



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Karen Tessmer welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
2. **Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its April 23 videoconference as presented.
3. **Update on protecting top regionally ranked teams.** Staff updated the committee on data being collected from 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 for all team sports to indicate instances in which top regionally ranked teams had to face each other in early rounds of the championship and develop, if necessary, appropriate options for their sport to protect these teams. The committee will be able to evaluate these results and potentially propose a policy to better protect these teams in future years. If needed, budget recommendations would be submitted to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to review during its June meeting.
4. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** The committee noted that in addition to the Division III Management Council approving, in concept, the NPI as the metric for selecting non-automatic qualifiers for the championship field for Division III team sports, effective September 1, 2024, the Division III Presidents Council also endorsed implementing the NPI for the 2024-25 academic year during its April meeting. Both councils urged the Championships Committee to continue developing educational materials and resources to help the Division III membership and sport committees implement the new metric beginning this fall.
 - a. **NPI education.** The committee discussed the timeline for each sport committee to set its NPI weights and discussed the next steps in educating the membership. The following timeline will be used:

Sport Season	Dials Set and Published	Webinar
Fall	June 1	June
Winter	July 1	July
Spring	August 1	August

Note: Webinars will be sport specific and details will be sent directly to the membership regarding each webinar opportunity.

- b. NPI policies.** The Championships Committee continued discussing the particulars of the metric, including the process for sport committees to implement the “dials,” or specific components of the metric for their sport, the interval or frequency of which those dials may be changed, consideration of a range in which each of the dials must be set, and whether like sports should have the same dial settings. The committee also discussed its involvement in monitoring the dials over time, including whether any changes should require Championships Committee approval.

The committee plans to finalize all these implementation procedures by its June meeting before the Management Council considers the concept in final legislative form in July.

- 5. 2025 Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship host.** The committee approved the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to host the 2025 Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship. The selection of the host at this time was necessitated because of the predetermined final site pilot that was approved in August 2023 in which the championship will rotate from campus sites to predetermined sites every other year. The selection of the next predetermined site in 2027 will occur through the normal bid cycle timeline. The women’s ice hockey community believes the Wisconsin-River Falls staff will provide an excellent championship atmosphere for participants based on their recent hosting experience in 2024 during which they received high praise from the participants.
- 6. Web stream survey results.** Staff reviewed results from a recent survey of Division III institutions and conferences regarding their web streaming practices/capabilities to help inform the committee as it continues to explore options for streaming of Division III championship preliminary rounds. Of note, 87% of the 322 respondents said they currently produce their own broadcasts.
- 7. Preliminary-round video streaming proposal.** Given the review of survey results noted above, the committee considered a potential proposal to add video streaming as a requirement in minimum bid specifications for preliminary-round contests in specified sports. The proposal specifies minimum expectations that would be effective with the 2024-25 academic year and includes providing funding to offset costs associated with web streaming NCAA championship preliminary rounds. The committee offered feedback on the proposal for staff to incorporate into a revised version that the committee will reconsider during its June meeting. If approved, this recommendation would go to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance committee.
- 8. In-region waiver request.** The committee approved the request from the University of California, Santa Cruz, to waive the in-region requirement for the institution’s men’s and women’s soccer programs for the 2024-25 academic year (Note: the waiver request from UC Santa Cruz included women’s volleyball, but that sport currently has a schedule that is compliant with the in-region requirement, making a waiver unnecessary.) The committee noted that the institution is regionally isolated, thereby making it challenging to structure a schedule compliant with the in-region requirements. Additionally, of the institution’s Division III opponents, more than 70% were in-region. and the additional opponents (non-Division III)

were scheduled to provide opportunities for their student-athletes as opposed to increasing their strength of schedule. Championships Committee members were generally satisfied that the institution has taken sufficient efforts over the past several years to increase its percentage for the sports in question and that those sports are currently close enough to the threshold to warrant receiving the waiver.

The review prompted discussion of a broader issue regarding the 70% in-region threshold. Given the shift to using the NPI for selection purposes and how contests are counted within that system (i.e., contests versus non-Division III teams not counting for selection purposes), the Championships Committee discussed whether the legislation regarding the 70% in-region requirement should be changed to 70% of *scheduled Division III contests* versus 70% of all scheduled contests. The committee believes that doing so may reduce the number of requests to waive this requirement and may account for those geographically challenged institutions that schedule non-Division III contests simply as opportunities for their student-athletes to compete, rather than to boost their selection data. The committee will revisit this issue during its June meeting.

9. Future meeting/videoconference dates.

- a. June 17-18 (meeting via videoconference; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Eastern time each day).
- b. July 16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference; tentative).
- c. August 20, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- d. August 29 (videoconference; championship bids review)
- e. September 8-10 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis; includes meeting with sport committee chairs)
- f. February 3-4, 2025 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis)

Committee Chair: Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University
Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Championships Committee May 14, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State University.	
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Shannon Howley, Montclair State University.	
Duey Naatz, University of Wisconsin-Stout.	
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	

Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Absentees:
Sara Shoffner, Huntingdon College.
Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Margaret Gaines, Louise McCleary, Katie Mucci, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan.