



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-4, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

• **Alcohol sales at the 2020 Division III Men's Basketball Championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council and Presidents Council waive Bylaw 31.1.12 (availability of alcoholic beverages) in order to permit alcohol sales at the Division III Men's Basketball Championship game taking place in Atlanta as part of the joint championship with Divisions I and II.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 Division III Men's Basketball Championship game.
- (3) Rationale. Recently, Division III adopted noncontroversial legislation to permit alcohol sales when a Division III championship is held in conjunction with the NCAA Division I championship in the same sport and conducted at the same venue as that championship. This exception has been applied at the Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship, which is played in conjunction with the Division I and II championships. Consistent with that approach, the Men's Basketball Committee requests that a waiver be approved to permit the sale of alcohol during the 2020 Division III Men's Basketball Championship because it is being held in conjunction with Divisions I and II. Although the Divisions II and III championship games will be played in State Farm Arena (home of the Atlanta Hawks), approving a waiver will provide a consistent fan experience across the weekend given the proximity of Mercedes-Benz Stadium (location of the Division I Final Four). Further, all the necessary security and provisions will be in place as they are for a home NBA game.

In addition, a waiver will ensure consistent fan experiences for all basketball joint championships. Women's basketball will hold a joint championship for Divisions I, II and III in 2023 and the games will all be played in the same venue. A waiver would maintain a similar fan experience for both events.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. 2020 championship format.

- (1) Recommendation. That the 2020 Division III Men's Basketball Championship be conducted in the following format to accommodate the 2020 Division III Men's Basketball joint championship with Division I and II in Atlanta:

First/second rounds remain unchanged and follow the traditional date formula. Sixty-four (64) teams travel to 16 non-predetermined sites. The 32 first-round games played on Friday, March 6. The 16 second-round games played at the same sites on Saturday, March 7.

Third-round games held on the second weekend of the championship played at eight non-predetermined sites, four on Friday, March 13 and four Saturday, March 14.

Eight teams travel to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to play the quarterfinals and semifinals at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21. The national championship game is scheduled for April 5 at State Farm Arena in Atlanta.

- (2) Effective date. 2020 Division III Men's Basketball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. Outside of the date of the national championship game, the committee emphasized maintaining the traditional championship dates to eliminate the impact the joint championship would have on the regular season and conference tournaments. Similar to the combined championship in 2013, the committee moved the quarterfinals to the same site as the semifinals. The committee reviewed other options but believes this format would provide the best experience for the final eight institutions at a neutral site.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The committee believes the student-athlete experience will be elevated. The committee believes that having eight host sites hold one game each will create great playing atmospheres for these teams. This format also increases the membership's participation in the championship. The quarterfinal and semifinal experience will also be elevated. This is the first time since 2013 that the best eight teams in the country will be traveling to one site to play for a berth in the national championship game.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2018 annual meeting report.** The Division III Men's Basketball Committee reviewed and approved the 2018 annual meeting report as written.
2. **2018-19 Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed relevant action and information items from 2018-19.
3. **Committee chair.** Sam Atkinson, associate athletics director for communications at Gallaudet University, was appointed as chair of the Division III Men's Basketball Committee for the 2019-20 academic year.
4. **Committee vice-chair.** Mike Schauer, head men's basketball coach at Wheaton College (Illinois), was appointed as the vice-chair of the Division III Men's Basketball Committee for the 2019-20 academic year.
5. **National Association of Basketball Coaches meeting.** NCAA staff reviewed the meeting with the coaches in Minneapolis and also discussed relevant items that emerged from the National Association of Basketball Coaches Congress meeting with representatives from each of the conferences. Committee members noted the discussions around realignment that arose at the Coaches Congress.
6. **Regional alignment, sponsorship list, pool allocations, bracket and preliminary-round game times.** The committee discussed the pool allocations, regional alignment and bracket size/format for 2019-20. The committee also discussed staggering preliminary-round game tipoff times, especially if the host institution is on spring recess.
7. **Site selection criteria.** The committee discussed the site selection criteria, as well as the strategy of selecting institutions to the tournament. The committee will continue with prep work the week of selections to determine the top 16 institutions and mock bracketing. The committee also discussed the evaluation process of the remaining schools heading into the sectional round. First-/second-round priority goes to men's basketball in 2020.
8. **Team selection criteria.** The committee discussed the team selection criteria, as well as the priority and calculations. The committee reviewed all the tools available for rankings and selections.
9. **Regional advisory committees.** The committee agreed that the national RAC training call should take place at the beginning of the new year. In addition, committee members and NCAA staff are working with conference commissioners to fill RAC vacancies for each region. The committee will also stress that members of the RAC are expected to be available as site representatives during the preliminary rounds of the championship.

The committee agreed to move the third RAC call to Monday of selections week. This will allow the national committee to hold a call on Tuesday of selections week. The committee

believes that by posting rankings on Tuesday, teams will know where they stand heading into their conference tournament, which typically start on Tuesday night.

- 10. 2019 championship review.** The committee was pleased with how all rounds of the championship were administered. Members discussed the selections call and announcement and the challenges surrounding each, since many conferences conduct their championship game on Selection Sunday.

The committee was quite pleased with the webinar that was held on Selection Sunday. This tool was used to ensure that the entire committee was looking at the same information throughout the day. This eliminated much of the time spent waiting for each committee member to navigate to a specific page. The committee requested that this practice be used moving forward for all ranking calls.

In its review of the preliminary rounds, the committee was pleased with each of the host sites. The committee discussed at length situations surrounding when a top regionally ranked team is forced to travel to a lower regionally ranked team because of women's basketball's priority of hosting a specific round. Multiple hosts reached out about the confusion surrounding who was home in these situations. The necessary tweaks will be made and installed moving forward.

The committee also discussed the need to move the game times of doubleheaders during the first/second rounds. Moving forward, the first game of a doubleheader will now start at 5 p.m. and the second game will start at 7:30 p.m.

The committee applauded the officiating throughout the championship. This was national coordinator Jim Haney's first time assigning the entire championship, and everything worked out well. The committee is thrilled with the results and interested to see him continue to elevate the level of officiating throughout the country.

This was the first year that Fort Wayne hosted the final weekend. The committee was quite happy with the effort put in by the host and is excited to call Fort Wayne home for the next three years. The host staff did a great job raising awareness in the local community about the event. Their hard work was rewarded with just under \$50,000 in ticket sales for the entire weekend.

The Allen County War Memorial Coliseum received top reviews from coaches, players and fans. The building's digital boards produced an elevated championship experience, although the committee will work with staff to ensure the statistics boards are fully functioning after technical difficulties were experienced last year.

- 11. Officiating.** Jim Haney, the Division III men's basketball national coordinator of officials, was present throughout the meeting. Mr. Haney updated the committee on his plans and goals for Division III men's basketball officiating. In 2019, Mr. Haney built a strong

relationship with the conference coordinators from around the country. Their cooperation with submitting watchlists to Mr. Haney allowed him to evaluate a large number of officials before the championship. These observations proved to be an integral part of assigning the best officials for the championship.

The committee decided to extend Mr. Haney's contract by three years. The extension will kick in when his current contract is set to expire on August 31, 2020.

12. 2020 championship planning.

- a. Selection Sunday. Committee members determined that RAC calls will be held Sunday morning, March 1, 2020. The national call will begin at 11 a.m. Eastern time and continue throughout the day while monitoring the progress of the day's conference championship games.
- b. Selection Monday. The committee call will be Monday, March 2, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. The final bracket is due Monday at 10 a.m. Eastern time, with the announcement following at 12:30 p.m.
- c. Tournament schedule. The committee discussed the schedule for the preliminary rounds, quarterfinals/semifinals in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and national championship in Atlanta.

The committee decided to split the third round over two days in a way that ensured a fair and competitive (scouting) advantage was created. One side of the bracket will play on Friday night and the other side of the bracket will play on Saturday night.

The committee elected to move the quarterfinals to the site of the semifinals, similar to how it was done in 2013 leading up to the joint championship.

- d. Preliminary-round practice times. The committee discussed having each preliminary-round host offer uniform practice times on the second day of competition.
- e. DVSPORT usage. The committee would like to begin discussions with DVSPORT for replay services at the finals site. The DVSPORT contract expires in 2019.

13. 2020 annual meeting. Committee members agreed to meet June 1-2 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Sam Atkinson, Gallaudet University

Staff Liaison: Alexander Mortillaro, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee June 3-4, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Sam Atkinson, Gallaudet University.
Bob Bjorklund, Bethel University (Minnesota).
Chuck McBreen, Ramapo College.
Jarred Samples, University of Dallas.
Mike Schauer, Wheaton College (Illinois).
Rob Southall, Elms College.
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Absentees:
Richard Ferry, Albright College.
Guests in Attendance:
Jim Haney, Division III Men's Basketball National Coordinator of Officials.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Alexander Mortillaro, Championships and Alliances.