



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 8, 2020, 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 meeting schedule and key discussion items.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its November 17 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Monitoring sports sponsorship for the purpose of determining bracket/field size.** The committee revisited winter sport sponsorship going into the 2020-21 academic year as they are known to date and agreed to continue monitoring these numbers in order to base future decisions about the conduct of winter championships on the most accurate data possible.

The current numbers include all of the institutions that have indicated they intend to participate in a given sport, regardless of whether they will be eligible for championship selection. To further hone the data, the committee reviewed potential survey questions to commissioners and athletics directors that would help determine (a) whether conferences/institutions have made decisions regarding the status of winter sports (i.e., whether they're going to compete or not), and (b) if yes, whether they intend to hold competition in a timeframe that would allow them to compete in the NCAA tournament, and whether they intend to meet the new reduced minimum contest requirements by the selection date. Answers to those questions would help the committee base future decisions on the actual number of teams eligible for selection. The committee agreed that institutions intending to conduct winter sports competition but not with the required number of contests by the selection deadline will not be considered in the total number of sponsoring institutions when evaluating whether to conduct a championship.

The committee acknowledged that the survey may help with team sports (basketball and ice hockey) more than individual sports (swimming and diving, track and field, and wrestling), since minimum contest requirements in the individual sports are meant to apply to posting a team score at the championships rather than an individual student-athlete's ability to earn a qualifying mark. However, the intention-to-participate questions will nonetheless be informative in the short term, and the committee will be able to monitor the competition landscape in those sports as the season progresses. As such, structuring the survey for all winter sports is relevant.

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In a related matter, the committee reaffirmed its decision to set 60 percent as the sponsorship threshold for conducting a championship for sports with more than 200 sponsoring institutions (men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's swimming and diving) and 70 percent for sports with 51 to 200 sponsoring institutions (men's and women's ice hockey, wrestling). The committee discussed having the support of the Management Council to uphold these thresholds in any decisions made concerning the conduct of winter championships.

- 4. Championships questions for consideration.** The committee continued its discussion from the previous meeting regarding the various thresholds required for championship selection. The committee already had agreed that for automatic qualification, as long as conferences declare their intent to conduct winter sports with at least four core members and demonstrate a schedule that allows the automatic qualifier to meet minimum contest requirements, no waiver will be required if COVID-related issues either cause the conference to fall below the four-core-member threshold or prevent the automatic qualifier from meeting the minimum contest requirements. The committee also affirmed that, if a conference does not designate an automatic qualifier, pool allocations will be reconfigured according to Bylaw 31.3.1.1 within the existing bracket size and any conference members otherwise eligible for championship selection will be considered on an at-large basis (as Pool B teams; or Pool C teams if no Pool B berths are merited).

At this meeting the committee discussed selection requirements for at-large consideration and determined that teams must meet the new minimum contest requirements, and if they are unable to do so because of circumstances beyond their control, they would need to apply for a waiver in order to be considered for at-large selection.

- 5. Academic and Membership Affairs update.**

- a. Colonial States Athletic Conference women's lacrosse waiver.** The committee revisited and ultimately did not support the CSAC's request for an extension of the AQ grace period for the 2020-21 academic year in women's lacrosse. The committee had reviewed the request previously but asked for additional information regarding why one of the conference institutions in question had suspended the sport of women's lacrosse during October 2020, resulting in the conference's inability to meet AQ requirements. The committee noted although there was some impact of COVID-19 specific to filling a complete roster, the program admittedly had historically struggled with roster numbers. Thus, the committee was concerned that approving a waiver under these circumstances, specifically inability to fill a complete roster, sets an unwanted precedent.
- b. Women's ice hockey conference adjustment.** The committee supported the Commonwealth Coast Women's Hockey Conference's (single-sport conference) transition to be housed under the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC, multi-sport conference)

request, and confirmed that the AQ be maintained. (*Note: Ms. Jacobs recused herself from the vote as a member of the CCC.*)

- 6. Selection criteria discussion.** Staff reviewed initial discussions with a subgroup of commissioners on potential selection criteria to use for winter and spring sport championships in light of the reduced contest minimums and the likelihood that many schedules will be conference-only, which will complicate matters for sport committee as they fill their brackets. The committee began discussing potential adjustments, emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency in the determination and application of criteria adjustments across sports, and agreed to seek sport committee input before finalizing any decisions.
- 7. Softball Committee report.** The committee acknowledged a request from the Division III Softball Committee to move selections and regionals one week later for the 2021 championship due to the elimination of super regionals with the reduced bracket size. The committee agreed to move this item to its next meeting in January, in part because of time constraints but also because a similar request is likely to be forthcoming from the Division III Baseball Committee, and the committee agreed it would be prudent to discuss both at the same time for equity purposes.
- 8. Future meeting dates.**
 - a. January 7, 2021 (via videoconference).
 - b. February 2-3, 2021 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).
 - c. June 21-22, 2021 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).

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

Division III Championships Committee December 8, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Braly Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	

Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Mlynski Peterson, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Dan Dutcher, Laura Klee, Jeff Myers, J.P. Williams and Demetria Woodard.