



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19-20, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Policy when institutions exceed maximum scheduling limits.

- (1) Recommendation. Establish a policy that applies a “1-for-1” statistical penalty to any team under consideration for postseason selection whose schedule has exceeded the maximum number of contests during that season, similar to the principles of nullification.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The Championships Committee is concerned about the potential advantage gained by an institution that exceeds the scheduling limits in a given sport. Currently, there is no policy in such cases that would address the violation contemporaneously; rather, past instances have typically become an enforcement issue (Bylaw 17 violation) resulting in the institution accepting a “2-for-1” scheduling penalty for the subsequent season (i.e., the institution is required to schedule two fewer games for each game that exceeded the maximum). The Championships Committee supports that practice moving forward, but believes there also should be a policy in place that carries more immediate ramifications. While nullification does not apply to Bylaw 17, the committee supports a similar application to how nullification applies to postseason selection in order to penalize the violating team without negatively affecting other teams under consideration. Accordingly, the committee supports establishing a policy in which a “1-for-1” statistical penalty is applied for each game that exceeds the maximum contest limit.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. In-region requirements for men’s golf.

- (1) Recommendation. Adjust the criteria for team at-large selections to reflect a minimum of 50 in-region opponents (up from the current 40).
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2021.

(3) Rationale. The Championships Committee supported this recommendation at its September 2019 meeting; however, the Division II Management Council during its October 2019 meeting deferred action pending further review, citing concern about whether the recommendation would inadvertently increase the number of contest or increase institutional costs. The Division II Men's Golf Committee clarified that the recommendation would not impact costs; rather, it will help the regional advisory and national committees during the ranking and selection processes by affording additional data points to compare and select teams within a given region. The Championships Committee supports this clarification and affirmed its support for the proposal.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Women's soccer seeding protocol.

(1) Recommendation. Allow the Division II Women's Soccer Committee to continue seeding the four teams that advance to the finals of the Division II Women's Soccer Championship, but to do so based on all applicable selection criteria. (The data used for seeding the advancing teams will continue to encompass only regular-season results since teams do not control who they play in the postseason.)

(2) Effective date. 2020 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 Performance Indicator (PI) in 2018 since it incorporates many factors into its formula (i.e., result, location, strength of opponent). In 2019, the soccer committee used Division II strength of schedule, Division II won-lost percentage and the PI. For year three, the committee feels that using all applicable selection criteria will help accurately seed the four teams. The committee also wants to continue 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, and the recommendation supports using all the applicable selection criteria to achieve that goal.

d. Clarification of date formula for softball.

- (1) Recommendation. Clarify the championship date formula in softball as follows (clarifications are in bold and italics):

Regionals are the Thursday through Saturday before super regionals. Super regionals are the Thursday and Friday before finals. Finals ***begin the Thursday before Memorial Day (Thursday – Monday) and end on Memorial Day (Thursday - Monday).***

- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. The adjusted language clarifies the current date formula to include Memorial Day instead of using a specified number of Mondays in May. This clarification does not change any dates for the softball tournament; rather, it avoids any unintended consequences for when Memorial Day falls in any given calendar year. This clarification is also consistent with how the baseball date formula is written, which revolves around when Memorial Day occurs.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Sue Willey welcomed the group and introduced new members Matt Kilcullen, director of athletics at Mercy College; John Lewis, director of athletics at Bluefield State College (Management Council representative); and Chris Graham, commissioner of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (Management Council chair).
2. **Division II strategic plan.** Staff notified the committee of materials online that update the division's progress with its 2015-21 strategic plan and encouraged members to create similar public-facing documents highlighting their own strategic planning progress to constituents and stakeholders.
3. **Approval of recent reports.** The committee approved reports from its December 5, 2019, teleconference and January 30, 2020, electronic vote, as submitted.
4. **Division II budget items.**
 - a. **Championships 2019-20 budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed budget-to-actuals from the 2019-20 championships, noting that some expenses for the fall sport championships were still outstanding.
 - b. **Football charters analysis.** The committee reviewed results from a model the Division II Football Committee developed and implemented for the 2019 Division II Football Championship designed to address rising travel costs. The model allows the Football

Committee to select the seven teams from each of the four super regions (no change from previous selection process) but place them in the bracket differently than in past years to reduce the number of charter flights without compromising the integrity of the bracket. The model reduced the number of charters from 19 in 2018 to 12 in 2019, which resulted in a savings of more than \$440,000 in travel costs in 2019.

- c. **Long-term budget report.** Staff updated the committee on the division's budgeting process and the long-range budget projections through 2032.
- d. **Initial review of 2021-24 triennial budget requests.** Championships Committee members began their review of budget requests for the 2021-24 triennium, noting that initial recommendations will not be made to the NCAA Division II Planning and Finance Committee until after the committee's September 2020 meeting (which includes a day reserved for meeting with sport committee chairs). Those recommendations will proceed through the governance structure over the subsequent months, with final decisions from the Division II Planning and Finance Committee and Division II Presidents Council in January 2021. The committee noted that approximately \$190,000 is available for new initiatives in the 2021-24 triennium, while sport committee requests total more than \$2 million (see Attachment A for the list of requests). The committee also noted that the Division II Presidents Council recently earmarked more than \$2 million in championships-related enhancements (i.e., a per diem increase from \$105 to \$115; championships travel reimbursement totaling more than \$1.2 million; and an increase in officials' fees totaling more than \$40,000), which will also take effect for the 2021-24 triennial budget.

5. Committee updates.

- a. **Membership Committee.** Staff updated the Championships Committee on schools currently in the membership process and institutions that submitted applications by the February 1 deadline. Those applications will be reviewed by the Membership Committee at the July 2020 in-person meeting.
 - b. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** The committee reviewed recent reports from the panel, noting that the panel, during its January meeting, reaffirmed support for NCAA Bylaw 21.3.1.3 (duties), which requires that playing rules be the same in all three divisions. While some coaches association representatives have asked whether this rule could be modified, PROP supports it to protect the integrity of intra-division competition, reduce the burden on officials who officiate contests in multiple divisions, and to simplify the viewing experience for fans.
6. **2020 NCAA Convention update.** Staff updated the committee on legislation adopted at the 2020 Convention.

7. **Division II review of issues related to student-athlete name, image and likeness.** Staff guided the committee through a discussion of issues surrounding student-athlete name, image and likeness, noting that the Division II Legislation Committee is expected to make recommendations during its June 2020 meeting that will proceed through the governance structure and be voted on at the 2021 NCAA Convention.
8. **Sport reports and updates.** The Championships Committee reviewed reports from the field hockey, men's soccer and women's volleyball committees as information only. The committee also noted or took action on the following items from other sport committees not cited in Action Items 2-b, 2-c and 2-d above:
- a. **Men's and women's cross country.** The committee approved the following recommended sites for regionals in the 2020 and 2021 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships:

Year	Region	Host	Venue
2020	East	Rochester NY Sports Commission and Roberts Wesleyan University	Matt St. James Cross Country Trails; Rochester, New York
2020	Central	Concordia University, St. Paul	Les Bolstad Golf Course; St. Paul, Minnesota
2020	Southeast	University of North Georgia	UNG Cross Country Course; Oakwood, Georgia
2021	Central	Missouri Southern State University	Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course; Joplin, Missouri
2021	Southeast	Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau and Converse College	Roger Milliken Center; Spartanburg, South Carolina

b. Football.

- (1) **Neutrality.** At its September 2019 meeting, the Championships Committee agreed to conduct a one-year trial in preliminary rounds of the Division II Football Championship, the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, and the Division II Softball Championship that allows hosts to run the same kinds of pregame promotions and celebrations they conduct during their regular-season contests before resuming neutrality during the course of the contest. The Football Committee believes the policy worked well for the 2019 championship and in fact would support expanding the policy to allow various in-game promotions to take place as long as they are not sponsored by competitors of NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners. The Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Committees, and the Division II Softball Committee will provide feedback to the Championships Committee at their June

meeting on neutrality to determine if it should be expanded to additional Championships.

c. Other discussion items.

- (1) Fall championship recaps.** The committee reviewed reports from the fall 2019 championships.
- (2) Potential establishment of a men's ice hockey championship.** The committee reviewed discussions within segments of the membership about sponsorship in men's ice hockey and a possible pathway for establishing a Division II championship in the future. Division II men's ice hockey programs are currently the only ones that do not have access to championship opportunities, and some within the membership believe that presents a significant barrier to growth in Division II sponsorship in the sport (and in turn a barrier for institutions that may otherwise consider reclassifying their entire athletics program to Division II, including institutions in Canada). After discussion, the Championships Committee decided to table the matter pending further review of costs related to establishing a championship, the effect a men's championship would have on the gender balance within overall Division II championship opportunities, and further exploration of whether establishing a men's championship would in fact prompt the Division II sponsorship growth some people project.
- (3) Future National Championships Festival dates.** Committee members reviewed dates for the National Championships Festival through 2032, noting that the cycle includes the newly adopted joint men's and women's basketball festivals in years during which there isn't a festival for fall, winter or spring sports (2026 and 2030).
- (4) 2021-22 selection criteria review.** The committee reviewed the criteria sports committees use to select teams for championships and affirmed support for the five required criteria and the process by which sport committees choose up to three additional criteria (among 10 provided) to help evaluate teams. Committee members appreciate previous educational efforts regarding how sport committees use these criteria and encourage continued outreach through the Coaches Connection program to help coaches and others better understand the criteria and how those criteria may be prioritized to distinguish similarly qualified teams.

9. Staff updates.

- a. Legal affairs.** Staff updated the committee on legal affairs involving or affecting the NCAA.
- b. Coaches Connection.** The committee was updated on the Coaches Connection initiative, noting that the program is having the desired effect on engaging coaches in Division II

governance and helping them better understand complex issues such as regionalization and postseason selection criteria.

- c. **Community engagement.** The committee received an update on community engagement at the 2019 fall championship finals sites, noting that the engagement enabled more than 1,050 youths from the community outreach to attend the championship contests.
- d. **Governance.**
 - (1) **January 2020 summary of actions.** Staff reviewed the summary of actions for the Management and Presidents Councils meetings in January.
 - (2) **Championships analytics.** Committee members reviewed data on live streaming at recent Division II championships and selection shows.
- e. **National Championships Festival.** The committee received an update on the 2020 Division II National Championships Festival for spring sports (men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, and women's lacrosse) May 11-16 in St. Louis.
- f. **GOALS survey results.** Staff updated the committee on preliminary results from the 2019 GOALS survey.

10. Other business.

- a. **Sport sponsorship waiver request.** The committee approved a request from Saint Leo University to grant a waiver for missing the deadline (due to a clerical error) to declare sponsorship in indoor track and field. The committee cited precedent for waiver approval in the case of clerical errors.
- b. **Automatic qualification waiver request.** The committee approved a request from the Lone Star Conference to be eligible for automatic qualification in men's tennis for the 2020 championship, citing noncontroversial legislation adopted at the 2020 Convention that, effective immediately, eliminates the requirement that an active Division II conference must conduct competition in the sport for two consecutive years at the time of its application for automatic qualification in that sport.
- c. **Joint men's basketball championship.** Staff updated the committee on the upcoming Division II Men's Basketball Championship that will be held in Atlanta in conjunction with the Division I Men's Final Four.
- d. **Policy when institutions exceed maximum scheduling limits.** The committee discussed occasions in which an institution participates in more than the maximum number of contests permitted in a given sport. Currently, there is no policy in such cases other than defer these matters to enforcement, which in the past typically has resulted in the institution

incurring a “2-for-1” scheduling penalty for the following season (i.e., the institution is required to schedule two fewer games for each game that exceeded the maximum). Championships Committee members support that practice, but believe there should be a policy in place that carries more immediate ramifications for the academic year in question. Accordingly, the committee recommended the Management Council approve a policy similar to nullification (i.e., a “1-for-1” penalty for each game that exceeded the maximum) in order to statistically penalize the team in question without negatively affecting other teams under consideration. (See Action Item 2-a.) However, given the possibility of a situation arising during this men’s basketball season, and because the Management Council does not convene until April, the committee agreed to ask the Division II Administrative Committee to authorize the Division II Men’s Basketball Committee to apply the penalty immediately if the institution in question does indeed merit postseason consideration.

- e. **Potential review of nullification.** Given the discussion above, the committee talked about whether the current nullification policy is achieving the desired outcome and whether it is enough of a deterrent to mitigate the behavior. The committee agreed to discuss the matter further at its June meeting.

11. Future meeting dates through 2021 (teleconferences will be added, as needed).

- a. April 23, 2020 (teleconference).
- b. June 24-25, 2020 (in-person meeting).
- c. September 9-11, 2020 (in-person meeting).
- d. February 17-18, 2021 (in-person meeting).
- e. June 21-22, 2021 (in-person meeting).
- f. September 13-14, 2021 (in-person meeting).

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

Division II Championships Committee February 19-20, 2020, Meeting	
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.
John Lewis, Bluefield State College (Management Council representative).
Kristin Mort, Colorado Mesa University.
Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.
Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis.
Absentees:
Courtney Lovely, Palm Beach Atlantic University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Julie Ruppert, Northeast-10 Conference (via teleconference).
Jill Willson, (via teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
John Baldwin, Michael Bazemore, Ashley Beaton, Lydia Bell, Eric Breece, Nikki Buchanan, Donisha Carter, Morgan DeSpain, Leslie Havens, Liz Homrig, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Jessica Kerr, John Kuzio, Jeff O'Barr, Stephanie Quigg, Jay Jay Rackley, Marie Scovron, Rachel Seewald, Micki Spears, Rachel Stark-Mason, Terri Steeb Gronau, Liz Turner Suscha, Donnie Wagner, Jeff Williams.

2021-24 Sport Committees' Requests - Budget Tracking Document					Total Budget Increase in Division II	
Sport	Manager	Sport Committees' Requests	Amount	Amount	Initiative	Amount
Baseball	Breece	Increase the championships bracket from	\$65,000		Sport Committees'	\$190,465
M Basketball	Wagner	Day off between quarterfinals and	\$14,040		Per diem increase	\$780,000
M Basketball	Wagner	Replay at regional sites.	\$40,000		Championships	\$1,276,542
M Basketball	Wagner	Stipend increase for national coordinator.	\$7,500		Officials increase	\$40,053.00
M Basketball	Wagner	Stipend for officials evaluators at regional	\$6,000			
W Basketball	Page	Day off between quarterfinals and	\$14,040		TOTAL	\$2,287,060
W Basketball	Page	Replay at regional sites.	\$40,000		*already in long-range budget	
W Basketball	Page	Hire a coordinator of Division II women's	\$17,500			
W Basketball	Page	Stipend for officials evaluators at regional	\$6,000			
Field Hockey	Page	Video review for first round games.	\$13,000			
Football	Wagner	Travel party increase.	\$200,000			
Football	Wagner	Replay during quarterfinal games.	\$20,000			
Football	Wagner	Stipend increase for director of officiating.	\$2,250			
Men's Golf	Baldwin	Increase number of officials at Regional	\$22,140			
Women's Golf	Rackley	One additional student-athlete for 16	\$28,000			
M Lacrosse	Hopkins	Squad size increase.	\$333			
M Lacrosse	Hopkins	Addition of an alternate official for	\$4,245			
M Lacrosse	Hopkins	Move the semifinal round to the sites of	\$38,158			
W Lacrosse	Carter	Squad size increase.	\$499			
M/W Soccer	Breece/K	Officials' Headsets.	\$5,000			
Swimming/Diving	Scovron	Participant cap increase.	\$82,939			
M/W Tennis	Page	Rest day between quarterfinal and	\$4,760			
M/W Tennis	Page	Additional officials.	\$21,840			
M Indoor Track	DeSpain	Indoor Track and Field Selection Process	\$159,000			
M Outdoor Track	DeSpain	Outdoor Track and Field Selection	\$310,000			
W Indoor Track	DeSpain	Indoor Track and Field Selection Process	\$222,000			
W Outdoor Track	DeSpain	Outdoor Track and Field Selection	\$392,000			
M/W Indoor	DeSpain	Men' and Women's Indoor Track and	\$3,670			
M/W Outdoor	DeSpain	Men' and Women's Outdoor Track and	\$6,120			
Softball	Kuzio	Travel party increase from 26 to 28.	\$89,000			
Softball	Kuzio	4-person umpire crew (instead of three).	\$57,320			
Volleyball	Scovron	Travel party increase.	\$50,000			
Volleyball	Scovron	Line judge transportation, per diem and	\$51,680			
Volleyball	Scovron	Stipend for championship site head of	\$500			
Wrestling	Tressel	Travel party increase (must be an athletic	\$54,730			
Total for Sports Committees' Requests			\$2,049,264			
			(\$1,858,799)			