



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JUNE 17-18, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Bill Stiles welcomed committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and key discussion items.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee approved reports from its February 5-6 meeting; March 5, March 19 and April 10 teleconferences; and April 15 email correspondence as submitted.
- 3. Governance update.** NCAA governance staff reviewed the following key items with the committee: 1) NCAA Board of Governors items (the addition of five independent members to the roster; tabling the discussion on esports; ongoing review of ramifications resulting from the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to allow state-by-state sports wagering; and endorsement of catastrophic-injury guidelines); 2) Sport Science Institute items (ongoing initiatives related to student-athlete mental wellness; discussions within the National Athletic Trainers' Association regarding potential liability for host institution athletic trainers treating student-athletes from the visiting team; participation in the Injury Surveillance Program; 3) Development of online learning modules regarding certification of compliance; 4) Potential legislative items for the 2020 Convention (conference composition requirements, athletics diversity and inclusion designation requirement); 5) Transfer portal usage in Divisions I and II, and potentially in Division III; 6) DIII University modules; 7) Ongoing discussion regarding the International Ice Hockey Pilot Program; and 8) Working group updates (FAR Advisory Group, Sportsmanship Working Group, LGBTQ Working Group).
- 4. NCAA Division III Management Council/Presidents Council updates.** No additional updates were provided from the recent Management Council and Presidents Council meetings.
- 5. NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** The SAAC liaison provided an update on behalf of the Division III SAAC from its April meeting.
- 6. Championships and alliances updates.**
 - **2022-26 host site selection.** NCAA staff provided an overview of the timeline and process for selecting hosts for championships from the fall of 2022 through the spring of 2026.

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7. Academic and membership affairs update and action.

- **Northeast Women's Golf Conference – waiver request.** The committee deferred a waiver request from the Northeast Women's Golf Conference (NWGC) for AQ access to the 2021 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships until a future teleconference in order to obtain additional information regarding the circumstances that led to the NWGC missing the deadline to apply for single-sport membership in 2018 and for input by the women's golf committee.

8. Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). The committee reviewed the panel's most recent reports and noted 1) PROP's approval of moving the three-point line in men's basketball to the international distance beginning with the 2020-21 season in Divisions II and III (the 2019-20 season in Division I); 2) PROP's denial of a recommendation from the Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee to enforce a forfeiture policy; and 3) PROP's approval of a progressive penalty for targeting in football.

9. Championships budget.

- **Fall and winter budget recap.** NCAA staff reviewed game operations, team transportation and per diem expense for the 2018 fall and 2019 winter championships and noted that several charges are still outstanding.

10. Conference requirements for AQ eligibility. The committee reviewed a report from a working group appointed to explore establishing requirements for a conference to be eligible to earn automatic qualification to Division III championships. While the working group agreed that conference members should be required to compete against conference opponents in order to earn the AQ, members did not reach a consensus on the appropriate threshold. Accordingly, the Championships Committee agreed to ask the Division III Conference Commissioners Association to provide the current percentage of conference opponents that members play in order to determine an appropriate benchmark that could be incorporated into a legislative proposal for a future Convention (likely the 2021 Convention).

11. Sport committee reports.

a. Women's basketball.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 43 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2020 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship: Alleghany Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial State Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8

Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

- b. Field hockey.** The committee received reports from the Field Hockey Committee's February 4-5 annual meeting and the joint Divisions I, II and III Field Hockey Committees' February 5 meeting as information only.
- c. Football.** The committee received a report from the Football Committee's February 11-12 annual meeting as information only.
- d. Men's and women's golf.**

 - **Date formula.** The Championships Committee deferred action on a request to modify the date formula so that the men's and women's golf championships begin the second and third Tuesday of May, effective with the 2023 championships (genders would rotate their start dates based on odd- or even-numbered years). While the committee was not necessarily opposed to the idea, members asked the Division III Men's and Women's Golf Committees to obtain more data from the golf membership regarding how many programs have one head coach for both genders and whether the proposal would have any unintended consequences on those programs or otherwise. The Championships Committee asked for feedback to be submitted before the sport committees engage in the next bid cycle.
- e. Men's and women's swimming and diving.** The committee received a report from the Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee's April 16-17 annual meeting as information only.
- f. Men's volleyball.**

- **Regional alignment.** The Championships Committee approved moving the North Eastern Athletic Conference from the West evaluation region to the East to accommodate increases in sport sponsorship.

g. Women's volleyball.

- a. Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 43 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Athletic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

- b. Committee chair.** The committee approved that Moira Long, head women's volleyball coach at Springfield College, serve as chair of the Division III Women's Volleyball Committee.

h. Wrestling.

- a. Regionals.** The Championships Committee approved the following regional hosts for the 2020 Division III Wrestling Championships:

Region	Host	Venue
Central	Adrian College	Merillat Sport Center
Mideast	Ithaca College	Glazer Arena
Southeast	Messiah College	Hitchcock Arena

b. Regional adjustments. The committee approved the following adjustments in regional composition to accommodate changes in sponsorship:

- Move Pennsylvania College of Technology from the Southeast region to the Mideast region.
- Move the University of Pittsburg, Bradford, from the Southeast region to the Mideast region.
- Move Stevens Institute of Technology from the Mideast Region to the Southeast Region.
- Place first-year program Alvernia University in the Southeast Region.
- Place first-year program Fontbonne University in the Lower Midwest region.

12. Regional alignment project. The committee revisited an alignment model from the Division III Commissioners Association that it supported during its February meeting and sent to Division III sport committees for feedback. The proposal – a 10-region model (without consideration of the sponsorship numbers by sport) as well as a scaled model dependent on sport sponsorship – focused on three guiding principles: 1) the number of institutions across all regions; 2) emphasizing geographic proximity for regional placement; and 3) maintaining conference members in the same regions. The commissioners purposefully did not take competitive balance into account, believing that strength changes from year to year and that regions should be primarily based on geography. However, much of the feedback from sport committees cited the proposal’s effect on competitive equity as a significant concern. Accordingly, the Championships Committee agreed to reach out to sport committees again with the intent of soliciting two models – one that incorporates eight regions and one with 10 – that retain the three original guiding principles but also account for competitive equity as each sport committee sees fit. The Championships Committee also urged the two genders in various sports (i.e., men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, etc.) to work together to ensure as much as possible that their models are consistent as far as what institutions and conferences are in each region. Championships Committee members are asking for these models to be submitted in time for the committee to review them during the group’s September in-person meeting.

13. Championships topics for feedback.

- a. Selections – consideration of teams by region rank.** The committee discussed issues regarding how the final published rankings from regional advisory committees are considered at the time of championship selection and agreed that those rankings should be maintained and honored when sport committees begin their selection deliberations.
- b. Nullification – application once championship has begun (i.e., when a sport reseeds teams at the final site).** Due to an increase in the number of championships that reseed teams that advance to the final site, the committee agreed to change the wording in the nullification policy to state that nullification *begins* at the time of selections (rather than

being applied *only* at the time of selections as is currently stated) and continues throughout the championship.

14. 2019 winter championship reports. The committee reviewed reports from the 2019 winter championships.

15. In-region competition requirement waiver request. The committee approved a request to waive the 70 percent in-region requirement for Occidental College's women's basketball program for the 2019-20 academic year. The committee noted, however, that Occidental could have resolved the issue through a relatively minor scheduling adjustment and cautioned that similar requests in the future may not be supported.

16. Future meetings dates and sites.

- a. September 9-10, 2019 (Indianapolis).
- b. February 4-5, 2020 (Indianapolis).
- c. June 15-16, 2020 (Indianapolis), (tentative).

17. Other business.

- **Sport and sport rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following sport and sport rules committee appointments/reappointments:
 - a. **NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee (reappointment)** – Kristin Huffman, assistant director of athletics/head women's basketball coach, DePauw University, North Coast Athletic Conference.
 - b. **NCAA Division III Baseball Committee – Mid-Atlantic region:** Ira Thor, sports information director, New Jersey City University, New Jersey Athletic Conference. **Midwest region:** Nick Bursik, director of athletics, University of Wisconsin-Superior, Upper Midwest Conference.
 - c. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee** – Doug Aiken, senior compliance administrator/associate director of athletics, Chapman University, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
 - d. **NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee – South region:** Sara J. Quatrocky, senior woman administrator, Rhodes College, Southern Athletic Association.
 - e. **NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee – West region:** Michelle Ferenz, director of athletics/women's basketball coach, Whitman College, Northwest Conference. **East region:** Jacey Brooks, head women's basketball coach, State

University of New York at Cortland, State University of New York Athletic Conference.

- f. NCAA Division III Field Hockey Committee – North Atlantic region:** Megan Cross, Associate Commissioner, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
- g. NCAA Division III Women’s Golf Committee – East region:** Joseph Ambrose, women’s golf coach, Keystone College, Colonial State Athletic Conference.

Committee Chair: Bill Stiles, Alvernia 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 June 17-18, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
	Stevie Baker-Watson, DePauw University.
	Brad Bankston, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
	Jason Fein, Bates College.
	Susan Fumagalli, Gettysburg College (via teleconference).
	Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.
	Jake Santellano, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.
	Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).
	Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.
Absentees:	
	None.
Guests in Attendance:	
	Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
	Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
	Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
	Kevin Alcox, Brian Burnsed, Joni Comstock, Morgan DeSpain, Dan Dutcher, Jan Gentry, Laura Klee, John Kuzio, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Julie Sargent, Micki Spears, Nick Strah, Caryl West, J.P. Williams.