



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, MEETING WITH SPORT COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, introductions and review of schedule and agenda.** Kiki Jacobs, chair of the Division III Championships Committee, facilitated introductions and opened the meeting. Ms. Jacobs also reviewed the meeting schedule and highlighted key discussion items, noting the value of this biannual meeting to help inform decisions that enhance championship administration and provide the best possible postseason experiences for Division III student-athletes.
2. **Championships Equity Action Team update.** Staff noted initiatives from the newly formed Championships Equity Action Team created to emphasize the value of the student-athlete voice at all NCAA championship sites and raise awareness for social justice, racial equity and inclusion.
3. **Division III governance update.** Staff provided a high-level budget summary for fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 and noted the breadth of resources available to help the membership navigate COVID-19 issues, including a biweekly communication with updates to commissioners.
4. **2021 Convention proposals.** Staff reviewed the governance-sponsored name, image and likeness package for the 2021 Convention, noting that the Convention will be conducted virtually this year with voting taking place on Friday, January 15.
5. **COVID-19 updates.**
 - a. **Championship budget recap and future planning.** Staff provided an in-depth budget summary from 2019-20 and noted the projected revenue shortfall for 2020-21 if ticket sales are reduced. Expenses for 2020-21 also are expected to increase, perhaps dramatically, based on what is currently known regarding COVID-19 testing costs, preparing predetermined sites for hosting championship competition, and the challenges and constraints anticipated within the travel industry.
 - b. **2021 winter and spring sport championship formats.** As a result of the expected budget shortfall, the Division III Championships Committee is already reviewing alternative championship formats and potential changes/modifications for winter and spring sport championships that could be enacted to consolidate rounds, adjust for reduced bracket/field sizes to mitigate costs and above all, provide a safe

- championships environment. Sport committee chairs were asked for feedback on various aspects of these alternative models, specifically how the brackets would be populated if the field size is reduced (e.g., AQ only, at-large only, or a combination). Sport committee chairs reported that their committees already have anticipated reduced brackets and are working through how best to accommodate those reductions. They also provided feedback for the Championships Committee to consider as that group works toward providing recommendations.
- c. **2021 winter sport championship dates.** The group also discussed the timing of the winter sport championships and acknowledged factors that could affect a shift in championship dates, including current contracts, host availability, travel capacity, hotel availability, etc. The sport committee chairs encouraged the Championships Committee to reassess the minimum number of contests required for selection purposes if it becomes apparent that winter sport championship dates will not be moved. Staff also noted the need to begin soliciting bids from potential hosts given that all sites will be predetermined (preliminary rounds and finals) in order to follow safety protocols and protect participants. The bid process for those sites will likely be opened later this fall after the NCAA announces the site selections for the 2022-26 cycle in October, which will allow campuses more time to experience executing the safety and sanitization protocols required for hosting competition to determine their own capacity for bidding on the winter sports championships.
 - d. **Selection criteria.** Sport committee chairs also provided feedback and updates on discussions within their committees regarding the selection criteria that would be used if brackets are modified and playing and practice seasons are altered. The chairs acknowledged that with many teams playing conference-only schedules, distinguishing teams among regions will be particularly challenging this year.
 - e. **Return to championships.** Staff reviewed ongoing strategies and approaches to help ensure safe championship environments (testing protocols, site preparation, universal masking, physical distancing, etc.).
6. **Sport region alignment project and impact on committee and RAC operations.** Staff updated the group on the realignment being implemented for the 2021-22 academic year. The realignment increased the composition of select sport committees, and work is underway to ensure adequate continuity and flexibility as rosters change, both on the national committees and the regional advisory committees as well. The sport committee chairs emphasized increased communication and reminders to the membership at large regarding implementation of the new alignment given its impact in most every sport.
7. **Strategic analysis of the state of collegiate officiating.** Patrick Summers, commissioner of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, updated the group on a project the Division III Commissioners Association (DIICA) initiated with *The PICTOR*

Group to conduct a comprehensive assessment of officiating for 13 NCAA Division III sports, provide overarching recommendations for immediate consideration and develop a long-range strategic plan to address major concerns. Along the way, the NCAA requested and the DIIICA approved an expansion of the review to include NCAA Divisions I and II and to add two sports for a total of 15. Both reports have been submitted and are currently under review by various stakeholders. Mr. Summers in fact provided a synopsis of findings and preliminary recommendations for the DIIICA report.

8. **Gameday the DIII Way.** Staff updated the group on the implementation of Gameday the DIII Way, including language being incorporated into the Division III pre-championships manuals and other resources regarding the initiative designed to create a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics.

Committee Chair: Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.

Staff Liaisons: Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances

Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Championships Committee September 14, 2020, Meeting with Sport Committee Chairs	
Attendees:	
Robin Baker, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.	
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.	
Jason Fein, Bates College.	
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University.	
Braly Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University.	
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.	
John Neese, Hardin-Simmons University	
Penny Siqueiros, Wesleyan College (Georgia).	
Absentees:	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Sport Committee Chairs in Attendance:	
Jon Carlson, Gustavus Adolphus College (Women's Tennis Committee).	
Dara Ford, Otterbein University (Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee).	

Mary Giorgi, St. Catherine University (Women's Golf Committee).
Renee Hellert, Moravian College (Softball Committee).
Susan Hoffman, State University of New York at Brockport (Women's Lacrosse Committee).
Scott Honecker, Williams College (Wrestling Committee).
Jackie MacMillan, The College of St. Scholastica (Women's Ice Hockey Committee).
Carolyn Miles, Williams College (Oregon) (Women's Rowing Committee).
Danny Miller, Averett University (Women's Volleyball Committee).
Duey Naatz, University of Wisconsin-Stout (Football Committee).
Justin Newell, Kenyon College (Men's Soccer Committee).
Jim Ott, Illinois Wesleyan University (Men's Golf Committee).
Gene Peluso, Stevens Institute of Technology (Men's Lacrosse Committee).
Frank Pericolosi, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges (Baseball Committee).
Mark Riley, Kalamazoo College (Men's Tennis Committee).
Craig Russell, Plymouth State University (Men's Ice Hockey Committee).
Mike Schauer, Wheaton College (Illinois) (Men's Basketball Committee).
Terry Small, New Jersey Athletic Conference (Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee).
Ashley Smeltzer-Kraft, Shenandoah University (Field Hockey Committee).
Sean Sullivan, Catholic University (Women's Soccer Committee).
Polly Thomason, University of Texas at Dallas (Women's Basketball Committee).
Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois) (Men's Volleyball Committee).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mark Aiken, Kevin Alcox, Zach Christopher, Dan Dutcher, Jan Gentry, Will Hopkins, Greg Johnson, Aaron King, John Kuzio, Micaela Liddane, Louise McCleary, Alex Mortillaro, Jeff Myers, Jeff O'Barr, Nancy O'Hara, Mickie Spears, Nick Strah, Kelly Whitaker, J.P. Williams and Demetria Woodard.