



A G E N D A
NCAA Division III Administrative Committee Teleconference

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June 10, 2020
9 to 10 a.m. Eastern Time

1. Welcome. (Dan Dutcher/Tori Murden McClure)
2. May 28 report. [Supplement No. 1] (Dutcher)
3. COVID-19 impact and updates.
 - a. D3CA membership survey – executive summary. [Supplement No. 2] (Dutcher)
 - b. Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee meeting. [Supplement No. 3 will be posted later] (Jeff Myers)
 - c. Championships Committee meeting. (Liz Suscha)
 - d. COVID-19 Playing and Practice Seasons Working Group updates. (Louise McCleary/Myers)
 - e. 2020-21 student-athlete eligibility. (All)
4. Name, Image and Likeness survey update. (Myers/McCleary)
5. Other business. (All)
6. Adjournment.



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MAY 28, 2020, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship and Championship Selection — Bylaws 20.11.3.8 and 31.2.1.**

(1) Recommendation. The Administrative Committee, on behalf of the Management and President Councils, approved a waiver to reduce the minimum number of contests required for sports sponsorship and championship selections by 33 percent for the 2020-21 academic year. This reduction applies to all sports. The minimum number of participants required for sports sponsorship will remain unchanged.

(2) Effective Date. September 1 to August 31, 2021.

(3) Rationale. The Membership and Championships Committees seek to provide relief for institutions related to disruptions and uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, relief is intended to:

- Help Division III institutions remain in compliance with NCAA bylaw legislation;
- Guide institutions as they determine the best model for providing the student-athlete experience in the 2020-21 academic year;
- Reduce the administrative burden for institutions seeking relief; and
- Allow conferences to play a conference-centric schedule (e.g., competition among only conference members, or a schedule that includes conference and in-region competition).

In a recent survey of the Division III membership by the Division III Commissioners Association, in which 98 percent of the division's athletics directors participated, 85 percent supported a reduction of contest minimums.

The Membership and Championships Committees will be open to waiver requests from institutions that are unable to meet the existing sport sponsorship standards and the new minimum contest standards and approach those requests with appropriate flexibility.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Provides flexibility for institutions to determine the best way to conduct their athletics program in a way that ensures a healthy, safe and meaningful athletics experience for the most student-athletes possible.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome.** The call commenced at 10:01 a.m. Eastern Time. Staff welcomed the committee and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. May 15, 2020, Administrative Committee Report.** The committee reviewed the May 15 report and approved it as written.

3. COVID-19 Impacts and Updates.

- Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan Considerations. Staff noted the Sport Science Institute (SSI) has created an addendum to the Resocialization document previously distributed to the membership. The addendum, Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan Considerations, provides recommended detailed action plans as institutions consider return to play.
- Fall Playing and Practice Season Calendars. Staff noted the creation of calendars for all fall sports that include the first permissible practice date, fall selection dates and championships. The calendars also overlay the principles for resocialization. Several governance committees (e.g., Championships and Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee) will review the calendars that provide a visual to assist committees as they determined needed flexibility and relief for the membership.

A webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, regarding COVID-19 impacts on fall playing and practice seasons with Dr. Hainline and Division III staff. Dr. Hainline will discuss the resocialization principles and action plans. To date, there are over 1,000 registered.

- 4. Name, Image and Likeness.** The committee reviewed a PowerPoint that will be used during a May 28 NADIII AA webinar. A detailed membership survey will be released Monday, June 1, with responses due by June 15. Recommendations from this survey will be incorporated into a June 19 webinar and reviewed by SAAC, Management Council and Presidents Council during their summer meetings.
- 5. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

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
May 28, 2020, Teleconference
Attendees:
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.
Fayneese Miller, Hamline University
Tori Murden McClure, Spalding University
Dennis Shields, University of Wisconsin, Platteville.
Not in Attendance:
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
Staff:
Dan Dutcher, Eric Hartung, Debbie Kresge, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Adam Skaggs, Ali Spungen and Liz Suscha.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE DIIICA COVID-19 SURVEY

Introduction

The Division III Commissioners Association (DIIICA), in consultation with the NCAA Division III Governance staff sought feedback from the NCAA Division III membership on various topics related to COVID-19 including student-athlete well-being, minimum contests requirements, sport sponsorship requirements, and NCAA Championships.. The 98% response rate is reflective of the membership's desire to provide their opinions to the DIII Governance structure for consideration in their decision-making discussions moving forward.

The overwhelming themes of survey responses include 1) the need for flexibility surrounding scheduling and championships as academic calendars models are ever changing; 2) with revenue streams reduced on all campuses, financial impacts are eminent; and 3) in order to attract and retain student-athletes, institutions must do everything they can to provide a meaningful sports experience for all three seasons in 2020-21.

Goals and Objectives

The outcomes of the survey has been shared with the NCAA DIII Governance and Championship staffs for use within the committee structure as they make decisions related to COVID-19.

While several conferences have individually expressed concerns, preferences and questions to the NCAA staff, the results of this division-wide survey provides a collective DIII voice regarding these issues.

Ideally the data presented will help guide discussions surrounding student-athlete welfare, potential legislative relief/flexibility, competition and NCAA Championships during the 2020-21 academic year.

The DIIICA Executive Committee reviewed the survey results and outlined below several key findings and specific recommendations in those areas.

Methodology

Members of the DIIICA were asked to distribute the survey to the athletic directors in their respective conference. Each institution was permitted to submit one response.

Survey respondents were asked to provide institutional demographic information and respond to several multiple choice questions. In addition, space was available to provide thoughts/concerns for select questions.

Key Findings and Recommendations

The DIIICA focused on responses which reflected overwhelming support, majority consensus or a large number of comments.

Sports Sponsorship/Contest Minimums/ Automatic Qualifications requirements

Q6: Should the membership consider reduction in the required number of dates of competition/contests to meet 2020-2021 Division III sports sponsorship requirements?

85% of respondents are in favor.

Q9: Do you support flexibility with NCAA sport sponsorship requirements?

82% of respondents are in favor.

Q7: At what level would you support a reduction in the minimum number of dates of competition/contests for sport sponsorship purposes?

88% of respondents believe there should be a reduction, with a 25% reduction receiving the most support.

Q22: If a conference falls below AQ would you support waiving the AQ requirements?

80% of respondents said yes.

Q15: Do you anticipate challenges related to travel or hosting restrictions for regular season and conference/NCAA postseason competition?

74% of respondents said yes.

Recommendations:

The 2020-21 academic year will be unique and unprecedented and as evidenced by the responses regarding travel and hosting, there will be a multitude of factors that will affect an institution's ability to compete. In many cases, attempting to meet minimum membership requirements will incentivize institutions to make decisions based on these

standards rather than on the basis of the public health considerations and the well-being of their student-athletes and larger communities.

The DIIICA believes that holding a hard line on membership requirements in the areas of sports sponsorship, contest minimums and automatic qualification requirements, is not in the best interest of the DIII membership. We recommend that all membership requirement minimums be waived and institutions or conferences that cannot meet those minimums should not be placed on probation or fall into a grace period.

In addition, we support the membership's desire for reduced requirements for championship eligibility and recommend a minimum 25% reduction.

Sports Sponsorship Maximums

Q13: Would adjusting maximum dates of competition/contest be a priority for your campus?

57% of the membership responded yes.

Recommendation:

While a slight majority believes contest/date of competition maximums should be adjusted, the DIIICA is looking for flexibility and permissive waivers at this time. Since reducing maximums would be restrictive, we believe change in contest maximums should be handled through the normal legislative process, if at all.

Playing and Practice Seasons

Q10: Do you support flexibility by increasing the length of the fall sport playing and practice seasons?

A combined 90% of respondents said yes, with 38% supporting only a 2-3 week increase.

Q11: If an institution does not have access to the NCAA Championship would you support flexibility outside 18/19 week season?

77% responded yes.

Recommendations:

Due to widely varying academic calendar models that are being considered throughout the membership (early starts in August or delayed starts in September or later), we believe that membership institutions should be given flexibility when declaring their playing and practice seasons. Specifically, the DIIICA recommends the following:

- All institutions should be provided flexibility with individual days off and breaks in a segment.

- Institutions that may need to cancel their first scheduled contest should be allowed to use that original date in determining their pre-season practice schedule.
- Institutions should be given flexibility on how to use their weeks within a designated playing and practice season, knowing that not all institutions will be able to conduct a typical sport season.

NCAA Championships

Q19: If fall sport regular seasons are shortened, what is the minimum time frame of competition that merits the NCAA conducting a championship in that sport?

39% responded 6 weeks, while 71% responded 6+ weeks.

Q20: Would you support a reduced NCAA Championships format in order to complete championships?

80% responded yes, with 50% of the respondents in support of reducing the number of weeks need to complete the championship.

Q23: If a full NCAA Championship is not feasible, would you support regional postseason opportunities?

89% responded yes.

Recommendations:

The DIIICA membership is supportive of NCAA regional post-season opportunities in the event a National Championship is unable to occur. We will work with the NCAA in the coming months on this topic.

Other Areas to Consider

Below are some select themes that prevailed amongst the responses:

- If full seasons are not possible, student-athletes should be allowed to engage in practice and competition without using a season of participation.
- Institutions may need additional time in August/September to complete medical exams and would like to provide expenses to bring back student-athletes a few days early.
- Championship opportunities for DIII should be determined independent of what DI and DII decide. Our championship experiences are very different than the other divisions.
- Continue to provide health and safety guidance and if possible, assist institutions with securing PPE.



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS SUBCOMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Playing and Practice Seasons – Fall Preseason Practice Formula – All Fall Sports (including Football) – 17.02.12 and 17.10.2.1.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Waive the existing method for establishing the first permissible practice date and allow the first permissible practice date for all fall sports to be August 10 or the first day of class, whichever is earlier; and allow institutions to have unlimited administrative days to conduct non-athletically related activities (i.e., those days in which the institution may provide housing and meal expenses to student-athletes prior to the start of practice).
 - (2) Effective Date. Immediate. The subcommittee noted the recommendation would apply for the 2020-21 academic year.
 - (3) Rationale. The subcommittee seeks to provide institutions appropriate flexibility to conduct their preseason in the manner that reflects the best interest of their campus, staff and student-athletes. The subcommittee noted that given the uncertainty of scheduling this fall as well as the myriad of health and safety considerations (including the information provided in the Core Principles of Resocialization of Sport), the current method is not sufficient to establish the first practice date. While institutions are not required to strictly apply the Core Principles of Resocialization, including the phase-in periods, Division III legislation should permit its implementation.
 - (4) Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Provides flexibility to institutions to conduct their preseason in a manner that helps ensure the health and safety of student-athletes and reflects their best interests.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** Laura Mooney welcomed the subcommittee members.

2. **Review NCAA Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee April 13, 2020, report.** The subcommittee reviewed and approved the report from its May 22, 2020, teleconference.
3. **Review of 2020 NCAA Division III COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide - Bylaw 17 Playing and Practice Seasons.** The subcommittee reviewed an updated version of the 2020 NCAA Division III COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide - Bylaw 17 Playing and Practice Seasons. The subcommittee did not have any additional recommendations to the document.
4. **Review of Division III Commissioners Association Fall 2020 Scheduling and Championships Survey for Directors of Athletics.** The subcommittee reviewed the feedback from the Division III Commissioners Association Fall 2020 Scheduling and Championships Survey for Director of Athletics
5. **Future meetings.** June 17, 2020.
6. **Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 11:12 a.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Staff Liaisons: Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs

Laura Peterson, Championships and Corporate Alliances

Zach Romash, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee June 3, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Sarah Feyerherm, Washington College (Maryland).	
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College.	
Laura Mooney, chair; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.	
Kandis Schram, Maryville College (Tennessee).	
Joseph Walsh, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Michelle Walsh, Vassar College.	
Absentee	
Michael Vienna, Emory University.	
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Tiffany Alford, Laura Peterson and Zach Romash.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Dutcher; Jeff Myers.	