



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 21, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed the committee and introduced new members Holly Sheilley, vice president of athletics at Transylvania University, and Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative Bridgett Finn, soccer student-athlete at Lebanon Valley College.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its January 7 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Management Council/Presidents Council update.** Jason Fein updated the committee on items both councils discussed during their meetings at the January NCAA Convention.
- 4. COVID testing update.** NCAA Championships and Alliances Managing Director Anthony Holman updated the committee on work being done within the championships and alliances staff to develop return-to-championship plans in order to meet the enhanced health and safety standards for conducting NCAA championships in 2021. The NCAA has selected Diamond Health/Vivature, Inc. out of Dallas to administer testing at championship events other than Division I men's and women's basketball. Mr. Holman previewed various testing protocols that will apply to travel parties when they arrive at the championship site and throughout their participation in the event.
- 5. Championships questions for consideration.** The committee continued discussing unresolved questions related to championships for the remainder of the academic year.
 - a. Minimum contest requirements for spring sports.** As the spring semester gets underway and planning intensifies for spring sports, the committee acknowledged the membership's desire for further direction on minimum contest requirements to solidify scheduling. The committee noted its previous decision to reduce minimum contest requirements for spring sports by 33 percent. However, due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the committee agreed that additional reductions are merited. Given that many if not most institutions already have declared they will delay the start of their spring sport seasons, the committee believes it is appropriate to afford even more flexibility for institutions to manage the scheduling challenges they are likely to face and still be eligible for championship

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selection. Accordingly, the committee voted to reduce the minimum contest requirements for spring sports to 50 percent (to mirror the revised requirements for winter sports) as follows:

Sport	Bylaw 20 Minimum	33% Reduction	50% Reduction
Baseball	25	17	13
Men's Golf	6	4	3
Women's Golf	6	4	3
Men's Lacrosse	10	7	5
Women's Lacrosse	10	7	5
Women's Rowing	8	5	4
Softball	24	16	12
Men's Tennis	10	7	5
Women's Tennis	10	7	5
Men's Outdoor Track and Field	6	4	3
Women's Outdoor Track and Field	6	4	3
Men's Volleyball	17	11	9

- b. AQ requirements for spring sports.** Similar to the minimum contest requirements discussion, the committee reviewed potential automatic qualification modifications for spring sports, noting its previous decision for winter sports that a conference's AQ would be protected as long as the conference declares its intent to conduct winter sports with at least four core members and demonstrates a schedule that allows the automatic qualifier to meet minimum contest requirements. As such, no waiver would 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. As the spring semester begins in earnest, the committee agreed to extend those same principles to spring sports in order to provide the membership with more guidance as they schedule competitions. The committee also affirmed that if teams in spring sports are unable to meet the new minimum contest requirements because of circumstances beyond their control, they would need to apply for a waiver in order to be considered for at-large selection.
- c. Potential sport committee recommendations.** The Championships Committee made it a point at this time to acknowledge the extraordinary work done by sport committees over the past several months to both anticipate and react to the evolving circumstances resulting from the ongoing effects of the pandemic on their sport. As the time approaches for decisions on winter and spring sport championships, and as sports sponsorship and competition patterns become clearer in the coming weeks, sport committees may naturally be inclined to make significant recommendations in the best interests of their sport. While

anticipating championship format adjustments is prudent, the Championships Committee believes that given its role of overseeing operations in all sports and ensuring that championships are administered consistently, any exploration of further bracket reduction to accommodate drops in sponsorship should be left to the Championships Committee to request (the committee has already reduced brackets/field sizes in winter sports by 25 percent but in doing so acknowledged that additional reductions could be made if necessary). Championships Committee members reiterated their previously stated desire 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, and 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, and wrestling). The committee noted its intention of having the support of the Division III Management Council to uphold these thresholds in any decisions made concerning the conduct of winter championships.

6. **Selection criteria discussion.** The committee continued discussing potential selection criteria adjustments to apply 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. Acknowledging that only a limited number of selection criteria may actually be accurate and useful this year, the Championships Committee agreed to delay any formal recommendations for winter sport committees until sports sponsorship declarations are determined and more contests are actually played. The committee noted that it could make these decisions at its January 29 meeting, during which it plans to review sponsorship data and potentially make recommendations regarding the administration of winter sport championships.
7. **Sport committee appointment.** The committee approved that Andy Girard, head women's tennis coach at Carnegie Mellon University, serve on the Division III Women's Tennis committee, effective immediately.
8. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. January 29, 10-11:30 a.m. Eastern (via videoconference).
 - b. February 2 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).
 - c. June 21-22 (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 21, 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.	
Absentees:	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Laura Mlynski Peterson, Championships and Alliances.	
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Dutcher, Anthony Holman, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, J.P. Williams and Demetria Woodard.	