



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2020, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **COVID-19 update.** Staff reviewed actions to date relating to the NCAA's response to the public health crisis, particularly steps the Division III Administrative Committee approved on March 13 to allow flexibility in the areas of sport sponsorship and membership requirements, student-athlete eligibility, and playing and practice seasons. Changes include an additional semester and season of eligibility for all student-athletes participating in spring sports, the removal of a minimum threshold of sponsored spring sports, and the flexibility for schools to help students with travel, lodging and meals as a result of campus displacement.

Staff also noted ongoing communication with sport committees and institutions that were to host winter and spring sport championships to resolve logistics and loose ends emerging as a result of the cancelations. In addition, the governance, academic and membership affairs and championships staffs are working with the Division III Commissioners Association to coordinate questions from the membership, including those directly related to championship administration (e.g., the impact on the AQ waiting and grace periods in various sports).

Finally, staff noted that the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee will convene March 24 to discuss financial ramifications of the cancelations and the appropriate steps moving forward.

2. **Approval of recent reports.** The committee approved reports from its February 4-5 in-person meeting, February 25 email correspondence and March 9 teleconference as presented.
3. **Budget review.** The committee reviewed updated budget-to-actuals that reflect final totals from the fall sport championships in 2019.
4. **Appeal request – Atlantic East Conference.** The committee reviewed but ultimately denied a request from the AEC to waive the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification in field hockey and men's golf. The AEC presented a number of factors that led them to believe they were in line for the AQ in all sports as long as they met the seven-member minimum (through a combination of core and affiliate members) by 2020-21. However, the Championships Committee noted that the conference will not have satisfied the accompanying provision requiring the seven members to have competed together for at least two consecutive years. The committee also saw no precedent for this particular case, as similar requests to waive the waiting period under these circumstances have consistently been denied. As such, the committee affirmed the intent of the existing legislation, specifically to afford an AQ to an

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

established conference with at least seven active and eligible members that have been competing together for two years.

5. **Regional rankings protocol.** The committee reviewed ideas for changes to the regional rankings protocol in conjunction with the proposed regional alignment model. Championships Committee members suggested a few changes, including a recommendation for sports to select a specific number of teams to rank per region, and asked staff to send the documents to sport committees for feedback.
6. **Women's Volleyball Committee report.** The committee tabled the volleyball committee's request to appoint a coordinator of officials to specifically serve Division III (rather than use the current structure in which one person serves all three divisions). The committee noted the request can be accommodated through existing funds in the women's volleyball budget.

However, the request triggered a broader discussion among committee members regarding the appropriate threshold at which a sport might consider requesting its own coordinator. The committee asked staff to compile relevant information for discussion during a future meeting.

7. **Men's Soccer Committee report.**

- a. **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 43 conferences to receive automatic qualification to the 2020 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East 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; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; 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; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
- b. **Committee chair.** The committee approved Kevin Brenner, head men's soccer coach at Elmira College, as chair for 2020-21.

- 8. Joint Men's and Women's Soccer Committees report.** The committee acknowledged a request from the soccer committees to change the date formula for the men's and women's soccer championships but did not have adequate time to devote to the matter. As such, the committee agreed to address the request during its next teleconference.

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 March 23, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
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:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
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:	
Joni Comstock, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers.	