



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 16, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Additional assignor for the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship.

- (1) Recommendation. Add an assignor for the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship who will communicate with the regional assignors to determine and assign the desired officials to work the postseason matches.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Adding this position would alleviate the stress from the Division III Men's Volleyball Committee, the 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 compensation for 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 week of competition.

b. Bracket expansion.

- (1) Recommendation. Expand the Division III Men's Volleyball Championship bracket from 19 to 21 teams.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Division III men's volleyball sponsorship is growing each year. In recent years institutional participation has increased as well as conference sponsorship. Accordingly, the committee cites the following to support the recommended expansion:

- When applying the 2024-25 men's volleyball sponsorship (127 institutions) to the team sport access ratio (1:6), the championship field should consist of 21.16 participants.
 - With the addition of NPI, the postseason picture has never been clearer heading into selections. Such transparency left no choice but to leave a number of top performing institutions out of this year's bracket. The 2025 bracket was composed of 14 automatic qualifiers and five at-large selections, the last of which was ranked ninth in NPI. This shows there are highly competitive teams being left out of the bracket.
 - The format would change only slightly from that used in 2025. Adding two teams would add two play-in matches, which would theoretically create three sites with five teams and one site with six. However, due to Division III's emphasis on geographical proximity, the committee understands there may be scenarios in which a site can't host more than four teams without creating a flight. Therefore, the committee recommends establishing a stipulation that would be communicated with potential hosts stating that by submitting a bid they understand they may be asked to host a four-, five- or six-team competition.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. An additional \$83,000 is anticipated to accommodate the bracket expansion (\$31,000 for transportation, \$42,000 for per diem, and \$10,000 for game expenses).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Adding play-in matches would provide lower-ranked teams with more competitive matchups and a realistic chance at winning an NCAA championship match.

c. Championship date formula.

- (1) Recommendation. Conduct the finals in a Thursday-Saturday model versus the current Friday-Sunday approach.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. The committee believes the following factors support completing the championship on a Saturday rather than a Sunday:

- a. Participants, committee members, NCAA staff and other constituents prefer to return home immediately following the conclusion of the championship; however, flights can be difficult to come by on a Sunday evening. Given the upcoming championship locations, the probability of needing connecting flights to and from the site is high.
 - b. The committee feels that a Saturday evening championship match will provide a greater atmosphere for everyone involved.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Playing on Sunday afternoon doesn't provide a true championship atmosphere. The committee believes a Saturday evening timeslot for the competition would enhance the championship atmosphere.

d. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 14 conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2026 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; New England Volleyball Conference; Northern Athletic Collegiate Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; United East; United Volleyball Conference.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (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 – 14

At-Large – 5

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
2. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as presented.
3. **2025 championship review.**
 - a. **Host operations.** The committee appreciated the experience the City of Salem and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference were able to create for the participating institutions. The committee received many positive remarks on the venue and the host accommodations throughout the week of the competition.
 - b. **Film exchange policy.** Committee members continue to support the relationship and film exchange process through Hudl for future championships. The decision was made to add language to ensure institutions submit their latest Division III match to the exchange, rather than their latest regular-season match. To create consistency between the regular season and the postseason the committee decided to allow participants the opportunity to set up their own film station during the postseason, as long as they abide by the following:
 - Must set the film up in the same location and angle as the host's camera setup.
 - Participants cannot move the camera between sets.
 - Participants cannot access/review the film during the match.
 - c. **Banquet.** The committee discussed how to continue enhancing the banquet, including exploring ideas around how to efficiently increase opportunities for student-athletes' family members to attend. In addition, the committee agreed to continue collaborating with the AVCA to announce and honor the All-America award winners in attendance.
 - d. **Higher seed vs. home team.** The committee discussed this relationship and how it has played out in recent years. The committee agreed to continue granting the higher-seeded team the privilege to select the preferred game time.
4. **Governance update.** Staff updated the committee on several items, including educational efforts regarding gambling, a new Division III-specific playing rules structure, championship enhancements, the emergence of women's flag football as an NCAA championship, and programming/training to enhance student-athlete mental health.

5. **Playing rules update.** The playing rules staff provided several updates, 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 Division III Men's Volleyball Committee supported two rules modification proposals for the 2026 season.
6. **Preview of 2026 championship.** The committee discussed the 2026 championship to be conducted in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted by Springfield College. The committee reviewed the facilities and the proposed budget. A site visit is planned for August.
7. **Future championship dates and sites.**
 - a. 2026 – Springfield College, April 24-26.
 - b. 2027 – Salisbury University and Wicomico Sports Authority, April 23-25.
 - c. 2028 – Presidents' Athletic Conference and SportsPITTSBURGH, April 28-30.
8. **2028-30 bid cycle.** The committee discussed the upcoming championship bid cycle along with the locations that submitted bids. The new bid cycle will include 2028-29 through 2029-30.
9. **2025-26 committee calendar.** Committee members reviewed the committee schedule, noting the desire to conduct regional advisory committee discussions on Monday mornings and national committee calls on Monday afternoons.
10. **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 Dan Ames, head men's volleyball coach at Aurora University, will serve as chair of the national committee for 2024-25. The committee discussed ideas surrounding the shift from regional advisory committees to the newly approved coaches connection program.
11. **Bench size.** The committee discussed the intention to increase the 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.
12. **National coordinator of officials.** The committee noted discussion about possibly sharing a national coordinator of officials with the National Collegiate championship. Currently the Division III championship finishes before the National Collegiate championship begins, so there wouldn't be any competing interests with assigning quality officials.

Committee Chair: Dan Ames, Aurora University
Staff Liaison(s): Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee June 16, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Dan Ames, Aurora University.	
Justin Beachy, Messiah University.	
Kulsum Khan, Pratt Institute.	
Brian Magoffin, Springfield 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:	
Connor Lancashire, Championships and Alliances.	
Laura Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs	

Championship Financial Analysis Executive Summary

Request: DIII Men's Volleyball requests an analysis to increase bracket to 21 teams (currently 19)

This request is to be used as an analysis for consideration **NOT** an approval for your budget. The MID-range estimate should be used for future budgetary decisions.

	Current Format	Low	Mid	High
Projected Transportation Expenses	\$ -	\$ 16,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 46,000
% Transportation Expenses		11%	21%	31%
Championship Bracket Size/No. of Participants	418	462	462	462
Total Party Size	22	22	22	22
Official Travel Party - Student Athletes	17	17	17	17
Official Travel Party - Non - Athletes	5	5	5	5
Total Travel Opportunities	19	21	21	21
Official Travel Party Per Person Cost	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350
Travel Inflation	2.93%	2.93%	2.93%	2.93%
Additional Ground Expense			\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000
Additional Commercial Expense			\$ 19,599	\$ 39,199
Additional Charter Expense				
Additional Transportation Expense		\$ 16,000	\$ 7,697	
Projected Per Diem	\$ -	\$ 27,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000
% Per Diem Expenses - Travel Team		14%	22%	22%
Per Diem Per Traveler - Travel Team	\$ 135	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
Per Diem Per Traveler - Host	\$ 55	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60
Traveling Team First Round Per Diem Days (Avg)	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.0
Traveling Team Finals Round Per Diem Days (Avg)	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0
Host Per Diem Days (Avg)	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Projected Total Game Expenses	\$ -	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
% Game Expenses				
Additional Participants	0	44	44	44
Game Expense per Participant	\$ 88	\$ 88	\$ 88	\$ 88
Incremental Participant Game Expense - Direct Ops	\$ -	\$ 3,872	\$ 3,872	\$ 3,872
Committee Expenses (Avg) - Direct Ops	\$ 11,380	\$ 12,560	\$ 12,560	\$ 12,560
Host Site Game Expenses	\$ 6,059	\$ 1,999	\$ 1,999	\$ 1,999
Officials Expenses	\$ 28,092	\$ 31,012	\$ 31,012	\$ 31,012
Honorarium Expenses (Avg)	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450
		\$ 52,000	\$ 83,000	\$ 98,000

Assumptions:

Note 1: Team Travel expense estimate is based on average expense incurred in FY25, FY24, and FY23. Team Travel estimates are based on average actual costs incurred and will fluctuate based on the mode transportation (e.g., commercial air, charter air, ground). The more teams traveling, the greater the potential for adverse travel cost volatility. Local ground included in mid and high estimate.

Note 2: Per diem information based on championships information from TES. Estimates for average per diem days are based on average actuals incurred in prior years and will fluctuate based on mode of transportation and distance from event. First Round average per diem days per traveler based on 2025 actuals due to format change - addition of first round games. Mid and High estimate per diem takes into account projected travel exception requests.

Note 3: Projected per diem cost is based on current projected FY26 per diem rate of \$150 per person per day. Cost may increase if per diem rate is raised between now and implementation. Host per diem rate is 1/2 day of per diem or 1 full day of per diem (if both dining facilities and residence halls are closed) for each day the institution competes based on NCAA travel policies.

Melissa Piening

Signature Approval _____