



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 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 approved the report from its March 1 videoconference as presented.
- 3. Spring sports sponsorship update.** The committee in early March asked Division III institutions to declare 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. The survey, which generated a 98 percent response rate, showed that all spring sports but one are at or well above the committee's previously stated sponsorship thresholds. Accordingly, the committee is comfortable committing to conducting championships in those sports at this time. The only sport in question is women's rowing, which currently is enough below the threshold to cause concern. However, the committee noted that for winter sports it waited until five weeks before the championships began to make a decision, and that for the sake of consistency the same timeline should be followed for spring sports. As such, the committee agreed to defer a final decision on conducting a championship for women's rowing until its April 20 meeting and will ask sponsoring institutions in advance whether their plans have changed.
- 4. Spring sport championship formats.** The committee revisited its previous recommendation that bracket/field sizes for spring sport championships not exceed 75 percent of the original (or the maximum automatic-qualification allocations in a given sport) and noted that when the recommendation was made the committee acknowledged the decision could be subsequently impacted based on sponsorship declarations as spring sports seasons get underway. Given the high sponsorship declaration percentages from the March 3 survey noted in Item 3 above, the Championships Committee is interested in exploring whether brackets/field sizes could be increased by sport in a fiscally responsible manner that would provide additional opportunities for student-athletes and produce a more "natural" bracket/field size (e.g., 48 teams rather than 42). Committee members agreed to ask spring sport committees (except men's volleyball, whose sponsorship is right at the 70 percent threshold, and for women's rowing, whose championship status has yet to be determined as indicated in Item 3 above) to consider

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prescribed bracket/field size increase scenarios that would produce a more manageable and logical bracket/field size for that sport, maintain the integrity of the bracket, protect access through conference AQs and Pools B and C, and not impact the formats (i.e., not add sites or rounds) or change the championship dates. Sport committees will be asked to provide responses in advance of the Championships Committee's March 31 videoconference for consideration.

- 5. Selection criteria update.** The committee continued discussing potential selection criteria adjustments to apply for spring sport championships in light of the reduced contest minimums and the likelihood that many schedules will be conference-only, which will complicate matters for sport committees as they fill their brackets. The committee asked staff to explore whether criteria used in the other two divisions could be applicable for Division III, and whether a criterion that evaluated the quality of wins (i.e., wins against teams with a prescribed winning percentage, such as .500 or .750) could be useful and report findings for the committee to consider at its March 31 meeting.
- 6. SCIAC waiver request.** The committee received a request from the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to waive the four-core institution requirement to retain the conference's AQ in men's and women's tennis and women's lacrosse due to health and safety restrictions being imposed locally that affect SCIAC member schools' ability to compete. However, due to time constraints, the committee was unable to deliberate this matter and agreed to move it to the committee's March 31 agenda.
- 7. Future videoconference/meeting dates.**
 - a. March 31 (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 16, 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, Jeremy Villanueva and Demetria Woodard.