



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 25, 2022, 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 reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved the reports from its September 11-12 in-person meeting and October 14 electronic vote as presented.
- 3. NCAA Division III Management Council update.** Michelle Morgan provided a summary of the Management Council's October 17-18 meeting in Indianapolis, including the Council's approval of Championships Committee recommendations to sponsor legislation for the 2024 Convention that would amend Bylaw 20.11.3.8 to change the minimum number of participants needed for sport sponsorship in tennis from six to four, and amending championship selection ranking and selection criteria, for women's rowing only, to no longer include the winning percentage but focus solely on head-to-head results and results against common opponents effective with the 2024 championships.
- 4. NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** KryJuan Roberson previewed the SAAC's November meeting during which the group will take positions on Convention legislation.
- 5. Review of waiver requests.**
 - a. Atlantic East Conference.** The committee reviewed and ultimately did not support a request from the Atlantic East Conference to be granted automatic qualification for the 2023 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Championships. The conference believed that it should be permitted to enter into the first year of the two-year grace period because one of its six core members announced in September that it was discontinuing the sport. The committee, however, noted that the conference had never earned the AQ under the previous legislation (the conference did not have the requisite seven core members) and that the new legislation was not intended to be applied retroactively. In effect, the committee could not reconcile permitting a conference that never had the AQ to enter a grace period; rather, the committee believes the conference must first achieve AQ status before being afforded relief. Accordingly, the committee voted not to grant the waiver request.
 - b. University of California, Santa Cruz.** The committee approved UC Santa Cruz's request to waive the 70% in-region requirement for all sports for the 2022-23 academic year due to a variety of unique circumstances. The committee has approved similar requests from the institution before; however, the committee noted its concern with the timing of this

particular request, as it is well past the submission deadline of December preceding the impacted academic year. Accordingly, the committee agreed to stress in its approval correspondence to the institution that future requests be submitted in a timely fashion or risk being denied.

6. **Football automatic qualifiers.** Per a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Football Committee, the Championships Committee approved the following 27 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2022 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; 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.
7. **Pairwise update.** The committee continued its discussion regarding whether the Pairwise metric should be considered as a selection criterion in future years. Staff noted that the 2019 and 2021 brackets for football and women's volleyball were evaluated using the Pairwise metric and demonstrated results reflected what the sport committees selected. While the Championships Committee regarded this as a positive step, committee members nonetheless requested a more in-depth presentation about the metric during a future meeting or videoconference to better inform any future recommendation regarding Pairwise as a selection criterion.
8. **Fall sport championship topics.**
 - a. **Host expectations and incident tracking.** The committee noted its discussion during the September in-person meeting regarding steps to help ensure consistency in the experience at all championship preliminary-round sites. Staff updated the group regarding efforts to identify hosts that have successfully hosted multiple events and potentially conduct a "think tank" with representatives from those institutions to help identify reasonable expectations for prospective hosts to achieve. Staff also is developing a tracking tool that records incidents that may occur during the upcoming championships this fall that may help inform the initiative. In that regard, committee members recommended that staff contact those hosts this fall that have demonstrated success in hosting and ask that they provide visuals of best practices (e.g., proper locker room setup, practice facilities, etc.) to support a hosting expectations document/presentation moving forward.
 - b. **Championships Committee liaison and site representative oversight.** The committee also continued its review of how best to prepare site representatives to conduct their responsibilities at preliminary-round sites. Staff provided details on the current training that site representatives receive before serving in that role. Staff also is exploring a post-

championship review mechanism for site representatives, possibly in conjunction with the host expectations initiative.

9. Future meeting/videoconference dates.

- November 15, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
- December 13, 11 a.m.-noon (monthly videoconference).
- February 6-7, 2023 (meeting via videoconference).
- June 12-13, 2023 (in-person meeting, Indianapolis).
- September 11-12, 2023 (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

Division III Championships Committee October 25, 2022, Videoconference
Attendees:
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University.
KryJuan Roberson, Keystone College.
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Absentees:
Jason Verdugo, Hamline University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan.