



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10-12, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - **None.**
2. **Nonlegislative items.**
 - **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2019 annual meeting report.** The Division II Football Committee reviewed and approved the 2019 meeting report as submitted.
2. **2019-20 Championship Committee reports.** The committee reviewed action and informational items from 2019-20, particularly those applicable to Division II football.
3. **2020 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.** Committee members who were at the convention reviewed issues from the Division II football coaches who attended. Discussion from the coaches revolved around the transfer portal; issues related to student-athlete name, image and likeness (NIL); and the redshirt rule.
4. **Review of the 2019 polls process.**
 - a. **Weekly rankings.** The committee had no issues with the weekly rankings. The committee believed that the process went fairly well this year but did note the challenges they have in evaluating teams with little to no comparisons due to closed conference scheduling as well as teams that play different number of games that count toward selections.
 - b. **Online scoring and balloting systems.** The committee reported no issues with the online scoring system or the online balloting system during the rankings period.
5. **Review of the 2019 championship.**
 - a. **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from both the championship and preliminary rounds and noted the issues at respective sites.
 - b. **Press conference.** NCAA staff provided the committee with media survey results

- from the championship. The committee members discussed the Thursday night press conference and noted that while the event ran well, there could have been more media in attendance and more active media participation from those there. Staff will discuss with media members ideas on when the best time is to have the press conference while also taking into account each team's schedule for the week and report back to the committee at a later date.
- c. **Television.** The committee reviewed the television ratings from the NCAA broadcast staff. The committee would like to see if the championship game could be televised on ESPN2 in the future (as had been prior to 2018) rather than on ESPNU.
 - d. **Hotels.** The committee believes the two hotels used this year were excellent. Both teams raved about the service and hotel staff with no complaints.
 - e. **Practice facilities.** The committee believes the practice facilities were sufficient. Each team used the high school weight rooms this year and the host will be more prepared for this in the future.
 - f. **Security.** The committee noted the tremendous security around the venue. Members briefly discussed providing additional field credentials to participating universities after the topic was raised by one of the participating teams and agreed to discuss the idea further at a future meeting.
 - g. **Schedule.** The committee thought the schedule for the week worked well and believes no changes are warranted outside of the press conference noted above.
 - h. **Thursday night celebration.** The committee was incredibly pleased with the Thursday night celebration at Main Event Frisco. Many committee members thought it was the best event they'd ever been a part of surrounding a national championship.
 - i. **Film exchange.** The committee noted the ease in which game film is exchanged now and appreciates the work that Danny Harris does in coordinating the process.
 - j. **Start times.** The committee believes that a 1 p.m. local time start for the first three rounds of the playoffs works well. The committee asked that the same information be placed in the Host Operations Manual.
 - k. **Seeding.** The committee believes that seeding the semifinalists once again achieved a positive result.
 - l. **Awards.** The committee noted in hearing from both participating institutions the challenge of handing out individual awards after the game. Both teams indicated that it was difficult to control who received what postgame with so many individuals

having access to the locker rooms. The committee agreed that in the future, all awards, with the exception of the national championship trophy, be sent post-event to the participating institutions.

6. Officiating.

- a. Update from Mike Burton.** The committee received an update from Mike Burton, director of Division II football officiating, and some recent activities he has been involved with to increase the level of officiating across Division II. Mr. Burton has attended a handful of conference officiating clinics and has more planned over the next couple of months.
- b. Playoff games involving conference opponents.** Currently, for games in the playoffs that involve teams from the same conference, it is specified that a crew from that same conference will officiate the game. Most coaches, conference commissioners and conference officiating coordinators believe that a neutral crew should officiate those games. The committee agrees and believes that it will also award those crews that have been evaluated highly to work the quarterfinal round and later in the playoffs.
- c. Playing rules updates.** Ty Halpin updated the committee on specific rules the Football Rules Committee will consider. The committee was concerned with the targeting rule and specifically the challenges at Division II institutions where reviews cannot be done until halftime or postgame.

7. Finance review. The committee reviewed data from the NCAA finance and accounting staff indicating that flights for the playoffs were down from 17 in 2018 to 12 in 2019. This accounted for a savings of approximately \$441,000 over the 2018 championship. Some of the reduction was due to the new bracketing policy implemented this year, as well as because of the teams selected and their placement in the bracket according to their seed. However, the committee does believe that the new bracketing policy works and it anticipates more positive results in the coming years.

8. Selection criteria. The committee discussed the current criteria used for rankings and selections and noted the challenges that exist. The committee is considering changes to the criteria that would be recommended at the June Championships Committee meeting. The committee is evaluating the use of a football metric the Division I Football Championship Subdivision uses called the NCAA Simple Rating System (NCAA SRS), which gauges team quality and is calculated largely by a team's strength of schedule and a win-loss differential. This metric will also standardize the data in order to equalize the variance in total number of games played, which for Division II can be 10 or 11 games. The committee will continue to evaluate the metric as there could be some minor changes requested from the FCS committee that may help the Division II Football Committee even

more. Additionally, the committee is requesting to evaluate the Performance Indicator with points being accumulated over smaller increments than what is currently done. Right now, the same amount of points is provided for defeating a team whose winning percentage is between .750 and 1.000. With the small number of games for football, that could mean a team is getting the same points for defeating an 8-3 teams as they are for defeating a 10-1 team. The committee believes that having the points decrease over variances of .100 would greatly enhance the criteria for football, as in most instances each win or loss would take teams to a different point value.

9. **Neutrality for postseason games.** The committee believed that the pilot program of allowing for more engagement by the host institution into the pregame was a positive experience for all. Football had been conducting some of this previously around team introductions and did not hear any negative feedback. The committee would even recommend taking the policy a bit further to allow some in-game promotions to take place as long as they are not sponsored by competitors of our NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners (i.e., Pepsi First Down).
10. **Earned access.** The committee reviewed the conferences eligible for earned access for the 2020 championship and noted that a recommendation would be submitted for the Championships Committee's June meeting.
11. **Misconduct.** The committee continues to investigate a possible misconduct during the championship and will reconvene as more information becomes available.
12. **12 weeks to play 11 games.** The committee discussed the possibility of having 12 weeks to play 11 games but noted the challenges in doing so. Either the season would need to start earlier, which comes with a significant cost to institutions, or the championship game would need to be played in January. The committee will continue to discuss but took no action.
13. **Videoconference with championship teams.** The committee conducted videoconferences with the two teams competing in the national championship game. Both teams were very complimentary, consistently mentioning how the experience from start to finish featured a national championship atmosphere. Each team thought that their hotel was very good and that the hospitality exhibited by all members of the local organizing committee was excellent. One team noted that it would be nice to have a cheaper price for additional individuals to attend the Thursday night function, one that could include a price for games only and one that would be for food only. McKinney ISD staff indicated they would check into it and see what can be done for next year. Overall, both teams enjoyed their championship experience and spoke well of the city and venue.
14. **Legislation review.** NCAA staff updated the committee on several legislative matters, including recently adopted legislation relevant to football, such as the notification to

transfer as well as determining a season of eligibility. All 13 proposals passed at the most recent NCAA Convention. The committee will hear feedback from the Division II Coaches Connection on having an unlimited number of student-athletes available for out of season practice and will work with potential conferences on submitting possible legislation in the future. NCAA staff also updated the committee on the timeline for the name, image and likeness issues and the entities involved in creating the legislation.

- 15. Future legislation.** The committee discussed a concept around providing a student-athlete with five years of competition over 10 semesters. The committee noted the concerns around the Division I redshirt rule and the potential challenges in implementing the rule for Division II. The committee believes that allowing a student-athlete to have five seasons of competition would eliminate hardship and other waivers, along with the ability to retain student-athletes on their campus while also ensuring that the health and safety of current players is not compromised. In some late-season instances, coaches would like to have the ability to play a student-athlete who is redshirting (due to depth issues with injuries) but they currently don't to avoid the student-athlete having to use the redshirt year. Additionally, it is possible that this legislation could lead to higher graduation rates, as some student-athletes exhaust their eligibility (four seasons) but have yet to graduate. This proposal could encompass all Division II sports, but additional data will be needed before a legislative proposal could be made.
- 16. Governance update.** Division II Vice President Terri Steeb Gronau along with Maritza Jones and Ryan Jones updated the committee on governance items. Mr. Jones indicated that the membership has reallocated dollars from the regular-season media agreement to other priorities. Mr. Jones noted that nothing has changed with regard to the postseason partnerships with ESPN and CBS. Ms. Jones updated the committee on the upcoming triennial budget cycle and noted that dollars will be allocated to pay for costs of local transportation as well as an increase in the per diem provided to the travel parties. The new budget cycle would begin in the fall of 2021.
- 17. Annual meeting dates.** The committee will meet February 8-10, 2021, in Indianapolis.
- 18. Committee Chair.** The committee recommended Gary Pine, director of athletics at Azusa Pacific University, to serve as chair.
- 19. Outgoing committee members.** The committee thanked Daryl Dickey, Kent Weiser and John Wristen for their service to the committee over the past four years.

Committee chair: Daryl Dickey, University of West Georgia, Gulf South Conference
Staff Liaison: Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Football Committee February 10-12, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Mike Babcock, McKendree University.	
Daryl Dickey, University of West Georgia.	
Paul Lueken, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.	
Rob Mallory, Kentucky Wesleyan College.	
Gary Pine, Azusa Pacific University.	
Monica Gordy Polizzi, Mars Hill University.	
Kent Weiser, Emporia State University.	
John Wristen, Colorado State University-Pueblo.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Mike Burton, Director of Division II Football Officials.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Michael Bazemore, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.	
Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances.	
Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.	
Jeffrey O'Barr, Finance.	
Phil Pierce, Championships and Alliances.	
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.	