



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

a. Membership – Provisional Membership – Application Process – Exploratory Year – Bylaw 20.3.1.1.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver to extend the 2022 deadline for application for the exploratory year from January 15 to February 15.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee seeks to provide flexibility to those institutions that want to apply to the exploratory year, which is required of any institution outside of the NCAA seeking Division III membership. This is due to the current NCAA Constitution review, with final proposals expected to be voted on by the membership at the annual Convention in January 2022. The committee believes that providing this waiver flexibility will allow institutions adequate time to assess the outcome of the vote on any Constitutional Convention proposals, while still providing ample time for the committee to review applications and notify institutions of their acceptance into the exploratory year prior to its Sept. 1, 2022, start date.

Under the waiver, exploratory year applications must be received to the national office not later than Feb. 15, 2022. Any application received after that date shall be postmarked no later than Feb. 8, 2022.

- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Membership – Provisional Membership – Application for Membership – Bylaw 20.3.1.2.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver to extend the 2022 deadline for application for provisional membership from January 15 to February 15.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee seeks to provide flexibility to those institutions that want to apply to provisional membership, which is required of any institution in the exploratory year seeking Division III membership. This is due to the current NCAA Constitution review, with final proposals expected

to be voted on by the membership at the annual Convention in January 2022. The committee believes that providing this waiver flexibility will allow institutions adequate time to assess the outcome of the vote on any Constitutional Convention proposals, while still providing ample time for the committee to review applications and notify institutions of their acceptance into the provisional membership process prior to its Sept. 1, 2022, start date.

Under the waiver, provisional membership applications must be received to the national office not later than Feb. 15, 2022. Any application received after that date shall be postmarked no later than Feb. 8, 2022.

- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Membership – Change of Division Membership – Requesting Reclassification to Division III—Election Procedures – Application Process – Application for Reclassification – Bylaw 20.6.2.1.1.

- (1) Recommendation. Approve a waiver to extend the 2022 deadline for application for reclassifying membership from January 15 to February 15.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee seeks to provide flexibility to those institutions that want to apply to provisional membership, which is required of any NCAA Division I or Division II institution seeking Division III membership. This is due to the current NCAA Constitution review, with final proposals expected to be voted on by the membership at the annual Convention in January 2022. The committee believes that providing this waiver flexibility will allow institutions adequate time to assess the outcome of the vote on any Constitutional Convention proposals, while still providing ample time for the committee to review applications and notify institutions of their acceptance into the reclassifying membership process prior to its Sept. 1, 2022, start date.

Under the waiver, reclassifying membership applications must be received to the national office not later than Feb. 15, 2022. Any application received after that date shall be postmarked no later than Feb. 8, 2022.

- (4) Budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

• **Termination of American Collegiate Athletic Association from conference membership.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council terminate conference membership for the American Collegiate Athletic Association.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. During its September 2021 videoconference, the committee noted that the conference has had no active members for two years now, and thus continues to fail to meet several obligations of Division III conference membership as outlined in NCAA Bylaw 3.3.4. Specifically, for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, the conference will not satisfy the conference composition requirement and will not have a conference governance structure, including president or chancellor involvement and a conference student-athlete advisory committee.

Additionally, the committee noted the American Collegiate Athletic Conference failed to fulfill the terms of its suspension. Specifically, the conference failed to provide the committee with a detailed plan of how the conference would satisfy the obligations of membership outlined in Bylaw 3.3.4 for the 2021-22 academic year and how the conference will successfully complete the conference composition grace period outlined in Bylaw 3.3.1.2.4.

- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The NCAA Division III Membership Committee commenced business at 1:01 p.m. Eastern.
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. **August 2021 videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the August 19, 2021, videoconference report.
5. **Update on the NCAA Constitution Committee.** Louise McCleary, Interim Vice-President for Division III, provided the group an update on the work of the NCAA Constitution Committee noting the committee's scope of work, membership and timeline of activities.
6. **Review of 2021-2022 Division III overall and conference membership.** The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and realignments.
7. **Positions on 2022 Convention proposals.** At the request of the Management Council, the committee reviewed three proposals ahead of the 2022 NCAA Convention.
 - a. **Selection of Teams and Individuals for Championships Participation – Reduce the Conference Automatic Qualification Minimum to Six Institutions.** The committee recommends that Management Council support the proposal, noting that the reduction in the automatic qualification minimum could provide more conference stability. The committee also noted that lowering the automatic qualification minimum could allow for more meaningful experiences at the national championship level for student-athletes in sports that are less broadly sponsored.
 - b. **Single-Sport Conference – Reduce Number of Member Institutions.** The committee recommends that Management Council support the proposal, noting that reducing the number of institutions needed to form a single sport conference would help ensure that a single sport conference does not have to satisfy a higher standard to form a signal sport conference than it does to earn an automatic qualification.
 - c. **Sport Classified in Division I – Applying Division I Financial Aid Legislation.** The committee recommends that Management Council take no position on the proposal, noting that while the principle of competitive equity is core to the NCAA as a whole, the issue of financial aid is a core tenet of the Division III philosophy. The committee further noted that taking a position on this proposal that is integral to the Division III philosophy may influence the vote of the Division III membership instead of encouraging each voting member to evaluate the merits of the proposal on its own and come to its own conclusion.
8. **2021 meeting dates.** The committee was reminded of the 2021 meeting schedule.
9. **Other business.** None.

Committee Chair: Charles Jacobs, St. Norbert College, Midwest Conference
Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Division III Governance
Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Membership Committee September 16, 2021, videoconference	
Attendees:	
William Fell, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Skyline 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.	
Absentees	
Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Michael Frandsen, Wittenberg University, North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Megan Valentine, Hilbert College, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Guests in Attendance	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance	
Tiffany Alford and Eric Hartung.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Louise McCleary, Joan Nissen and Lisa Rogers.	