



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 22, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee chair Chuck Mitrano welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its February 6-7 meetings as modified (corrected date in the report title).
- 3. Budget priorities.** During its February meeting, the Championships Committee agreed to seek membership feedback on ways to enhance the postseason experience in anticipation of FY25 budget modifications in Division III that will allocate more dollars to support championships. Concepts the committee is considering are changing the size of the brackets to better match sport sponsorship, providing additional flights during preliminary rounds to protect higher regionally ranked teams, and/or providing more funding to the current championship experience. The committee reviewed a document staff drafted for commissioners and athletics directors that explains these concepts and apprises recipients of a forthcoming survey designed to help the committee further deliberate these ideas. Staff is working internally to draft the actual survey, which once finalized will be emailed to committee members for their review. Once that is approved the committee will determine when the survey will be distributed and by when responses will be due.
- 4. Pairwise education outreach.** During its February meeting, the committee supported the idea of using the Pairwise metric as a selection criterion sport committees could use in future years and agreed to vet this more within the membership before submitting a formal recommendation. Accordingly, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on a slide deck explaining the Pairwise metric and its potential benefits. Once this educational resource is finalized the committee will determine specific groups/audiences to target and a timeline by which feedback will be gathered. The committee intends to make a formal decision on this matter during a future meeting.
- 5. Sport and rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following appointments for sport committees and playing rules committees, effective immediately.
  - a. NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Committee** (immediate vacancy replacing Nate Stewart)  
– Brian Miller, director of athletics, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
  - b. NCAA Football Rules Committee** (immediate vacancy replacing John Pearce) – Jonathan Drach, head football coach, Wilkes University, Landmark Conference.

6. **NJAC/WIAC tennis AQ waiver request.** The committee reviewed and ultimately approved a request from members of the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) to maintain their men's tennis AQ by transitioning the AQ from the NJAC to the WIAC without serving a two-year waiting period. These institutions have combined their men's tennis programs under the flag of a multisport conference over the years rather than establish a single-sport conference to qualify for automatic qualification to the Division III Men's Tennis Championships. The group had been granted AQ privileges via the multisport NJAC; however, sport sponsorship changes (i.e., a WIAC institution added men's tennis and an NJAC institution discontinued men's tennis) have caused the group to seek its AQ now via the WIAC, which technically triggers the legislation requiring a two-year waiting period. Given that they have had seven consistent competing institutions participate together for the past two years and have maintained eight total institutions, the Championships Committee was satisfied that it would not be necessary for these seven members to serve another waiting period and approved the waiver request. The waiver is conditioned upon the WIAC continuing to satisfy the requirements for a conference to maintain an existing AQ.

7. **In-region waiver requests.** The Championships Committee considered but temporarily tabled requests from two institutions seeking in-region waivers for 2023 (Colorado College for men's and women's lacrosse and Emory University for women's tennis). While both institutions have been granted waivers in previous years, committee members are curious about why they are having trouble scheduling in-region contests and would like more information about their efforts to do so. The committee will reconsider these requests once that information is received.

8. **Future meeting/videoconference dates.**

- April 27, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
- May 16, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
- June 19-20 (quarterly meeting via videoconference).
- September 11-12 (in-person meeting, Indianapolis).
- February 5-6, 2024 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

*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

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| <b>NCAA Division III Championships Committee<br/>March 22, 2023, Videoconference</b> |
| <b>Attendees:</b>  |
| Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.   |
| Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.                           |

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| Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College.                        |
| Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.             |
| Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.           |
| Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.                 |
| Jason Verdugo, Hamline University.                   |
| <b>Absentees:</b>                                    |
| John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.               |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>                         |
| None.  |
| <b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>             |
| Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances. |
| J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.          |
| Julie Zike, Academic and membership Affairs.         |
| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>       |
| Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan.          |