



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 10, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

• **Women's lacrosse.**

- (1) Recommendation. To adopt a non-controversial change to increase the composition of the women's lacrosse committee from five to seven. The additional committee members will represent each of the two new sport regions.
- (2) Effective date. 2019-20 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. With continued sponsorship growth to more than 290 programs, regional realignment with a corresponding increase to the committee composition would provide several improvements for the sport, including balance of teams among regions. Currently, the regions vary from as high as 70 programs to a low of 44. A seven-region alignment would most effectively serve the sport based on sport sponsorship and anticipated growth. The two new committee members would contribute to the work of the women's lacrosse committee and provide leadership and oversight as teams are evaluated and ranked in their respective regions.
- (3) Estimated budget impact. \$4,000 for two additional committee members (committee travel, per diem, etc.).
- (4) Student-athlete impact. The increase in the number of regions and committee members will improve the rankings and selections process and overall administration of the championship.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Carnegie Mellon University women's cross country – penalty for roster substitution.** Championships Committee members reviewed a situation that occurred during the Division III Women's Cross Country Championships in which a Carnegie Mellon student-athlete was not

included on the championship roster due to a clerical error by the head coach. The student-athlete initially was held out of the championship race by the Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee but upon appeal was subsequently allowed to compete. Upon reviewing whether a penalty should be levied, the Championships Committee agreed that the mistake fell more in line with "failure to adhere" policies since the clerical error neither gave Carnegie Mellon a competitive advantage nor affected any other team or individual in the field. Accordingly, the committee recommended that a Category B fine (\$400) within the failure-to-adhere penalty structure be issued to the institution.

2. **Joint championships for men's and women's basketball.** Committee members supported recommendations from the Division III Men's and Women's Basketball Committees to conduct their championships in conjunction with the Division I Men's and Women's Final Fours, respectively, for the dates and sites specified. The Championships Committee noted that because all three divisions are involved in this initiative, a joint announcement will be forthcoming in January regarding the specific year and site at which the events will be conducted.
3. **Regional alignment project update.** Brad Bankston updated the committee on a project that a working group within the Division III Commissioners Association has undertaken to evaluate potential regional alignment alternatives, particularly in light of increased sponsorship in several sports. The working group has communicated with each sport committee chair and staff liaison to discuss sport-specific concerns, some of which will be incorporated into the group's final report to the commissioners in January.

The Championships Committee noted that the Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee has already submitted a proposal to expand its alignment from five to seven regions, effective for the 2019 season. While that proposal comes with a modest budget impact (adding two regional representatives to the national committee), the Championships Committee thought it prudent to support the recommendation in advance of its budget-cycle deliberations in February due to the impact on institutional scheduling for the 2019 women's lacrosse season (see Legislative Action Item).

4. **Squad size, travel party size and bench limit increases for women's lacrosse.** The committee tabled a request from the Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee to increase squad size, travel party size and bench limit for the sport until its February meeting at which the committee will discuss budget requests for the next cycle. Additionally, the committee expects to have the results from its bench size survey at that time (see Informational Item No. 5).
5. **Bench size survey draft.** The committee reviewed and approved the survey that staff revised based on comments from the committee's November teleconference, as well as a reference document the committee asked staff to develop that defines bench size, squad size and travel party size and provides numbers accordingly. The committee approved that the survey be distributed electronically on January 7 to all Division III directors of athletics. ADs will receive an email with the survey and a link to the reference document.

6. **Working group to review conference automatic qualification eligibility.** The committee continued deliberating potential members to serve on a working group that will explore establishing requirements for a conference to be eligible to earn automatic qualification to Division III championships.
7. **Other business.** The committee acknowledged the many contributions from outgoing members Shantey Hill and Julie Johnson and thanked them for their service and commitment to Division III.

Committee Chair: Bill Stiles, Alvernia University
Staff Liaison(s): Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Division III Championships Committee December 10, 2018, Teleconference
Attendees:
Brad Bankston, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Tim Fitzpatrick, United States Coast Guard Academy.
Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Gettysburg College.
Shantey Hill, St. Joseph’s College (Long Island).
Julie Johnson, Ripon College.
Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.
Kiana Verdugo, Hamline University.
Absentees:
Michael Vienna, Emory University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
Jessica Jones, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Klee, Championships and Alliances.
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.