



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 20, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- **Membership – Division III Membership Requirements – Sports Sponsorship – Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship – Bylaw 20.11.3.8.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver to eliminate the minimum number of contests and participants required for sports sponsorship for fall championship sports and winter championship sports.
- (2) Effective Date. September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021.
- (3) Rationale. The committee seeks to provide relief for institutions related to disruptions and uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, relief is intended to:
  - a. Help Division III institutions remain in compliance with NCAA Bylaw 20 membership legislation;
  - b. Guide institutions as they determine the best model for providing the student-athlete experience in the 2020-21 academic year; and
  - c. Reduce the administrative burden for institutions seeking relief.

In recent weeks, most Division III member institutions and conferences have announced their intention to postpone intercollegiate competition until after January 1, 2021, due to continued uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. These decisions will inevitably result in increased scheduling challenges as institutions attempt to provide meaningful experiences for student-athletes despite a compressed calendar and facilities challenges. Additionally, on August 20, 2020, the Division III Administrative Committee recommended members schools not compete in the fall term to avoid potential increased health and safety risks, while establishing criteria for schools that decide to compete.

The elimination of minimum contest and participant requirements for fall championship sports and winter championship sports would provide each institution with the flexibility to determine how to best conduct outside competition on their campus (i.e., reduced outside competition, full outside

competition). It would also allow institutions to provide a safe student-athlete experience in the best way possible without the restrictions of minimum sponsorship for those sports.

The list of affected sports is as follows:

Fall sports: men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and men's water polo.

Winter sports: men's and women's basketball, women's bowling, men's and women's fencing, men's and women's gymnastics, men's and women's ice hockey, men's and women's rifle, men's and women's skiing, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track and field and men's and women's wrestling.

The committee acknowledged the impact this waiver will have on the overall sports-sponsorship requirements outlined in Bylaw 20.11.3 (i.e., at least one sport per season, five or six sports per gender based on student enrollment and at least three team sports) and also will provide flexibility in these areas of the legislation. Additionally, the committee noted it will review the minimum contest and participants requirements for spring championship sports as more information becomes available.

The committee encourages institutions to make their best efforts to safely conduct these sports during the 2020-21 academic year as the legislated minimum contest and participant requirements will be in effect for the 2021-22 academic year. The current contest and participant minimums for NCAA championship qualification are not impacted by this proposed change.

- (4) Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Provides flexibility for institutions to determine the best possible approach to conduct their athletics program in a way that ensures the health and safety of student-athletes and the best possible format to ensure a meaningful athletics experience for the most student-athletes possible.

## 2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and Announcements.** The videoconference commenced at 1:02 p.m. Eastern time Thursday August 20, 2020.
2. **Roster and Conflict of Interest.** Committee members were reminded of the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy and proper procedures for recusal if a conflict of interest might arise. Committee members followed the recusal procedures during all deliberations.
3. **Review July 16, 2020, meeting report.** The committee reviewed its July 16, 2020, videoconference report and recommended item 7-d be revised from Wesley College (Massachusetts) to Wesley College (Delaware). The committee approved the report as revised.
4. **Review of Athletics Program Assessments.** The committee reviewed and approved the athletics program assessments from the following institutions, which they were required to submit as a result of the committee's review following year one:
  - a. Centenary University (New Jersey);
  - b. La Roche University; and
  - c. Mount Aloysius College.

The committee also reviewed and approved the athletics program assessment from the University of Rochester, which was required to submit a program assessment in year one of its probationary period as a result of its failure to submit a completed 2018-19 institutional self-study guide by the required deadline.
5. **Review of Pomona-Pitzer Athletics Consortium Waiver Extension Request.** The committee reviewed and approved an extension request from Pomona-Pitzer athletics department for filing its athletics consortium waiver.
6. **Update on Sports Sponsorship and Demographics Form Submissions.** The committee agreed to postpone this item until its September videoconference.
7. **Update on Manor College Virtual Campus Visit.** The committee reviewed the agenda for the Manor College virtual campus visit scheduled for September 15-16, 2020, and took no action.
8. **Update on September 10, 2020, New Member Orientation.** Staff updated the committee on the status of the 2020 New Member Orientation. The committee took no action.

9. **Update on provisional, reclassifying and exploratory membership.** The committee agreed to postpone this item until its September videoconference.
10. **Update on Division III active membership.** The committee agreed to postpone this item until its September videoconference.
11. **Recent actions by Division III Administrative Committee and other groups.** The committee agreed to postpone this item until its September videoconference.
12. **Future meeting update.** The chair noted the upcoming September 17, 2020, videoconference and the possibility of an additional meeting if necessary.
13. **Other business.** None.
14. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 3:19 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair: Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Division III Research  
Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs*

NCAA Division III Membership Committee August 20, 2020, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
William Fell, United States Merchant Marine Academy.	
Michael Frandsen, Wittenberg University.	
Jan Hathorn, Washington and Lee University.	
Jessica Huntley, Atlantic East Conference.	
Charles Jacobs, St. Norbert College.	
Erica Lemm, Mount Holyoke College.	
Monique McLean, Trinity Washington University.	
Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.	
Elliott Strickland, Pennsylvania College of Technology.	
Megan Valentine, Hilbert College.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Tiffany Alford, Corey Berg, Debbie Brown and Eric Hartung.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Dan Dutcher, Louise McCleary and Jeff Myers.	