



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS SUBCOMMITTEE
JULY 15, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **Approve a blanket waiver allowing institutions to declare alternate playing and practice seasons for fall, winter and spring sports (Division III Bylaws 17.1.1.1 and 17.1.1.2).**
 - (1) Recommendation. To waive the current Division III Bylaw 17 parameters and allow institutions to define (1) the playing season by days (which do not have to occur in consecutive weeks); and (2) eliminate the distinction between traditional and nontraditional segments (See Attachment A).
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate. NCAA Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee noted the recommendation would apply for the 2020-21 academic year.
 - (3) Rationale. The subcommittee seeks to provide institutions and conferences appropriate flexibility in scheduling contests and dates of competition and providing student-athletes with meaningful participation opportunities in the regular season, while also balancing the impact of COVID-19. The subcommittee noted several Division III member institutions have indicated they will not be supporting competition for teams during the fall semester; and permitting institutions and conferences to define the playing season by days will allow institutions to keep student-athletes engaged throughout the entire academic year and provide flexibility if an institution needs to suspend activities due to health and safety concerns.
 - (4) Budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides institutions with the flexibility to offer their student-athletes a meaningful participation opportunity during the academic year while also minimizing interference with the academic progress of student-athletes.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and announcements. Laura Mooney welcomed the subcommittee members.

Review the subcommittee's videoconference report. The subcommittee reviewed and approved the report from its July 8 videoconference.

2. Future meetings. July 28, 2020.

3. Adjournment. The subcommittee adjourned at 4:02 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Staff Liaisons: Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs

Laura Peterson, Championships and Corporate Alliances

Zach Romash, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee July 15, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Sarah Feyerherm, Washington College (Maryland).	
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College.	
Laura Mooney, chair; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.	
Kandis Schram, Maryville College (Tennessee).	
Michael Vienna, Emory University.	
Joseph Walsh, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Michelle Walsh, Vassar College.	
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Tiffany Alford, Laura Peterson and Zach Romash.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Dutcher, Lauren Frost, Jarett Gerald, Louise McCleary and Jeff Myers.	



**Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Season Subcommittee
Proposed Alternative Playing Seasons for 2020-21 Academic Year**

When reviewing potential amendments to playing season regulations for the 2020-21 academic year, the subcommittee endorsed the following principles:

1. Any amendments should not compromise the health and safety of student-athletes specifically, and the campus community more generally.
2. Any amendments should foster a positive student-athlete experience.
3. Any amendments should maintain the guiding principle that the playing seasons are regulated to minimize interference with the academic programs of student-athletes.
4. Institutional viability issues (e.g. enrollment management, personnel limitations, resources) should be evaluated as part of proposed changes.

The following is a proposal to allow flexibility to conduct athletically related activity outside the current Division III Bylaw 17 parameters. The **bold** font below represents the changes from the current bylaws. The primary proposed changes are that: (1) The playing season is defined by days (which do not have to occur in consecutive weeks) as opposed to weeks to allow for more flexibility to conduct athletically related activities with student-athletes; and (2) The distinction between traditional and non-traditional segments is eliminated.

Fall sports.

1. Start date: August 10 or first day of classes, whichever is earlier. (Per waiver issued by the NCAA Division III Administrative Committee on June 10, 2020.)
2. End date: **Five weekdays before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the regular academic year.**
3. First competition date: No change.
4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation).**
 - a. A "day" is any day in which athletically related activity (Bylaw 17.02.1.1) occurs, including but not limited to:
 - (1) In person or virtual team meetings;
 - (2) Required workouts or conditioning sessions;
 - (3) Practice;

- (4) Competition.
 - b. A "day" shall be treated as "in-season" under current analysis.
 - c. The exceptions to athletically related activities set forth in Bylaw 17.02.1.1.1 would not constitute a day.
 - d. A "day" is team specific and not student-athlete specific.
 - e. A team is required a day off once per calendar week: Monday through Sunday (except for existing sport specific exceptions). Multi-sport student-athletes will still be required a day off per week of all athletically related activity.
 - f. The 114 days do not have to occur in consecutive weeks.
- 5. Maximum contests: Apply traditional segment limits.
- 6. **Outside competition: Deference to institution.**
 - Shall not participate on a professional team.

Winter sports.

- 1. Start date: No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier for most winter sports.)
 - **Exceptions: Basketball, ice hockey and wrestling which would be October 1.** (Bowling currently has an October 1 start date.)
- 2. End date: No change. (Five weekdays before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the regular academic year.)
- 3. First competition date: No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier for most winter sports.)
 - **Exceptions: Basketball, ice hockey and wrestling which would be October 23.**
- 4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation).**
 - See "day" analysis above.

5. Maximum Contests: No change.

6. Outside competition: Deference to institution.

- Shall not participate on a professional team.

Spring sports.

1. Start date: No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier.)
 - Exceptions.
 - Golf, rowing and tennis: August 10 or the first day of classes, whichever is earlier (per waiver issued by the Administrative Committee on June 10, 2020)
2. End date: No change. (Conclusion of NCAA championship.)
 - Institutions shall not conduct athletically related activity five weekday before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the fall semester/quarter.
3. First competition date. No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier.)
4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation).**
 - See "day" analysis above.
5. Maximum contests: Apply traditional segment limits.
6. **Outside competition: Deference to institution.**
 - Shall not participate on a professional team.