



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MAY 7, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**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 April 27 videoconference as presented.
3. **Women's Soccer Committee report.** The committee approved the following 43 conferences to receive automatic qualification to the 2020 Division III Women's Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East Conference, Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
4. **Joint Men's and Women's Soccer Committees report.** The committee discussed and ultimately tabled a request to change the date formula for the men's and women's soccer championships in a manner that would move the championships one week later. The committee is not necessarily opposed to the recommendation, but members prefer to review the playing and practice seasons for all fall sports collectively rather than impact one sport individually at this time. Committee members agreed that a decision would be rendered by this coming fall or early spring to provide adequate time for the soccer committees to implement a change.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association**

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

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

- 5. Women's volleyball coordinator of officials.** The committee approved that a Division III-specific coordinator of officials be appointed for women's volleyball. The Division III Women's Volleyball Committee made the recommendation believing this option is more beneficial to Division III women's volleyball than the current structure in which a national coordinator handles the Division III assignments. The sport committee believes it is in the best interests of the championship to identify a division-specific coordinator of officials who can focus on Division III women's volleyball officiating year-round and fulfill all responsibilities of the position in accordance with the established timeline. Because the Championships Committee is not authorized to approve items that require additional funding at this time, the committee asked that sport committee accommodate the position from within its existing budget. (The sport committee in its recommendation noted that existing funds were available to reallocate.)
- 6. Draft communication to sport committees.** Championships Committee members reviewed a draft memo to Division III sport committees updating those groups on evolving issues resulting from the COVID-19 crisis as well as other hot topics and asking for feedback on policies and procedures regarding regional rankings and selection criteria.
- 7. Sport committee appointments.** The committee approved the following appointments to sport and rules committees, effective September 1, 2020, unless otherwise noted. (Note: Staff will collaborate with the Nominating Committee staff liaison to work on adjustments to sport committee rosters to coincide with 2021-22 region plan changes.)

  - a. Sport committee term extension.** The committee approved the following sport committee term extension:

    - NCAA Division III Softball Committee – Atlantic Region: Renee Hellert, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Moravian College, Landmark Conference.
  - b. NCAA sport and playing rules committee.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments:

    - (1) NCAA Women's Bowling Committee – Central region: Glenn Brittrich, assistant athletics director, Elmhurst College, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
    - (2) NCAA Division III Field Hockey Committee – New England East region: Jodi Cipolla, head field hockey coach, Endicott College, Commonwealth Coast Conference; and South Atlantic region: Penny Kempf, associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, Rowan University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
    - (3) NCAA Division III Football Committee – West region: Matt Moore, head football coach, University of Northwestern-St. Paul, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

- (4) NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee – East region: Katie Boldvich, commissioner, New England Hockey Conference; and West region: Jason Bartelt, director of athletics, Marian University (Wisconsin), Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
  - (5) NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Committee – Region 2: Scott McVean, senior associate athletics director, Rochester Institute of Technology, Liberty League.
  - (6) NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Committee – North region: Travis Wall, head men's soccer coach, St. Olaf College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
  - (7) NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee – East region: Tom Emberley, assistant commissioner, Skyline Conference.
  - (8) NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Committee – New England region: Nancy Somera, assistant athletics director/head volleyball coach/senior woman administrator, Johnson & Wales University (Providence), Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
  - (9) NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee – Nikola Malezanov, head men's and women's water polo coach, Washington and Jefferson College, Presidents' Athletic Conference/Collegiate Water Polo Conference.
  - (10) NCAA Wrestling Rules Committee – Robert Fox, sports information director, Waynesburg University, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
- 8. COVID-19 updates.** Staff updated the group regarding ongoing ramifications resulting from the COVID-19 crisis and noted that the Championships Committee will soon be asked for input regarding potential modifications to the minimum number of contests required for sport sponsorship and for postseason selection, as well as to review playing and practice season issues for fall sports. The Division III Commissioners Association is planning a membership survey regarding these and other issues in order to inform future decisions by governance committees.
- 9. Future meetings.** The committee noted that due to recent action requiring all governance committee meetings for the near future, the committee will convene via Microsoft Teams on the following dates:
- June 22-23, 2020
  - September 14-15, 2020
  - February 2-3, 2021

The next in-person meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2021, specific dates to be determined.

*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

<b>Division III Championships Committee May 7, 2020, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Brady Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University.	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Kevin Alcox, Jan Gentry, Laura Klee, John Kuzio, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers.	