



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COACHES CONNECT  
APRIL 30, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome.** NCAA staff welcomed the group to the videoconference.
2. **Review NCAA Division III Football Committee annual report.** NCAA staff discussed the annual report and updated the group on the automatic qualifier and at-large bid numbers for the 2026 championship.
3. **Championships update.** Championships staff discussed topics related to Division III championships, including coach to player communication, playoff instant replay status and game film exchange.
4. **Governance and Member Services update.** GMS staff discussed informational items from the 2026 Convention and discussed the ongoing changes to eligibility models for Divisions I and II.
5. **Playing rules updates.** Division III Football Rules Committee member Matt Moore updated the group on the newly implemented playing rules for 2026, including the numbers exception for punts, and changes to the enforcement for targeting calls and pass interference calls.
6. **American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) updates.** AFCA divisional representative Bob Nielson updated the group on a potential proposal to the recruiting calendar that would provide dead periods over the winter holidays along with more flexibility during the nontraditional segment of spring practices. He also discussed updating the practice philosophy during the nontraditional season.
7. **Future meeting dates.** The group agreed to conduct its next videoconference in early August before the season begins.

*Committee Chair: John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.*

*Staff Liaisons: Jeff Meyers, Governance and Membership Services.*

*J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.*

<b>NCAA Division III Football Coaches Connect April 30, 2026, Videoconference</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Sam Bauman, Thiel College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
Colin Bruton, Lakeland University, Northern Athletics Conference.

Buck Buchanan, Hendrix College, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Mike Budziszewski, Carroll University, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
James Catanzaro, Lake Forest College, Midwest Conference.
Jay Civetti, Tufts University, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Scott Donaldson, Heidelberg University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
Blaise Faggiano, Utica University, Empire 8 Conference.
Gary Fasching, Saint John's University (MN), Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Peter Gallagher, Ursinus College, Centennial Conference.
Larry Harmon, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, American Southwest Conference.
Peter Jennings, University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Tom Kelley, Framingham State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
John Krajacic, Kalamazoo College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Anton Kunczewski, Berry College, Southern Athletic Association.
Jason Lebeau, New England University, Conference of New England Western.
Jeff Long, Moravian University, Landmark Conference.
Ryan Maiuri, University of Dubuque, American Rivers Conference.
Chad Martinovich, University of Rochester, Liberty League.
Brant McAdams, Pacific Lutheran University, Northwest Conference.
Jeffrey McMartin, Central College, American Rivers Conference.
Matt Moore, University of Northwestern - St Paul, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Bob Nielson, American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).
CJ Nightingale, Belhaven University, USA South Athletic Conference.
Jeff Sokol, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Bradley Spencer, North Central College, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
Kyle Sweeney, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Blake Treadwell, Juniata College, Landmark Conference.
Jerheme Urban, Trinity University, Southern Athletic Association.
Tom Watts, Ohio Wesleyan University, North Coast Athletic Conference.
Scott Yoder, Shenandoah University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Dan Garrett, Kean University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Quentin Jones, Wesleyan University, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
James Killian, St. Olaf College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic.
Middle Athletic Conference.
Rob Rankl, Alfred University, Empire 8 Conference.
Curt Ritchie, Cornell College, Midwest Conference.

<b>Guests in Attendance</b>
Chad E. Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.
Bob Nielson, American Football Coaches Association.
<b>Committee in Attendance:</b>
Keith Buckley, Pacific University (Oregon).
Michael Cebrosky, Kings College (Pennsylvania).
Portia Hoeg, Centennial Conference
John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.
Hunter Sims, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
Michael Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois).
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Jeff Myers, Governance and Membership Services.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
CJ Sowards, Sarah Turner.