



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

• **Secondary criteria – Non-Division III Strength-of-Schedule.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council amend NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.2.2 (Secondary Criteria – Ranking and Selection) as follows:

31.3.4.2.2 Secondary Criteria -- Ranking and Selection.

- (a) Non-Division III won-lost percentage; (*Revised: 7/24/12 effective 8/1/13*)
- (b) Results versus common non-Division III opponents; (*Revised: 7/24/12 effective 8/1/13, 10/18/16 effective 8/1/17*)
- ~~(c) Non-Division III strength of schedule; and (*Revised: 7/24/12 effective 8/1/13, 10/18/16 effective 8/1/17*)~~
- (~~c~~) Division III nonconference strength of schedule. (*Adopted: 10/18/16 effective 8/1/17*)
- b. Effective date. January 2019.
- c. Rationale. Non-Division III strength-of-schedule was added to secondary criteria in 2013 at the point when secondary criteria changed from “out-of-region” Division III opponents to “non-Division III.” However, the metric has not been included in the data to this point and, if it were, is not considered a relevant metric due to the small sample size of non-Division III opponents. As such, the Championships Committee supports eliminating the language from the legislated criteria.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Joint men’s and women’s basketball championships.

- (1) Recommendation. The Division III Championships Committee supports the Division III Men’s Basketball Championship and the Division III Women’s Basketball Championship being held in conjunction with the Division I Men’s Final

Four and the Division I Women's Final Four, respectively, once each during the remaining period of the current NCAA broadcast agreement (through 2024).

- (2) Effective date. Immediate, though years for the joint championships will be determined pending future sites selected for the Division I Men's and Women's Final Fours.
- (3) Rationale. The recommendation is in response to support from the Division III Men's and Women's Basketball Committees to conduct joint championships twice for each gender over the next 10 years. However, the Division III Championships Committee believes it is prudent, given the financial implications, to conduct one joint championship for each gender during the remaining years of the current broadcast agreement before re-evaluating additional commitments.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Approximately \$250,000 per gender for each joint championship. (The Division III Championships Committee recommends asking the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to consider committing dollars from the Division III identity initiatives fund to assist with expenses given the marketing and exposure benefits from the joint championships to the division overall.)
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The most recent joint championships in 2013 for men and 2016 for women garnered significant positive feedback regarding the student-athlete experience and increased attendance for the championship games versus when the championships are conducted as singular events.

b. Championships Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Bill Stiles, director of athletics at Alvernia University, serve as chair of the Division III Championships Committee, replacing Jennifer Chuks.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Stiles has past sport committee experience and has been a valuable member of the Championships Committee, serving as interim chair during the August teleconference and the September in-person meeting after Ms. Chuks left Williams College for a position at Dartmouth College in July.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** The committee chair facilitated introductions, reviewed the meeting schedule and highlighted key discussion items.
2. **Recent reports.** The committee approved reports from its June meeting, June 25 and August 8 email correspondence, and August 22 teleconference as presented.
3. **Championships issues and updates.** Joni Comstock, NCAA senior vice president of championships, updated the group on relevant issues that affect NCAA championships operations.
4. **Legislative action – secondary criteria – non-Division III strength-of-schedule.** The Championships Committee voted to eliminate the non-Division III strength of schedule from the secondary criteria. (See Action Item No. 1)
5. **Recap of the meeting with sport committee chairs.** Championships Committee members summarized key takeaways from the meeting with sport committee chairs and representatives, including recurring themes that emerged from the budgeting priorities exercise in which sport committee members ranked items that carry a budget impact. Championship Committee members reiterated the value of the in-person communication with sport committee members and supported continuing these sessions biannually in the future.
6. **Bench size survey.** Noting feedback from the sport committee representatives regarding increased bench size as a priority in several sports, Championships Committee members asked staff to survey directors of athletics at Division III institutions regarding interest in expanding the bench size to accommodate the average roster size in given team sports provided the institution covers expenses for the additional bench personnel to attend the championship finals. The committee noted that the travel party and squad size limits would remain the same, but that there is interest in accommodating sport committee requests to provide more student-athlete access to the championship experience.
7. **Conference requirements for automatic qualification eligibility.** The committee voted to form a working group composed of Championships Committee members and conference commissioners to take a deeper look at the concept of establishing requirements for a conference to be eligible to earn an automatic qualification to NCAA championships. The 2018 Division III membership survey indicated membership support on this concept. The committee would also like for sport committees to provide feedback to aid in the discussion.

- 8. Sport regional realignment project.** The committee received an update on the commissioners group project proposing new regional alignments in most sports. This project has focused on a more consistent approach to balancing sport regions considering like sports and sport sponsorship as the main factors. Some of the challenges a project of this magnitude face include regions where sponsorship is limited (e.g., the West region typically spanning from Texas to Washington state) and sports such as cross country and wrestling where regional alignment has a potential to impact qualifying to the national championships as it is based on regional finish.

The next steps in this project will be for the commissioners' group to seek feedback from NCAA staff committee liaisons on the work done thus far to see if the changes hit the mark to help alleviate some of the current challenges committees face when evaluating teams. The committee also noted that should this move forward it could require changes to some sport committee's composition thus requiring budget support and a potential change in legislation.

9. Sport committee recommendations.

a. Baseball.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 40 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Baseball Championship: American Rivers Conference; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; President's Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

b. Men's basketball.

- **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Sam Atkinson, associate athletics director at Gallaudet University, serve as the Division III Men's Basketball Committee chair.

c. Women's basketball. The committee revisited a request from the women's basketball committee to adopt a team sheet depicting strength-of-schedule as opposed to the current team sheet showing data according to the Rating Percentage Index. The championships committee considered the feedback received from other sport committee chairs and agreed that it would be important to review an example of such a team sheet and incorporate it on a pilot basis before taking any final action.

d. Men's and women's basketball.

- **Joint championships.** The Championships Committee supported a concept from the Division III Men's and Women's Basketball Committees to recommend that the Division III Men's Basketball Championship and the Division III Women's Basketball Championship be conducted in conjunction with the Division I Men's Final Four and the Division I Women's Final Four, respectively, in the near future. (See Action Item No. 2-a).

e. Field hockey.

- (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 17 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 Division III Field Hockey Championship: Capital Athletic Conference (year one grace period); Centennial Conference; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; and State University of New York Athletic Conference.

- (2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Jennifer Noon, director of athletics at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham, serve as chair of the Division III Field Hockey Committee.

f. Football. The committee reviewed several items from the annual report.

g. Men's golf.

- (1) Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 32 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Men's Golf Championships: American Rivers Conference; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
- (2) Committee chair.** The committee approved that Bob Simms, head men's and women's golf coach at St. John Fisher College, serve as chair of the Division III Men's Golf Committee.
- (3) Access ratio.** The committee tabled a request to move from a 1:7.0 access ratio to 1:6.5 and agreed to consider it again along with other recommendations with budget impact during the committee's February 2019 meeting.

h. Women's golf.

- (1) Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 21 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 Division III Women's Golf Championships: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College 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; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Note: Confirmation of AQs and pool numbers will be determined based on sport sponsorship information available at the time of championship selections.

- (2) **Committee chair.** The committee noted that Jerry Bergsma, head women's golf coach at Calvin College, will continue to serve as chair of the Division III Women's Golf Committee.
 - (3) **Access ratio.** The committee tabled a request to move from a 1:7.0 access ratio to 1:6.5 and agreed to consider it again along with other recommendations with budget impact during the committee's February 2019 meeting.
 - (4) **Regional alignment.** The committee tabled a request to realign the regions to more evenly distribute the schools across the regions. With the ongoing work of the commissioners (see Informational Item No. 8), the committee preferred to review the alignment plan during an upcoming teleconference scheduled to follow the commissioners in-person meeting.
- i. **Men's ice hockey.**

 - **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following eight conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship: Commonwealth Coast Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Hockey Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; Northern Collegiate Hockey Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and the United Collegiate Hockey Conference.
 - j. **Women's ice hockey.**

 - (1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following six conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Women's Ice Hockey Championship: Colonial Hockey Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Hockey Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; Northeast Women's Hockey League; and Women's Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.
 - (2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Crystal Lanning, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, serve as chair of the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee.

(3) Championship date formula. The committee approved that the women's ice hockey championship format be revised to include two first-round games played Wednesday before the quarterfinals. Quarterfinals will be played Saturday before the finals. The finals will be contested Friday and Saturday on the third weekend in March. This formula change accommodates the women's ice hockey bracket increase from nine to 10 teams for the 2019 championship.

k. Men's and women's ice hockey.

- **Selection – pilot program with PairWise system.** The committee approved that the men's and women's ice hockey committees use the PairWise selection system to rank and select teams during a two-year pilot program. PairWise calculates rankings based on a comparison matrix that applies an equal weight to the selection criteria to compare each team to all other teams. The system is currently used by the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee and the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee, which has provided the basis for exploration and study over the course of the last two years. Most recently, the Division III committees reviewed survey results gathered through the American Hockey Coaches Association indicating the overwhelming support of Division III men's and women's coaches to use the PairWise process. The committees will evaluate the results after the first year and may adjust the formula for the second year as needed.

l. Men's lacrosse.

(1) Automatic qualification. The committee approved that the following 27 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Lacrosse Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association and State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) **Regional alignment.** The committee endorsed the recommendation to realign schools into five regions as presented by the men's lacrosse committee. However, before finalizing the changes, the committee encouraged the men's lacrosse committee to review an alternate proposal for six regions that is currently under review by the women's lacrosse committee. The committee requested that the men's lacrosse committee submit its final recommendation to be reviewed at an upcoming teleconference or in-person meeting.

m. Women's lacrosse.

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 31 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Women's Lacrosse Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Women's Lacrosse Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) **Selection criteria at time of selection – record versus ranked opponents.** The committee took no action on the request that the record versus ranked opponents only include the record of opponents that are ranked at the time of selection noting the history of this particular selection criterion and its recent change to include teams ranked as established by the final ranking and the ranking preceding the final ranking [Bylaw 31.3.4.2.1 (d)], which went into effect August 1, 2017.

(3) **Day off between semifinals and finals.** The committee tabled a request to add a day of rest between the semifinal and final rounds at the championship site and agreed to consider it again along with other recommendations with budget impact during the committee's February 2019 meeting.

(4) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Susan Hoffman, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator at College at Brockport, State University of New York, serve as chair of the Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee.

n. Softball.

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 42 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 Division III Softball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Kim Tatro, associate director of athletics and head softball coach at Lawrence University, serve as Division III Softball Committee chair.

(3) **Regional alignment.** The committee approved that the Great Northeast Athletic Conference be realigned from the Northeast region to the New England region and the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference be realigned from the East region to the Central region effective for the 2018-19 championship. The committee believes that making this change before further regional realignment discussion will help the softball committee effectively manage the rankings and selections processes.

(4) Bench size – number of student-athletes in uniform. The championships committee took no action on the request that any student-athlete included within the current bench size be permitted to dress in uniform. This request is different from other requests in that it does not increase the current number of individuals in the bench area. The championships committee preferred to evaluate this request as it conducts its review of bench size across all sports. (See Informational Item No. 6.)

o. Men's and women's tennis.

(1) Men's tennis automatic qualification. The committee approved that the following 36 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Men's Tennis Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; Upper Midwest Conference; University Athletic Association; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) Women's tennis automatic qualification. The committee approved that the following 40 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Women's Tennis Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Great South Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New

England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

- (3) **Access ratio.** The committee tabled a request to move from a 1:7.5 access ratio to 1:7.0 and agreed to consider it again along with other recommendations with budget impact during the committee's February 2019 meeting.
- (4) **Committee chairs.** The committee approved that Jennifer Dubow, commissioner of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and Marty Perry, director of men's and women's tennis at Virginia Wesleyan University, be named chair of the women's committee and men's committee, respectively.
- (5) **Format change.** The committee approved a change to the match format to eliminate the warm-up between opponents, establish a five-minute intermission between doubles and singles, and establish a tiebreaker at 7-7 in doubles.

p. Men's and women's track and field and cross country.

- (1) **United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-America awards.** The committee took no action on the request to allow the 40 USTFCCA All-America awards to be presented in conjunction with the NCAA top 15 place finishers at the championships award ceremony. The committee understands that cross country is a unique from others in that the All-America awards are not determined until after the championship has concluded since the awards are based on the student-athlete's place finish. The committee also believes that the bylaws clearly state that this practice is not permitted, and that coaches' associations will need to find a way to present their awards that satisfy the bylaw.
- (2) **Cross country selection criteria.** The Championships Committee referred the request to modify the cross country selection criteria to include "results against common non-Division III opponents and regular-season success" back to the cross country and track and field committee to explore with DirectAthletics what information can be made available. The Championships Committee would also like for the cross country and track and field committee to further define "regular-season performance" as it seems that all contests, not just those during the

qualifying window are regular-season performances. The championships committee would be open to reviewing a new proposal that addresses some of these concerns.

- (3) **Regional champion trophies for cross country.** The committee tabled a request to provide regional champion trophies and agreed to consider it again along with other recommendations with budget impact during the committee's February 2019 meeting.
- (4) **Cross country regional alignment waiver – Alfred State College.** The committee approved Alfred State College to compete in the Mideast region for the 2018 Division III men's and women's regional cross country competition to align with the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. Alfred State is currently a member of the American Collegiate Athletic Association but will become a member in the AMCC effective for the 2019-20 academic year. In its first year sponsoring the sport, Alfred State has been approved to compete with its future conference members effective with the 2018-19 championships.

q. Wrestling.

- (1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Eric Van Kley, director of athletics and head wrestling coach at Central College (Iowa), serve as Division III Wrestling Committee chair.
- (2) **Field size.** The committee noted the informational item concerning the potential to expand the number of wrestlers at the championship. The committee agreed to consider an expansion later if growth in sponsorship results in an access ratio for selected participants to fall outside of the 1:16 to 1:24 range for access in individual sports.
- (3) **2019 regional site selection.** The committee approved the following 2019 regional site selections:
 - Northeast region – Johnson and Wales University (Rhode Island); Wildcat Center in Providence, Rhode Island.
 - Southeast – Lycoming College; Keiper Recreation Center in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
 - Mideast – College at Brockport, State University of New York and the Monroe County Sports Commission; SERC Brockport in Brockport, New York.
 - Central regional – Wabash College; Knowling Fieldhouse in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

- Upper Midwest regional – University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; McPhee Physical Education center in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
- Lower Midwest regional – Loras College; Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

r. Men's volleyball.

(1) Automatic qualification. The committee approved that the following 10 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2019 Division III Men's Volleyball Championship: City University of New York Athletic Conference; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; New England Collegiate Conference; North Eastern Athletics Conference (year 1 grace period); Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Skyline Conference (year two grace period); and United Volleyball Conference.

(2) Committee chair. The committee approved that John Garrett, associate athletics director at Hunter College, serve as Division III Men's Volleyball Committee chair.

10. Playing rules and officiating updates.

- a. General update.** The Championships Committee reviewed reports from recent Playing Rules Oversight Panel teleconferences and meetings as information only.
- b. Arbiter and background checks.** Staff updated the committee on the background check program conducted through Arbiter Sports.
- c. Soccer rules discussion.** Staff updated the committee on a rule in men's and women's soccer requiring a postgame forfeit to be imposed if a student-athlete or coach participates in a match when he or she should have been serving a suspension for a red card or accumulation of yellow cards. Soccer is unique in that it is the only NCAA sport for which a postgame forfeit is provided within the playing rules. While instances of playing a student-athlete who should be serving a suspension are rare, they do occur (whether intentionally or due to administrative oversight). The matter is complicated by another rule stipulating that all statistics remain the same if a game is forfeited after it has concluded.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee during its March 2018 meeting considered eliminating the statistical provision (i.e., altering the score to reflect a 1-0 loss for the team in violation and not counting the statistics from that game) because it wants the penalty to apply to the regular season in addition to affecting postseason selection. However, the rules committee tabled the matter until

its March 2019 meeting to seek feedback from the soccer community and other governance groups regarding whether any changes being considered would have unintended consequences.

The Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees supported enforcing the forfeit rule (as did the sport committees in Divisions I and II) as well as altering the score and statistics accordingly. Feedback from the soccer coaches association was similar. After lengthy discussion, however, the Division III Championships Committee decided to not support enforcing the existing forfeit rule, and to not support a forfeit being reflected in the score reporting system (i.e., that the score would be changed and the statistics not counted). Championships Committee members acknowledged the seriousness of the matter (and its uniqueness to soccer) and advised the soccer rules committee to consider a different approach regarding how a penalty in these instances should affect the regular season (e.g., fines, additional suspensions, etc.), and they advised the men's and women's soccer committees to explore using the existing nullification process as a tool to address these situations as they relate to postseason selection.

- 11. 2017-18 broadcast figures.** The committee reviewed broadcast figures for the 2017-18 championship seasons.
- 12. In-region competition requirement waiver requests.** The committee took the following action regarding waiver requests for the 2018-19 academic year:
 - a. Concordia University Wisconsin field hockey.** The committee took no action to waive the 70 percent in-region requirement for Concordia Wisconsin's field hockey for the 2018-19 academic year noting that a previously undetermined opponent was subsequently scheduled against an in-region opponent allowing Concordia Wisconsin to meet the 70 percent in-region scheduling threshold.
 - b. Emory University women's tennis.** The committee approved Emory's request for an in-region waiver in women's tennis, noting Emory's scheduling difficulty due to the lack of proximity to in-region opponents.
- 13. Future meeting dates.** The committee noted the following dates for in-person meetings through September 2019:
 - February 5-6, 2019.
 - June 17-18, 2019.
 - September 9-10, 2019 meeting (committee only, will not include sport committee chairs).

15. Adjournment. Before adjournment, the committee thanked Julie Johnson and Shantey Hill for their service to the Division III Championships Committee.

Committee Chair: Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.

Staff Liaison: Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Division III Championships Committee September 10-11, 2018, Meeting
Attendees:
Brad Bankston, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Tim Fitzpatrick, U.S. Coast Guard Academy (via teleconference).
Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Gettysburg College (via teleconference).
Shantey Hill, St. Joseph’s College.
Julie Johnson, Ripon College.
Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.
Mike Vienna, Emory University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jessica Jones, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Dan Dutcher, Governance.
Ashlee Follis, Championships and Alliances.
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances.
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.
Louise McCleary, Governance.
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Nancy O’Hara, Championships Services.
Adam Skaggs, Governance.
JP Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Dave Worlock, Championships and Alliances.