



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Committee chair appointment.**

- (1) Recommendation. That Sean Sullivan, director of athletics at Catholic University, be named chair of the committee. He will replace Brianne Smithson, whose term expires in September 2019.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Sullivan is respected within the division and will bring extensive knowledge and experience to the role. His previous service on the Women's Soccer Committee, combined with his current term, demonstrate his commitment to enhancing the sport.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Mr. Sullivan will bring great experience to the chair role. This should have a positive impact on student-athletes and the Division III Women's Soccer Championship.

**b. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 43 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Women'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; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations for the 2019 championship are as follows: Pool A – 43; Pool B – 1; Pool C – 20.

- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification 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 meeting.** The committee reviewed a supplement distributed at the recent USC meeting and asked that the document be revised to clarify how preliminary-round hosts are selected.
- 3. Preliminary-round evaluations.** The committee reviewed and discussed preliminary-round evaluations for sites and officials.

The committee noted a few criticisms at various sites, including quality of playing surface, equitable treatment of home and visiting teams, hosting requirements, and unruly fans. The committee also discussed issues and requirements for film sharing. Moving forward, the committee will require teams to share film from their last game with institutions in each selected pod throughout the tournament. Hosts will be asked to provide film to advancing teams for all games at their site.

NCAA staff will communicate with host sites to provide feedback received through participant surveys to help improve the student-athlete experience during future championships.

- 4. Rankings, selections and bracketing.** The committee reviewed the weekly rankings from the 2018 season and discussed the rankings process.

The committee reviewed hosting guidelines and noted wording should be added to manuals, bid checklist and selection process document stating clearly the criteria the committee reviews when selecting host sites.

The committee reviewed game times for the preliminary rounds and noted night games will be allowed only when the soccer field is shared with other sports. The members also noted hosts should be given guidance and tips for setting practice times to eliminate issues with missed class time. The committee also noted that when moving game times due to weather, a decision will be made the day before the first game once the site representative has had a chance to evaluate the field.

The committee reviewed and discussed bracketing principles and the importance of retaining the integrity of the bracket. The committee members will continue to review the bracket to ensure it is balanced to the best of their ability, while staying within the bracketing principles, which could result in hosting opportunities for teams not ranked in their region.

- 5. Committee and regional advisory committee rosters.** The committee reviewed the national and regional advisory committee rosters and noted upcoming vacancies.

The committee wants to better educate regional advisory committee members before the mock ranking call. The committee also plans to create a document to share with each regional advisory committee member that would include basic information on how to conduct rankings and any challenging situations that routinely occur in regions.

- 6. Manuals review.** The committee reviewed and made appropriate updates and additions to the committee operations, host operations, participant, pre-championships and site representative manuals.

*Committee Chair: Brianne Smithson, Bowdoin College*

*Staff Liaisons: Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Women's Soccer Committee February 4-5, 2019, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Troy Dell, Frostburg State University.
Melinda DuPree, Hope College.

Michael Mooney, State University of New York at Geneseo.
Jason Murphy, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
Brianne Smithson, Bowdoin College.
Sean Sullivan, Catholic University.
Girish Thakar, Westminster College (Pennsylvania).
Marcus Wood, Hardin-Simmons University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances.
Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.