



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20 AND 27, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCES**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. 2021 NCAA Division II National Championships Festival.

- (1) Recommendation. To not conduct the 2021 NCAA Division II National Championships Festival originally scheduled for March 10-13 in Birmingham, Ala., and instead conduct those championships separately.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. While the Division II Championships Committee acknowledges that the National Championships Festivals are a celebrated hallmark of the division and that under normal circumstances they provide an extraordinarily positive and memorable experience for participants, the committee believes it is prudent given the risk factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic not to convene such a large contingent of student-athletes at a single site under these conditions this year. Additionally, because much of what makes the festivals special involves close interaction and camaraderie (e.g., the opening and closing ceremonies, the increased community engagement activities, the student-athlete lounges, and the team meals), conducting the festival “as is” may compromise student-athlete health and safety because of the virus. Accordingly, the committee believes it is best to conduct these championships separately this year rather than as part of a festival format.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. To be determined. Anticipated savings from not having opening ceremonies and student-athlete lounges could be reallocated to cover other championship expenses.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. While the Championships Committee regrets recommending that one of the division’s premier events not be conducted, members believe the decision ultimately is in student-athletes’ best interests to protect their health and safety.

b. Sport committee appointments. Ratify the following sport committee appointments, effective immediately.

- **Women's rowing.** Appoint **Jeanette McKillop**, associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, Franklin Pierce University, to replace Rachel Burleson, director of athletics, Franklin Pierce University, who resigned from the committee; and **Matt Weise**, head coach, Humboldt State University, to replace Andrew Derrick, head coach, Seattle Pacific University, who resigned from the committee.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and review of agenda. Championships Committee Chair Sue Willey welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

2. Discussion regarding 2021 NCAA Division II winter sport championships. In addition to the recommendation regarding the 2021 National Championships Festival in Action Item 2-a, the committee continued discussing how winter sport championships will be conducted given the requirements the NCAA Board of Governors determined are necessary to keep participants safe (e.g., reducing the number of sites, converting all sites to predetermined, increasing time between selections and travel, evaluating travel and hotel capacity, and enhanced testing and sanitization). Noting that these modifications will impact the Division II championships expenses for 2021, the committee is aware that it may need to consider options for reducing expenses for Division II winter championships, including possibly reducing field sizes and brackets. The committee also discussed options for – and the feasibility of – adjusting the dates of select championships if necessary. While the committee did not finalize recommendations at this time, members did agree to the following:

- Ask the Division II winter sport committees (wrestling, men's basketball, women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's and women's track and field) to review current dates, formats and contractual agreements for the 2021 championships and notify the Championships Committee by its September 9 meeting whether changes are feasible and/or recommended.
- Ask the Division II Conference Commissioners Association to assess its membership's intent to sponsor winter sports and report findings to the Championships Committee by its September 9 meeting.

3. Other business.

- **Committee roster.** The committee officially recognized outgoing members Greg Bamberger, Kristin Mort and Sue Willey, whose terms on the committee expire August 31. The committee expressed its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to those three members for their outstanding contributions throughout their terms of service. The committee

extended its special thanks to Ms. Willey, who has served the group as chair for the last two years and is retiring from intercollegiate athletics September 1 after 45 years. Members cited her extraordinary leadership, especially during this past year of unprecedented circumstances and challenges, and they noted how much – and how consistently and positively – she contributed to Division II intercollegiate athletics over time.

- 4. Future meetings/videoconferences.** The committee will next meet via Microsoft Teams on September 9.

Committee Chair: Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis; Great Lakes Valley Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs

| Division II Championships Committee August 20 and 27, 2020, Videoconferences | |
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| Attendees: | |
| Reid Amos, Mountain East Conference. | |
| Greg Bamberger, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. | |
| Steve Card, Western Washington University. | |
| Dick Christy, University of North Carolina at Pembroke. | |
| Grant Foley, Delta State University (Division II SAAC representative). | |
| Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (Management Council chair). | |
| Terri Holmes, Northern State University. | |
| Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University (Management Council vice chair). | |
| Matt Kilcullen, Mercy College. | |
| Courtney Lovely, Palm Beach Atlantic University. | |
| Carrie Michaels, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. | |
| Kristin Mort, Colorado Mesa University. | |
| Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University. | |
| Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis. | |
| Absentees: | |
| None. | |
| Guests in Attendance: | |
| Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor. | |
| NCAA Staff Support in Attendance: | |
| Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances. | |
| Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances. | |

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| Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs. |
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| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: |
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| John Baldwin, Liza Erwin, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Corbin McGuire, LaKitha Murray, Stephanie Quigg, Jay Jay Rackley, Angela Red, Ryan Tressel and Donnie Wagner. |
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