

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE
MAY 28-29, 2019 MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Regional alignment.**

(1) Recommendation. That the North Eastern Athletic Conference move from the West evaluation region to the East.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.

(3) Rationale. Division III men's volleyball has seen a rapid increase in sport sponsorship in recent years. While some of that growth is in the East evaluation region, most of the growth is in the West region. Based on geographic location and NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.3 requiring conference members to be placed in the same evaluation region, the committee has placed the many new programs in the West region.

The addition of seven new programs in the West region causes an imbalance in the number of teams in each region. The current alignment, with the addition of the seven new programs, would place 41 teams in the East and 66 in the West. This imbalance will cause the number of ranked teams in each region to differ greatly (based on the NCAA Division III Championships Committee's guidelines that a sport committee rank between 15 and 21 percent of teams the East region would rank a minimum of six and a maximum of nine, the West region would rank a minimum of ten and a maximum of 14). Moving the NEAC to the East region would balance the regions and help better manage the number of ranked teams.

The committee feels that making this change effective for the 2020 championship will have minimal impact on teams even though scheduling has already started for most institutions. Since Division III men's volleyball is split into only two regions, and a contest can be counted as in-region through five different criteria, the ability of institutions to meet the minimum 70 percent in-region scheduling requirement to be eligible for the championship should not be impacted. Also, with the 2020 bracket consisting of 10 automatic berths and only six at-large berths (four pool C),

the final four teams selected to the field will ultimately have had to schedule the best teams regardless of whether they are in-region, so having this region change implemented for the coming year should not impact the way a coach would schedule without a year advance notice of the regional change.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Better aligning the evaluation regions will allow for teams to be ranked with those most proximate to them. It will also set the stage for better alignment for teams as the sport continues to grow.

Committee Chair: John Garrett, Hunter College.
Staff Liaison: Nick Strah, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men's Volleyball Committee May 28-29, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
John Garrett, Hunter College.
Evin Giglio, Wentworth Institute of Technology.
Dan Liberto, Marymount University.
Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois).
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
None.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Jay Jones, Governance.