

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION 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 in-person meeting and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Recent Championships Committee report.** The committee approved the report from its August 19 videoconference 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. **Championships equity update.** John Baldwin, NCAA Managing Director of Championships and the point person for monitoring equity within the NCAA championships program, joined the meeting to provide an update regarding ongoing efforts to ensure equity among Division III championships.
5. **Championships topics.**
 - a. **Governance scorecard.** Staff provided the results of the 2024-25 governance scorecard, which is a tool that allows Division III committee members to evaluate their experience and the NCAA staff liaisons' support of the Division III governance bodies, including sport committees. Staff noted the high response rate (87%) and that the evaluations were positive.
 - b. **Championship bench size.** The committee continued its discussion from the August videoconference regarding bench limits per sport and the proposed new bench limits along with rationale/commentary from the sport committees. After lengthy discussion during this meeting, committee members voted to accept the sport committee recommendations, effective with the 2025-26 championships. [Attachment A] However, based on the committee's desire during the August videoconference and additional discussion during this meeting to maximize flexibility for participating institutions, the committee agreed to seek additional feedback from sport committees regarding whether the bench limit should permit all rostered student-athletes as facilities allow. The committee indicated that sport

a. **Championships – Automatic Qualification – Required Participation by Conference Core Members.** Intent: To require that if an institution is a core member of a conference and that conference has an AQ in a sport, that institution must participate in the conference’s fully established AQ process in that sport to have access to the NCAA championship. This access is either winning the conference AQ or through the at-large selection process. The conference has authority to define its AQ process (regular-season champion, tournament champion, etc.). If the institution decides not to participate in its conference’s defined AQ process (including declining participation in the conference’s postseason tournament), the institution is not eligible for NCAA selections, including at-large selections.

Championships Committee position: Recommend that the Management Council support the proposal, though the committee asked that the sponsors be contacted to clarify the criteria by which a conference defines its AQ process.

- b. **Championships – Amend the In-Region Competition Requirement.** Intent: To reduce the required minimum percentage of in-region competition for championships eligibility from 70% to 50% for all sports except golf, which would stay at 25%, and tennis, which would maintain its 50% requirement, and to expand the spring break exception to allow institutions hosting contests during another institution's break to also exempt the out-of-region contest even if that hosting institution is not in an institutional vacation period.

Championships Committee position: Recommend that the Management Council support the proposal.

- c. **Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Participation – Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season.** Intent: To specify that a student-athlete would be charged with a season of eligibility if the student-athlete competes at any point during the traditional season.

Championships Committee position: The committee voted to take no position on the proposal because members believe it does not directly affect the administration of Division III championships.

- d. **Championships – Automatic Qualification – Multiple Automatic Qualifier Model.** Intent: To develop a formula to provide multiple automatic qualifiers to multisport conferences that have 13 or more members that sponsor a sport that includes the following factors: (a) once a conference reaches 13 or more core members sponsoring a sport, the conference would immediately receive a second automatic qualifier in that sport; (b) if a conference falls below 13 core members sponsoring a sport, the conference would immediately lose their second automatic qualifier in that sport; and (c) the method by which the conference determines its conference representatives is the responsibility of the conference and shall be declared and outlined at the time of the automatic qualifier declaration.

Championships Committee position: Recommend that the Management Council not support the proposal based on the potential negative impact on the number of at-large bids.

- e. **Championships – Automatic Qualification – Waiting Period – Multisport Conference – Adjust from Two Years to One.** Intent: To reduce the waiting period for a multisport conference to receive an automatic qualification from two years to one.

Championships Committee position: Recommend that the Management Council not support the proposal based on the differences between core and affiliate members of a

conference, as well as acknowledging that a waiver process already exists for a conference with compelling rationale to reduce the waiting period.

- f. **Championships – Establish a Division III Women’s Wrestling Championship.** Intent: To establish a Division III Women’s Wrestling Championship starting in the 2027-28 academic year and a Division III Women’s Wrestling Committee as specified.

Championships Committee position: Recommend that the Management Council support the proposal.

8. Sport committee reports.

a. Men’s and women’s golf.

- **Playing and practice season modification.** The committee received an overview of the progress the Division III Men’s and Women’s Golf Committees have made on their regional format proposal, which would create five regions per gender with regional competition (15 men’s teams and 12 women’s) determining advancement to the finals sites beginning with the 2027 or 2028 championships. [Note: The golf committees are recommending 2027 or 2028 based on allowing enough time to implement the new championships format with securing regional hosts and amending the final site logistics. The committees believe 2027 would be ideal, but realize it may take additional time to solidify all of the necessary details.] The golf committees have sought feedback from the membership and determined budget estimates to formalize their proposal. The recommendation comes with a significant budget impact (approximately \$550,000 for both regionals). While the committee did not take a position on the proposal at this time, members offered feedback and asked for additional information/clarification regarding various components of the proposal. The golf committees plan to formally submit the proposal for the Championships Committee to consider during its February meeting when it begins deliberations regarding the next budget cycle.

Refer to Attachment B (men) and Attachment C (women) for a breakdown of the proposed golf regional alignment.

b. Men’s lacrosse.

- **Bench and squad size.** The committee revisited the sport committee’s request to increase the bench limits and noted the broader discussion regarding bench size in Agenda Item No. 5-b. The sport committee also requested an increase in the squad size, but the Championships Committee believes that squad size should be addressed across sports rather than separately and will engage in a broader discussion later.

c. Men's and women's soccer.

- **Additional official.** The committee approved the soccer committees' request to add an eighth official per gender to the finals site. The recommendation comes with a nominal budget impact, which the soccer committees indicate can be absorbed within their existing budgets.

d. Men's and women's tennis.

(1) Men's tennis automatic qualification. The committee approved the following conferences for automatic qualification for the 2026 Division III Men's Tennis Championships: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; Conference of New England; Empire 8; 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 Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate 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; United East Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) Women's tennis automatic qualification. The committee approved the following conferences for automatic qualification for the 2026 Division III Women's Tennis Championships: American Southwest Conference; American Rivers Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Collegiate Conference of the South; Conference of New England; Empire 8; 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 Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate 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; University Athletic Association; United East; Upper

Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(3) Data spreadsheet contractor. The committee supported a recommendation for the tennis committees to contract a former committee member to help provide data spreadsheets for team and individual rankings and selections. While the goal is to have NPI established to manage the team rankings and selections, the spreadsheets help organize the data for individuals (singles and doubles) in a concise and clear format that is beneficial for ranking and selection discussion. The recommendation includes a small stipend, which the tennis committees believe can be absorbed within their existing budgets.

(4) Seven-point scoring pilot. The Championships Committee noted as information the tennis committees' recommendation (and subsequent approval from the tennis rules subcommittee) that the seven-point scoring pilot be adopted as a permanent rule change beginning with the 2025-26 season.

9. Other business.

- **Committee meeting frequency.** The committee discussed its current meeting cadence and explored potentially reducing the number of meetings annually to increase efficiency. Committee members were open to the idea and asked staff to draft a revised cadence for the committee to consider during a future meeting.

10. Future meeting/videoconference dates.

- October 14, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- November 18, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- December 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (monthly videoconference).
- February 2-3, 2026 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis)

Committee Chair: Leonard Trevino, Chatham University

*Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division III Championships Committee September 8-9, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Arturo Casas, Manchester University.	
Tim Demant, Whitworth University.	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State University.	

Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin (via videoconference).
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:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor (via videoconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kevin Alcox (via videoconference), Raymon Gaddis, Margaret Gaines, Victoria Lipscomb, Louise McCleary, Will Morrison, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan, Ryan Richardson, Liz Suscha and Demetria Young.



Division III Championships Bench Size Review

The chart below lists the bench limits approved by the Division III Championships Committee during its September meeting.

SPORT	SQUAD SIZE	AVERAGE SQUAD SIZE (2023-24)	TRAVEL PARTY	BENCH SIZE	BENCH SIZE RECOMMENDATION
BASEBALL	25	39.3	30	35	47
M BASKETBALL	15	19.2	20	20	25 (20 chairs)
W BASKETBALL	15	15.7	20	20	25 (20 chairs)
FIELD HOCKEY	24	21.8	29	40	No changes.
FOOTBALL	58	107.5	68	78	95
M ICE HOCKEY	23	30.2	28	30	Established by playing rules.
W ICE HOCKEY	23	25.2	28	30	
M LACROSSE	32	36.0	37	50	72
W LACROSSE	32	21.7	37	50	72
M SOCCER	24	31.9	29	40	50
W SOCCER	24	27.0	29	40	50
SOFTBALL	20	20.5	25	32	38
M TENNIS	9	10.9	11	15	No changes.
W TENNIS	9	10.4	11	15	No changes.
M VOLLEYBALL	17	14.7	22	25	26
W VOLLEYBALL	17	17.3	22	25	26

REGION 1			REGION 2			REGION 3			REGION 4			REGION 5		
NY(except Long Island) and New England			PA (except Pittsburgh), NJ, Long Island, Northern MD,			Upper Midwest, Ohio, Indiana			Pittsburgh, Ohio, VA, DC, NC, KY			Deep South, Texas, West Coast, Central		
Max 7 AQ - 8 At Large			Max 8 AQ - 7 At Large			Max 8 AQ - 7 At-Large			Max 8 AQ - 7 At Large			Max 8 AQ - 7 At Large		
Min 6 AQ - 9 At Large			Min 5 AQ - 10 At-Large			Min 5 AQ - 10 At Large			Min 4 AQ - 9 At Large			Min. 7 AQ - 8 At Large		
Conference	Schools in Reg		Conference	Schools in Reg		Conference	Schools in Reg		Conference	Schools in Reg		Conference	Schools in Reg	
Comm. Coast	8		AMCC	5*		CCIW	9		AMCC	3*(Pitt Greensburg, La Roche, Carlow)		Amer River	9	
Great Northeast	8		Centennial	8		HCAC	4*		HCAC	5*		Amer SW	7	
Liberty League	6*		Landmark	9*		MIAA	8		Landmark	1*(Catholic)		CCOS	7	
Little East	6		Mac Commonwealth	7		Minnesota	9		NCAC	6*		NW	9	
MASCAC	5		Mac Freedom	8		NCAC	2*(Depauw, Wabash)		OAC	9		SAA	7	
NESCAC	10		Skyline	8		Northern	10		ODAC	11		SCIAC	7	
NAC	11		Atlantic East	3	Going away	SLIAC	4*		PAC	9		SLIAC	9*	
Empire 8	7		United East	8		Upper MW	8		USA South	6		Southern CAC	7	
IND			Liberty League	1*	(NYU)									
Babson	1		IND						IND			IND		
Hartford	1		NONE			IND			Atlantic East	1*(Marymount)		Emory	1	
	63			57		Wisc Eau Claire	1		CNU	1			63	
						Wisc Stv. Point	1		Carnegie Mellon	1				
						Wisc Stout	1		Asbury	1				
* = SPLIT CONFERENCE										54				
							57							
294														

NO CONFERENCE SPANS MORE THAN 2 REGIONS

NO REGION HAS MORE THAN 8 MAXIMUM AQ POSSIBILITIES

Current chart based on 2024-25 sponsorship.

Women's Golf Proposed Regional Alignment

REGION 1		REGION 2		REGION 3		REGION 4		REGION 5	
5 AQs * – 52 teams		5 AQs – 48 teams		5 AQs – 49 teams		6 AQs – 55 teams		5 AQs – 45 teams	
Conference	Teams	Conference	Teams	Conference	Teams	Conference	Teams	Conference	Teams
Conf. of New England * (AQ - 2026)	4	Centennial	8	NCAC	6	CCIW	9	NWC	9
Great Northeast	3	Landmark	10	OAC	9	MIAC	10	SCIAC	7
Liberty League	7	NJAC	3	PAC	10	NACC	11	SCAC	9
Little East	3	ODAC	8	AMCC	4	UMAC	8	SLIAC	12
NESCAC	8	SAA	8	MIAA	9	WIAC	8	ASC	7
NE Women's Golf Conf.	14	USA South	9	Heartland	9	ARC	9	INDEPENDENT	
Middle Atlantic Conferences	11	INDEPENDENT		INDEPENDENT				WashU	1
INDEPENDENT		Christopher Newport	1	Carnegie Mellon	1				
Babson	1	Emory	1	Neumann	1				
Worcester State	1								
								AQ Conference	

Anticipated AQs in 2026-27 = 26 (5+5+5+6+5)

Anticipated Sponsorship in 2026-27 = 249 (52+48+49+55+45)

Current chart based on 2024-25 sport sponsorship.