



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 20, 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. Review of recent reports.** The committee approved reports from its April 8 electronic vote and April 13 videoconference as presented. The committee also reviewed the report from its March 31 videoconference to confirm that it accurately reflected the committee's position on how AQ grace and waiting periods should apply for the 2020-21 year where applicable. The committee asked staff to further clarify the language surrounding the waiting period and resubmit the report for final approval.
- 3. Women's rowing update.** The Championships Committee has been monitoring sponsorship in women's rowing over the past several weeks since rowing was the only spring sport whose ability to meet previously established sponsorship thresholds for conducting a championship was in question. The committee had declared its intent to determine the championship status for women's rowing by its April 20 videoconference. Accordingly, the committee noted that to date, only four of the 44 institutions sponsoring women's rowing have opted out of competition for the 2021 season; 36 of the remaining 40 have participated in at least one regatta; and the other four institutions have indicated their intent to compete. Under these circumstances, the Championships Committee is comfortable proceeding with plans to conduct a championship this year in women's rowing, since the total of 40 institutions (the 36 that have competed and the four that intend to) would clear the previously stated 90 percent sponsorship threshold for sports in which sponsorship is fewer than 50 institutions.

With all spring sport championships now having been given the green light, Championships Committee members reiterated how pleased they are with the membership's due diligence in conducting spring sports competition and the responsiveness institutions have demonstrated in meeting stringent health and safety protocols and providing student-athletes the opportunity to experience meaningful competition this spring. Because administering exceptional championships is a primary tenant of the division overall – and certainly the primary purpose for the Division III Championships Committee – committee members are energized about conducting spring sport championships, especially after experiencing the sadness of having to recommend not doing so for fall (at the direction of the Board of Governors) and winter sports.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

*Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life*

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

The committee acknowledges that the challenges faced this year have made it clear that championships cannot be taken for granted, and that the return to championships competition this spring – even though the experience will be different – is certainly something that should be celebrated.

- 4. Site selection update.** The committee approved the predetermined sites and host recommendations from sport committees in the spring sports specified in the chart below. Sport committees expect to identify the remaining sites for the Championships Committee to consider by the end of this month.

<b>Baseball</b>	
<b>Host</b>	<b>Site</b>
Millikin University	Workman Family Baseball Field; Decatur, Illinois.
University of Wisconsin, Whitewater	ABC Supply Stadium; Beloit, Wisconsin.
Saint John's University (Minnesota)	Becker Park; Collegeville, Minnesota.
<b>Men's Lacrosse</b>	
State University of New York at Cortland (First/Second Round)	Cortland Stadium Complex; Cortland, New York.
<b>Women's Lacrosse</b>	
University of Chicago (First/Second Round)	Amos Alonzo Stagg Field; Chicago, Illinois.
Colby College (First/Second Round; Quarter/Semifinals)	Colby College Bill Alford Turf; Waterville, Maine.
Franklin & Marshall College (First/Second Round)	Shadek Stadium; Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
Rhodes College (First/Second Round)	Mason Field; Memphis, Tennessee.
Washington & Lee University (First/Second Round; Quarter/Semifinal)	Watt Field; Lexington, Virginia.
<b>Men's Tennis</b>	
University of Chicago	Amos Alonzo Stagg Field; Chicago, Illinois.
Pacific West Conference	Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex; Surprise, Arizona.
Berry College (two regionals)	Rome Tennis Center at Berry College; Rome, Georgia.
North Carolina Wesleyan University	Slick Family Foundation Tennis Center; Rocky Mount, North Carolina.
<b>Women's Tennis</b>	
Johns Hopkins University	Johns Hopkins Tennis Facility; Baltimore, Maryland.
Washington & Lee University	W&L Tennis Courts; Lexington, Virginia.
Pacific West Conference	Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex; Surprise, Arizona.

Berry College (two regionals)	Rome Tennis Center at Berry College; Rome, Georgia.
North Carolina Wesleyan University	Slick Family Foundation Tennis Center; Rocky Mount, North Carolina.
University of Wisconsin, Whitewater	Wangerin Tennis Center; Whitewater, Wisconsin.
<b>Softball</b>	
Milliken University	Workman Family Softball Field; Decatur, Illinois.
East Texas Baptist University	Taylor Field; Marshall, Texas.

- 5. Championships budget review.** The committee re-engaged in discussing budget requests for the 2021-24 triennium. Normally the committee would have been further along in this process by now, using its February quarterly meeting to initiate the new budget cycle by reviewing requests from sport committees and forwarding recommendations to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee for consideration. However, given the circumstances resulting from the pandemic, budget allocations for future championship-specific initiatives were not finalized at that time, and as such, sport committees were not engaged regarding their near-term needs. Now that Division III has been able to determine its budget allocations for the near future, the Championships Committee resumed its engagement to determine priorities.

The committee used this meeting to discuss the rationale supporting each request, noting that some of the items were approved in the previous cycle and are being carried over. After discussion, the Championships Committee endorsed all of the items (see Attachment) and noted its appreciation for the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee's continued commitment to support Division III championships initiatives.

**6. Automatic qualification waiver requests.**

- a. Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference.** The committee revisited but did not support the request from the Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference to extend the grace period for baseball and men's and women's lacrosse to the 2021-22 academic year. The conference is in its second year of grace this year but will fall below the established threshold of four sponsoring members required to satisfy the legislation to remain in grace. The Championships Committee after initially reviewing this request during a previous meeting had asked the conference for more details regarding plans to regain compliance in the coming year. The committee was not satisfied with the conference's plan for the future and thus voted not to extend the grace period.
- b. North Coast Athletic Conference.** The committee also revisited 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 during its April 13 meeting voted not to

support the request, but the NCAC submitted additional mitigation that caused the committee to reconsider the matter. After discussion, the committee voted to reverse its previous decision and support granting the waiver. However, the committee affirmed that if the conference fails to meet the minimum sponsorship standard next year (which will be seven institutions rather than four), the conference would lose its AQ status (i.e., the conference would not automatically fall into the grace period).

- c. **City University of New York Athletic Conference.** The committee reviewed and ultimately tabled a request from the CUNY Athletic Conference for an extension of its two-year AQ grace period, which began in the summer of 2019 with the departure of the College of Staten Island. While the conference maintains eight core member institutions, it has fallen below the necessary seven in five sports. The committee voted to table the request, noting that the conference still has another year to try to resolve its dilemma before a waiver would be necessary. Accordingly, the committee will advise the conference to continue pursuing resolutions and then submit a waiver request next year if necessary.

## **7. Future videoconference/meeting dates.**

- a. May 18 (videoconference).
- b. June 21-22 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- c. September 13-14 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- d. 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 20, 2021, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
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.	

Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Lauren Frost, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Liz Suscha.

## Division III Championships 2021-24 Budget Priorities

			Budget to allocate:	\$527,690	\$115,288	\$48,985
Request Type	Sport	Item	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Bracket expansion supported by legislation	Field Hockey	Increase bracket from 24 to 26	\$33,000			
	Women's Lacrosse	Increase bracket from 44 to 46	\$49,000			
	Women's Golf	Increase bracket from 29 to 31	\$44,000			
Committee Composition	Various - 24 positions	Increase sport committee composition to coincide with regional realignment effective September 1.	\$ 75,600			
	MW Cross Country	Increase sport committee composition to coincide with regional expansion from eight to 10	\$ 16,460			
Officiating	All	Increase officiating fees - by 5% over two years	\$33,000			\$34,650
Sport Specific Requests	Women's Basketball	Television broadcast coverage of championship final in conjunction with 2023 joint championship (one-time expense)		\$ 35,000		
	MW Cross Country	Increase regional sites from eight to 10.	\$ 33,600			
	MW Cross Country	Increase field size by 14 per gender (to coincide with regional expansion)	\$ 67,872			
	MW Golf	Increase travel party by 1 per team for second coach	\$ 121,491			
Game Operations	Individual Sports	National champion award watch for individual event champions	\$ 28,130			
Total			\$ 502,153	\$ 35,000	\$ 34,650	
Base Operating Budget - Remaining to Allocate			\$25,537	\$80,288	\$14,335	
Sport-specific	Women's Basketball	Joint championship		\$ 250,000		