



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 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, presenters and key discussion items.
2. **Recent committee reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its January 21 videoconference as presented.
3. **Committee liaison assignments.** Committee members updated and/or confirmed their sport committee liaison assignments.
4. **Governance update.** Interim Vice President of Division III Louise McCleary updated the committee on recent actions and ongoing issues within the NCAA governance structure that affect Division III and previewed the February 3 Division III Administrative Committee meeting.
5. **NCAA Convention legislation update.** Staff updated the committee on legislative action taken at the 2021 NCAA Convention and noted the current status of the student-athlete name, image and likeness proposals.
6. **SAAC update.** Bridgett Finn provided an update on behalf of the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
7. **Playing rules update.** Rachel Seewald from the NCAA playing rules staff updated the committee on recent actions from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel.
8. **Spring sport championship format and selection date review.** The committee began reviewing input from spring sport committees about championship formats that accommodate previously approved reductions in brackets/field sizes. While the spring sports playing and practice seasons have only just begun, sport committees are already working to anticipate championship formats based on the evolving circumstances related to the pandemic.

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In its preliminary review, the Championships Committee offered feedback on some sport committee suggestions but did not make any final recommendations pending the receipt of further information, as well as on future institutional and conference decisions regarding their participation in spring sports. The committee also noted the following factors to be taken into consideration as the format discussions progress:

- The NCAA travel staff has yet to vet any of the sport committee options and, as such, there may be concerns identified that the Championships Committee may need the sport committees to address.
- The Championships Committee during its January 7 videoconference already approved format changes in baseball and softball that eliminate the super-regional round and shorten the overall length of the championships without changing the finals dates.
- The committee discussed at length the unique situations many spring sport committees are facing because of the reduction of brackets/field sizes to 75 percent. Several sports are at an “AQ only” bracket at 75 percent and would typically have at least one Pool B berth and are requesting to keep a Pool B berth that would put the bracket over 75 percent. In its review of the matter, the committee talked about the following:
 - During its September 29 meeting when the committee officially recommended reducing brackets it was fairly clear that the intent was not to go above 75 percent except in women’s tennis where the AQs alone caused the bracket to exceed the 75 percent threshold. Additionally, the committee held the course with bracket thresholds in winter sports despite sport committee requests to expand.
 - However, the committee also acknowledged that spring sports are facing a double impact after having not only their championships but their entire seasons canceled last year. The Championships Committee is sympathetic to those circumstances and is interested in accommodating spring sport committee requests as much as possible. In particular, the Championships Committee wants to ensure access not only for AQs but also Pool B teams that otherwise would not have a pathway to the championships.
 - Accordingly, the Championships Committee is interested in exploring options that may exceed the 75 percent threshold but offer equitable accessibility across sports. The committee acknowledges the potential financial impact of exceeding the previously established thresholds, but given the unique circumstances surrounding spring sports over now a two-year period, the committee is interested in at least doing its due diligence to provide student-athletes in these sports with as much of a postseason opportunity as possible. The committee will continue to explore such options at future meetings with an understanding that circumstances may change along the way that could ultimately affect the decision.

9. Championship budget discussions.

- a. **Budget recap.** The committee reviewed final budget-to-actuals from the 2019-20 fiscal year as well as revenues and expenses to date for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Staff also walked the committee through a long-range budget document through the length of the current and future phase of the NCAA's broadcast rights agreement.
- b. **Budget priorities and recommendations for the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.** Normally at this particular meeting the Division III Championships Committee would begin reviewing budget requests from sport committees and forward recommendations to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee for consideration. However, given the circumstances resulting from the pandemic, budget allocations for future championship-specific initiatives have not been finalized, and as such, sport committees have not been engaged regarding their near-term needs. Once Division III determines its budget allocations for the near future, the Championships Committee will resume its engagement with sport committees to determine priorities. Also pending is whether supplemental spending cutbacks previously considered by the SPFC (based on recommendations from the Division III Championships Committee) will carry forward if anticipated revenues for the Association in fiscal year 2020-21 are realized.

10. In-region competition requirement waiver requests: The committee approved the following in-region competition waiver requests for the 2021-22 academic year:

- a. **Colorado College** – The committee considered and tabled a waiver request for men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse until more information on the scheduling rationale can be obtained from the institution.
- b. **University of Maine at Presque Isle** – The committee approved granting the waiver for men's soccer, women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball and softball. However, while the committee acknowledged that the institution now being a member of a conference has affected its nonconference scheduling, since some of what used to be nonconference opponents are now conference opponents, the committee nonetheless believes the institution should continue to do its due diligence to meet the in-region competition requirements.

11. Future videoconference/meetings dates. The committee noted the following monthly videoconference/meeting schedule but acknowledged potentially needing to schedule an additional videoconference later this month.

- a. March 16 (videoconference).
- b. April 20 (videoconference).
- c. May 18 (videoconference).
- d. June 21-22 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).

- e. September 13-14 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- f. February 1-2, 2022 (quarterly meeting; potentially in person, Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University
Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee February 2, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Mark Aiken, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Rachel Seewald, Liz Suscha, Jeremy Villanueva and Demetria Woodard.	