



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COACHES CONNECT
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome.** NCAA staff welcomed the group to the videoconference and provided history and rationale on the Division III Coaches Connect initiative.
2. **Championships update.** Championships staff discussed topics related to Division III championships, including current financial status, championship per diem increases, NPI review and feedback for the 2025 season, bracketing pilot, role of regional advisory committees (RACs), site rep review and playoff instant replay status. Staff also updated the group on the DIII Football Championship date change to Sunday, January 4, 2026.
3. **Governance and Membership Services update.** AMA/GMS staff discussed informational items from 2025 and updated the group on the Division II and Division III playing rules structure that went into effect September 1.
4. **Playing rules updates.** Division III Football Rules Committee member Matt Moore updated the group on the newly implemented playing rules for 2025.
5. **American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) updates.** AFCA divisional representative Bob Nielson updated the group on a potential recruiting calendar change that would provide dead periods over the winter holidays along with initial discussions regarding more flexibility during the nontraditional segment of spring practices.
6. **Future meeting dates.** The group agreed to conduct its next videoconference following the regular season in the first week of December in preparation of the AFCA annual meeting in January and again in March following the Division III Football Committee's annual meeting in preparation for spring football.

Committee Chair: John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.
Staff Liaison(s): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division III Football Coaches Connect September 3, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
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.
Michael Clark, Lycoming College, Landmark Conference.
Geoffrey Dartt, University of Mount Union, Ohio 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.
Dan Garrett, Kean University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Larry Harmon, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, American Southwest Conference.
Ed Hottle, Stevenson University, Middle Atlantic Conference.
Quentin Jones, Wesleyan University, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Tom Kelley, Framingham State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
James Killian, St. Olaf College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic.
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.
Michael Leonard, Franklin College, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
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.
Rob Rankl, Alfred University, Empire 8 Conference.
Curt Ritchie, Cornell College, Midwest Conference.
Jeff Sokol, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Bradley Spencer, North Central College, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
Joseph Smith, Linfield University, Northwest Conference.
Peter Stuursma, Hope College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Kyle Sweeney, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Jerheme Urban, Trinity University, Southern Athletic Association.
Matt Walker, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Tom Watts, Ohio Wesleyan University, North Coast Athletic Conference.
Sherman Wood, Susquehanna University, Landmark Conference.
Scott Yoder, Shenandoah University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Committee in Attendance:
Keith Buckley, Pacific University.
Michael Cebrosky, Kings University.
Portia Hoeg, Centennial Conference
Jason Imperati, Lawrence University.
John Snell, Baldwin Wallace University.
Hunter Sims, Howard Payne University.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
CJ Sowards, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jeff Myers, Governance and Membership Services.