



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
JULY 28, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative item.**

- **2020 Division II fall sport championships.**

- a. Recommendation. Postpone conducting the seven 2020 Division II fall sport championships until the spring semester so long as health and safety conditions allow, and it is viable to do so in a financially responsible manner.
- b. Effective date. Immediate.
- c. Rationale. The Division II Championships Committee believes postponing the fall championships is the most practical and viable approach. The committee has spent the last several weeks pursuing options that would retain conducting the fall sport championships in their current formats and timelines; however, the current conditions across the country due to COVID-19, the ongoing uncertainties with travel and hotel accommodations, and the fact that nearly half of the 23 Division II conferences have declared they will not participate in fall sports or that they will operate fall sports in a split-semester format has made conducting the 2020 Division II fall sport championships “as is” untenable. At the same time, the committee does not wish to cancel the fall sport championships altogether. The committee believes stating its intention to postpone rather than cancel provides some much needed direction for conferences that have not already determined their approach for fall sports, and it allows the time necessary to secure the requisite predetermined sites, consider one-time alternative formats, and potentially benefit from advances in COVID-19 testing and management that reduce costs and provide a safer competitive environment by the spring semester. To address the increased costs associated with conducting the fall championships in the spring, the Division II Championships Committee will explore cost-reduction strategies in an effort to preserve championship opportunities for as many Division II student-athletes as possible. In addition, postponing allows the entire Division II membership to be eligible to qualify for fall sport championships rather than conducting them in the fall amid a significantly reduced sponsorship.
- d. Estimated budget impact. If the current bracket/field sizes and championship formats are not altered, costs for conducting the fall sport championships in the spring semester are projected to be approximately \$15 million. The Championships Committee acknowledges those costs are nearly twice what had been previously budgeted for

conducting the fall sport championships in the fall under normal circumstances. However, the budget increase for conducting championships in the fall under the new COVID-19 circumstances would have been similarly exorbitant (about \$14 million), and the committee believes postponing provides more opportunity for the national health situation to improve and for the committee to explore formats and practices to reduce costs without compromising the student-athlete experience.

- e. Student-athlete impact. The recommendation preserves for as long as possible the idea that fall sport student-athletes will be able to enjoy an experience that includes the chance to participate in an NCAA championship. The Championships Committee is aware that postponement means fall sport championships will be conducted while winter and spring sports are in season – and that those seasons should not be compromised – but members believe there are windows for fitting the fall championships into the spring semester.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Welcome and review of agenda.** Championships Committee Chair Sue Willey welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Discussion of financial scenarios for Division II fall sport championships.** Staff updated the committee with the financial impacts for the three options being considered: (1) conducting the seven 2020 fall sport championships in the fall as planned; (2) conducting them in the spring 2021 semester; and (3) canceling them altogether. After weighing all the options available, the committee voted to recommend postponing the fall championships to the spring semester to preserve opportunities and provide more time to react to the fluid health and safety situation across the country. (See Action Item 2.)
- 3. Discussion of COVID-19 impact on 2020-21 Division II championships.** Given the committee recommendation above, members also discussed the potential budget ramifications on winter and spring sport championships but acknowledged that current projections may soften if advances in COVID-19 testing and management occur.
- 4. Future meetings/videoconferences.** The committee agreed to continue convening as needed via Microsoft Teams in order to manage the fluid and unpredictable athletics landscape moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, though the committee may be convened earlier, if necessary.

*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*

<b>Division II Championships Committee July 28, 2020, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
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.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.	
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.	
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Liza Erwin, Haydyn Gibson, , Leslie Havens, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Corbin McGuire, Stephanie Quigg and Angela Red.	