



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 6-8, 2024, JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Championship date formula.** The committees will propose a change to the championship date formula, moving the date one week later to align with the other divisions and provide more rest and recovery during the regular season, while improving the overall experience of the soccer student-athletes. (See Informational Item No. 3.)
2. **Non-championship segment – permissible contests.** The committees will propose a change in the number of permissible contests in the spring training season. Because this proposal impacts the bylaws, it will need to go through the governance process for approval. (See Informational Item No. 4.)
3. **Officials.** The committees will propose a change in officials' assignments at the finals site to add an official but decrease the responsibility of other officials assigned to balance the overall financial impact.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Championship review.** The committees discussed items related to the preliminary rounds and finals of the 2023 soccer championships. The committee agreed to some improvements to the championships that will be included in the 2024 pre-championship manual and highlighted in the Division III newsletter in the fall.
2. **Championships, selections, bracketing, and preliminary-round hosting.** The committees discussed a variety of topics regarding the 2024 season, including the championships that will be hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
  - a. **NPI/Pairwise:** The committees reviewed the NPI data from the past three seasons and provided feedback to the Division III Championships Committee as requested.
  - b. **Schedule:** The committee examined the schedule for next year's championships in Las Vegas and made minor changes to avoid potential issues with sunset. Additionally, they will adjust practice schedules using the multiple facilities that feature grass fields.
  - c. **Film exchange:** The committees and the committee liaisons will work more closely with HUDL to establish a better system that will establish a standard process for all divisions

and genders to provide better services to all teams in the tournament and make the process easier for hosts.

3. **Championship date formula.** The committees are developing a proposal related to the championship date formula that would move the current date formula one week later to align with the other soccer divisions. The committees will gather more information through a membership survey and financial impact report and will explain why this will be a positive enhancement for all student-athletes. The committees will submit the proposal this spring with a planned implementation for the 2026-27 academic year to allow for all schools, conferences and championship hosts to schedule accordingly.
4. **Non-championship segment (spring).** The committees are developing a proposal related to the permissible contests in the non-championship segment. This proposal would require a change in the bylaws and will need to go through the governance process for approval. This change potentially could impact other sports, and more discussion will be necessary before any proposal is finalized.
5. **Officiating.** The committees are working on a proposal related to the number of officials at the finals site. The committees, working with the coordinator of officials, will propose a new officials assignment process for the finals site that will include hiring an additional official. The process will minimize the financial impact by not requiring all officials to be on site throughout the entire tournament. A financial impact report will be requested to establish the official impact this proposal would have.
6. **Championship bid cycle.** The committees initially reviewed bids that have been submitted for the 2026 and 2027 championships and identified bids they would like to review further this summer when the initial internal review is completed by the NCAA staff.

*Committee Chairs:* Gabe Margolis, Brandies University (M)  
Jessica Huda, Montclair State University (W)  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances (M)  
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances (W)

Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees February 6-8, 2024, Joint Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Carl Christian, CUNY Athletic Conference.	
Rob Dallas, Cabrini University.	
Jess Huda, Montclair State University.	
Susan Kolb, Hood College.	
David Kulik, Johnson & Wales University (Providence).	

Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
Briand Marcantonio, Utica College.
Gabe Margolis, Brandeis University.
Dejan Mladenovic, John Carroll University.
Emma Olsson, Averett University.
Miguel Ruiz, Cal Lutheran University.
Brian Sisson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.
Brianne Smithson, Bowdoin College.
Stephanie Smyrl, Emerson College.
Adam Sprague, Mount Aloysius College.
Nate Stewart, Centre College.
Matt Webb, Houghton University.
Michael Zapolski, Augustana College.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Katari Key, Alverno College.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
John Collins, NCAA Soccer Coordinator of Officials.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Bryce Peters, Championships and Alliances.
Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.