



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
MAY 16, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 21.9.6 (Figure 21-1) – Sports Committees with Only Championships Administration Responsibilities – Division III Women’s Rowing Committee – Composition.**
  - (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to modify the composition of the NCAA Division III Women’s Rowing Committee from six members (one member from each of the four regions plus two at-large positions) to four members (one member from each region).
  - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
  - (3) Rationale. The recommendation to eliminate the two current at-large positions on the Division III Women’s Rowing Committee more appropriately aligns the committee composition with the sport’s sponsorship (currently 44 institutions) as well as with other sport committees that are composed of one representative per region.
  - (4) Estimated budget impact. The recommendation would result in a cost savings due to a reduction in committee travel and per diem.
  - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee chair Chuck Mitrano welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
- 2. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the reports from its April 27 videoconference and May 8 electronic vote as presented.
- 3. Sports media rights presentation.** The committee received a media rights update.
- 4. Division III Nominating Committee request.** Per a recommendation from the Division III Nominating Committee, the Championships Committee recommended reducing the size of the

Division III Women's Rowing Committee from six to four by eliminating the two current at-large positions. (See Action Item 1.)

5. **Selection criteria database.** The committee reviewed and approved a timeline for considering the potential implementation of a new championship selection metric for Division III that accommodates time to educate and receive feedback from relevant groups, and work with the NCAA information technology staff to build and test the infrastructure to support the technology. The timeline positions the Championships Committee to submit a formal recommendation to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) in February 2024 as part of the proposed championships enhancements for the next budget cycle. Pending SPFC endorsement and subsequent approval from the Division III Management Council, the new selection criteria database would be implemented for the 2024-25 academic year.
6. **Budget priorities survey update.** Staff updated the committee regarding the survey sent to the Division III membership to gather input on potential postseason enhancements, noting that the deadline to respond has been extended to May 24 to provide institutions and conferences time to develop and submit their responses. More than 70 responses have been submitted to date, and more are expected as several conferences will be conducting their spring meetings by the deadline. The committee will use this feedback to deliberate potential recommendations during its June meeting for the next budget cycle.
7. **Sport committee reports.**
  - a. **Field hockey.**
    - 1) **Automatic qualification.** The Championships Committee approved the following 18 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship: Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; and State University of New York Athletic Conference.
    - 2) **Key informational items.** The committee noted the field hockey committee conducted its first selection show for the 2022 championship, which was well received, and developed an improved process for selecting and training site representatives to serve during the championship, which will be shared with other sport committees for their benefit.
  - b. **Football.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The Championships Committee approved the following 28 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division III Football Championship: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; Collegiate Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Commonwealth Coast Football; Eastern Collegiate Football Conference; Empire 8; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
  
- 2) **Potential bracket expansion request.** The committee noted the football committee's ongoing discussion related to potential bracket expansion, particularly in light of the increased access models the Championships Committee is considering for the next budget cycle. The current Division III Football Championship bracket is legislated to be capped at 32 teams; however, with declining Pool C (at-large) opportunities, the football committee is considering a recommendation to expand the championship bracket to provide additional championship opportunities for student-athletes and is examining the resulting impact on the championship date formula and other logistics before submitting a formal proposal. The football committee is targeting the request to become effective no earlier than the 2026 championship, which would allow time to propose legislation, adjust the playing and practice season, confirm broadcasting opportunities and align with the 2026-30 host bid cycle.
  
- 3) **Football rule change update.** Staff noted that per a request from the Division III Management Council based on feedback from the Division III membership, the proposed rule change in football in which the clock would not stop after first downs except for during the final two minutes of each half was referred to the Football Rules Committee to reconsider delaying implementation as it pertains to Division III to evaluate the impact at the Division I and II levels.

**c. Men's soccer.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The Championships Committee approved the following 42 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; Coast-to-Coast Athletic

Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference/United East; 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; 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.

- 2) **Bench behavior and yellow card accumulation.** The committee noted as information the men's soccer committee's discussion regarding how to address concerns regarding behavior both on and off the field, specifically in men's soccer. The sport committee is exploring potential changes, including requiring teams to use the bench to sit during tournament games, expanding distances between team benches, and expanding distances between bench and sidelines, among other concepts. The sport committee also continues to discuss concerns over yellow card accumulation and suspensions that could result as part of the accumulation. The Championships Committee offered to provide data collected by the Empire 8 over several years regarding yellow card accumulation that could help inform potential recommendations to mitigate concerns.

d. **Women's soccer.**

- 1) **Automatic qualification.** The Championships Committee approved the following 42 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2023 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference/ United East 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 Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast 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; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

- 2) **Bench limits.** The committee noted as information the women's soccer committee's discussion regarding a potential request to increase the bench limit from 40 to 50.

e. **Men's and women's soccer.**

- 1) **Exploratory selection criterion request.** The Championships Committee considered a request from the men's and women's soccer committees to use the 2023 selections as an exploratory year to evaluate a point-based formula compared with the current formula based on winning percentage. With the removal of overtime in the regular season and increase in ties, the soccer committees believe there is value in examining the difference in the current formulas based on winning percentage in which a tie is equal parts win and loss, and a point-based formula in which a tie is one-third of a win based on the commonly used points standings in all conferences (three points for win; one point for tie; and no points for losses). The Championships Committee discussed initial reactions to the request and agreed to deliberate the matter further during its June meeting.
- 2) **Potential date formula modification.** The soccer committees also asked the Championships Committee to provide input on a potential championship date formula change that would modify the current use of midweek matches by moving the championship back one week. The soccer committees have discussed this change in recent years and the membership has been surveyed and has indicated support, citing rest and recovery, player safety, scheduling flexibility, and improving the student-athlete experience as positive outcomes. The soccer committees noted that changing the date formula would not have a budget impact, and it would not be implemented until the next bid cycle. The committees emphasized that the goal of this proposal is not to increase the number of matches being played for most of the membership but to play fewer midweek matches and provide more recovery time for student-athletes. In its discussion, the Championships Committee deliberated the proposal's potential impact on conferences (i.e., conference tournaments) and whether moving the championship back one week would exacerbate the already challenging overlap period with fall and winter sports as it relates to institutions' ability to adequately staff events, among other concerns. The committee agreed to seek input from the Division III Conference Commissioners Association and National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators and consider the proposal further at a future meeting.

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

- a. June 20-21 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- b. September 11-12 (in-person meeting, Indianapolis).
- c. 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

<b>NCAA Division III Championships Committee May 16, 2023, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.	
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.	
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.	
Jason Verdugo, Hamline University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Jared Edelson, Endeavor.	
Eddie Llano, Endeavor.	
Hillary Mandel, Endeavor.	
Nicholas Warke, Endeavor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Kevin Alcox, Margaret Gaines, Julie Kimmons, Caleb Kolby, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan.	