



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed committee members and reviewed the key discussion items.
- 2. Recent committee reports.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from its January 29 and February 2 videoconferences and February 17 email business as presented.
- 3. Spring sport championships items.**
 - a. Declaration timeline.** As it did with winter sports, the committee reviewed plans to survey institutions regarding their intentions to conduct spring sports this year so the committee can evaluate how to administer championships accordingly. As with winter sports, the Championships Committee has agreed to maintain the previously established sport-sponsorship thresholds necessary to conduct championships: 60 percent in sports with greater than 200 sponsoring institutions (baseball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, softball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's outdoor track and field); 70 percent for sports with sponsorship between 51 and 200 (men's volleyball); and 90 percent for sports with 50 or fewer sponsoring institutions (women's rowing). The committee will ask institutions to declare by March 10 whether they intend to hold spring sports competition in a timeframe that would allow them to compete in the NCAA championship, and whether they intend to meet the reduced minimum contest requirements (50 percent by sport) by the selection date.
 - b. Predetermined preliminary-round sites.** As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the NCAA is calling for all preliminary-round sites to be predetermined in order to comply with health and safety and testing requirements. However, the preliminary-round sites may not need to be as consolidated as they were for winter sports since they are all outdoors (except men's volleyball).
 - c. Team health officer.** NCAA staff noted that all schools will be required to designate a team health officer as part of its travel party. To accommodate this requirement, an increase to the reimbursement for non-athletes from one to two for individual sports is being reviewed for spring championships.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

- d. COVID Code of conduct/travel party policies.** The committee reviewed the code of conduct in place to help ensure the health and safety of all participants during an NCAA championship in light of COVID-19 concerns and testing protocols, as well as expectations regarding safety and testing protocols all travel party members must meet to participate in championships.
- 4. Budget update.** Staff provided an overview of the Division III budget priorities for 2021-24 and noted that sport committees have been asked to provide budget requests for the committee to consider for the upcoming budget cycle.
- 5. Men's Volleyball Committee report.** The report from the Division III Men's Volleyball Committee's February 4 videoconference included two requests, one to change the site for the 2021 championship finals to Salem, Virginia, as the original host, Nazareth College, informed the committee that it would be unable to host due to COVID-19 concerns. The Championships Committee approved that request in a February 17 email vote. The second request was to adjust the championship format so that the entire 12-team tournament could be conducted in Salem for health and safety reasons. After discussion the Championships Committee approved this request as well.
- 6. Review of automatic qualification issues.**
 - a. AQ affirmation statement.** The committee noted an issue that developed during winter sports in which a conference had declared it was not conducting a championship and thus was not intending to declare an automatic qualifier, however, its conference members were free to conduct competition on their own. Subsequently, though, enough members did in fact conduct competition to meet the core requirements for AQ eligibility. Upon review of the situation, the Championships Committee agreed to issue the following statement for spring sports as it relates to conferences owning their automatic qualification berth and having the onus to designate their automatic qualifier in each qualifying sport:

The Championships Committee understands that conference plans may be in flux regarding spring sport schedules and participation but still holds that for a conference to retain its AQ, at least four core members must demonstrate schedules that would allow the conference's automatic qualifier to meet the minimum contest requirements. Automatic qualification berths belong to the conference and not its institutions; therefore, the conference has the responsibility to designate its AQ. For any conference that indicates it will not designate an AQ, the sport committee will reconfigure the pool allocations accordingly.
 - b. AQ form submissions.** The committee asked staff to create a form for conferences to submit by April 1 that declares how conferences will determine their AQ for spring sport

championships (i.e., whether their process for declaring the AQ has changed and if so how?).

- 7. Selection criteria discussion.** NCAA staff provided an update on the selection criteria discussion as it would apply to spring championships consideration. Staff will be meeting with a sub-group of the D3CA (Division III Commissioners Association) to discuss adjustments, if any, need to be made to help sport committees during the selections process.
- 8. Sport committee appointments.** The committee approved the following appointments to sport and rules committees, effective September 1, 2021, unless otherwise noted. (The committee noted that these appointments accommodate the increase in regions due to the recently approved regional realignment.)

a. Sport committee reappointments.

- (1) NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee – Gabby Lisella, associate athletics director, Rowan University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
- (2) NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee – Andy Hendricks, director of athletics/head men's and women's swimming and diving coach, Franklin College, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
- (3) NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Committee – Michael Lynch, director of athletics, Babson College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

b. Sport committee one-year term extensions.

- (1) NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee – Chuck McBreen, assistant athletics director/head men's basketball coach, Ramapo College, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
- (2) NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee – Pete Gyscek, head coach, Washington and Lee University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
- (3) NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee – Craig Russell, head coach, Plymouth State University, Little East Conference.
- (4) NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Committee – John Carlson, head coach, Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (5) NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee – Dara Ford, head coach, Otterbein University, Ohio Athletic

Conference; and Marlee Berg-Haryasz, assistant to the athletics director, Westfield State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Conference.

(6) NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball – Evin Giglio, head coach, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.

9. Future videoconference/meeting dates.

- a. March 16 (videoconference).
- b. April 20 (videoconference).
- c. May 18 (videoconference).
- d. June 21-22 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- e. September 13-14 (quarterly meeting; videoconference).
- f. February 1-2, 2022 (quarterly meeting; potentially in person, Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University
Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee March 1, 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.	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.	

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
--

Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Liz Suscha and Demetria Woodard.
