



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review 2018 joint meeting report.** The committees approved the 2018 joint meeting report as presented.
- 1. Governance update.** The committees received an update from a member of the governance staff on the following topics: three-day acclimatization period for soccer and field hockey; transfer portal; officiating concerns; and Division III University.
- 2. Academic and Membership Affairs update.** The committees received an update from a member of the academic and membership affairs staff, on the following topics: three-day acclimatization period; graduation rate reporting; and social media rules.
- 3. United Soccer Coaches.** The committees met with the United Soccer Coaches College Programs Director and discussed several topics, including the Sports Science Institute study on acclimatization and days of rest for soccer; adding dates of competition to the spring; and use of overtime.
- 4. Officials.** The committees met with the national coordinator of soccer officials and discussed several topics, including the selection process for officials and building a strong pool of candidates for the championships; the responsibilities and potential education opportunities related to the fourth official; and identifying officials as assistant referee or center when selecting for tournament contests. The national coordinator also shared locations for the three referee clinics to be conducted next summer as part of continued improvement initiatives.
- 5. Review of 2018 preliminary rounds.** The committees discussed items related to the preliminary rounds of the 2018 men's and women's championships.

The committees noted their continued desire to conduct postseason contests earlier in the day to allow visiting teams to return to their respective campuses at a more reasonable time. The committees will again allow two starting time options in 2019. One option will allow for start times of 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the first day of competition, and 1 p.m. on the second day of competition. The second option will allow for start times at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on the first day of competition, and 3 p.m. on the second day of competition for campuses with lights. The committees will review and approve requests for evening competition times on a case-by-case basis.

The committees were concerned with the lack of a timeline and process for changing game surfaces and times due to potential weather issues, especially at dual-gender sites. They prefer not to have dual-gender sites, but the committees will discuss these requests on a case-by-case basis. The committees approved that when changes due to weather are necessary at dual-gender sites that would require both genders to share one field, the gender that has site preference (based on year and round) will keep the earlier game times. The other gender will be required to play on the original site of competition or move to a night game if sharing the field with the gender that has preference. Each committee will establish its own weather change process.

The committees noted that the basketball start date could have a profound impact on many institutions' ability to host preliminary rounds of the soccer championships, and that they will need to pay close attention to ALL events scheduled on campus and in town as host sites are selected in future years to prevent hotel, staffing and facility issues.

The committees also discussed the competition field dimension requirements implemented during the 2018 championships. Committee members noted schools often do not submit accurate field dimensions in their bids, as they are likely copying information from previous bids that might not have been accurate. The committees will pay special attention to field dimensions during the season. Any inaccurate field information could result in fines and non-use of facilities as host. The committee will continue to give preference to fields that meet the minimum requirements.

- 6. Review of 2018 championship finals and 2019 championship finals planning.** The committees discussed the 2018 championship finals, which were conducted at UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The committees reviewed site evaluations and noted the participating teams requested an earlier administrative meeting start time. The committees agreed to move the start time to 8 a.m. the day of practice/community engagement. The members also discussed the need to improve practice fields; creating a specific backup field plan should there be weather issues that could require major changes; the location and assignments of locker rooms; press room operations; webcast play-by-play; banquet (alternating genders during speeches); more detailed postgame timeline for awards presentation; and student-athlete giftbags being packaged before distributing.

The committees discussed additional student-athlete enhancement opportunities, including a student-athlete lounge at the hotel, photo booths at the banquet and changing the mixer to a dessert reception.

- 7. Future annual meeting dates.** The 2020 annual meeting will be February 11-13 to coincide with Division I and allow for as much time as possible to gather all championship bids submitted as part of the next bid cycle.

**8. Other business.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship bid cycle, identifying initial preferences about future sites. A subcommittee of members from the men’s and women’s committees was created to identify preferences and recommended facilities to assist in the process.

The committee also created a subcommittee of members from the men’s and women’s committees to examine the sport’s strategic plan, including the vision, core values and goals for Division III men’s and women’s soccer. The subcommittee will present a variety of options for the committees to review and finalize.

*Committee Chairs: Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University*

*Brianne Smithson, Bowdoin College*

*Staff Liaisons: Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances*

*Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Men’s and Women’s Soccer Committees February 5, 2019, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Ken Andrews, Middle Atlantic Conferences.
Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University.
Kevin Brenner, Elmira College.
Marc Colwell, Illinois Institute of Technology.
Troy Dell, Frostburg State University.
Melinda DuPree, Hope College.
Dan Gilmore, Rowan University.
David Hoffmann, University of Dallas.
Joe Mooney, University of Wisconsin-Superior.
Jason Murphy, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
Justin Serpone, Amherst College.
Brianne Smithson, Bowdoin College.
Sean Sullivan, Catholic University.
Girish Thakar, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).
Marcus Wood, Hardin-Simmons University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Michael Mooney, State University of New York at Geneseo.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Ryan Cigich, National Coordinator of Soccer Officials.
Rob Kehoe, Director of College Soccer Programs, United Soccer Coaches.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances.

Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.
Aaron King, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.
Bill Regan, Academic and Membership Affairs.