



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JULY 30, 2020, 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 the group and reviewed the meeting schedule and key discussion items.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from its July 7 email business and July 15 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Sport and playing rules committee appointments.** The Championships Committee approved the following sport committee appointments, effective immediately:
 - a.** NCAA Division III Football Committee (immediate vacancy replacing Kris Diaz) – John Snell, associate athletics director, Baldwin Wallace University, Ohio Athletic Conference. *Mr. Snell will complete Mr. Diaz's term (August 31, 2022) and be eligible for reappointment per NCAA Bylaw 21.9.1.3.1.*
 - b.** NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Committee (immediate vacancy replacing Kevin Brenner) – Todd Emberley, assistant commissioner, Skyline Conference.
- 4. Governance updates.** Heather Benning updated the group about the recent Management Council meeting and its recommendation to the NCAA Board of Governors that Division III fall sport championships for 2020 be canceled. The Council based its recommendation on upward trends in COVID-19 cases; increasing state-imposed travel restrictions; ongoing financial and availability concerns with testing; and the feasibility of conducting championships in the fall given concerns about the availability of sites, hotels and officials, and the increasing number of Division III conferences that have canceled their fall seasons, among other factors. The Board of Governors convened July 24 but did not take action on the Council's recommendation at that meeting. The Board meets again August 4, followed by the

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Division III Presidents Council meeting August 5. Staff noted the Board of Governors has the prerogative to cancel championships Association-wide based on a health and safety concern.

- 5. Fall sport championship status.** Committee members noted that as of July 28, 27 Division III conferences have either postponed or suspended most if not all of their fall sports for the 2020 season, and eight others have canceled them altogether. Given the number of conferences that have postponed their fall sport seasons and thus are at least considering some type of competitive experience in the spring semester – and the committee’s desire to weigh all possible options to provide fall sport student-athletes with a championship experience in 2020-21 – the committee reviewed the financial and logistical ramifications if Division III fall sport championships were to be conducted in the spring semester in an attempt to find a reasonable and practical landing space. However, after review, the committee believes postponement to the spring is logistically untenable and financially prohibitive. Accordingly, the Division III Championships Committee voted to support the Division III Management Council’s recommendation that Division III fall sport championships for 2020 be canceled (not postponed). A decision about fall sport championships in the spring semester will be considered during the upcoming Division III Presidents Council meeting.
- 6. Winter and spring sport championships.** While not enough time remained in the meeting for the committee to conduct a robust discussion of how winter and spring sports may be impacted by the ongoing effects of the pandemic, members did acknowledge the need to discuss those topics (e.g., possible date formula or bracket/field size adjustments) in earnest once a final determination is made regarding fall sport championships. The committee asked staff to compile and update relevant information for review at its next meeting. One area of continued discussion is the minimum level of sport sponsorship to merit a championship this year. On this topic, members continued an analysis based on varying sponsorship percentages by sport to determine how best to provide a quality championship experience and suggested the following guideline (to be finalized during a future meeting): sports with fewer than 50 sponsors require 90% participation; sports with between 51 and 200 sponsors require 70% participation, and sports with more than 200 sponsors require 60% participation.
- 7. Future meetings dates.** The committee agreed to meet at least biweekly for the foreseeable future in addition to the following meetings already scheduled. The next videoconference is scheduled for August 13.

 - a.** September 13-15, 2020 (includes time with sport committee chairs).
 - b.** February 2-3, 2021.
 - c.** June 21-22, 2021.

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

Division III Championships Committee July 30, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Brady 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:	
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:	
Dan Dutcher, Liza Erwin, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Demetria Woodard.	