

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 29, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Karen Tessmer welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
- 2. Future Division III championship sites.** The committee reviewed and approved recommendations from sport committees for championship host sites in all sports for the 2026-28 cycle. The committee noted these sites provide an excellent mix of proven and new hosts and a breadth of regional diversity that will offer student-athletes an exemplary postseason experience throughout the length of the cycle. The approved sites are confidential until the official announcement through an NCAA news release on October 2.
- 3. Sport committee reports.**
 - a. Men's golf.**
 - **Legislative amendment.** The committee reviewed the recommendation to amend NCAA Bylaw 16.8.1.1 (practice) for men's golf to increase the mileage restriction and provide more flexibility for teams to practice at different courses and in different areas of the region. After discussion, the committee asked that the issue be referred to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC) to review both the merits of the proposal as well as whether it should be processed through the governance structure as Convention legislation or as a membership-sponsored proposal. (The committee also noted that the earliest the proposal could be addressed is at the 2026 Convention, as the deadline to submit legislation for the 2025 Convention has passed.) Further, while the recommendation came from the men's golf committee, the Championships Committee is asking the ILC to consider whether the recommendation should apply to all sports.
 - b. Women's lacrosse.**
 - (1) Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 31 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2025 NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship: Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast

Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Women's Lacrosse Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Women's Lacrosse Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; United East Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) Future championship sites. The committee also noted as information that the women's lacrosse committee is working to finalize site recommendations for the 2025 and 2026 championships and expects to seek approval later this fall.

c. Men's and women's soccer.

- **Championships date formula.** The Championships Committee noted the joint recommendation from the soccer committees to change the date formula for the Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Championships by moving the date one week later to align with the other divisions, provide more rest and recovery during the regular season, and improve the overall experience of the soccer student-athletes. Committee members acknowledged the results from a survey sent to Division III soccer coaches, athletics directors, athletic trainers and commissioners. The committee will review those results and discuss the proposal in more detail during the committee's September in-person meeting.

d. Softball.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 42 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2025 NCAA Division III Softball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, American Rivers Conference, American Southwest Conference, Atlantic East Conference, Centennial Conference, City University of New York Athletic Conference, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, Collegiate Conference of the South (eligible 2024-25), Commonwealth Coast Conference, Empire 8, Great Northeast Athletic Conference, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Landmark Conference, Liberty League, Little East Conference, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Association, Middle Atlantic Conference – Commonwealth, Middle Atlantic Conference – Freedom, Midwest Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, New England Small College Athletic Conference, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, New Jersey Athletic

Conference, North Atlantic Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference, Northwest Conference, Ohio Athletic Conference, Old Dominion Athletic Conference, Presidents' Athletic Conference, Skyline Conference, Southern Athletic Association, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, State University of New York Athletic Conference, United East Conference, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, USA South Athletic Conference, and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

e. Men's and women's tennis.

(1) Automatic qualification (men's tennis). The committee approved that the following 34 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2025 NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championships: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; United East Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) Automatic qualification (women's tennis). The committee approved that the following 34 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2025 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic

Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; United East; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(3) AQ deadline. The committee reviewed but ultimately did not support the recommendation to amend Bylaw 31.3.3.1-(a) to require all tennis conference championships to be completed not later than 3 p.m. Eastern time on selection day (rather than the currently legislated 6 p.m. local time). The committee cited the fact that the time slots at tennis facilities are often not under the conference's control, which would complicate a deadline adjustment. While they did not support the proposal, committee members urged communication with commissioners to make every effort to complete their tournaments in a timely manner to help the tennis committees do their work.

(4) Individual alternate increase. The committee supported the tennis committees' policy recommendation to increase the number of selected alternates for the individual championships – the singles alternates from four to eight and the doubles alternates from four to six. This provides flexibility to offer an opportunity to as many participants as possible. Additionally, this decreases the possibility of a bye in the first round of individual competition. Division III does not require onsite alternates, so there is no budget impact.

(5) Tennis playing rules. The committee reviewed the tennis committees' decision to adopt the seven-point scoring format (clinch-clinch) for the 2025 championships on a one-year pilot basis. Championships Committee members, while acknowledging they do not have jurisdiction over playing rules, nonetheless expressed concern with how this decision was reached and agreed to discuss this further during the September in-person meeting.

4. Future meeting schedule.

- September 8-10 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis; includes meeting with sport committee chairs)
- October 15, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- November 19, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- December 17, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- February 3-4, 2025 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.

Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division III Championships Committee August 29, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Tim Demant, Whitworth University.	
Chad Eisle, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Shannon Howley, Montclair State University	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State College.	
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College.	
Duey Naatz, University of Wisconsin-Stout.	
Sara Shoffner, Huntington College.	
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.	
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.	
Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Kevin Alcox, Elise Boulton, Lindsey Eldred, Jay Fitzwater, Margaret Gaines-Hornberger, Victoria Lipscomb, Louise McCleary, Katie Mucci, Jeff Myers, Ryan Richardson, Ryan Tressel and Jonathan Youngblood.	