



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

• **Board of Governors Student-Athlete Well-Being Directives.**

(1) Recommendation. The committee considered the following directives to each division from the Board of Governors (BOG):

- All student-athletes must be provided an opportunity to opt out of participation due to concerns about contracting COVID-19. (See Informational Item No. 3 below)
- Appropriate eligibility-related accommodations must be made for student-athletes who opt out of participating this fall or those whose seasons are interrupted or cut short due to COVID-19. (See Informational Item No. 3 below)
- While statements of personal commitment to health and safety are acceptable, member schools may not require student-athletes to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of athletics participation.
- Divisions must develop rules providing that member schools will cover COVID-19-related health costs related to infections that local health officials reasonably believe were the result of student-athletes' sports participation.

In response to the BOG directives, the Committee, acting on behalf of the Management and Presidents Councils, adopted noncontroversial legislation, effective immediately:

- Specifying that institutions may not require student-athletes to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of participating in athletics.
- Requiring institutions that decide to engage in outside competition during the 2020 fall term to review existing health care cost coverage with student-athletes to help them make an informed decision about participation. Further, institutions must inform student-athletes of the risk classification of their sports according to the [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan Considerations](#) and provide information about how the school is complying with the [NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport Developing Standards for Practice and Competition](#).

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. The committee sought feedback from the Presidents Council, Management Council, Presidents Advisory Group, and the executive committees of the D3CA and NADIII AA regarding the BOG directives. The committee noted the following: (1) Fall competition will create increased risk for student-athletes. These risks will vary by sport, local environment, etc. Student-athletes should be aware of these risks and related institutional risk management efforts; (2) Consistent with the intent of the BOG directives, it is inappropriate for student-athletes and their families to unknowingly assume related health care expenses when local health officials apply established contact tracing protocol and identify athletics competition as the source of a student-athletes COVID-19 infection; and (3) Ultimate responsibility related to costs will be determined case-by-case, regardless of a BOG or a divisional legislative mandate.
- (4) Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Provides increased knowledge of competition risks, existing student-athlete health and well-being protections, and existing health care cost coverage related to athletically related illness.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Fall Competition.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee recommended that Division III institutions not compete in the fall term to avoid potential increased health and safety risks.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee noted that any fall term competition in the current environment will increase the health and safety risks of student-athletes, coaches, staff and campus communities, as well as create potential health care cost exposure for member institutions and student-athletes.
- (4) Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhance student-athlete health and well-being and minimize related risk from athletics participation during the fall term.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome.** The videoconference commenced at 9:02 a.m. Eastern time. Staff welcomed the committee and reviewed the agenda.
2. **July 8, 2020, Report.** The committee approved the July 8, 2020, report with no changes.
3. **Board of Governors Student-Athlete Well-Being Directives – Opt Out and Waivers.** The committee clarified that for the 2020-21 academic year, all full-time enrolled student-athletes that opt out [i.e., the student-athlete decides not to engage in any activity during or after the first contest], would get a two semester/three quarter extension. [Note: the Division III governance structure previously had [addressed](#) this issue.]
4. **Championships Committee Meeting Recap.** The Administrative Committee did not discuss this issue due to time constraints.
5. **Alternative Playing and Practice Seasons Model Q & A.** The Administrative Committee did not discuss this issue due to time constraints and will discuss on its next teleconference.
6. **Other Business.** Staff thanked Presidents Murden McClure and Miller for their assistance with the recent approval to full-time status for the Division III's assistant director of governance communications, Adam Skaggs.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m. EST.

Committee Chair: Tori Murden McClure, Spalding University

Staff Liaisons: Dan Dutcher, Division III Governance

Debbie Kresge, Division III Governance

Louise McCleary, Division III Governance

Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs

Ali Spungen, Division III Governance

NCAA Division III Administrative Committee
August 20, 2020, Teleconference
Attendees:
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
Fayneese Miller, Hamline University
Tori Murden McClure, Spalding University
Dennis Shields, University of Wisconsin, Platteville.
Staff:
Dan Dutcher, Debbie Kresge, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Adam Skaggs, Ali Spungen, Liz Suscha and Jeremy Villanueva.