



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 11-12, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Minutes from 2018 annual meeting.** Minutes from the 2018 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 2019 NCAA Convention.
- 3. Legislative review.** AMA staff discussed action and informational items from 2018-19, particularly those applicable to Division III football.
- 4. 2019 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.** Committee members who were at the convention reviewed issues from the Division II football coaches who attended
- 5. Finance review.** The committee noted that the tournament required 6 flights. Flight costs were totaled at approximately \$700,000, while total operating expenses were approximately \$1.5 million, including preliminary rounds.
- 6. 2018 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 City of Shenandoah staff reviewed topics related to the 2018 championship game. It was noted the player of the year banquet 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 2020-21 and 2021-22 championship site visit timelines for Canton, OH.
 - 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 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 best time for the championship and will provide more information to the committee at a later date.
 - e. **Hotels.** The committee will look to use one different team hotel in 2019. The Hyatt Place was suggested as the replacement for the Marriott Waterway. Both properties are in nearby The Woodlands, TX. The Holiday Inn Shenandoah will again be used as one of the two team hotels.
 - f. **Schedule.** The committee discussed making changes to the event schedule in 2019. 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 April 2019 site visit.
7. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed automatic qualification and will finalize AQ and at-large ratios on its July 2019 teleconference.
 8. **Sport region alignment.** The Football Committee discussed but agreed not to support the realignment proposal from the Division III Conference Commissioners Association. The committee believes the proposal's guiding principles (conference members in the same region, geographic proximity, and balanced number of institutions across the region) are more accurately addressed by the current region model. The committee would also like to retain its eight-member composition to greater assist the coaches on the committee prepare for rankings.

The current bracket for the football championship is a four-quadrant, 32-team bracket. A four-region ranking system fits the national championship setup with consistency and clear understanding, and because the championship format has five at-large bids, the Football Committee believes having six regions will instantly negate opportunities for some of the strong at-large candidates.

One unique factor the committee specifically addressed is that although the same criteria is used among all team sports, the ability to have results versus ranked opponents tends to be a highly used ranking factor in the committee's decision making for both at-large bids and for determining the bracket matchups. By expanding regions in a way that does not increase competition among regional opponents, fewer teams in each region would decrease one of the most used primary selection criteria.

The committee also noted that the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) is composed of 10 institutions that do not participate in the Division III Football Championship; however, they were accounted for in the regional recommendations and accordingly skew the guiding principles. Rather than creating six balanced regions, it creates a disproportionate access ratio for teams in Region 1. Additionally, regional geographic proximity for institutions in Texas would worsen in the proposed format, as those teams would compare criteria with western teams that aren't scheduled during the regular season.

If the recommendation does not pass, the committee would request an opportunity to present an updated football regional alignment.

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.
10. **Preliminary Rounds.** The committee looks to enhance criteria for maintaining neutrality during preliminary rounds.
11. **2018 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.** Larry Kindbom, Washington University – St. Louis, reviewed issues from the Division III football coaches who attended the convention in January. He noted that the Sunday night meeting with the Coaches Connection board was helpful and should be continued annually. There was much discussion regarding the one-time, blanket waiver for four additional days of preseason practice.
12. **Concussion review.** NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline presented topics related to the health and safety for the sport of football. Dr. Hainline shared results from the Football Health and Safety Summit and added that along with concussion issues in

college athletics, data is also showing that student-athlete mental health is increasing as an issue.

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 while the Rules Committee will discuss many modern forms of technology and innovation that will advance the quality of instruction for the game, 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 that could 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. **150th Anniversary of College Football.** The committee discussed preliminary information regarding the celebration of the 150th anniversary of college football in beginning in fall 2019. Committee members noted they are willing to assist as necessary.
16. **Committee Chair.** The committee renamed Jim Catanzaro, head football coach, Lake Forrest College, as committee chair. Mr. Catanzaro's knowledge and experience as head football coach and involvement in his conference will provide strong direction and properly represent the membership as committee chair.
17. **Annual meeting dates.** The committee will tentatively meet in February 2020 in Indianapolis, IN.

Committee Chair: Jim Catanzaro, Lake Forrest College; Midwest Conference.

Staff Liaison(s): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Division III Football Committee February 11-12, 2019
Attendees:
Jim Catanzaro, Lake Forrest College.
Kris Diaz, Baldwin Wallace University.
Erick Hart, State University of New York College of Brockport.
Darla Kirby, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
Tony Kunczewski, Berry College.
Ed Hottle, Stevenson University.

Michael Schulist, Carroll University.
Duey Naatz, University of Wisconsin, Stout.
Absentees:
None
Guests in Attendance:
Mark Baltz, Division III Coordinator of Officials.
Stevie Baker-Watson, DePauw University.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Nick Strah, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.
Jeff Myers, Amateurism and Membership Affairs.
Melissa Piening, Travel and Insurance.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Nick Strah, Championships and Alliances.