



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
APRIL 13, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed committee members and reviewed the key discussion items.
2. **Site selection update.** Staff updated the committee on selecting sites for preliminary-round competition in spring sports, noting that recommendations for men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's tennis should be delivered to the committee for consideration via electronic vote later this week, with recommendations for baseball and softball ready for committee consideration during its subsequent videoconferences.
3. **Automatic qualification grace/waiting period policies.** The committee agreed to extend relief provided during its March 31 videoconference, specific to the application of a one-year extension of grace to all conferences/sports that were in year 1 or year 2 of grace during the 2020-21 academic year, to the 2020 spring semester. Specifically, the committee agreed that circumstances surrounding the 2020 spring semester and 2020-21 academic year warranted an extension of grace during either the 2020 spring semester or 2020-21 academic year. The committee noted that a conference could only receive a one-year extension of the grace period, based on extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the committee agreed to revisit waivers requesting an extension of grace during the 2020 spring semester or 2020-21 academic year and approve those requests based on the cited extension of flexibility.
4. **NCAC waiver request.** The committee considered but did not support a request from the North Coast Athletic Conference to retain its automatic qualification status in women's golf for the 2021 season. The Championships Committee agreed with the Division III Women's Golf Committee's assessment that the conference did not demonstrate that its seventh core member could have and would have realistically been able to sponsor women's golf during the 2019-20 academic year, which would have prevented the conference from meeting membership requirements for AQ purposes. The committee acknowledged that while the institution was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the inability to complete a roster, the institution had not consistently demonstrated the ability to meet sport sponsorship requirements in women's golf in recent years and would likely not have been able to do so during the 2020 spring semester regardless of COVID-19. In addition, the committee noted

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that the conference has not sponsored women's golf since the 2015-16 academic year, and the institution in question that was unable to sponsor women's golf during the 2019-20 academic year did not demonstrate that they had a sufficient roster or competitive schedule during the 2019-20 academic year, and likely would not have met sport sponsorship requirements. The Championships Committee also cited precedent for not supporting the request.

5. Conference AQ backup submissions. The committee discussed the methods by which conferences would declare their backup AQs should the actual automatic qualifier discover before selections that it would be unable to participate because of COVID-19. The committee will finalize its recommendation during its April 20 videoconference.

6. Future videoconference/meeting dates.

- a. April 20 (videoconference).
- b. May 18 (videoconference).
- c. June 21-22 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- d. September 13-14 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- e. February 1-2, 2022 (quarterly meeting; potentially in person, Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University
Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee April 13, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
Absentees:	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Liz Suscha.