



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **2021 winter sport championships.**

- a. Recommendation. Based on a review of participation data and declarations from institutions regarding their intentions of meeting minimum contest requirements in time to be eligible for championship selection, the Division III Championships Committee recommends that the Division III Administrative Committee cancel all Division III winter sport championships for 2021.
- b. Effective date. Immediate.
- c. Rationale. The Championships Committee has been working diligently over the past several months to develop reasonable scenarios for conducting winter sport championships safely and in accordance with increased health and safety guidelines and restrictions. Assuming that sports sponsorship levels would likely decrease through December and January, the committee established the following scale of minimum sponsorship that would allow for a meaningful experience while protecting the integrity of the championships: sports with fewer than 50 sponsors would require 90 percent participation; sports with between 51 and 200 sponsors would require 70 percent participation, and sports with more than 200 sponsors would require 60 percent participation. During its December 8 videoconference the committee discussed having the support of the Division III Management Council to uphold these thresholds in any decision made concerning the conduct of winter championships.

On January 19, Division III athletics directors were sent a declaration asking to indicate whether they are participating in winter sports in a timeframe that renders them eligible for championship selection as long as they meet the minimum contest requirements. The survey, which generated a 98 percent response rate, revealed that the number of “yes” responses was well below the sponsorship thresholds in every sport (see chart below).

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

	60% Threshold						70% Threshold		
	MBB	WBB	MSW	WSW	MTI	WTI	MIH	WIH	WRE
Sponsorship	416	430	238	265	291	297	84	67	109
Yes	48.6%	46.2%	43.1%	42.0%	48.8%	49.3%	52.3%	51.4%	61.8%
No	51.4%	53.8%	56.9%	58.0%	51.2%	50.7%	47.7%	48.6%	38.2%

The Championships Committee also reviewed data from the NCAA statistics staff indicating that the number of completed contests to date was well below what it would have been at the corresponding time in previous years. For example, in men's basketball, just 294 contests among only 113 teams had been completed as of January 28 compared with just under 4,000 at the same time in 2020. Similar disparities exist in every other winter sport, as indicated in the following chart.

	60% Threshold						70% Threshold		
	MBB	WBB	MSW	WSW	MTI	WTI	MIH	WIH	WRE
Contests/meets as of January 28	294	266	44	43	22	21	15	10	125
Number of competing institutions	113	110	34	34	29	29	4	4	30
Contests/meets as of January 28, 2020	3,958	3,986			199	196	1,137	894	1,134

The committee reiterated that it is basing its recommendation to cancel the winter sport championships primarily on the survey responses, but members noted that these participation factors lend credence to the decision.

- d. Estimated budget impact. To be determined.
- e. Student-athlete impact. While the Championships Committee is disheartened in making this recommendation and is doing so as a last resort and only after taking all possible steps to protect student-athlete opportunities, members believe the decreased levels of sports sponsorship simply would not provide for a meaningful championship experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University

Staff Liaisons: *Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances*
 Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
 Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee January 29, 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.	
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Laura Klee, Roberta Page, Alison Spungen, Jeremy Villanueva, J.P. Williams and Demetria Woodard.	