



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S ROWING COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Championships Committee award the following four conferences automatic qualification privileges for the 2020 championship: The Liberty League, Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference, the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, and the New England Small College Athletic Conference.

For the 2020 championship, no conference will receive more than one automatic berth, and Pools B and C will be condensed to a single pool (which will include all qualified teams).

Tentative Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 4
Pool B&C – 4

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.2 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.
- (4) Estimate budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. New committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Carolyn Miles, associate director of student-athlete services at Williams College, be appointed as committee chair.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Carolyn has a background as a competitive collegiate rower and has served on the committee for three years. She is well prepared to take on the role of committee chair.

(4) Estimate budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of committee's 2018 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its report from the 2018 annual meeting.
- 2. Review Division III Championship Committee actions.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Championships Committee reports from the past year, noting items applicable to women's rowing and sport committees in general.
- 3. Review joint meeting agenda.** The committee reviewed the joint agenda and made notes to address during the joint portion of the meeting. (See the attached joint meeting report.)
- 4. Ranking and selection process.** The committee reviewed the ranking and selection criteria and overall process.
 - a. Results reporting. Committee members noted how the delayed finalization of contracting with the vendor further challenged the results reporting process. The committee members discussed modifications necessary for inclusion in the request for proposal.
 - b. Division III in-region scheduling requirement. The committee directed staff to remind coaches and administrators regarding the divisional in-region scheduling requirement. The committee also set a spring schedule submission deadline in order to have time to review and communicate with coaches if schedules do not appear to meet requirements.
 - c. Regional ranking procedures. The committee will continue to rank and publish the top three I Eight and II Eight boats in each region as well as rank the designated number of teams in each region. The committee clarified that as long as a team/boat meets the minimum requirements for ranking they may continue to be ranked even if they stop competing.
 - d. Review of selection procedures. The committee liked the Tuesday selection and will keep it on that day for the future when the calendar permits.

Members also reviewed committee replacement policies and noted they will be reviewed again during the last ranking call to prepare for replacements, if necessary.

- e. Regional representation. The committee continues to support the regional representation concept in which at least one team is selected for the championships from each region.
- f. Review of forms. The forms were reviewed and will be revised accordingly.

g. Selection show. The committee liked first announcing the four automatic qualifiers and then the at-large selections rather than announcing the entire field alphabetically. For at-large selections in the future, the at-large selections will be announced alphabetically in even-numbered years and in reverse alphabetical order in odd-numbered years.

- 5. Bracket expansion.** When the championships format was adjusted from at-large boats to full teams, providing all participants the opportunity to compete for the team championship, the adjustment put the championships over the Division III access ratio for team sports. A six-team grand final is the standard size, and the committee believes that conducting a two-team petite final does not provide the best championship experience for those teams and is looking for means of improvement. The committee conferred with the NCAA staff liaison to the Division III Championships Committee regarding bracket expansion. If the sport is viewed as more of an individual-team sport than a team sport, similar to tennis and golf, sport sponsorship may warrant an increase in the championships bracket. The committee directed staff to collaborate with NCAA staff regarding sport sponsorship numbers and estimated budget.
- 6. 2019 championships review.** The committee reviewed the championships site, including the banquets, hotels, head official's report, and other pertinent policies and procedures related to the championships. Our hosts were praised for their extraordinary efforts to clear the course of debris to permit racing on championships weekend. All participants were lauded for their flexibility given the delays.

The committee discussed suggestions for future sites. In particular, the committee considered:

- a. Revising Saturday's order of events to move the Division III races earlier.
- b. Revising the boat weigh-in and certification procedures.
- c. Rather than asking broadcast talent, having a person dedicated to announcing awards.

The committee directed staff to continue to advocate for increase in boat transportation rates. The current rates do not entice other institutions, particularly Division I, to add boats to their trailers.

- 7. Review of sport sponsorship list.** The committee reviewed the current list of institutions sponsoring the sport and noted a few potential changes.
- 8. Championships administration.** The committee reviewed the various committee rosters, manuals, timelines and agendas and made the appropriate updates.
- 9. 2020 annual meeting dates.** The annual meeting dates will be determined during the joint meeting.

Committee Chair: Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University (Oregon), Northwest Conference.
Staff Liaison: Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Women's Rowing Committee June 3, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Lauren Brownrigg, Pacific University (Oregon).
Andriel Doolittle, Ohio Wesleyan University.
John Gaskin, University of Rochester.
Kristin Maile, Sarah Lawrence College.
Carolyn Miles, Williams College.
William Randall, U.S Coast Guard.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Adam Skaggs, Law, Policy and Governance.
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances.