



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 28, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Budget allocation to equitably align officiating fees.**

- a. Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee approve a one-time allocation of \$19,972 to equitably align officiating fee structures for Division III championships in baseball, men's and women's lacrosse, and men's and women's volleyball.
- b. Effective date. Immediate.
- c. Rationale. In conjunction with the NCAA's gender equity review and the ongoing collaboration with the Division III Commissioners Association to enhance officiating processes and grow the overall pool of officials for NCAA championships, the NCAA staff examined the officiating fee structures for like sports and noted discrepancies in baseball/softball, men's and women's lacrosse, and men's and women's volleyball. The recommendation to align the fee structures in these sports incorporates a matrix that includes factors such as the number of rounds and number of contests being officiated, the number of days on site, and the length of contests. The Division III Championships Committee agrees this reallocation within the fee structures is warranted to ensure as much as possible that officials in like sports at Division III championships are being paid an equitable rate.
- d. Estimated budget impact. This is a one-time allocation of \$19,972 to mitigate gender discrepancies in officiating fees within the Division III championships program.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The adjustments will help ensure Division III attracts the best possible officials for its championships.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Kiki Jacobs welcomed committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and key discussion items.

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2. Recent sport committee reports.

- a. **Women's basketball.** The committee approved a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee to move the 2022 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship semifinal games from Friday, March 18, to Thursday, March 17. This one-time adjustment mitigates concerns related to scheduling this year due to multiple events occurring at the host location.

The women's basketball semifinals and final were to have been played at UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse at Duquesne University, hosted by the Presidents' Athletic Conference and SportsPITTSBURGH, Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19. However, the Division I men's basketball first/second rounds are scheduled to be held at PPG Paints Arena Friday, March 18, and Sunday, March 20. PPG Paints Arena is within a few blocks of UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse.

While the Division III Women's Basketball Committee appreciates the full weekend of NCAA basketball in Pittsburgh and has identified cross-promotional opportunities that could benefit the Division III women's championship, it recognized challenges in hosting both events the same weekend, specifically having the Division III women's semifinals the same day as the Division I men's first round. The hosts also recognized these challenges and asked that a date adjustment be considered.

The Division III Women's Basketball Committee assured that the broadcast window for the championship game will not be compromised, and that the additional dollars needed for the extra day of per diem can be absorbed within the existing championship budget.

- b. **Men's and women's tennis.** The committee approved a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees that the Division III men's and women's tennis individual (singles and doubles) regions expand from four to eight to align with the team regions and accordingly adjust the process by which individuals are selected to the singles and doubles championship fields.
- c. **Men's and women's track and field and cross country.** The committee approved a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee to move Lakeland University from the Midwest (Region IX) to the North (Region VII).

3. **Governance updates.** Staff provided updates on recent meetings of the Division III Management Council, Division III Presidents Council, NCAA Board of Governors, and the NCAA Constitution Committee. Staff also noted that the Management and Presidents Councils had the opportunity to be briefed on the recent issuance of the Phase II report of the NCAA's gender equity review. As was the case with the Phase I report that focused on men's and women's basketball, the Phase II report addressing all other sports indicated that for the most part, Divisions II and III provide equitable championship experiences between genders.

4. Sport committee appointments. The Championships Committee approved the following sport committee appointments, effective immediately.

a. Division III Men's Golf Committee (one new appointment to accommodate the establishment of Region VI) – Brian Bruha, head men's golf coach, Lake Forest College, Midwest Conference.

b. Division III Wrestling Committee (one immediate vacancy replacing Todd Hibbs) Josh Malave, head wrestling coach, Case Western Reserve University, University Athletic Association).

5. Committee composition resulting from regional realignment. The Championships Committee revisited a discussion regarding how sport committee composition would be managed given the adjustments required as a result of the regional realignment conducted in conjunction with the Division III Commissioners Association. Initially, the committee had asked the Division III Nominating Committee in September 2020 meeting to consider that if there was region duplication based on the new regions, those individuals with one term remaining may be asked to cover a different region as a way to be mindful of the budget issues carrying additional members may cause.

The Division III Nominating Committee used the regional alignment information that was valid at the time of the appointments; however, some of that information has now changed due to balancing membership within the new regions and institutions changing conferences after the appointments were made. One of the options being considered was to recommend that sport committee members with region duplication who have only one year remaining on their term to step down from the committee.

The Championships Committee, however, asked that the Division III Nominating Committee consider instead that the more veteran members be allowed to complete their terms and instead delay the terms of the incoming/replacement members by one year to manage regional representation. The Division III Nominating Committee will consider this option during its November videoconference.

6. Division III championships selection announcements. The committee continued reviewing enhancements for selection announcements in team sports and noted that the issue should be more fully addressed during the committee's next quarterly meeting in February. The committee noted that field hockey remains the only fall team sport that does not have a selection show/announcement streamed online. The committee asked staff to explore with the Division III Field Hockey Committee recommendations to produce a selection show in future years.

7. Travel policies for 2021-22. In accordance with the committee being apprised during a recent meeting of the difficulties expected this year in championships travel due to the challenges being experienced in the travel industry, particularly with air travel, the committee formally agreed to expand the mileage requirements for flight eligibility from 500 to 600 miles for championships in 2021-22.

8. Replacement policies for 2021-22. Given the ongoing concerns related to the pandemic, the Championships Committee agreed to continue using the same policies that were implemented last spring for replacing teams that cannot participate in a championship for COVID-19 reasons.

9. Future videoconference/meetings dates.

- a. November 16, 2021 (videoconference).
- b. December 21, 2021 (videoconference).
- c. February 2-3, 2022 (quarterly meeting).
- d. March 15, 2022 (videoconference).
- e. April 26, 2022 (videoconference).
- f. May 17, 2022 (videoconference).
- g. June 20-21, 2022 (quarterly meeting).

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University

Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee October 28, 2021, Videoconference
Attendees:
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Jason Fein, Bates College.
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
Absentees:
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley College.
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kevin Alcox, Brittany Higgins, Micaela Liddane, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Jennifer Roe, Sarah Turner and Demetria Woodard.