



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2019, MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Committee chair**

(1) Recommendation. That Justin Serpone, head men's soccer coach at Amherst College, be named chair of the committee. Mr. Serpone will replace Brandon Bianco as chair when Mr. Bianco's term expires in September 2019.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.

(3) Rationale. Mr. Serpone is a veteran of the Men's Soccer Committee and also serves in a variety of positions with the coaches association as well as other leadership/administrative positions on campus.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

- **Automatic qualification.**

(1) Recommendation. That the following 42 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate

Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations for the 2018 championship are as follows: Pool A – 42; Pool B – 1; Pool C – 19.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification (AQ) eligibility.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review 2018 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2018 annual meeting report as presented.
- 2. Review of United Soccer Coaches (USC) convention divisional meeting.** The committee reviewed the supplement that was distributed at the recent USC meeting and received an update regarding the meeting from members of the committee who attended. The priorities communicated from coaches at the USC meeting focused on current proposals being discussed by the Championships Committee (day off between semifinals and finals, bench limits, bracket expansion), as well as information on selections and bracketing policies.
- 3. Preliminary-round evaluations.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluations for sites and officials.

The committee discussed a few key topics from the evaluations, including conflicting events at sites, game times, field dimensions, and film exchange.

NCAA staff will communicate with host sites to provide feedback received through participant surveys to help improve the student-athlete experience during future championships. In addition, the committee reviewed officials' evaluations and noted quality officiating throughout the tournament as well as areas for improvement.

- 4. Rankings, selections and bracketing.** The committee reviewed the weekly rankings from the 2018 season and discussed the ranking and selection process. The committee noted that the rankings and selection process was strong and the members were confident in their choices and process. The committee members discussed in depth how they could have more information to support their rankings and selections to make it easier for the membership to understand the process and see the rationale for themselves. The committee showed interest in seeing two additional criteria: Performance Indicator and Results vs. Above .500.

The committee continues to support publishing the final ranking at selection.

The committee reviewed the selection day timeline and made no changes. The committee also noted that the selection and bracketing policy document was a helpful tool to have during the process and for preparation.

The committee reviewed game times for the preliminary rounds and made adjustments to allow only the selection of day games. The committee agreed to allow for flexibility for those schools with schedule conflicts to allow for night contests by request.

The committee reviewed and discussed bracketing principles and the inclusion of replacement committee members during both the selection and bracketing portions of the process. The committee was pleased with the 2018 championship bracket and felt that it was well balanced.

- 5. Sponsorship analysis.** The committee reviewed the anticipated sponsorship analysis for 2019-20 and noted the provisional institutions expected to become full members, anticipated new provisional members and a number of changes to conference affiliation. More changes are expected prior to the fall.

Regarding sport sponsorship numbers and bracket size, the committee has tabled the bracket expansion discussion until the Championships Committee reviews the matter at its June meeting. If the bracket is not expanded to 64 teams, the committee will discuss a proposal to request an expansion to 64 teams for 2020-21 season.

- 6. Committee and regional advisory committee (RAC) rosters.** The committee reviewed the national and regional advisory committee rosters and noted upcoming vacancies. The committee reviewed duties and responsibilities for the committee and RAC and noted the positive impact of improved training. The committee noted the need for additional nominations for the national committee and will seek additional options to help fill the two upcoming vacancies on the national committee in the Great Lakes and West regions.
- 7. Review of NCAA manuals.** The committee assigned manual review to each of the committee members. The committee will make appropriate updates and additions to the committee operations, host operations, participant, pre-championships and site representative manuals over the spring following a full and in-depth review.

- 8. Expand regular season.** The committee talked briefly about possibly extending the regular season a week to allow more time for the teams to play the allowable regular-season contests. Similar to a recent Division II decision to extend the regular season to the second week of December, the men's committee would like to review that proposal and see whether it would benefit the Division III membership.

*Committee Chair: Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University*  
*Staff Liaison: Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Men's Soccer Committee February 4-6, 2019, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Ken Andrews, Middle Atlantic Conferences.
Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.
Marc Colwell, Illinois Institute of Technology; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Dan Gilmore, Rowan University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
David Hoffmann, University of Dallas; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Kevin Brenner, Elmira College; Empire 8 Conference
Joe Mooney, University of Wisconsin-Superior; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Justin Serpone, Amherst College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Kevin Alcox, Aaron King.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.