



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 15, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Chuck Mitrano welcomed the group and previewed key agenda items.
- 2. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved reports from its February 1-2 meeting and February 10 electronic vote as presented.
- 3. Sport and playing rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following reappointments, term extensions and new appointments for sport committees and playing rules committees, effective September 1, 2022, unless indicated otherwise.

While the Championships Committee approved these recommendations, members did cite a few cases in which a sport committee appointment had no regional advisory committee (RAC) experience. This is a concern of which the nominating committees in all three divisions are aware. The nominating committees in fact have stated that they are facing challenges with generating nominations for vacancies, not only in general but also to satisfy diversity goals. Accordingly, Championships Committee members agreed to urge the more experienced committee members within the structure, as well as conference commissioners and athletics directors, to identify and encourage new and appropriately qualified candidates (and assist them in the nomination process) to help resolve these challenges.

**a. Reappointments.**

- (1)** NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee – **Denise Bierly**, head women's basketball coach, Eastern Connecticut State University, Little East Conference.
- (2)** NCAA Division III Football Committee – **John Snell**, associate director of athletics, Baldwin Wallace University, Ohio Athletic Conference.

**b. Term extensions.**

- (1)** NCAA Division III Field Hockey Committee – **Chrissy Chappell**, head field hockey coach, Connecticut College, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
- (2)** NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee – **Mike Zapolski**, director of athletics, Augustana College (Illinois), College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.

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**c. New appointments.**

- (1) NCAA Division III Men's Golf Committee – Region V: **Tom Koehle**, head men's golf coach, Penn State University, Altoona, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
- (2) NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee – Region VII: **Michael Schulist**, director of athletics, Carroll University (Wisconsin), College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
- (3) NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Committee – Region V: **Susan Kolb**, director of athletics, Hood College, Middle Atlantic Conferences; and Region VII: **Adam Sprague**, head women's soccer coach, Mount Aloysius College, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
- (4) NCAA Division III Softball Committee – Region I: **Casie Runksmeier**, associate director of athletics and senior woman administrator, Colby College, New England Small College Athletic Conference; and Region VII: **Van Zanic**, director of athletics and head softball coach, Geneva College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
- (5) NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee – **Kate Roy**, associate commissioner and senior woman administrator, North Atlantic Conference; and **Andrew Brabson**, head swimming and diving coach, California Institute of Technology, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (6) NCAA Division III Women's Tennis (immediate vacancy replacing Caitlin Crowley) – **Justin Grube**, director of athletics communication, Franklin & Marshall College, Centennial Conference.
- (7) NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee – Region I: **Joel Williams**, diversity, equity and inclusion coordinator and head cross country and track and field coach, Tufts University, New England Small College Athletic Conference; and Region VI: **Ayanna Tweedy**, director of athletics, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
- (8) NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee – At-Large: Sandy **Augstein-Collins**, director of athletics, Russell Sage College, Empire 8.
- (9) NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee – **Carol Jue**, head women's basketball coach, Chapman University, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- (10) NCAA Football Rules Committee – **Jason Lener**, director of athletics, Westminster College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
- (11) NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee – **Kari-Lei Berry**, head women's lacrosse coach, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Colonial States Athletic Conference.

- (12) NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee – **Brandon Koons**, head women's soccer coach, Otterbein University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
  - (13) NCAA Softball Rules Committee – **Tina Phillips**, head softball coach and senior woman administrator, University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
  - (14) NCAA Women's Bowling Committee (immediate vacancy replacing Barb Jones) – **Jeff Walsh**, head women's bowling coach, Medaille College, Allegheny Mountain Athletic Conference.
  - (15) NCAA Men's and Women's Fencing Committee – Northeast region: **Bruce Gilliam**, head fencing coach, Vassar College, Liberty League.
4. **In-region competition requirement waiver requests.** The Championships Committee approved in-region competition waiver requests from Colorado College for men's and women's lacrosse and Emory University for men's and women's tennis for the 2022 sport seasons. Both institutions annually submit these requests due to their lack of proximity to other Division III institutions and other scheduling issues.
  5. **Sport committee chair recommendations.** The committee approved a policy change allowing sport committees to submit their requests for chair appointments as informational items going forward rather than as action items for the Championships Committee to consider. The committee in the past has typically regarded these requests as perfunctory in nature and has trusted that the sport committee is making an informed decision that is in their best interests. Accordingly, this policy change streamlines the approval process and aligns with the process used in Divisions I and II.
  6. **Membership survey.** The committee reviewed responses (both by institution and by conference office) to the membership survey distributed in February to help the Division III Advisory Council complete its charge of reviewing the division's rules and policies to align with the new NCAA constitution. The committee focused on membership responses to championships-specific topics, particularly the ranking of budget priorities for the future. In general, committee members found that the membership's priorities (and in many cases the ranking of priorities) reflect those the committee has been discussing in recent meetings. Committee members noted that the survey responses will help inform their deliberations in the coming months as they work to formalize requests for the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to consider for the next budget cycle.
  7. **Gender equity review.** Staff reviewed with the committee a spreadsheet outlining the recommendations from both the Phase I and Phase II reports from the gender equity review that impact all three divisions, the progress that has been made to date, and the next steps going forward. The committee asked that a separate list be provided that includes only those items relevant to Division III. The committee also considered a working model going forward in which the sport committee chairs, the staff championship managers and the Championships Committee

liaisons for comparable sports (e.g., men's and women's soccer, men's and women's golf, baseball and softball, etc.) would meet regularly to monitor issues and ensure that student-athletes in those sports enjoy equitable experiences. The committee also acknowledged that the more in-depth review of these issues is better positioned to begin this summer in order for newly hired staff to become acclimated with their duties and to successfully execute the demanding winter and spring championships seasons.

**8. Sport committee feedback.** The committee reviewed draft questions for sport committees regarding bench size, day of rest and selection criteria, topics on which the committee felt sport committee input would be helpful to inform recommendations going forward. Staff asked committee members to suggest any changes within the next week so that sport committees have ample time to provide feedback on these issues before the committee's June meeting.

**9. Fall championships updates.**

- a. **Per diem.** Staff noted that the increase in per diem from \$95 to \$100 scheduled for the 2021-22 academic year was inadvertently not applied this past fall. Staff is working to reimburse institutions accordingly.
- b. **Ground transportation.** Staff also reviewed updated travel policies to account for reimbursement beyond the stated \$1,500 per day up to the actual cost with supporting documentation.

**10. Other business.**

- **Correspondence from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association.** The committee acknowledged receipt of a letter from the IWLCA recommending increases in squad size and travel party size, among other concerns. The staff will draft a response, noting that these issues are the purview of the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee, which will take them under consideration (several of the IWLCA's concerns already have been on the sport committee's agenda) and provide recommendations as appropriate for the Division III Championships Committee to consider.

**11. Future meeting dates and sites.**

- April 26, 11 a.m.- Noon Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- May 17, 11 a.m.- Noon Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- June 21-22, 2022 (quarterly meeting; Indianapolis).
- July 19, 11 a.m.- Noon Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- August 16, 11 a.m.- Noon Eastern time (monthly videoconference).
- September 11-13 [quarterly meeting; Indianapolis (includes meeting with sport committee chairs)].

*Committee Chair: Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8*

*Staff Liaisons:*            *Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances*  
                                      *J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances*  
                                      *Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>Division III Championships Committee March 15, 2022, Videoconference</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.
KryJuan Roberson, Keystone College (Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative).
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Jason Verdugo, Hamline University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
Troy Hammond, North Central College (Division III Presidents Council chair).
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
JP Williams, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Eric Hartung, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Chris Radford.