



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Championship date formula for women's lacrosse in festival years.

- (1) Recommendation. Adjust the date formula during festival years so that first- and second-round games are held the Thursday and Saturday before the finals. (This moves the first and second round one day earlier.)
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. Currently during festival years, the semifinals and final are conducted Thursday and Saturday, with the first- and second-round games played the prior Friday and Saturday. Beginning with the 2018-19 season, a rest day was approved between the first- and second-round games to mirror the rest day between the semifinals and final. With the added rest day, the first- and second-round games are now played on Friday and Sunday in non-festival years. Under the current formula, the first and second rounds would no longer mirror the championship. Additionally, the current formula has advancing teams playing the first and second round on Friday and Sunday, then be expected to arrive at the Festival on Monday for opening ceremonies.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would provide additional recovery time between the preliminary rounds and the championship, as well as an additional non-travel day for the student-athletes between the second round and the championship.

b. Preliminary-round date formula for women's soccer.

- (1) Recommendation. Allow preliminary-round hosts to choose a Thursday-Saturday or Friday-Sunday format to best suit their needs.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.

- (3) Rationale. Flexibility allows institutions to choose days based on what will provide for the most successful preliminary-round experience, depending on other on-campus events that may be taking place. Further, flexibility in days allows institutions that have earned the right to host preliminary rounds in both men's and women's soccer to do so without undue scheduling challenges. This change would provide consistency among both championships, as the men's preliminary-round hosts already have the ability to choose their days of competition. (The current women's soccer championship date formula requires all hosts to conduct competition on Friday and Sunday, unless a No Sunday Play institution was competing at the site.)
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. With the ability to avoid possible conflicts with other events on campus, host institutions can provide the best possible experience for the participating teams.

c. Seeding adjustment for women's soccer.

- (1) Recommendation. Seed the four teams advancing to the finals of the Division II Women's Soccer Championship based on the Division II strength of schedule, Division II won-lost percentage and performance indicator (PI), which are all part of the selection criteria for women's soccer. Further, the data used for seeding the advancing teams will encompass only regular-season results since teams do not control who they play in the postseason.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The Division II Women's Soccer Committee began seeding the teams advancing to the finals with the 2018 championship at the direction of the Division II Championships Committee. The soccer committee decided to use the PI since it incorporates many factors into its formula (result, location, strength of opponent). After the first year, the committee feels that more data points will be beneficial to seeding the four teams. The committee also wants to use results only from the regular season since a team does not control its opponents or whether it has a bye in the postseason. Using results from all games prior to the NCAA tournament ensures equitable comparisons for all teams.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Seeding the teams at the finals provides the most competitive matchups for the student-athletes.

d. Selection Criteria requirements for men's golf.

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the selection criteria in men's golf by adding the following language:

“An institution must meet sport sponsorship requirements per NCAA Division II Bylaw 20 prior to selections for any team or individual to be considered for at-large selection.”

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The Championships Committee requested sport committees for individual sports to align sport sponsorship and championship selection minimums in those sports in which the requirements were not the same(the Division II Management Council also supported this request). The golf committee believes that, at a minimum, sport sponsorship requirements should be met for any team or individual to be considered for championship selection.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

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

- **Baseball (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Steve Browning**, director of athletics, Southern Arkansas University, to replace Mark Clements, associate director of athletics, Northwest Missouri State University, who has left the institution.
- **Baseball rules.** Appoint **Mark Brew**, head baseball coach, Lee University, to replace Rudy Garbalosa, head baseball coach, Lynn University, due to term expiration.
- **Men's basketball.** Appoint **Michael McBroom**, director of athletics, West Texas A&M University, to replace Jason Boothe, director of athletics, Dixie State University, due to term expiration.
- **Men's basketball rules.** Appoint **Jim Boone**, head men's basketball coach, Delta State University, to replace Bernie Driscoll, head men's basketball coach, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, due to term expiration.

- **Women's bowling.** Appoint **Robert Cincotta**, head women's bowling coach, Molloy College, to replace James Washington, head women's bowling coach, Virginia Union University, due to term expiration.
- **Men's and women's cross country.** Reappoint **Shawn Green**, assistant director of athletics, Southern New Hampshire University. Appoint **Chris Bradford**, head cross country and track and field coach, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, to replace Preston Grey, head cross country and track and field coach, Azusa Pacific University, due to term expiration.
- **Football.** Appoint **Paul Lueken**, director of athletics, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, to replace Reid Amos, commissioner, Mountain East Conference; and **Monica Gordy Polizzi**, head softball coach/senior woman administrator, Mars Hill University, to replace Dick Christy, director of athletics, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, due to term expirations.
- **Football rules (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Bill Zwaan**, head football coach, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, to replace William Wagner, head football coach, Angelo State University, who has left the institution.
- **Women's rowing.** Appoint **Angie Jabir**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Nova Southeastern University, to replace Marlon Furlongue, assistant director of athletics, Nova Southeastern University, due to term expiration.
- **Men's soccer.** Appoint **Brian McMahon**, head men's soccer coach, Palm Beach Atlantic University, to replace Bill Elliott, head men's soccer coach, University of West Florida, due to term expiration.
- **Women's soccer.** Appoint **Margaret McGraw**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Ouachita Baptist University, to replace Lewis Theobald, head women's soccer coach, University of Central Missouri; and **Neil Piper**, head women's soccer coach, Texas A&M University-Commerce, to replace J. B. Belzer, head women's soccer coach, Regis University (Colorado), due to term expirations.
- **Softball.** Appoint **Allie Kolezynski**, assistant commissioner, Mountain East Conference, to replace John Wilson Jr., assistant director of athletics, Virginia State University; and **Rebekah Gasner**, director of compliance/senior woman administrator, Montana State University Billings, to replace Brandon Davis, associate director of athletics, San Francisco State University, due to term expirations.
- **Softball rules.** Appoint **Shena Hollar**, head softball coach/senior woman administrator, Lenoir-Rhyne University, to replace Edith Gallagher, head softball coach, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, due to term expiration.

- **Men's and women's swimming and diving (immediate appointment).** Appoint **Jennifer Mervar**, assistant director of athletics, University of Indianapolis, to replace Kate Burke, associate director of athletics, Colorado School of Mines, who has left the institution.
- **Men's and women's tennis.** Appoint **Kelly Elliott**, assistant commissioner/senior woman administrator, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, to replace Ci Ly, head men's and women's tennis coach, Palm Beach Atlantic University, due to term expiration.
- **Men's and women's track and field.** Appoint **Zach Emerson**, assistant director of athletics/head track and field coach, Franklin Pierce University, to replace Lorne Marcus, assistant director of athletics, St. Thomas Aquinas College, due to term expiration.
- **Women's volleyball.** Appoint **Jill Stephens**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Florida Southern College, to replace Doug Walters, head women's volleyball coach, Palm Beach Atlantic University, due to term expiration.
- **Wrestling.** Reappoint **Ann Traphagen**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Augustana University (South Dakota).
- **Wrestling rules.** Appoint **Austin Devoe**, head wrestling coach, Colorado School of Mines, to replace Jason Warthan, head wrestling coach, University of Indianapolis, due to term expiration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division II Championships Committee Chair Sue Willey welcomed Grant Foley, the new SAAC representative from Delta State University, and reviewed the meeting schedule and key discussion items.
2. **Division II strategic plan.** Staff noted that the midterm assessment of the six-year plan has been completed and is now available online, along with supporting materials to help institutions and conferences align the division's goals and objectives within their own strategic planning efforts.
3. **Recent committee reports.** The committee approved its December teleconference report as presented.
4. **Budget update.** Staff reviewed game operations, team transportation and per diem expenses for the 2018 fall championships and noted that several charges are still outstanding. The

committee will review final budget numbers from the 2018 fall championships during its June meeting.

5. Committee updates.

a. Membership Committee. Staff updated the group on institutions in the membership process, as well as two additional institutions that have applied for membership (College of Staten Island and Frostburg State University). The Division II Membership Committee will review those applications in July.

b. Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

- **Recent reports.** The committee reviewed the panel's recent reports as information only.
- **Soccer forfeiture update.** Staff noted that the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee will meet in March to further discuss a rule in men's and women's soccer requiring a postgame forfeit to be imposed if a student-athlete or coach participates in a match when they should have been serving a suspension for a red card or accumulation of yellow cards. The rules committee previously wanted the penalty to apply to the regular season in addition to affecting postseason selection but tabled the matter until its March meeting to seek feedback from the soccer community and other governance groups about whether any changes being considered would have unintended consequences. The Championships Committee at its September 2018 meeting decided to not support enforcing the existing forfeit rule, and to not support a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system (i.e., that the score would be changed, and the statistics not counted). Rather, the committee advised the rules committee to consider a different approach regarding how a penalty in these instances should affect the regular season (e.g., fines, additional suspensions, etc.). Staff noted that the championships oversight bodies in Division I and III were also not supportive of enforcing the existing forfeit rule nor a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system. Further, the Championships Committee advised the sport committees to use the existing nullification process as a tool to address these situations as they relate to postseason selection. (Staff noted that the sport committees are prepared to act on the nullification concept, if approved.)

6. NCAA Convention update.

- **Legislation.** Staff reviewed the recent NCAA Convention at which all proposals on the floor were adopted, including one replacing the coaches test with completion of required modules via the new Division II University platform. Staff noted that the required courses (two on recruiting, two on eligibility and two related to health and safety) will be bundled and launched on April 1.

- **Life in the Balance.** Staff also noted that the Division II Presidents Council and Division II Management Council met jointly at the Convention to review the division's Life in the Balance philosophy, noting an increase in legislative proposals in recent years seeking to reverse some of the playing and practice season restrictions that Life in the Balance originally meant to streamline. Both councils felt strongly that Life in the Balance remains as a viable approach for the division, not only for playing and practice season but also as a way to deliver a valued college experience for Division II student-athletes (the 2018 membership census also supported this premise).

7. **Regionalization philosophy discussion.** The committee continued discussing issues related to regionalization, particularly whether regionalization principles are met at the time of selection or the final site. The Regionalization Working Group appointed in 2017 discussed this issue at length but in its final report recommended that the membership weigh in further on the following statement in the current regionalization guiding principles:

"The Division II regionalization philosophy provides access to national championships from every region of the country. Regionalization does not guarantee that the best eight programs in the country will compete for a national championship, but it does guarantee that the different regions of the country will be represented at the championship by each region's best team."

Conferences were asked for input, though few provided any, which indicated to the Championships Committee that the membership in general is not eager to change the principle. In their own discussion, Championships Committee members agreed that guaranteeing representation from each region at the championship final site should be maintained. While it is mandated that sport committees seed the teams advancing to the final site, regional representation at the final site is a significant and distinguishing Division II attribute. Accordingly, the Championships Committee supported keeping the guiding principle as currently written.

8. **Minimum sports sponsorship requirements and scheduling requirements for championship selection.** The Championships Committee had asked sport committees for individual sports that did not have the same requirements for sport sponsorship and championship selection minimums to review whether those should be aligned (the Division II Management Council also supported this request). The Championships Committee approved a recommendation from the Division II Women's Golf Committee to adjust its requirements at a previous meeting. The Division II Men's Golf Committee has recommended adjusting its selection criteria to match what the women's committee did, which the Championships Committee also approved (see Action Item 2-d). The committee also noted that the wrestling and swimming and diving committees indicated an initial desire not to adjust their current requirements (due to the potential negative affect on sponsorship), but the Championships Committee directed those two sport committees to revisit the request and propose adjustments for future consideration.

9. Data regarding championship performance and demographics of participants. Due to past membership concerns regarding the perceived advanced experience level of some student-athletes (particularly in men's soccer), the NCAA research staff was asked to review the data collected in 2017 from the NCAA's Academic Tracking System, as well as from school websites, to determine whether there is a relationship between student-athlete age and championship qualification. The data the staff was able to acquire does not demonstrate any systemic evidence that the average age of squads is significantly related to whether the squad advanced to the championship. The Championships Committee agreed that while no additional research is merited at this time, sport committees across the division should continue to monitor the issue.

10. Sport committee reports.

a. Field hockey.

- **Annual meeting report.** The Championships Committee reviewed the report from the Division II Field Hockey Committee's recent annual meeting as information only.
- **Joint committee report.** Championships Committee members also reviewed the report from the joint Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees and noted the rules modifications recommendations (flexibility for uniforms and moving from halves to quarters) that those groups are submitting to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel for consideration.

b. Football.

- **Future sites.** The committee approved the Lone Star Conference hosting the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Division II Football Championships at McKinney ISD Stadium in McKinney, Texas.
- **Revised bracketing model.** The committee supported in concept a recommendation to change the way the Division II Football Committee places teams in the bracket in order to minimize flights, effective with the 2019 championship. However, because the financials of that recommendation have not yet been confirmed, the Championships Committee agreed to revisit the issue and make a formal recommendation during a future teleconference.

c. Men's soccer. The Championships Committee reviewed the report from the Division II Men's Soccer Committee's recent annual meeting as information only.

d. Women's soccer.

- **Adjustment to seeding the bracket at the championship finals.** The committee approved a recommendation to seed the four teams advancing to the finals based on criteria as specified (see Acton Item 2-c).

e. Men's and women's soccer.

- **Future site.** The committee approved Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the location of the 2021 men's and women's soccer championships. The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference will serve as the host conference, with support from the City of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation.
- **Preliminary-round date formula.** The committee approved a flexible date formula for preliminary-round hosts that allows them to choose a Thursday-Saturday or Friday-Sunday format to best suit their needs (see Action Item 2-b).
- **Web stream requirements for video exchange.** The committee approved adding the following additional criteria to the current web streaming requirements to provide the best possible consistency in the video exchange process institutions use during the men's and women's soccer championships:
 - Filming position(s) must include a camera at mid-field line with a minimum height, above ground level, of 20 feet.
 - At kickoff, show the entire field before play start.
 - After kickoff, show the third of the field that the ball is in- from sideline to sideline. Try to zoom in to cut out as much non-field space (benches, parking lots, etc.) as possible.
 - The camera position and angle should avoid glare, if possible.
 - Filming should begin at least one minute prior to kick-off, and continue after the match has concluded, to include the handshake line and exit of both teams from the field of play.

f. Women's lacrosse.

- **Championship date formula.** The committee approved adjusting the date formula for the first- and second-round games during festival years as specified (see Action Item 2-a).

g. Women's volleyball.

- **Competition requirements for at-large selection.** The committee tabled a request from the Division II Women's Volleyball Committee to revise at-large selection requirements in accordance with the timeline for selection criteria recommendations.

- **Competition requirements for regional hosts.** The Championships Committee did not support a request to establish scheduling requirements in order to host, noting that such requirements do not exist for any other sport.

11. Other discussion items.

- a. Fall championships recaps.** The committee reviewed reports from the 2018 fall championships.
- b. Women's basketball strategic plan.** Staff updated the committee on the development of a cross-divisional, five-year strategic plan for NCAA Women's Basketball that will launch this spring, noting valuable input from the Division II Women's Basketball Committee on the initiative.
- c. Neutrality requirements at postseason events.** The committee discussed a desire expressed within some segments of the membership to allow flexibility in the neutrality policy in the postseason. The concern is based in part on the notion that schools have earned the right to host and thus should be allowed to conduct the contest in a manner that resembles what they do during the regular season. The Championships Committee acknowledged the concerns but also agreed fundamentally that an NCAA postseason event is different than a regular-season event. As such, the committee did not take action to change the policy but did agree to ask sport committees to discuss what specific changes they would make per sport in order for the Championships Committee to evaluate their impact on the policy. The issue also will be vetted through the Coaches Connection program.

12. Lone Star Conference waiver request. The committee approved a request from the Lone Star Conference to waive the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification to the Division II Men's Soccer Championship. The Lone Star, which previously did not have an AQ for men's soccer, based its request on its expansion to 19 full-time members in 2019, which includes 10 men's soccer programs that had been competing under the Heartland Conference banner since 2016. The Championships Committee agreed that the waiver is merited because the Heartland Conference will cease to exist, and that 10 of the 11 active sponsors of the sport in the expanded Lone Star have played together for at least two years, as required.

13. Staff updates.

- a. Legal.** Staff updated the committee on relevant issues, including ramifications resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to allow state-by-state sports wagering.
- b. Governance.**

- **January 2019 summary of actions.** The committee received an update on the most recent Management and Presidents Council meetings in January as information only.
 - **Championships analytics from Turner.** Staff summarized selection show and contest streaming analytics from the 2018 fall championships.
- c. **Coaches Connection.** Jill Willson from Double L Consulting updated the committee on the Division II Coaches Connection program, noting its continued success as a communication conduit that further engages coaches on issues and hot topics within their respective sport.
- d. **Community engagement.** Ms. Willson also updated the committee on the various community engagement initiatives that took place at the most recent festival in Pittsburgh for fall sports, noting that about 950 student-athletes interacted with more than 2,500 community members that week.
- e. **Division II National Championships Festivals.** Staff summarized the success of the fall championships festival and previewed plans for the next festival for spring sports in St. Louis in 2020. Staff also summarized the timeline for the working group the committee appointed to review and improve various logistics and efficiencies for future festivals.
- f. **Division II University.** Staff presented an update on the DII U platform, noting that 28 courses already have been uploaded (including the six that are required for coaches – see Informational Item No. 6. Additional courses are planned for countable athletically related activities (CARA) and voluntary activities (or what have come to be known as “voluntold” activities), as well as courses that help explain regionalization and championships selection processes and policies.

14. Other business.

- **Fine for missing the deadline to submit automatic qualification application forms.** Committee members discussed the penalties for conferences that fail to submit the AQ application forms by the Feb. 1 deadline. Staff will review the penalty structure on a future teleconference and the committee may recommend changes at that time.
- **Gender equity in officiating.** Committee members noted as a priority the need to increase involvement of women in officiating, particularly in women’s sports and particularly at the festivals. While the committee is aware of the various challenges related to populating the pipeline in officiating, and that those concerns are Association-wide issues, the committee reiterated that whatever can be done in the short term by sport committees and the membership at large to address gender equity at Division II championships is a priority.

- **Review of rankings process.** The committee discussed membership concerns with the regional ranking process prior to selections, noting that the rankings immediately before selections may give ranked teams a false sense of security. Acknowledging that this perception may be self-inflicted, the committee nonetheless believes the issue is worth raising among conference sports information directors and sport committees to review whether actions could be taken to reduce the likelihood that teams would take their selection chances for granted based on their ranking late in the season.

15. Future meeting dates and sites.

- a. June 26-27, 2019 (Indianapolis).
- b. September 10-11, 2019 (Indianapolis).
- c. February 19-20, 2020 (Indianapolis).
- d. June 24-25, 2020 (Indianapolis).
- e. September 9-10, 2020 (Indianapolis).

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 February 20, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Michael Anderson, Gulf South Conference.	
Greg Bamberger, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (via teleconference).	
Pat Britz, South Atlantic Conference.	
Steve Card, Western Washington University.	
Mike Cerino, Limestone College (via teleconference).	
Grant Foley, Delta State University (Division II SAAC Representative).	
Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (Management Council Vice Chair).	
Terri Holmes, Northern State University.	
Laura Liesman, Georgian Court University (Management Council Chair).	
Courtney Lovely, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Kristin Mort, Colorado Mesa University.	
Tom Shirley, Thomas Jefferson University (via teleconference).	

Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Jill Willson, Double L Consulting (via teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Michael Bazemore, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Scott Bearby, Legal Counsel.
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Dan Calandro, Playing Rules.
Donisha Carter, Championships and Alliances.
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.
Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.
Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.
Kelsey Jones, Championships and Alliances.
Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.
Binh Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.
Micki Spears, Administrative Services.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Gregg Summers, Research.
Sharon Tufano, Governance.
Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.