



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Minimum number of contests waiver.** The committee recommended a waiver to eliminate the minimum number of contests and participants required for sports sponsorship for spring championships sports.
2. **Institutional Self-Study Deadline.** The committee approved an extension of the deadline for the Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG) for the 2020-21 class of institutions to May 31, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative Items.**

a. **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 spring 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.
 - c. Reduce the administrative burden for institutions seeking relief.

The elimination of minimum contest and participant requirements for spring championship sports would provide each institution with the flexibility to determine how to best conduct outside competition (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: acrobatics and tumbling, baseball, beach volleyball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, rowing, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's outdoor track and field, men's volleyball, and women's water polo.

The committee acknowledged and affirmed this waiver will also result in the elimination of 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) for the 2020-21 academic year.

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 most fitting format to ensure a meaningful athletics experience for the greatest number of student-athletes possible.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and Announcements.** The chair welcomed the following new members of the committee to their first meeting: Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, and Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.
- 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 reviewed the conflict of interest document and updated any conflicts as necessary. Committee members followed the recusal procedures during all deliberations.
- 3. Policies and Procedures.** The staff provided the committee with its policies and procedures for review. The committee took no action.
- 4. November 2020 videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the November 19, 2020, videoconference report.

5. Division III Provisional and Reclassifying Membership.

- a. Applications for exploratory membership. The committee reviewed and approved exploratory membership applications from the following institutions:
- (1) Asbury University (Kentucky) – In its review, the committee found that the institution met the conditions and obligations to explore Division III membership. It was determined that staff and a representative from the committee should conduct a visit to Asbury University’s campus during the exploratory year.
 - (2) Johnson and Wales University (Charlotte) – In its review, the committee found that the institution met the conditions and obligations for application to explore Division III membership. It was determined that staff and a representative from the committee should conduct a visit to the campus of Johnson and Wales University (Charlotte) during the exploratory year.
- b. Application for provisional membership. The committee reviewed and denied a provisional application from Manor College (Pennsylvania). In its review, the committee found that the application did not meet the conditions and obligations to begin year one of the Division III provisional membership process. The college’s current exploratory year will conclude on August 31, 2021.
- c. Provisional/Reclassifying/Exploratory chart and mentor assignments. The committee reviewed the provisional/reclassifying/exploratory member chart and assigned committee mentors.
- (1) Asbury University (Kentucky) – Charley Jacobs and Corey Borchardt.
 - (2) Johnson and Wales University (Charlotte) – Monique McLean.
- The committee also reviewed the provisional/reclassifying/exploratory member chart and assigned committee mentors to institutions whose previous mentors are no longer serving on the committee.
- (1) Mississippi University for Women – Monique McLean.
 - (2) University of St. Thomas (Texas) – Erica Lemm and Bill Stiles.
- d. Convention attendance for provisional and reclassifying members. The committee discussed the provisional and reclassifying member institutions, noting that all had representation at the 2021 NCAA Convention Division III Issues Forum and Business Session.

- 6. Conference Membership.** The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and realignments.

7. Issues surrounding 2020-21 sports sponsorship requirements.

- a. Sports Sponsorship and Demographics Reporting. The committee confirmed the timeline for submission of sports sponsorship and demographics data to the national office. The reporting window will open May 1 and close July 27. Considering the waiver of sports sponsorship requirements and the playing season format for 2020-21, the committee reviewed an alternate definition of a student-athlete to be used by institutions when reporting. This definition, which aligns with U.S. Department of Education guidance, will be used by institutions Association-wide:

“For the purposes of this report, a participant at an NCAA member institution is defined as a student who, as of the day of the varsity team’s first scheduled contest: (a) is listed as a team member on the roster, squad list or eligibility report; (b) practices with the varsity team and receives coaching from one or more varsity coaches; or (c) received athletically related financial aid. Any student who satisfies one or more of the above criteria is a participant, including a student on a team the institution designates or defines as junior varsity, freshman, or novice, or a student who does not play in a scheduled contest, whether for medical reasons or to preserve eligibility (i.e., a redshirt).

If the sport was cancelled due to COVID-19, please enter the participant figures for those who received athletics aid, practiced with the varsity team or received coaching from one or more varsity coaches, or were listed on the team’s roster or eligibility list as of the first scheduled practice. For those teams whose seasons were cancelled entirely due to COVID-19, please enter the figures for those who received athletics aid or were enrolled at your institution and intended to participate in the sport.”

- b. Athletics Program Assessments and Annual Reports. Institutions required to submit an athletics program assessment (condition of probation) or an annual report (condition of provisional/reclassifying membership) will be asked to provide their planned rosters and competition schedules. Considering the waiver of sports sponsorship requirements and the playing season format for 2020-21, the committee noted flexibility will be provided when assessing the athletics program assessment and annual reports.
- c. Status of the Sports Sponsorship Audit for 2021. The committee voted to suspend the sports sponsorship audit for 2021, noting the waiver of sports sponsorship requirements and the playing season format for the 2020-21 academic year.

8. Division III Active Membership.

- a. 2021 NCAA Convention attendance – Constitution 3.2.4.16. The committee considered membership requirements waivers for nine institutions who did not cast a vote during the Division III Business Session:

- (1) The committee determined that the following institutions met the NCAA Convention attendance condition of membership: Austin College, College of Saint Benedict, Roanoke College, Russell Sage College, and the University of Dallas.
 - (2) The committee determined that the following institutions did not meet the NCAA Convention attendance condition of membership: Alfred University, Concordia University (Wisconsin), Edgewood College and Northland College. As a result, the institutions will serve a three-year probationary period beginning September 1, 2021 and be required to submit an athletics program assessment by May 15, 2022.
- b. 2020 & 2021 Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG) – Constitution 6.3.1. The committee discussed NCAA Constitution 6.3.1, which specifies that the deadline for institutions to submit their ISSG is June 1 of the year it is due to the NCAA national office. For institutions in the 2020-21 ISSG class, the committee agreed to extend the deadline from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2022, due to COVID-19. Institutions in the 2019-20 ISSG class had previously received an extension to May 31, 2021 and were not granted any additional relief.
 - c. Regional Rules Seminars Attendance Tracking. The committee confirmed that the NCAA Constitution 3.2.4.16 requirement of attendance once every three years at the Regional Rules Seminars remains unchanged for select institutions this year. The 2021 Regional Rules Seminar will be conducted virtually June 7-9. NCAA staff will share a comprehensive schedule, additional registration details and information on satisfying the attendance requirement as they become available.
 - d. Graduate student participation in an athletics consortium. A recent interpretation provided guidance to members of an athletics consortium regarding the best process to determine which institution within the consortium can allow graduate students to compete. Staff updated the committee on the status of the interpretation and informed them that moving forward, the athletics consortium application must include the process by which graduate student participation will be determined.

9. Educational Initiatives.

- a. 2021 NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. Staff reminded the committee that the 2021 Regional Rules Seminars are scheduled for June 7-9 in a virtual format.
- b. NCAA Inclusion Forum. Staff notified the committee that the 2021 Inclusion Forum is scheduled for June 2-4 in a virtual format. Committee members were encouraged to remind their mentee provisional/reclassifying institutions the Inclusion Forum satisfies the provisional/reclassifying educational requirement for the faculty athletics representative and senior woman administrator professional development. Additionally, at least one senior-level administrator (e.g., chancellor or president, athletics direct report, Title IX officer, dean of students) that does not

work in an athletics department at a provisional or reclassifying institution must attend the Inclusion Forum at least once during the membership process.

10. **Feedback on the annual reception at Convention.** The committee expressed appreciation for the format and execution of the programming for the reception which was held virtually.
11. **2021 Meeting Dates.** The committee will meet virtually each month in 2021.
12. **Division III Governance Update.** Ali Spungen, associate director of Division III, provided the committee with updates from the Convention and other pertinent items being discussed by the division.
13. **Other Business.**
 - The committee liaisons provided an update on national office personnel changes related to Division III.
 - The committee discussed the potential impacts of a permanent change to the playing seasons model for Division III. During the 2020-21 academic year, the Division III membership had the option to employ a “days-model” as opposed to the “weeks-model” when declaring a team’s playing season. It was noted there is interest in pursuing the days-model for the division on a permanent basis and the importance of assessing the impact of that on sports sponsorship requirements.

Committee Chair: Charles Jacobs, St. Norbert College, Midwest 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 February 24, 2021, videoconference	
Attendees:	
Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
William Fell, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Skyline Conference.	
Michael Frandsen, Wittenberg University, North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Jan Hathorn, Washington and Lee University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Charles Jacobs, St. Norbert College, Midwest Conference.	
Erica Lemm, Mount Holyoke College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Monique McLean, Trinity Washington University, Independent.	
William Stiles, Alvernia University, Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Elliott Strickland, Pennsylvania College of Technology, North Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Megan Valentine, Hilbert College, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Absentees	
None.	
Guests in Attendance	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance	
Tiffany Alford, Corey Berg and Eric Hartung.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lauren Frost, Jarett Gerald, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Joan Nissen, Lisa Rogers, Ali Spungen and Jeremy Villanueva.	