



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 13, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting schedule and key discussion items.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its July 30 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Governance update.** Staff updated the group on discussions and action coming from the August 4 NCAA Board of Governors meeting and the August 5 Division III Presidents Council meeting at which it was formally announced that the division's fall sport championships would be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related administrative and financial challenges. Staff also began outlining the projected expenses for winter and spring sport championships in order to meet the requirements issued by the Board of Governors to conduct championships safely. The preliminary projections for both seasons are higher than for previous years given the costs associated with testing, site selection, travel and other factors. Even with the savings from not conducting fall sport championships this year, the division could face a significant budget shortfall if winter and spring sport championships were to be conducted as they have been in the past (i.e., same bracket/field sizes and formats). During upcoming meetings, the committee will discuss possible alternate championship formats and other adjustments, including the possibility of reductions to field/bracket sizes, to contain costs.
- 4. New Jersey Athletic Conference waiver request.** The committee approved the New Jersey Athletic Conference's request to count 2020-21 academic year as year two of the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification in men's tennis. The conference experienced a change in its four core members from year one to year two (one school added men's tennis and one dropped men's tennis) but maintained an eight-member sponsorship in the sport both years, which is one more than the legislation requires. The committee looked favorably on the

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request since the core member that dropped the sport did so because of reasons related to COVID-19, and because the consistency-of-membership component specified in the legislation for the seven minimum members is not specified similarly for the four core members. As such, the committee did not view the request as being out of alignment with the spirit of the legislation.

- 5. Division III Wrestling Committee report.** The committee approved the following regional sites for the 2021 Division III Wrestling Championships (all venues are on campus):

Region	Host	Venue
Northeast	Springfield College	Springfield College Fieldhouse
Southeast	Lycoming College	Keiper Recreation Center
Central	Adrian College	Knowling Fieldhouse
Upper Midwest	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	McPhee Physical Education Center

(Note: Robin Baker recused herself from the meeting during this vote.)

- 6. COVID-19 update – championships impacts.** With the decision on fall sport championships finalized, the committee began a championship bracket and pool analysis for winter and spring sports. As they had done earlier for fall sports before the championships were canceled, committee members discussed appropriate levels of sponsorship that would be required to conduct a championship, knowing that sponsorship decisions from Division III institutions and conferences for winter and spring sports are still very much in flux at this point. The committee ultimately arrived at a scale of minimum sport sponsorship that would allow for a meaningful championship experience and determined the following guidelines: sports with fewer than 50 sponsors require 90% participation; sports with between 51 and 200 sponsors require 70% participation, and sports with more than 200 sponsors require 60% participation. The committee determined that the division's current access ratio would serve as a guide to establish the appropriate bracket/field size while also considering automatic qualifiers and at-large berths.
- 7. Winter sport championship dates.** The committee also began discussing another domino issue caused by the pandemic, which is whether to maintain the existing selection and competition dates for winter sport championships. Given that most conferences have stated they will not conduct any athletics through the calendar year, there is growing discussion about whether winter sport championship seasons should be compressed or whether the championships should be delayed. Doing either would cause a number of ramifications, and as with the decision regarding fall sport championships, the primary concern is the health and safety of participants. The committee would like to review this issue as early as possible in order to allow the membership to proceed with plans for their playing and practice season calendars. As such, committee members asked staff to present options during the committee's

September meeting. The committee also noted that results from an upcoming Division III Commissioners Association survey could help inform decisions.

8. Future meetings dates. The committee will conduct a videoconference August 25 in addition to the following regularly scheduled meetings (also to be conducted virtually).

- a. September 13-15, 2020 (includes time with sport committee chairs).
- b. February 2-3, 2021.
- c. June 21-22, 2021.

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University
Staff Liaisons: Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee August 13, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Brady Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
Absentees:	
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Dutcher, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Demetria Woodard.	