



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 23-24, 2023**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the following 28 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2023 championship: American Rivers Conference, American Southwest Conference, Centennial Conference, Collegiate Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, Commonwealth Coast Football, Eastern Collegiate Football Conference, Empire 8, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Landmark Conference, Liberty League, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Middle Atlantic Conference, Midwest Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference, New Jersey Athletic Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference, Northwest Conference, Ohio Athletic Conference, Old Dominion Athletic Conference, Presidents' Athletic Conference, Southern Athletic Association, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, USA South Athletic Conference, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 28; Pool B – 0; Pool C – 4

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification (AQ) eligibility.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Minutes from 2022 annual meeting.** Minutes from the January 2022 Division III football annual meeting were approved as submitted.

2. **Governance update.** Governance staff discussed topics related to Division III football, including current financial status, budget and webcasting updates from the 2022 NCAA Convention.
3. **Legislative review.** AMA staff discussed action and informational items from 2022-23, particularly those applicable to Division III football.
4. **2022 Championship review.**
 - a. **Championships travel.** NCAA travel and insurance staff joined the committee to discuss results from the pilot program involving charter flight costs, specifically relating to budget ramifications dependent on available seats purchased at a fixed ticket cost. NCAA travel staff reported that pilot program results were positive for year one and staff will continue to monitor results through year two to determine if the program can be implemented full time.
 - b. **Championship site.** The Stevenson University staff reviewed topics related to the 2022 championship game. It was noted team banquets will continue to be financed independently from the championship. The championship banquet will be discontinued to create an improved feel.
 - c. **Future Hosts.** The committee discussed the 2023 and 2024 championship site visit timelines for Salem, VA and Houston, TX, respectively.
 - d. **Broadcasts.** NCAA staff discussed television ratings with the committee. Overall, the championship's rating was up from the previous year. The committee discussed suitable kickoff dates and times and again settled on Friday night as the desired time for the championship game. Staff will work with the television partner and relay the preferred time for the championship and will provide more information to the committee if needed.
 - e. **Schedule.** The committee discussed making changes to the event schedule. The committee discussed eliminating the team banquet in favor of a less formal activity with team meals that would allow teams to interact and compete in to build sportsman ship. Staff will explore options during the summer site visit.
7. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed automatic qualification and will finalize AQ and at-large ratios on its July 2023 videoconference.
8. **Bracket expansion.** Due to the declining number of pool C, at-large opportunities currently in the football bracket, the committee discussed expansion. In 2022-23, the 32 pool allocations were divided 27-0-5. With the scheduled addition of the Landmark Conference in the fall of 2023, the at-large pool allocation will drop to four. The committee also discuss the access ratio and what steps were needed to adjust the bracket

due to football access being locked at 32 teams. Staff discussed upcoming steps to take place as the committee works to draft expansion legislation, which included number of additional teams (36-40), updated format on when and where games are played, membership feedback, and total cost. In addition, the committee discussed that bracket expansion would require an extra round in the tournament. With the championship game currently concluding near the holidays, the committee also discussed if the extra round would be played before or after the new year, or if the regular season would need to shift. The committee will schedule upcoming calls throughout the spring to build a model.

9. **Selection criteria.** The committee discussed topics related to selection criteria modifications including nonconference strength of schedule, results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection and publishing the final rankings for greater transparency. It was noted that the championships staff and DIII championships committee were reviewing alternate selection criterion/process models.
10. **Preliminary Rounds.** The committee looks to improve student-athlete experiences by maintaining neutrality during preliminary round games.
11. **Bench Size.** The committee discussed increasing bench size from 78 to 85. Following the championships committee's recommendation to allow additional student-athletes to dress beyond those on the squad size, the committee received feedback that even with the increase, institutions were still leaving squad members at home. Costs would be covered by institutions if they elected to travel additional squad members.
12. **2023 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.** The AFCA and staff reviewed issues from past season. It was noted that the Sunday night meeting with the Coaches Connection board was helpful and should be continued annually.
13. **Rules.** NCAA rules staff updated the committee on current issues, rules and game duration, and requested feedback to pass along to the Rules Committee for its upcoming session. It was noted that the Rules Committee will discuss many forms of technology and innovation that will advance the quality of instruction for the game and speed the game along. The group will also factor in how it will affect Division II and Division III programs.
14. **Officiating.** The coordinator of Division III football officials discussed the state of Division III football officiating and improvements to be made through the evaluation process. The committee discussed officials' game fees. The committee again discussed using an alternate official from the officiating crew's home league. Currently, the alternate comes from the host league and is only paid a game fee and is not reimbursed for travel or meals.
15. **Committee chair appointment.** The committee elected Matt Moore, head football coach, Northwestern University, St. Paul, as committee chair. Mr. Moore's knowledge and experience as head football coach and involvement in his conference and nationally will provide strong direction and properly represent the membership as committee chair.

16. **Annual meeting dates.** The committee will tentatively meet in January 23-24, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN.

Committee Chair: JJ Nekoloff, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Division III Football Committee January 24-25, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Blaise Faggiano, Utica College.	
Gregg Kaye, Commonwealth Coast Conference. (Videoconference)	
Matt Moore, University of Northwestern, St. Paul.	
J.J. Nekoloff, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Brett Adams, Stevenson University. (Videoconference)	
Mark Baltz, NCAA Division DIII Football Coordinator of Officials.	
Grayson Bond, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge.	
Carey Harveycutter, City of Salem, VA.	
Lisa Labercque, Stevenson University. (Videoconference)	
Bill Givens, Naval Academy Athletic Association. (Videoconference)	
John Shaner, City of Salem, VA.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Nate Flannery, Ty Halpin, Bill Regan.	