



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 13, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Chuck Mitrano welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Joint women's basketball championships update.** The committee received an update from the women's basketball staff regarding the joint championship this coming April in Dallas during which the Divisions III and II national championship games will be held in conjunction with the Women's Final Four. The Divisions III and II championship games will be played on Saturday, April 1, the day between the Division I women's semifinals (Friday) and final (Sunday). All games will be played at the same facility (American Airlines Center). The CBS Sports Network will televise the Divisions III and II championship games. The Division III championship game will be played at 11 a.m. Central time, before the Division II championship game at 2:30 pm. (the order was reversed the last time the joint championships were conducted in 2016; the television window for these games precedes the Division I men's basketball semifinals). Staff emphasized that among the driving elements behind this combined event include honoring gender equity; respecting each division's brand/philosophy; and enhancing in-venue signage, game presentation and ancillary events to provide the best student-athlete experience possible. Staff noted that the Division III Women's Basketball Committee has been integrally involved in the planning process from the beginning, and that the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Dallas will serve as the co-hosts for Division III.
- 3. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its November 15 videoconference as presented.
- 4. Potential federated playing rules.** The committee received a presentation from staff regarding a potential federated playing rules structure. The new NCAA Constitution adopted in January allows the individual divisions to establish playing rules for sport competitions and participation. However, since 1996, when the NCAA federated its governance structure to give each division more autonomy, playing rules have remained Association-wide. Staff noted that results from the last Division III membership survey indicated a desire to maintain that core principle. Championships Committee members, however, did note past frustrations when playing rules have a financial impact on institutions or when they affect academic calendars. As such, while the committee did not express any desire to veer from the current common playing rules philosophy or the general process to adopt playing rules, members suggested that

perhaps a more strategic composition of committees that govern playing rules may mitigate circumstances, particularly when considering the infrastructure and costs necessary to implement the rule change.

5. **Convention legislative proposals.** The committee reviewed a legislative proposal slated for a vote at the upcoming NCAA Convention that would amend the composition of the councils and select committees within the governance structure (including the Championships Committee). The proposal would increase the size of the Championships Committee from nine to 12 members and require at least two members from each of the four geographical regions, including one from a multi-sport conference or institution in California, Colorado, Oregon, Texas or Washington. Members thought that since the division allocates about 75% of its budget to support championships, the composition and voice of the committee should reflect that emphasis as much as possible.
6. **Bracketing analysis.** Staff provided an update on the bracketing analyses currently being developed regarding an access-ratio model that would protect automatic qualification and increase buckets in select sports, and a “permissible flights” model that would consider the division’s existing principle of separating conference opponents in the first round but permit one or two additional flights to separate higher-ranked teams within a region. Committee members suggested that the analysis include combining the models to determine the feasibility of both options. Staff also noted the ongoing evaluation of the PairWise metric in select sports as a contributing factor to the analysis. The committee will revisit these issues during its February meeting.
7. **Other business.** The committee thanked Michelle Morgan, Robin Baker and KryJuan Roberson, whose terms on the committee expire after the January Convention and who thus are participating in their last meeting with the group. The committee expressed its sincerest gratitude for the outgoing members’ contributions during their terms of service.
8. **Future meeting/videoconference dates.**
  - February 6-7, 2023 (meeting via videoconference; times to be determined).
  - March 21, 2023, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
  - April 18, 2023, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
  - May 16, 2023, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
  - June 12-13, 2023 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
  - August 16, 2023, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
  - September 11-12, 2023 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

*Committee Chair:* Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8  
*Staff Liaisons:* Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances  
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances  
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs

<b>Division III Championships Committee December 13, 2022, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
KryJuan Roberson, Keystone College.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.	
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.	
Jason Verdugo, Hamline University.	
<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>	
Margaret Gaines, Lynn Holzman, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan, Rachel Seewald and Kelly Whitaker.	