



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WRESTLING COMMITTEE
APRIL 18-19, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - None.
2. **Nonlegislative items.**
 - None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2022 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report from the 2021 annual meeting as submitted.
2. **Governance update.** Bill Regan from gave an update on athletic training, playing rules, championship enhancements, student-athletes as employees on campus and NIL and philosophy statement.
3. **Officials' assignments timeline.** National Coordinator Tim Shiels joined the committee to discuss officiating. First year of video review through an independent evaluator was a success. It remains critical that the video review team has a working knowledge of the sport of wrestling. As a new national coordinator is hired, the committee should make sure the individual is DIII sensitive and knowledgeable of the challenges in the division. It was discussed that quality regional tournament officials are critical, as the qualification metric is difficult. The national coordinator recommended that the committee request two additional officials at the national championships. As the end of the budget cycle approaches, the committee would be interested in adding two additional mat officials and two full time video review officials. NCAA staff discussed selection of officials will keep the same timeline and process as with previous years.
4. **Future sites and bid specifications.** The committee discussed the upcoming bid cycle along with bid specs. The new bid cycle will run 2026-27 through 2029-30. The 2024 championships will be held March 15-16 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI.

5. **Bracket Format.**

- a. **Bracket size (pigtails vs. 32).** The committee preferred the 32-person bracket adding that it was simpler, and will look for Trackwrestling to set up the DII wrestling model found on NCAA.
- b. **Top seeds in pigtails.** It was explained to the committee that top seeds in pigtails contributes to wrestlers who's institutions are in the team running score additional points. The committee continues to allow this programing.
- c. **Regional opponents.** The committee looked to eliminate in the Trackwrestling programing that assigns wrestlers to compete multiple times on the first day of competition due to student-athlete experience.

6. **Opening ceremonies.** The committee discussed the timing of opening ceremonies and how it affects warmup timing for the opening round of student-athletes competing in the first session during the championships. The group agreed it was important to recognize all competitors representing their institutions and was indecisive on an opening ceremony on Friday morning and elected to present the slide deck introducing participants. The committee chair and host will coordinate the layout.

7. **Timelines.** The committee discussed moving the bracket release from Monday at 5:00 p.m. Eastern to after replacement timeline on Tuesday at noon. For the championship site, seeding due from national preseed committee would be due on Wednesday, with committees logging into the tournaments available for tabulation on Thursday. Friday, a preseed call with committee at will begin at noon Eastern. The committee meetings would begin at 11:30 am Eastern and following the preseed call. For the national championship.

8. **Regional alignment.**

- a. **New team placement.** The committee placed new teams in regions. Blackburn College and Illinois Wesleyan University will compete in the Lower Midwest, Utica University will compete in the northeast region, and St. Vincent College will compete in the southeast region.
- b. **Principles and philosophy.** The committee discussed the philosophy of regional alignment. Geographic proximity and championship access balance

and competitive balance were defined as the core principles during realignment process from 2015 to 2017, however the committee examined redefining the principles to include geographic consideration, balanced championship access through alignment, Conference affiliation, and competitive consideration. The committee revisited the current automatic qualification philosophy against a partial automatic qualification, partial at-large philosophy which would include additional selection criteria that would be developed by the committee. The committee discussed there is a model in Division I, however, there are additional and efficient opportunities to collect stats and criteria, along with a significant opportunity to compete across regions at the Division I level which are less prevalent in Division III. The committee also discussed bracket expansion and the

9. **Budget Cycle.** The committee discussed the upcoming division wide budget cycle, which will begin in 2024-25. The discussed budget topics included bracket expansion and additional officials at the championship site.
10. **Committee chair.** The committee recommended that Josh Malave, head wrestling coach at Case Western Reserve University, serve his second term as chair of the committee.

Committee Chair: Kim Blum, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Staff Liaison: J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Division III Wrestling Committee April 18-19, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Kim Blum, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.	
Anthony Bonaventura, Steven s Institute of Technology.	
Josh Malave, Case Western Reserve University.	
Bryan Marshall, Millikin University.	
Jason McLean, Muhlenberg College.	
Scott Legacy, Castleton University.	
Absentees:	
None.	

Guests in Attendance:
Tim Shiels, NCAA national coordinator of officials (teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances. Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Bill Regan.