

# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE JUNE 25-26, 2025, MEETING

## ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Legislative items.
  - None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
  - Request for funding to livestream Division III sessions at the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.
    - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. The committee recommends the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee approve funding to live stream Division III NCAA Regional Rules Seminar education sessions.
    - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
    - (3) <u>Rationale</u>. The Division III Regional Rules Seminar offers impactful educational opportunities for institutions to stay informed about NCAA rules and regulations. Live streaming the event reduces the institution's administrative burden by reducing travel costs and logistical challenges. The committee believes that establishing funding for a virtual option provides an invaluable educational tool to those in the Division III membership unable to travel to seminars. This initiative supports our strategic goals by providing accessible and efficient educational resources for all Division III institutions. The committee also noted that live streaming will not satisfy the membership requirement to attend the seminar in-person once every three years.
    - (4) Estimated budget impact. \$30,000.
    - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements. The committee commenced business June 25 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern.
- **2. Membership Committee 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 roster and conflict of interest documentation.
- **3. Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the updated policies and procedures documents.

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- **4. Review of May meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its May 15 videoconference report.
- 5. Division III provisional/reclassifying membership.
  - a. <u>Current roster</u>. The committee reviewed the current roster of provisional and reclassifying institutions and their committee mentors.
  - b. <u>Process advancement</u>. The committee reviewed annual reports from the following provisional and reclassifying institutions, provided feedback in areas where institutions could enhance their current practices, and took the following actions:
    - (1) Year One to Year Two Approval.
      - Penn State Brandywine.
    - (2) Election to active membership Approval.
      - (a) Lyon College.
      - (b) University of Hartford.
  - c. <u>Deferred advancement</u>. The committee voted to defer the advancement of Carlow University. They concluded the institution did not provide ample evidence of preparedness to begin the third and final year of the provisional membership process through failure to meet minimum sports sponsorship requirements. As a result, the institution will repeat year two of the provisional membership process during the 2025-26 academic year.

## 6. Division III active membership.

- a. <u>Sports Sponsorship waiver requests</u>. The committee reviewed two waivers for the following institutions:
  - (1) Warren Wilson College. The committee approved a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.4 for the 2024-25 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sport of men's soccer, men's cross country, men's swimming and diving, men's volleyball, women's cross country, women's swimming and diving, women's outdoor track and field, women's soccer, and women's volleyball, noting sufficient mitigation was provided, that was outside of their control. Due to conflict, Chris Roekle was recused from the conversation.
  - (2) University of Maine at Presque Isle. The committee denied a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.4 for the 2024-25 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sport

of women's track and field and women's cross country, noting insufficient mitigation was provided.

- (3) Pratt Institute. The committee denied a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.4 for the 2024-25 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sport of women's basketball, noting insufficient mitigation was provided.
- b. <u>Probation/Restricted status summary</u>. The committee reviewed the current list of institutions on probation and restricted status. For the 2024-25 academic year, 13 institutions are in the probationary period and one institution is on restricted status.
- c. <u>Trinity Washington University</u>. The committee reviewed the required restricted status report and noted the university has met sports sponsorship requirements for 2024-25 and will return to active status for the 2025-26 academic year.
- d. <u>2024-25 sports sponsorship audit</u>. Staff provided the committee with an update on the monitoring of the for-cause audits, further information will be provided at a future meeting.
- e. <u>Conference membership</u>. The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and pending realignments.

## 7. Educational initiatives.

- a. <u>2025 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar attendance Bylaw 20.8.4.16</u>. Staff reported to the committee that not all institutions required to attend in 2025 met the attendance requirement. An update will be provided at a future meeting.
- b. <u>Consideration of future funding to livestream Division III sessions at the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.</u> The committee recommended the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee allocate \$30,000 each year to livestream Division III sessions at future NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. The committee believes establishing funding for a virtual option provides an invaluable educational tool for those in the Division III membership unable to travel to seminars.
- c. <u>Division III Rules Test</u>. Staff provided the committee with the updates on the Division III Rules Test.
- **8. Update on the Pilot Eligibility Waiver Program.** The committee was provided with an update on the status of the program, noting no requests have been made to-date. Additionally, the committee reviewed and gave feedback specifically to the Question-and-Answer supplement.
- **9. Review of the accreditation legislation referral.** Staff provided the committee with an overview regarding the regional accreditation requirement. The committee noted it would be appropriate for

the Division to take no action at this time considering the uncertainty with the status of the U.S. Department of Education, the entity responsible for higher education accreditation. The committee also noted there would be no disparate impact on current Division III members if the current rule were maintained.

- **10. Division III governance update.** Bill Regan, managing director for Division III, provided the committee with Division III governance and Association-wide updates.
- **11. Future meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
- **12. Other business.** None.
- **13. Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned 10:47 a.m., Eastern time, June 26.

Committee Chair: Chris Roekle, Coast-to-Coast Conference Staff Liaison(s): Eric Hartung, Division III Governance

> Brittany Higgins, Academic and Membership Affairs Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs

## NCAA Division III Membership Committee June 25-26, 2025, Meeting

#### **Attendees:**

Tony Berich, Stockton University.

Lillian Case, Juniata College. (SAAC representative).

Frederick Clark, Bridgewater State University.

Greg Cooper, Heidelberg University.

Kim Fierke, State University of New York at Oneonta.

Brian Johnson, North Central College.

Wayne Lewis, Houghton University.

Chris Roekle, Coast-to-Coast Conference.

## **Absentees:**

Christine Hagedorn-Nordenholt, Rosemont College.

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

None.

## NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Eric Hartung, Brittany Higgins and Julie Zike.

## Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Bill Regan.