



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MAY 19, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Minimum contest requirements for championship selection.**

- a. Recommendation. That the minimum contest requirements for championship selection be reduced by 33 percent in all sports for the 2020-21 academic year.
- b. Effective date. Immediate. The Championships Committee agreed that the recommendation would apply for the 2020-21 academic year but that the modification could be revisited as circumstances warrant in the near future.
- c. Rationale. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on championships considerations, the Championships Committee discussed potential blanket relief in the area of minimum contest requirements for championship selection purposes. While the committee noted that sports-sponsorship requirements are the purview of the Division III Membership Committee (which has not yet determined action in that regard), there is a desire to align the minimum contest requirements for sports sponsorship with the minimum contest requirements for championship selections and to remain consistent with Bylaw 31.2.1(c). In weighing minimum contest reductions for championship selection purposes, the Championships Committee also noted a desire to anchor any decision firmly within the Division III philosophy, which emphasizes conference and regional competition as a core tenet. Committee members based their recommendation on the following:
 - Any reduction should allow conferences to play a conference-centric schedule (e.g., competition among only conference members, or a schedule that includes conference and in-region competition).
 - While various percentages of reduction were considered, the Championships Committee maintains that a 33 percent reduction accommodates conference-centric scheduling in almost every sport and satisfies the Division III philosophy's emphasis on conference and regional competition.
 - The Championships Committee will be open to considering waivers from schools that are unable to meet the new minimum standards and still want to be considered for championship selection.

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- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The reduction in minimum contests will allow institutions to focus on a feasible conference and regional competition schedule to be eligible for championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Championships Committee chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed the group to the videoconference and reviewed the agenda.
2. **Approval of recent reports.** The committee approved the report from its May 7 videoconference as presented.
3. **COVID-19 issues – championship impacts.**
 - a. **Division III Commissioners Association survey.** The committee reviewed results from a survey of Division III athletics directors conducted by the Division III Commissioners Association in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis to collect input on issues related to sport sponsorship, playing and practice seasons, and championships for 2020-21.
 - b. **Division III Membership Committee update.** The Division III Membership Committee convened May 14 and considered areas of relief but took no formal action (results from the commissioners association survey noted in Item 3-a above were not available to the committee at the time of its meeting). The Membership Committee agreed that blanket relief of the minimum number of contests required for sports sponsorship is warranted but did not determine the best metric to use in providing that relief. However, the committee did identify a number of principles to guide future discussion in this area, including that any alternate competition model should permit a schedule primarily based on conference and/or regional competition.
4. **Future meetings.**
 - June 2, 2020 (videoconference).
 - June 22-23, 2020 (videoconference).
 - September 14-15, 2020 (videoconference).
 - February 2-3, 2021 (videoconference).

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 May 19, 2020, Videoconference	
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:	
Dan Dutcher, Eric Hartung, Laura Klee, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers.	