



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 4, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Revised bracketing model for the Division II Football Championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That once the Division II Football Committee selects the seven teams from each of the four super regions (no change from previous selection process), those teams will be placed in the bracket as follows:
  - The top four teams in each of the four super regions will remain in their original seed (as selected) and be placed in their home super region.
  - The No. 1 seed will still receive a bye in the first round as has been the case in prior years.
  - Teams ranked 5, 6 and 7 in each super region (at the point of selections as determined by the national committee on Selection Sunday) will be placed in the bracket in any region. The first priority in placing all unseeded teams will be to minimize potential flights.
  - Teams selected in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> spots from each super region will not have a seed affiliated with them when they are placed into the bracket.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The recommended model from the Division II Football Committee was proposed as a way to address rising travel costs over recent years, particularly since regions were realigned in 2017 to accommodate the addition of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference. While overages in the past two years have been handled within the overall championships budget, the Championships Committee and the Football Committee both agreed that alternative models should be sought to mitigate expenses in the future. Championships Committee members believe the Football Committee's proposal is worth implementing for the short term; however, the Football Committee shall continue to review the matter and explore alternatives (including a re-examination and financial analysis of regional alignments, travel party size, etc.) in case this model does not produce the intended results.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. A minimum of \$198,000 (2 charter flights) to a maximum of \$594,000 (six charter flights) are the potential savings for a given year of the championship.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The proposed bracketing model would result in more teams taking ground transportation to first- or second-round sites, which in turn will allow families, friends and program supporters increased opportunities to attend playoff contests in support of their teams.

**b. Sport and rules committee appointments.** Ratify the following sport and playing rules committee appointments, effective September 1, 2019, unless specified otherwise.

- **Baseball.** Appoint **Ruben Perez Jr.**, sports information director, Morehouse College, to replace Tommy Sadler, director of athletics, Union University, due to term expiration.
- **Women's basketball.** Appoint **Jenni Morrison**, associate director of athletics, California University of Pennsylvania, to replace Melanie Ford, assistant director of athletics, Shepherd University, due to term expiration.
- **Women's basketball rules.** Appoint **Noel Johnson**, head women's basketball coach, Midwestern State University, to replace Kerri Nakamoto, head women's basketball coach, University of Alaska Fairbanks, due to term expiration.
- **Football (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Robert Mallory**, director of athletics, Kentucky Wesleyan University, to replace Gary Goff, head football coach, Tiffin University, who has left the institution.
- **Football rules.** Appoint **Kirsten Ford**, assistant commissioner/senior woman administrator, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, to replace Monte Carter, head football coach, Shepherd University, due to term expiration.
- **Women's golf (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Randy Loggins**, associate director of athletics, Tusculum University, to replace Sara Quatroky, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Lynn University, who has left the institution.
- **Men's and women's tennis (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Lee Underwood**, head tennis coach, Barton College, to replace Cammie Nix, head tennis coach, Young Harris College, who has left the institution.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division II Championships Committee Chair Sue Willey welcomed members to the call and introduced new member Suzanne Sanregret, who will serve as the committee liaison for indoor and outdoor track and field.

2. **Recent committee reports.** The committee approved its March 7 teleconference report as amended (Informational Item 3-b changed from “Women’s Soccer” to “Softball”).
3. **Nominating Committee request for feedback.** The Championships Committee reviewed a request from the Nominating Committee for input regarding whether service on a sport committee that does not have a regional advisory committee (RAC) substructure should be weighed equally to RAC experience. The Nominating Committee currently requires RAC experience for appointments to sport committees with RACs, but during one such recent evaluation, one nominee had excellent experience on a non-RAC sport committee. Ultimately the Nominating Committee recommended a candidate with RAC experience, but the Nominating Committee wants the Championships Committee’s perspective on this topic for future considerations. After discussion, the Championships Committee supported the value the Nominating Committee places on RAC experience but agreed that service on a national committee without the RAC substructure should not preclude a candidate from being considered on a sport committee with RACs.
4. **Review feedback tool for neutrality in the postseason.** The Championships Committee reviewed and approved a request for feedback from sport committees and Coaches Connection participants to determine whether to change the current principles of neutrality at on-campus postseason events. The document asked for responses to the following questions by August 16 (with review from the Championships Committee during its September in-person meeting):
  - Should preliminary-round hosts be allowed to give season ticket holders first right of refusal for on-campus NCAA postseason competition?
  - Should preliminary-round hosts be allowed to run regular-season pregame promotions and celebrations (e.g., noisemakers, cannons, fireworks, special announcements) before resuming neutral operations in-game?
  - Should preliminary-round hosts be allowed to use artificial noise celebrations, entry or walk-up music, or other in-game promotions for the home team and not the visiting team?
5. **Festival Working Group update.** Committee members reviewed a supplement containing several concepts the working group explored during its March 11-12 in-person meeting and noted that the working group will convene again via teleconference to finalize recommendations before the Championships Committee’s June meeting.
6. **Other business.**
  - **Game times in championships.** Committee members asked to review during their June in-person meeting whether sport committees should take into account team travel situations when assigning game times for the first day of games at the championship final site (e.g.,

whether a team from the West region should be provided the flexibility of competing later in the day).

**7. Adjournment.** Ms. Willey adjourned the call at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis  
*Staff Liaisons:* Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances  
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances  
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division II Championships Committee April 4, 2019, Teleconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Michael Anderson, Gulf South Conference.	
Greg Bamberger, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.	
Pat Britz, South Atlantic Conference.	
Steve Card, Western Washington University.	
Mike Cerino, Limestone College.	
Grant Foley, Delta State University (Division II SAAC Representative).	
Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (Management Council Vice Chair).	
Terri Holmes, Northern State University.	
Courtney Lovely, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Kristin Mort, Colorado Mesa University.	
Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.	
Tom Shirley, Thomas Jefferson University.	
Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Laura Liesman, Georgian Court University (Management Council Chair).	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.	
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.	
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.	

Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.
Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.