



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 5-6, 2023, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Bracket expansion.

- (1) Recommendation. Expand the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship bracket from 16 to 18 participating institutions, adding a "play-in" match on site, for two of the four preliminary-round hosts. The following allocations would be used for the 2024 championship.

Anticipated Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 11

Pool B – 3

Pool C - 4

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

- (3) Rationale. For the 2023-24 championship year, the number of sponsoring institutions has increased to 126 from 114 institutions in the 2022-23 championship year. By adding 12 institutions Division III Men's Volleyball has grown by roughly 10% in just one year. The committee understands the potential changes that would come with an adoption of the commissioners' championship access model, but still seeing a need to adjust the bracket size for the upcoming 2023-24 championship year. The following points support this proposal:

- Using the expected total of sponsoring institutions (126) for 2023-24 along with the suggested access ratio (6.5), the Division III Men's Volleyball championship field should be 19.
- The additional 12 sponsoring institutions for 2023-24 represents a 10% growth in one year.

- If no changes are made to bracket size for the 2023-24 championship year, the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship would be limited to the allocations of 11 AQ, 3 Pool B, and 2 Pool C due to ongoing conference realignment along with additions in Pool B eligibility.
 - A three-day weekend preliminary-round site (Thursday-Friday-Saturday) is equitable to the format for the Division III Women's Volleyball championship. Within this structure, only one team would have the possibility of competing across all three days of preliminary-round competition.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. An additional \$46,000 is anticipated to accommodate the bracket expansion. \$16,000 for transportation, \$20,000 for per diem, and \$10,000 for game expenses.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The addition of two "play-in" matches would create more opportunities for competitive competition for all teams. Rather than a top tier program competing against a lesser tier program, the expanded bracket could create a matchup that would be more appropriate for the skill levels.

b. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 11 conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; Northern Athletic Collegiate Conference; Skyline Conference; United Volleyball Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.
- (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.2 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.

Anticipated Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 11

Pool B – 3

Pool C - 4

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. National coordinator of officials.

(1) Recommendation. That the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship add an assignor position for the postseason. This individual would communicate with the regional assignors to determine and assign the desired officials to work the postseason matches.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.

(3) Rationale. This recommendation is necessary to remain equitable with the bench size for the Division III Women's Volleyball Championship. Also, adding this position would alleviate the stress from the Division III Men's Volleyball Committee, liaison, officials and hosts. Additionally, this gives the officials an earlier notice of their assignments rather than waiting until the week following selections.

(4) Estimated budget impact. The Division III Men's Volleyball Committee believes compensating this position with \$3,000 for their efforts will be suitable.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Ideally this would give the preliminary rounds the best officials, as they would hold the competition dates, rather than resorting to the best available the week of competition.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
- 2. 2022 annual meeting report.** All The committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as presented.
- 3. 2023 championship review.**

a. Host operations. The committee discussed how great of an experience Stevenson University was able to create for the participating institutions. With the help of Stevenson, the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship was able to conduct the first banquet event since 2019.

b. Hudl film exchange. Committee members continue to support the relationship and film exchange process through Hudl for future championships. The committee is exploring

avenues to encourage future hosts to install a Volleymetric camera to enhance film exchange at the final site.

4. **Governance update.** The Division III governance and academic and membership affairs staffs updated the committee on the following: 1) NCAA Constitution; 2) playing and practice season model; 3) budget priorities for championship expense allocation; 4) budget priorities for championship experiences; 5) philosophy statement review; 6) NCAA Convention legislation.
5. **Playing rules update.** The playing rules staff provided updates to the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees, including a discussion of items (e.g., continue to explore a men's volleyball rules book; the restraining line rule; bench conduct and decorum; and Challenge Review System). The playing rules staff also briefly mentioned that additional information will be provided as it relates to the finalized processes for federated playing rules across all three divisions. Both the Division III and National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committees approved one rules modification proposal for the 2024 season. The committees will request approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel to mirror the women's volleyball challenge review system procedures with one exception of permitting three challenges. The National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Committee approved another rules modification proposal for the 2024 season and will ask PROP to approve establishing a 3-meter restraining line on the playing surface. Division III men's volleyball has already established a 3-meter restraining line. It was noted that this would align Division III and National Collegiate men's volleyball.
6. **Preview of 2024 championship.** The committee discussed the 2024 championship to be conducted in Dubuque, Iowa, and hosted by Loras College. The committee reviewed the facilities and the proposed budget.
7. **AVCA All-Star Game.** The committee continues to explore avenues to help implement an all-star game at the championship site, while understanding the necessity of gender equality with Division III women's volleyball.
8. **Future championship dates and sites.**
 - a. 2024 – Loras College, April 25-27
 - b. 2025 – Old Dominion Athletic Conference and City of Salem, April 24-26
 - c. 2026 – Springfield College, April 24-26
9. **2026-28 bid cycle.** The committee discussed necessary additions to the minimum standard to be considered a championship host. NCAA staff has worked with Division III women's volleyball to ensure that expectations are equitable between genders.

- 10. 2023-24 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee schedule, noting they would like to continue to conduct regional advisory committee calls on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and national committee calls on Wednesdays.
- 11. National and regional advisory committee updates.** The committee reviewed the current regional advisory committee roster and noted the vacancies that need to be filled for the upcoming year. NCAA staff will work with conference commissioners to fill the vacancies. The committee also agreed that Rob Wingert, head men's and women's volleyball coach at Misericordia University, will continue to serve as chair of the national committee for 2023-24.
- 12. Bench size.** The committee discussed the intention to increase bench size to allow additional student-athletes in the bench area at the next available opportunity. The committee will allow student-athletes outside of the squad size to be in uniform and participate in warm-up activities.

Committee Chair: Robert Wingert, Misericordia University
Staff Liaison(s): Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee June 5-6, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Robert Wingert, Misericordia University.	
Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois).	
Brad Zarges, Eastern Nazarene College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bill Regan, Governance.	
Bri Rigney, Championships and Alliances.	