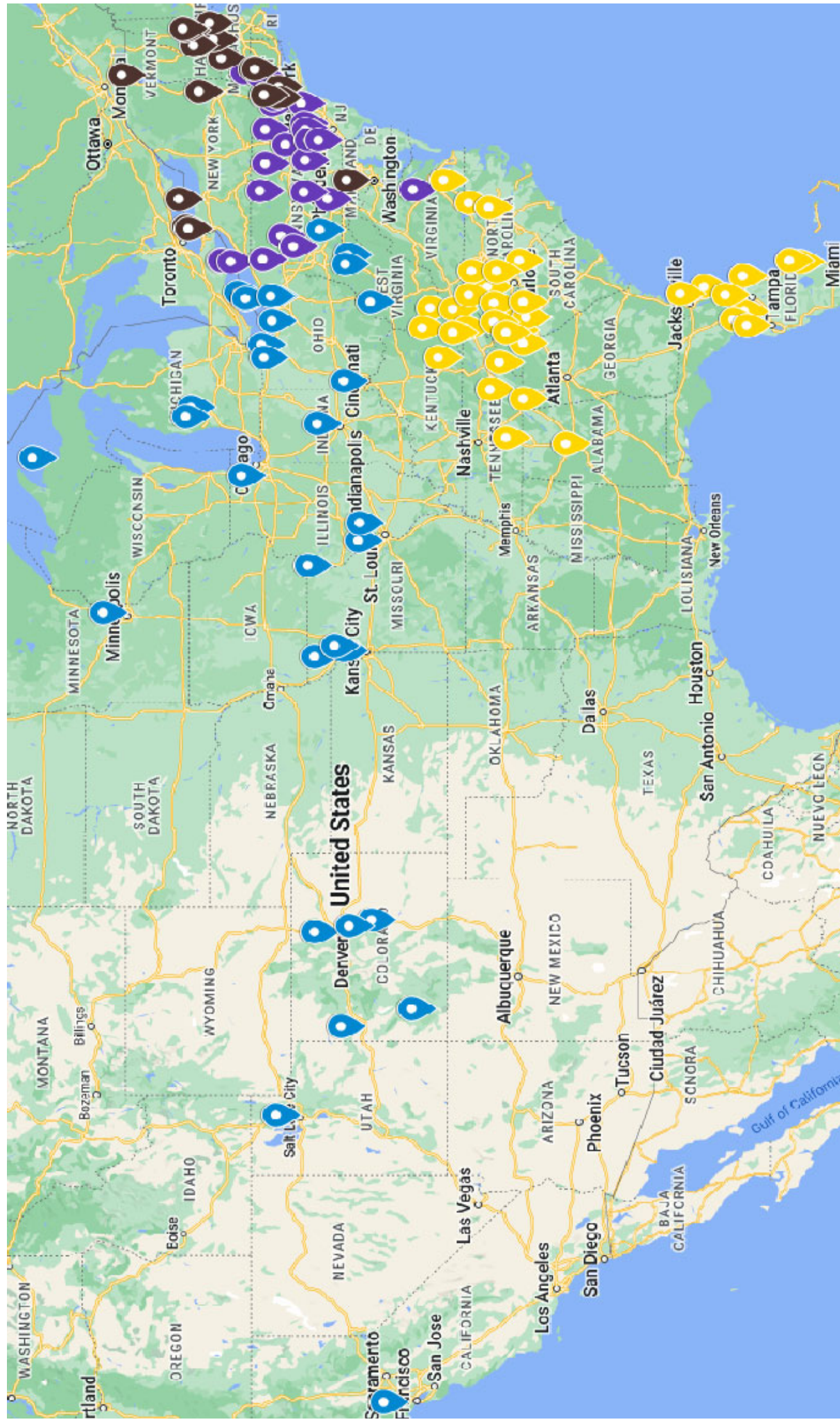
*Staff Liaison(s):* Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances  
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances  
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee March 7, 2024, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Terry Beattie, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.	
Chris Colvin, Conference Carolinas.	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Nathan Gibson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (Management Council vice chair).	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Carol Rivera, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	

Cade Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Karen Haag, The College of Saint Rose.
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.
Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Mitchell Bailey, Randy L. Buhr, Antonio Cannavaro, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Kendee Hilliard, Ashley Jenkins, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Ryan Rea, Angela Red and Jennifer Roe.

## 2023-24 Division II Women's Lacrosse Regional Alignment

Atlantic Region	25	CACC (10)	PSAC (14)	Independent (1)			
		Caldwell University	Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Virginia State University			
		Chestnut Hill College	East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania				
		Dominican University New York	Gannon University				
		Felician University	Indiana University of Pennsylvania				
		Georgian Court University	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania				
		Holy Family University	Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania				
		Post University	Mercyhurst University				
		Thomas Jefferson University	Millersville University of Pennsylvania				
		University of Bridgeport	Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro				
Wilmington University (Delaware)	Seton Hill University						
	Shepherd University						
	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania						
	Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania						
	West Chester University of Pennsylvania						
East Region	19	ECC (7)	NE10 (12)				
		Daemen University	Adelphi University				
		D'Youville University	American International College				
		Mercy University	Assumption University				
		Molloy University	Bentley University				
		Roberts Wesleyan University	Franklin Pierce University				
		St. Thomas Aquinas College	Pace University				
		University of the District of Columbia	Saint Anselm College				
			Saint Michael's College				
			Southern Connecticut State University				
	Southern New Hampshire University						
	The College of Saint Rose						
	University of New Haven						
Midwest Region	32	GLIAC (4)	GLVC (8)	GMAC (8)	MEC (5)	RMAC (6)	Independent (1)
		Concordia University, St. Paul	Lewis University	Ashland University	Davis & Elkins College	Colorado Mesa University	Dominican University of California
		Davenport University	Maryville University of Saint Louis	Lake Erie College	Frostburg State University	Colorado State University Pueblo	
		Grand Valley State University	McKendree University	Malone University	Notre Dame College (Ohio)	Fort Lewis College	
		Northern Michigan University	Missouri Western State University	Thomas More University	University of Charleston (West Virginia)	Regis University (Colorado)	
			Quincy University	Tiffin University	West Virginia Wesleyan College	University of Colorado, Colorado Springs	
			Rockhurst University	University of Findlay		Westminster University (Utah)	
			University of Indianapolis	Ursuline College			
			William Jewell College	Walsh University			
South Region	36	CC (10)	GSC (6)	SAC (12)	SSC (8)		
		Barton College	Flagler College	Anderson University (South Carolina)	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida)		
		Belmont Abbey College	Lander University	Catawba College	Florida Institute of Technology		
		Chowan University	Lee University	Coker University	Florida Southern College		
		Converse University	Shorter University	Emory & Henry College	Lynn University		
		Emmanuel University (Georgia)	University of Alabama in Huntsville	Lenoir-Rhyne University	Palm Beach Atlantic University		
		Lees-McRae College	University of Montevallo	Limestone University	Rollins College		
		North Greenville University		Lincoln Memorial University	Saint Leo University		
		Southern Wesleyan University		Mars Hill University	University of Tampa		
		University of Mount Olive		Newberry College			
Young Harris College		The University of Virginia's College at Wise					
		Tusculum University					
		Wingate University					



## 2024-25 Division II Women's Lacrosse Regional Alignment

Atlantic Region	MEC (5) Davis & Elkins College Frostburg State University Notre Dame College (Ohio) University of Charleston (West Virginia) West Virginia Wesleyan College	PSAC (14) Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania Gannon University Indiana University of Pennsylvania Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania Mercyhurst University Millersville University of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro Seton Hill University Shepherd University Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania West Chester University of Pennsylvania	Independent (1) Virginia State University	SAC (12) Anderson University (South Carolina) Catawba College Coker University Emory & Henry College Lenoir-Rhyne University Limestone University Lincoln Memorial University Mars Hill University Newberry College The University of Virginia's College at Wise Tusculum University Wingate University	
	32				
East Region	ECC (7) Daemen University D'Youville University Mercy University Molloy University Roberts Wesleyan University St. Thomas Aquinas College University of the District of Columbia	NE10 (12) Adelphi University American International College Assumption University Bentley University Franklin Pierce University Pace University Saint Anselm College Saint Michael's College Southern Connecticut State University Southern New Hampshire University The College of Saint Rose University of New Haven	CACC (10) Caldwell University Chestnut Hill College Dominican University New York Felician University Georgian Court University Holy Family University Post University Thomas Jefferson University University of Bridgeport Wilmington University (Delaware)		
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Midwest Region	GLIAC (4) Concordia University, St. Paul Davenport University Grand Valley State University Northern Michigan University	GLVC (8) Lewis University Maryville University of Saint Louis McKendree University Missouri Western State University Quincy University Rockhurst University University of Indianapolis William Jewell College	GMAC (8) Ashland University Lake Erie College Malone University Thomas More University Tiffin University University of Findlay Ursuline College Walsh University	RMAC (6) Colorado Mesa University Colorado State University Pueblo Fort Lewis College Regis University (Colorado) University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Westminster University (Utah)	Independent (1) Dominican University of California
	27				
South Region	CC (10) Barton College Belmont Abbey College Chowan University Converse University Emmanuel University (Georgia) Lees-McRae College North Greenville University Southern Wesleyan University University of Mount Olive Young Harris College	GSC (6) Flagler College Lander University Lee University Shorter University University of Alabama in Huntsville University of Montevallo	SSC (8) Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida) Florida Institute of Technology Florida Southern College Lynn University Palm Beach Atlantic University Rollins College Saint Leo University University of Tampa		
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