



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 18-19, 2020, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Meeting conducted virtually.** On July 18-19, the primary and associate members of the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee gathered virtually via Microsoft Teams to conduct its July meeting.
- 2. Administrative items.**
  - a. Rosters. The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
  - b. April 2020 SAAC meeting report. The committee approved the report with no changes.
  - c. Policies and procedures. The committee reviewed its policies and procedures with no changes recommended.
  - d. 2019-20 SAAC Goals. The committee discussed its goals from the previous academic year. This conversation was furthered later in the meeting, when the committee discussed working group objectives for 2020-21.
  - e. Conference/partner-conference matchups. The committee discussed partner conferences and the roles of primary and associate member pairings.
  - f. SAAC expectations document. The committee reviewed the expectations of SAAC primary and associate members.
  - g. Robert's Rules of Order. The committee reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.

3. **Executive updates from NCAA President Mark Emmert.** NCAA President Mark Emmert joined the committee meeting to provide updates on key issues facing the Association. Topics covered included the continued impact of COVID-19 on college athletics, the role of the student-athlete in sparking change in the area of racial injustice, transgender student-athlete policies, name, image and likeness discussions and the general state of college athletics entering the fall.
4. **NCAA Sport Science Institute updates.** Jessica Wagner, associate director of the NCAA Sports Science Institute, joined the committee meeting to provide updates regarding COVID-19, support resources available to the membership and the most recent Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan. Ms. Wagner shared NAMI and SSI resources that student-athletes can share with teammates and others on campus related to the mental-health impacts of COVID-19. She also gave an overview of the guidance outlined in the Resocialization of Collegiate Sport document and how recent developments have impacted these suggestions. Lastly, the committee discussed with Ms. Wagner about how it can distribute and help publicize the resources created by the SSI.
5. **Discussion on racial injustice.** Niya Blair Hackworth, director of NCAA office of inclusion, joined the meeting to continue dialogue on how the committee can take action to combat racial injustice on campus. Discussion centered around what efforts the NCAA office of inclusion is currently executing and the role SAAC can play in amplifying those initiatives. The committee refined its “why” behind its plan of action in its attempt to convert this moment in history into a movement.
6. **NCAA Division III Management Council Update.** The representatives from SAAC and Management Council provided an update about the recent meeting of the Council and the topics covered by that group. Important areas discussed included fall student-athlete eligibility and the composition of the playing and practice season. The Council was seeking student-athlete feedback on potential modifications to the playing and practice season that would change to a “days” model to promote flexibility. With some added questions, the committee supported the model changes. Additionally, the committee members reviewed the roundtable topics for the following day’s joint meeting with the Council.
7. **Division III Committee Reports.** Committee members provided updates and items that directly impact student-athletes from their recent attendance at Division III and Association-wide committee meetings and Division III working groups.

8. **Special Olympics update and engagement.** The committee was provided an overview on the on-going partnership between NCAA Division III and Special Olympics. The year ahead will mark the 10th anniversary of the partnership with Special Olympics, which will provide an opportunity to highlight the events executed on campus throughout the calendar. With events likely to be virtual for the foreseeable future, the committee brainstormed ideas for how to hold engaging Special Olympics activities in the virtual space. Activities proposed by the committee included a pen pal program, yoga, virtual fundraising events, “get to know you” connections and virtual workouts. The committee then discussed the weekend’s virtual Special Olympics activity in collaboration with Council, featuring a WWE virtual workout and welcome connection activity.
9. **Division III SAAC Working Group Report Outs.**
  - a. **Inclusion Working Group.** The Inclusion Working Group is in the final steps of finalizing its sexual assault and violence prevention guide, which will then be passed along to the NCAA Sports Science Institute for approval and distribution. Planning for the Day of Silence initiative has been put on hold while fall sports are in a pause in Division III. For the upcoming academic year, the working group will be prioritizing the Black Lives Matter movement and combatting racial injustice on campus and in the community. The working group will be seeking to promote initiatives to support Division III student-athletes and create an inclusive community for all competing in collegiate athletics.
  - b. **Special Olympics Working Group.** The Special Olympics Working Group discussed the challenges posed on many campuses with COVID-19 and the decrease in institutions capable of holding in-person Special Olympics event. Many of the working group’s usual initiatives are on hold until Special Olympics activities are being more widely executed this fall. This includes the proposed Clash of the Conferences competition that will be resumed when in-person instruction is omnipresent again.
  - c. **Sustainability Working Group.** The Sustainability Working Group discussed the continuation of the tracking and reporting of environmental impact data for the upcoming year. Although the working group was dissolved for the 2020-21 academic year, this initiative will continue going forward. The aim is to have a plan to track and report data to announce to the membership at the 2021 NCAA Convention.
  - d. **Social Media Working Group.** The Social Media Working Group has been expended to include more committee members to help increase content production.

The committee will bolster its effort to feature the Black Lives Matter movement and how SAAC members and Division III student-athletes are working toward ending racial injustice on their campuses. The committee will begin creating profiles to feature student-athlete activism and continue the conversation surrounding racial inequality throughout the year.

- **Mental health social media campaign recap and discussion.** The committee was updated on the SAAC-led mental-health social media campaign executed in May. The campaign saw the participation of 312 institutions (70 percent of the Division III membership), with 36 of the 44 Division III conference offices participating. The #BreakTheStigma was used by thousands of student-athletes, coaches and administrators.

10. **SAAC working groups discussion for 2020-21.** The committee discussed options for the upcoming year's working groups based on societal developments and the group's goals for the 2020-21 calendar. The committee voted overnight on the working groups and will decide over the coming month which members will be assigned to which committee. The committee decided on the following three working groups for the year ahead:
  - a. Social Justice.
  - b. Mental and Physical Health.
  - c. Special Olympics.
11. **Legislation.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the legislative process and timeline, as well as the committee's role and responsibilities regarding proposed legislation. The committee also initially discussed several proposals to be voted on at the Convention and took initial feedback and straw poll positions on these proposals.
12. **NIL survey results.** The committee reviewed the survey from the Name, Image and Likeness survey sent to the membership.
13. **Division III Updates and SAAC input on national issues.** The governance staff provided the committee with an update on Division III and Association-wide governance, including the following items:
  - a. Issues in higher education.

- b. Resocialization Guide for Collegiate Sports.
- c. Flexibility in the COVID-19 era.
- d. Name, Image and Likeness.
- e. Fall sport championships.
- f. Financial impact of COVID and sport cancellations.
- g. Diversity, inclusion and racial injustice.

**14. Future meetings.**

- a. September/October 2020 TEAMS meeting.
- b. November 15-16, 2020; TEAMS meeting.
- c. January 13-16, 2021; NCAA Convention, Washington, D.C.
  - **Discussion on schedule for 2021 NCAA Convention.** The committee discussed about the current planning for the Convention. With the current state of the country, the status of the in-person Convention is in flux, meaning that all options are being discussed for virtual and in-person programming.

**15. Other business.**

- a. **Boilermaker Pledge.** The committee discussed the Boilermaker Pledge, a pledge surrounding a commitment to antiracism circulated by the Purdue University student-athlete advisory committee. The pledge was brought to the committee as a potential template for a similar pledge that all three national SAACs could draft and sign. Overall, the committee supported engagement and collaboration on a similar initiative with the other two national committees.
- b. **RISE Civic Engagement Overview.** The committee discussed the RISE organization that centers around voter education and registration. The committee concluded that they could help push RISE efforts via social media and supporting its initiatives through its working group priorities. The group further expressed its interest in collaborating as the November election approaches.

## 16. Adjournment.

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee July 18-19, 2020, Meeting	
<b>Attendees-Primary Members:</b>	
Madeira Alexander, Salisbury University; Capital Athletic Conference.	
Devonte Amos, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Paxton Blanchard, Keene State College; Little East Conference.	
Janne Brown, Aurora University; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Mika Costello, Willamette University; Northwest Conference.	
Hannah Durst, Baldwin-Wallace University; Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Charlotte Ellis, Crown College (Minnesota); Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Annabelle Feist, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Anthony Francois, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Cameron Gardner-Nicholson, Penn State University, Altoona; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Arcel Kabongo-Ngoy, Western New England University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.	
Braly Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University; American Rivers Conference.	
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Michael Litz, Penn State University, Abington; North Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Christine Mayorga, Montclair State University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Michael McMahon, Becker College; New England Collegiate Conference.	
Jack Mulvihill, St. John Fisher College; Empire 8 Conference. (Saturday only)	
Abigail Newkirk, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University; Independents.	
Colby Pepper, Covenant College; USA South Athletic Conference.	
Isaiah Swann, University of Texas at Dallas; American Southwest Conference.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
<b>Attendees-Associate Members:</b>	
Nik Beshere, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Chamberlin, Saint Mary's College (IN); Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Liv Coletta, Mills College; American Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Cassie Contigiani, Thomas College; North Atlantic Conference.	
Carlie Hansen, Bryn Mawr College; Centennial Conference.	
Owen Harkins, Allegheny College; North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Casey Hipp, Knox College; Midwest Conference.	

Benjamin James, Guilford College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Kristin Lasker, State University of New York at New Paltz; State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Justice Mercadel, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Morgan Mercier, Emmanuel College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Diamond Onomake, Mount Saint Mary College (New York); Skyline Conference.
Elle Pickrell, Millsaps College; Southern Athletic Association.
Jenna Ruccolo, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.
Ashley Tutzauer, Cabrini University; Atlantic East Conference.
Luisa Valles, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Talia Williams, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees- Primary Members:</b>
<b>Absentee- Associate Members</b>
Ireland Clare Kennedy, Mount Holyoke College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Braedon Dobbs, Fontbonne University; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Liam Galligan, Franciscan University; Presidents Athletic Conference.
Samantha Munroe, Illinois Wesleyan University; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
Breann Sheaffer, Wilson College; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
<b>Guests in Attendance</b>
Niya Blair Hackworth; Inclusion.
Dan Dutcher; Division III governance.
President Mark Emmert; Executive.
Louise McCleary; Division III governance.
Jessica Wagner; Sports Science Institute.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons:</b>
Brynna Barnhart, Enforcement.
Corey Berg, Academic and membership affairs.
Patrick Malin, Leadership development
Ali Spungen, Division III governance