

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial legislation – Bylaw 21.3.6 – Association-wide Committees – Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities – Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee Composition.**
 - a. Recommendation. That noncontroversial legislation be adopted to reduce the number of Division II representatives on the Division II and III Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one (and thus reduce the total membership on the committee from nine to eight (six Division III members; one Division II member; one non-voting secretary-rules editor).
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. The recommendation is based on the challenges with soliciting nominations for the current two Division II spots given how few Division II institutions sponsor ice hockey. The Division II Management Council considered a similar request at its October meeting. While the recommendation does not directly affect Division III representation on the committee, the legislation in question is common and requires approval from both divisions.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Leonard Trevino welcomed the group to the videoconference and previewed key agenda items.
- 2. Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved reports from its September 8-9 in-person meeting and September 18 electronic vote as presented.
- 3. Championships discussion guide.** The committee reviewed an updated version of this document that details the status of key items to date.

4. **Division III championships staffing.** Staff provided the committee with an updated document listing staff liaisons and championship managers for all Division III sports. The committee also filled a remaining sport liaison vacancy.

5. **Championships topics.**

a. **Championship bench size.** The committee reviewed feedback it had requested from sport committees regarding whether increasing the bench limit to include all rostered student-athletes as facilities allow would be appropriate to maximize flexibility for participating schools. During its September meeting the committee received input from sport committees about their preferred bench limits and had accepted those recommendations, but the committee wanted to make sure sport committees had the chance to consider this broader increase, as they may not have been aware at the time of their initial recommendations that the Championships Committee would be willing to consider it. Many sport committees agreed with greater flexibility, while others were inclined to stay with their initial recommendation.

After discussing the feedback, the Championships Committee agreed to the following, effective for the 2025-26 championships:

- Accept the new recommendations as proposed, including those from sport committees desiring to include all rostered student-athletes and those from sport committees with a set number. [See Attachment]
- For sports recommending that the bench limit include all rostered student-athletes, the additional personnel in the bench area must have a specific role and are subject to the team's ability to adequately oversee the increased bench size.
- The host's ability to accommodate the sport committee's recommendations must be communicated during the pre-championship call after selections so that the visiting team(s) can make the proper arrangements.
- Sport committees shall determine how or whether to distinguish players who are not eligible to participate in the competition from those who are (i.e., the squad size). Current policies regarding what student-athletes beyond those within the squad size are allowed to do during the championships will remain the same.
- The committee will discuss the prescribed penalties for playing an ineligible player during its November videoconference. Such penalties also must be a point of emphasis during the pre-championship call.

b. **Championship budget priorities.** In preparation for the upcoming budget cycle, staff provided the committee with an overview of the budget priorities, approved by the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, Management and Presidents Councils, the committee will use to evaluate budget requests from sport committees

(bracketing/championship access; per diem; and enhancing the student-athlete experience). The Championships Committee will begin the evaluation process during its February in-person meeting.

- c. **2025-26 championships updates.** Staff provided the committee with a summary document detailing the status of all key championships-related items for the coming year. This resource is also provided at the beginning of each academic year to the Division III conference commissioners.
6. **Waiver request.** The committee revisited a waiver request it previously denied from the University of California, Santa Cruz, regarding the in-region requirement for its women's basketball program for the 2025-26 season. The school has since updated its schedule and has asked the committee to reconsider its earlier decision. After reconsidering, the Championships Committee was satisfied that the school's efforts to raise its percentage of in-region games was sufficient given the regional and conference challenges involved, and that granting this waiver was in line with waivers granted previously to UC Santa Cruz.
7. **Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee composition.** The committee recommended that the Division III Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to reduce the number of Division II representatives on the new committee from two to one and thus reduce the total membership of the committee from nine to eight. [See Legislative Action Item.]
8. **Division III Nominating Committee report.** The committee approved the following sport and playing rules committee appointments, effective immediately.
 - a. **NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee** (Region VIII) – **Shawna Armstrong**, assistant director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Elmhurst University, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
 - b. **NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Committee** (Region II replacing Patrick Colbert) – **Joe Calabrese**, head men's soccer coach, Endicott College, Conference of New England.
 - c. **NCAA Divisions II and III Baseball Rules Committee** – **Erik Scherer**, head baseball coach, California Lutheran University, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
 - d. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee** – **Jim Ward**, head men's ice hockey coach, Connecticut College, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
 - e. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee** – **Jake DeCola**, head lacrosse coach, Albion College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

- f. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee** – **Charles Griffiths**, head coach and associate professor, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and **Brian Jensen**, head swimming coach, Brooklyn College, City University of New York Athletic Conference.
- g. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee** – **Hannah Chappell-Dickey**, head cross country coach, Amherst College, New England Small College Athletic Conference; and **Christine Pereira**, deputy director of athletics, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Conference of New England.
- h. **NCAA Divisions II and III Women's Volleyball Rules Committee** – **Kristin Consuegra**, assistant commissioner/senior woman administrator, Presidents' Athletic Conference; and **April Elsbernd**, head volleyball coach, Coe College, American Rivers Conference.
- i. **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's Wrestling Rules Committee** – **Nathan Shearer**, head wrestling coach, Washington and Lee University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

9. Other business.

- a. **Committee meeting frequency.** The committee reviewed its current meeting cadence and agreed to reduce the number of meetings annually from 10 to seven, retaining the three primary meetings (two in-person in September and either February or June), and increasing the length of the four videoconferences from 90 minutes to two hours. The committee believes this new schedule allows more time to prepare the agenda without compromising its ability to complete the work and remain in sync with the cadence of governance meetings (i.e., Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and Management and Presidents Councils). The committee also noted that additional meetings or electronic correspondence can be arranged if necessary between regularly scheduled meetings.
- b. **Committee chair.** Staff noted that Leonard Trevino's term as chair will expire when he rolls off the committee in January and asked members interested in serving as chair to contact the staff liaison. The committee will elect a new chair during its November videoconference.
- c. **Informational sport committee reports.** As a matter of practice, the committee reviewed sport committee reports that included only informational items. No action was necessary.
- d. **Women's lacrosse championship update.** Staff noted the collaboration underway to stage a joint Division I, II and III Women's Lacrosse Championship for 2027 and 2028. Division I is expected to extend the invitation to Divisions II and III later this month. If so, the Division III Championships Committee will be asked to consider the recommendation via electronic correspondence before its regularly scheduled November videoconference in order to time

up with other key meetings in the approval process (particularly the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, which meets November 10).

- e. **Committee roster.** Committee members congratulated College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin Commissioner Maureen Harty on her upcoming retirement in early November, noting her outstanding contributions not only to the committee but also to Division III during her career.

10. Future meeting/videoconference dates.

- a. November 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- b. February 16-17, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis).

Committee Chair: Leonard Trevino, Chatham University
Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
Liz Suscha, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Championships Committee October 14, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Tim Demant, Whitworth University.	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State University.	
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Shannon Howley, Montclair State University.	
Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology.	
Sara Shoffner, Huntingdon College.	
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.	
Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Ashley Wagner, Notre Dame of Maryland University.	
Absentees:	
Arturo Casas, Manchester University.	
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Margaret Gaines, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Liz Suscha.	



Division III Championships Bench Sizes Effective 2025-26

During its September and October meetings, the Division III Championships Committee approved increased bench limits based on sport committee feedback (see chart below), including those from sport committees desiring to include all rostered student-athletes and those from sport committees that desired to maintain a fixed bench size.

The following sports will maintain a set bench limit:

SPORT	SQUAD SIZE	TRAVEL PARTY	BENCH SIZE
BASEBALL	25	30	47
M BASKETBALL	15	20	25 chairs
W BASKETBALL	15	20	25 chairs
FOOTBALL	58	68	108
M ICE HOCKEY	23	28	30*
W ICE HOCKEY	23	28	30*

**based on NCAA playing rules.*

The following sports may include all rostered student-athletes in the bench limit. Additional personnel (non-athletes) in the bench area are not limited but must have a specific role and are subject to the team's ability to adequately oversee the bench size.

SPORT	SQUAD SIZE	TRAVEL PARTY
FIELD HOCKEY	24	29
M LACROSSE	32	37
W LACROSSE	32	37
M SOCCER	24	29
W SOCCER	24	29
SOFTBALL	20	25
M TENNIS	9	11
W TENNIS	9	11
M VOLLEYBALL	17	22
W VOLLEYBALL	17	22



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