



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
MAY 14, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The videoconference commenced at 1:01 p.m. Eastern time Thursday, May 14, 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 April 16, 2020, meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its April 16, 2020, meeting report.
4. **2020 Regional Rules Seminar update.** Staff provided the committee with an update on the 2020 Regional Rules Seminar, which will be conducted virtually during June 2020.
5. **Consideration of Division III sports-sponsorship requirements for 2020-21 and beyond.**

The committee began its discussion by recognizing that the ultimate authority for determining how to conduct intercollegiate athletics resides with the president or chancellor of an individual institution. The committee seeks to provide relief where possible, recognizing that additional relief may be requested and that any relief that is provided 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 and 2021-22 academic years; and
- c. Reduce the administrative burden for institutions seeking relief.

Two specific areas of relief were discussed. No formal action was taken.

- a. The committee agreed institutions will likely seek relief of Bylaws 20.11.3.1 and 20.11.3.2 which determine the minimum number of sports a member institution must sponsor and how those sports must be administered per season. The committee recognized these bylaws affirm the Division III philosophy, which calls for institutions to provide a broad-based

athletics experience and provide a framework for them to do so. The committee acknowledged the pressures institutions are facing now and will face in the coming months that may result in noncompliance within these areas. At this time, the committee is not certain blanket relief of these bylaws is appropriate; however, it remains in support of reviewing requests on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the committee determined that any waiver relief must be administered in a way that maintains gender equity between the minimum number of all-male sports and all-female sports an institution must sponsor on its campus.

- b. The committee agreed blanket relief of the minimum number of contests required per Bylaw 20.11.3.8 is warranted but did not determine the best metric to use in providing that relief. The committee identified the following items it will use to guide future discussions of relief:
  - (1) A reduction in the minimum number of contests per sport will not provide adequate relief for every institution. The committee will likely receive requests for additional relief regardless of the reduced minimums.
  - (2) Individual institutions are best equipped to determine how to conduct outside competition on their campuses (i.e., reduced outside competition, full outside competition).
  - (3) Any alternate competition model should permit a schedule primarily based on conference and/or regional competition.
  - (4) The contest minimums in Bylaws 20.11.3.8 and 31.2.1, the minimum number of contests for NCAA Championships eligibility, are aligned. The contest minimums for NCAA Championships eligibility are under the purview of the Division III Championships Committee.
- 6. **Future meeting update.** The chair noted that staff will reconvene the committee before its upcoming June 24-25, 2020, meeting for an additional sports-sponsorship requirements discussion and potential action.
- 7. **Other business.** None.
- 8. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 2:58 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*

<b>NCAA Division III Membership Committee May 14, 2020, Videoconference</b>	
<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, Jeff Myers and Liz Suscha.	