



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COACHES CONNECT
AUG. 6, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** NCAA staff welcomed the group to the videoconference and provided insight for the coaches connect program and key individuals from different committees and stakeholders. NCAA staff explained how the representatives for coaches connect are chosen and managed by the conference and that there is no term limit set by the NCAA. NCAA staff reminded the coaches connect group about their responsibility to inform their respective conference coaches and commissioner about what is discussed in the coaches connect meetings.
2. **Championships updates.** Championships staff discussed that the NCAA Power Index selection dials were unchanged and the timeline for the football committee to change the dials if they choose to. Staff went through coach to player communication and sideline video replay best practices and encouraged the coaches to share postseason site representative opportunities with their coaching staffs.
3. **Governance and Membership Services update.** GMS staff discussed proposed legislation that is open for comments and sponsorship until Sept. 15. Discussions covered the spring period practice modifications (conference sponsored), spring period practice modifications (institution sponsored) and the age-based eligibility model proposals.
4. **Playing rules updates.** Division II and III Football Rules Committee representative, Matt Moore, reminded the group about the newly implemented playing rules for 2026 including the numbers exception for punts, changes to the enforcement for targeting calls and pass interference calls.
5. **American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) updates.** AFCA divisional representative Bob Nielson updated the group on the work that was done for the spring period practice modifications and congratulated the coaches' group that was a part of that work.
6. **Future meeting dates.** The group discussed the meeting schedule for the academic year based on feedback from year one of the coaches connect. The group agreed to meet in early December, at the AFCA convention in February in Indianapolis and in late April following the spring practice season.

Committee Chair: Hunter Sims, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Staff Liaisons: Jeff Meyers, Governance and Membership Services.

J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division III Football Coaches Connect Aug. 6, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Barainyak, Widener University, Middle Athletic Conference.	
Sam Bauman, Thiel College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.	
Buck Buchanan, Hendrix College, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
James Catanzaro, Lake Forest College, Midwest Conference.	
Jay Civetti, Tufts University, New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Scott Donaldson, Heidelberg University, Ohio Athletic 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.	
John Krajacic, Kalamazoo College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Tony Kunczewski, Berry College, Southern Athletic Association.	
Jason Lebeau, New England University, Conference of New England Western.	
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.	
CJ Nightingale, Belhaven University, USA South Athletic Conference.	
Chris Robertson, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, New England Woman's and Men's 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.	
Sherman Wood, Salisbury University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Scott Yoder, Shenandoah University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Absentees:	
Colin Bruton, Lakeland University, Northern Athletics Conference.	
Mike Budziszewski, Carroll University, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Michael Clark, Lycoming College, Landmark Conference.	
Geoffrey Dartt, University of Mount Union, Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Blaise Faggiano, Utica University, Empire 8 Conference.	

Dan Garrett, Kean University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Tom Kelley, Framingham State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
James Killian, St. Olaf College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic.
Michael Leonard, Franklin College, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Ryan Maiuri, University of Dubuque, American Rivers Conference.
Rob Rankl, Alfred University, Empire 8 Conference.
Curt Ritchie, Cornell College, Midwest Conference.
William Schomaker, Greenville University, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Joseph Smith, Linfield University, Northwest Conference.
Peter Stuursma, Hope College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Guests in Attendance
Chad E. Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.
Bob Nielson, American Football Coaches Association.
Committee in Attendance:
Michael Cebrosky, Kings College (Pennsylvania).
Portia Hoeg, Centennial Conference
Mark Shook, Hanover College.
John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.
Hunter Sims, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jeff Myers, Governance and Membership Services.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
CJ Sowards, Sarah Turner.