



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 21, 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 previewed the agenda.
2. **Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the report from its September 11-12 in-person meeting as amended and approved reports from its October 24 videoconference and November 1 electronic vote.
3. **Championship enhancements update.** Staff updated the committee on a membership survey distributed in early November designed to obtain additional input regarding how to prioritize the potential enhancements previously identified (increasing access to championships through increased brackets in select sports, including football; increasing per diem to mitigate costs for participating institutions; and providing sport committees the flexibility to add flights to avoid paring top ranked teams within a region). The survey also asked about championships principles (e.g., length, size and composition of brackets). The Championships Committee, which will review the survey results in detail during its December videoconference, will use this feedback to help inform final budget recommendations during its February meeting that will be submitted to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee for consideration in March. Staff also presented the committee with a list of additional budget requests from sport committees that the Championships Committee will consider more formally in February.
4. **Selection criteria database update.** Staff updated the committee on the outreach to date with sport committees and regional advisory committees regarding the potential selection criteria database and the efforts internally to develop accompanying software for sport committees to use during future selections if the database is adopted (the database is among the budget items the Championships Committee will consider in February). Staff noted that education regarding the database will continue during the coaches association conventions held in December and January. Fall sport committees will be provided sample brackets from the database at their annual meetings in January and February based on the most recent season for the sport committees to compare with the committee's selected brackets. The committee also reviewed and provided feedback on questions that have been asked most frequently through the educational sessions held with sport committee members.
5. **Waiver requests.**
  - a. **Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference women's ice hockey – AQ.** The Championships Committee reviewed and ultimately did not support the request from the

MASCAC to grant an exception to NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1(d) that precludes a member institution to be eligible for automatic qualification in multiple conferences. At issue is a MASCAC core member that also is an affiliate member of a single-sport conference and is being obligated by that conference to continue its affiliation through 2024-25. The MASCAC asked that it be allowed to count the institution toward the conference's AQ waiting period while still serving its commitment to the single-sport conference. The Championships Committee based its denial of the request on its belief that the legislation surrounding automatic qualification should be strictly adhered to, which the committee has done consistently over the years when considering similar requests. While the committee is sympathetic regarding the MASCAC institution in question not being released from its affiliation with the single-sport conference, the committee nonetheless believes allowing any institution to be eligible for AQ in multiple conferences would be inappropriate and run counter to the current legislation.

- b. New England Volleyball Conference men's volleyball – AQ.** The Championships committee reviewed and approved the request from the recently created NEVC to be granted automatic qualification for the 2025 NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Championship. NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1.2 requires the Division III Championships Committee to formally approve automatic qualification for new single-sport conferences through the waiver process provided certain conditions are satisfied. The NEVC members satisfied the condition set forth in 31.3.3.1.2(b)(2) and as well as the two-year participation requirement (they competed together in 2022-23 and will again for 2023-24). Consequently, the Division III Championships Committee approved the waiver.

**California Lutheran University – in-region requirements for men's volleyball.** The Championships Committee considered but ultimately did not support granting the institution's request to waive the 70% in-region requirement for men's volleyball for the 2023-24 season. The committee acknowledged that requests to waive the in-region requirement in past years have in many cases been approved; however, the committee this past summer developed more stringent parameters surrounding in-region waiver requests that include needed documentation to demonstrate that the institution has exhausted its opportunities to meet the legislation. The committee denied based on the low percentage of in-region contests.

- c. Colorado College – in-region requirements for men's and women's lacrosse.** The Championships Committee tabled the request from Colorado College to waive the 70% in-region requirement for men's and women's lacrosse for the 2023-24 season and asked staff to acquire additional information from the institution regarding its inability to meet the requirement. The committee noted that the institution is relatively close to meeting the percentage and is questioning whether any additional effort could be made to comply with the requirement. The committee will reconsider the request at a future videoconference.
- 6. Softball committee reports.** The Championships Committee received two reports from the Division III Softball Committee as information, one from a joint meeting with the Division III

Baseball Committee (the two committees meet periodically to discuss common issues and ensure gender equity), and the other from the softball committee's September 27 videoconference during which the committee agreed not to allow the rule changes recently approved for the regular season regarding the double first base and the action clock to be used during the Division III Softball Championship.

**7. Future meeting/videoconference dates.**

- a. December 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- b. February 5-6, 2024 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).
- c. March 19, 2024, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- d. April 23, 2024, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- e. May 14, 2024, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- f. June 17-18, 2024 (meeting via videoconference).
- g. September 8-10, 2024, (in-person meeting; Indianapolis; will include meeting with sport committee chairs)

*Committee Chair:* Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8  
*Staff Liaisons:* Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances  
 J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

| <b>NCAA Division III Championships Committee<br/>November 21, 2023, Videoconference</b> |
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| <b>Attendees:</b>   |
| Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.                                |
| Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.  |
| Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.  |
| Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.                              |
| Shannon Howley, Montclair State University.   |
| Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College.   |
| John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.  |
| Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.  |
| Sara Shoffner, Huntingdon College.  |
| Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.  |
| Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.  |
| Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.                                      |
| <b>Absentees:</b>   |
| None.   |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>  |
| Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.  |
| <b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>  |
| Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.                                    |

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| J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances. |
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| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b> |
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| Margaret Gaines, Caleb Kolby, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan. |
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