



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 7, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative 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 December 8 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Championships update.** Joni Comstock, NCAA senior vice president for championships, joined the meeting to update the committee on 2021 championship planning, including several items detailed further in this report.
- 4. Monitoring sports sponsorship for the purpose of determining bracket/field size.**
 - **Winter sports participation intention surveys.** The committee revisited winter sport sponsorship numbers as they are known to date and reviewed recent survey responses from Division III conference commissioners and athletics directors regarding their plans to compete in winter sports and whether they will do so in a timeframe that would allow them to compete in an NCAA championship.

The survey data were not conclusive, which the committee expected given that the surveys were sent in December when many conferences and institutions were still hedging their competition decisions on the hopes that more progress on mitigating the pandemic would be forthcoming. Accordingly, while this information is not inclusive enough for the committee to determine any further recommendations about the conduct of winter championships, the survey responses do serve as a helpful intermediate step to capture the most accurate information about the number of teams that will be eligible for winter championship selection. The information also is timely given that the Division III

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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Management and Presidents Councils will be meeting next week in conjunction with the NCAA Convention and will be interested in hearing the most up-to-date report from the Championships Committee on the status of winter sport championships.

The committee determined that its next steps will be to ask institutions to declare their intentions on the conduct of winter competition and if their participation would make them eligible for winter championships selection. NCAA staff will work with its research staff to develop and distribute this declaration request with a target distribution date of Tuesday, January 19 with responses due by Monday, January 25.

5. **Contact tracer training.** The Championships Committee strongly encourages sport committee members (particularly those serving as site representatives) and tournament directors and select staff members at host sites to complete a free, online contact tracing training course by March 1.
6. **Baseball and softball reports.** Due to the reduced bracket sizes in baseball and softball by 25 percent, the Division III Baseball and Softball Committees recommended, and the Division III Championships Committee approved, that selections in both sports be pushed back one week. The delay fills the gap left by the elimination of the super regional round due to the bracket reductions. As such, the time between the regionals and finals will be reduced. The new schedules are as follows:

Baseball	Original dates for 2021 (per the current championship date formula)	New dates due to eliminating super regionals
Selections	May 16	May 23
Regionals	May 20-23	May 27-30
Super Regionals	May 28-30	Eliminated
Finals	June 4-7	June 4-7

Softball	Original dates for 2021 (per the current championship date formula)	New dates due to eliminating super regionals
Selections	May 9	May 16
Regionals	May 14-16	May 20-23
Super Regionals	May 21-22	Eliminated
Finals	May 27-June 1	May 27-June 1

7. **Predetermined site selection update.** Staff noted that “Return to Championships” protocol documents for all NCAA sports (similar to those provided previously for men’s and women’s basketball) will be posted on NCAA.org the week of January 11. Also, the bid process has been initiated to solicit hosts for preliminary rounds in men’s and women’s basketball and all rounds of men’s and women’s ice hockey. Prospective hosts must demonstrate the ability to

meet health and safety protocols. Additionally, staff updated the committee on efforts to retain a company to administer testing at championship events.

8. Future meeting dates.

- a. January TBD, 2021 (via videoconference).
- b. February 2, 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 January 7, 2021, 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:
None.
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:
Joni Comstock, Dan Dutcher, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, J.P. Williams and Demetria Woodard.