



2020-21 NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP – SELECT SPORTS TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL REPLACEMENT GUIDELINES

The Division III Championships Committee approved a replacement policy for team and individual team championships considering the possibility of a championship field being impacted due to the pandemic. The policy applies to spring sport championships. The following tenets are fundamental to the decision.

- Once the bracket or field is finalized and announced, teams will not be re-seeded, nor will the bracket or field change.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure a full field is in place prior to the start of the championship.
- Replacement teams and individuals will be considered only prior to or within 24 hours after the bracket or field announcement.
- For championships with automatic qualifying teams, every participating conference should have the opportunity for a minimum of one team in the championship field.

Due to the necessary time needed to coordinate travel and successfully follow NCAA Championships medical protocols, including COVID-19 testing requirements prior to departure from campus and upon arrival at the competition location, the following replacement team guidelines for Division III championships apply.

1. Prior to the announcement of the championship bracket.
 - a. Should an automatic qualifier, as determined by each conference, be unable to meet the medical protocols and participate in its first game of the championship, then the conference may designate a replacement team, as determined by its AQ policy submitted by the deadline.
 - b. The replacement AQ team will be appropriately seeded and placed into the bracket prior to announcement of the championship bracket.
 - c. Any potential at-large team unable to meet the medical protocols and participate in its first game of the championship must notify the sport committee prior to the announcement of the bracket.
2. After the announcement of the championship bracket.
 - a. Consideration to replace a team (AQ or at-large) unable to participate due to COVID-19 and confirmation of the replacement team must take place within 24 hours after the selection announcement.

- b. An eligible conference may replace its AQ, if the team is unable to meet medical protocols to participate, with its pre-approved contingency replacement team.
- c. The replacement team must meet all medical protocols and will take the exact place in the bracket of original conference AQ team.
- d. If the replacement team, based on the approved contingency plan, is already in the field, the committee will replace the AQ with the at-large team ranked first among those not selected.
- e. For any at-large team unable to meet medical protocols related to COVID-19:
 - (1) The at-large team ranked first among those not selected will be notified and must be able to meet all medical protocols.
 - (2) Replacement team will take the exact place in the bracket of the original at-large team.
 - (3) Bracketing principles pertaining to conference matchups will not apply if a replacement team is used.
 - (4) No replacements will be made beyond 24 hours after the selection announcement.

If a team must withdraw after competition has begun, opponents would advance via NCAA's "No Contest" rule.

The policies for Division III individual team championships replacement guidelines are:

1. If an individual sport participant must withdraw from the championships (due to positive COVID-19 test result or other limiting circumstance), the sport committee shall follow its standard procedure for individual replacements (i.e., medical scratch).
2. Replacement of an individual participant must occur within 24 hours after the selection announcement.