ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Regionalization working group.
      (1) Recommendation. Appoint a working group to explore alternative models that apply Division II’s regionalization principles to bracketing in team-sport championships and enhance the championships experience for participants. Composition of the group is yet to be determined.
      (2) Effective date. Immediate.
      (3) Rationale. The Division II Championships Committee and sport committees have examined regionalization issues as they apply to bracketing in the postseason for the past year and have yet to reach a consensus on an optimal, cost-effective approach. In addition, the Division II Presidents Council has identified regionalization’s effect on Division II championships as a priority for 2016-17. Research from the last five years shows that first-round conference matchups occur, on average, about 25 percent of the time in most team sports. Division II stakeholders in multiple sports continue to express this as a primary concern. Accordingly, the Championships Committee believes it is appropriate to assemble a small group of subject-matter experts to delve into this issue further. The working group would focus only on how the Division II regionalization principles apply to bracketing in the postseason, not on how they apply to the regular season (as in their effect on scheduling, for example). The 2013 Division II Census indicated overwhelming membership support for regionalization as an identifying Division II attribute; thus, the working group would operate specifically as it relates to bracketing in the postseason. The Championships Committee anticipates the working group to collaborate with the membership and produce initial recommendations to the Championships Committee in 2017. If approved, the recommendations would be effective for championships in 2018-19.
      (4) Estimated budget impact. Travel, lodging and meals for one or two in-person meetings, though one of those could be conducted at the NCAA Convention. The working group would conduct the remainder of its work via teleconference and electronic correspondence.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Reaching a Division II championship is among the pinnacle moments for student-athletes. However, playing a conference opponent in the first round that a team may have faced multiple times in regular-season and conference tournament play only deflates that experience. The goal is to apply a bracketing model that reduces the likelihood of those conference rematches and protects championships participation as the ultimate athletics experience for Division II student-athletes.

b. **Charter travel program.**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Approve the continuation of the charter travel program for Division II championships travel.

   (2) **Effective date.** Immediate.

   (3) **Rationale.** In 2015, the NCAA initiated a pilot program for charter travel that charges institutions a flat fee ($350 each way per person) for all personnel beyond the official travel party. The program is designed to increase efficiencies in charter use. The committee will assess an additional year of the charter travel program and determine whether to implement as a permanent program in Division II.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** Potential cost savings for institutions.

   (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

c. **Date formula for men’s golf regionals.**

   (1) **Recommendation.** Approve the adjustment of the date formula for the Division II men’s golf regionals to Thursday-Saturday, two weeks before finals, rather than the current Monday-Wednesday, two weeks before finals.

   (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2018.

   (3) **Rationale.** Currently, the men’s and women’s golf regional dates overlap, with Sunday practice rounds and competition rounds Monday-Wednesday. A growing number of institutions employ one head coach for both men’s and women’s golf. In an instance where one such institution qualifies both its men’s and women’s teams for the regionals, the head coach is forced to split time between the two regional sites or choose which gender to coach for the entirety of the regional competition. The Division II Women’s Golf Committee also supports this recommendation.

   (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-athlete impact.** This proposal aims to improve the experience for those men’s and women’s golf student-athletes who, under the current date formula, may not have their head coach on site with them at the regional competition.
d. **Regional adjustment in women’s rowing.**

(1) **Recommendation.** Approve moving the University of Central Oklahoma from the South region to the West region.

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.

(3) **Rationale.** The recommendation is logistically beneficial to Central Oklahoma and will help balance sponsorship among regions.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

e. **Automatic qualification in women’s golf.**

(1) **Recommendation.** Approve implementing automatic qualification (AQ) for the Division II Women’s Golf Championships.

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017, for the 2018 Women’s Golf Championship.

(3) **Rationale.** Adding AQ acknowledges recent sponsorship growth and will make women’s golf more competitive as well as exciting regionally. Finally, adding AQ will reward teams that win their conference championships.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The recommendation provides more incentive and meaning for student-athletes in conferences who previously would not have had a chance to automatically qualify for the championship.

f. **Revised selection model in men’s and women’s swimming.**

(1) **Recommendation.** Approve revisions to the swimming selection model to identify and select the fastest swimmers in each event as follows:

Coaches may enter an individual student-athlete in a maximum of 5 individual events to be considered for selections.

Either the fastest aggregate or the fastest actual relay time achieved by the individuals who swam the events in bona fide competition will be allowed for entering relays for entry/selection. Relays will not be selected.

An uninvited relay alternate is a student athlete who has not qualified for the championships in any event (i.e., he or she is neither a member of a four-person relay team identified and named on the submission of results that achieved the qualifying standard nor a swimmer who achieved a qualifying
standard in an individual event). Any swimmer ... is eligible to swim relays
as an uninvited relay alternate in invited and optional entry relay events,
provided at least one of the institution’s relay teams is officially invited to
the championships. An institution with one or more selected student-
athletes may bring uninvited relay-only swimmers to swim only in relays in
which the institution has achieved a provisional standard (“B” cut).

An uninvited relay alternate (a competitor who was not a member of the
four person relay team that achieved his or her institution’s relay entry time)
-only swimmer will not be considered part of the institution’s official travel
party. As such, reimbursement for travel and per diem, banquet tickets and
participation awards will not be provided for those individuals.

However, the uninvited relay alternate -only swimmer will receive a
participant credential.

(2) Effective date. Immediate, although the new relay standards formula implementation
would be delayed until 2017-18.

(3) Rationale. The proposed selection model will select student-athletes to individual
events only. It then provides the opportunity for institutions with four or more selected
student-athletes to swim in any of the relays. The proposed model received
overwhelming response and support from Division II swimming coaches.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Selecting the fastest swimmers in each individual event will
make the meet much more competitive and thus provide a positive championships
experience for the student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and review of agenda. Championships Committee Chair Jim Johnson welcomed
the group, particularly new members Tonya Charland from the Great Lakes Valley Conference
and vice-chair of the Management Council; Sue Willey, the vice president for intercollegiate
athletics at the University of Indianapolis; and Kristen Mort, associate athletics director and
senior woman administrator at Colorado Mesa University. Mr. Johnson also reviewed the
agenda and schedule of speakers and presenters for the meeting.

2. August teleconference report. The committee approved the report from its August
teleconference, as submitted.

3. Sport committee information. Committee members reviewed sport committee contact
information, including sport committee chairs, staff liaisons and Championships Committee
liaisons, and annual meeting dates as information only. Staff noted that assignments may be adjusted slightly once the remaining vacancy on the committee is filled.

4. **Budget review.**

a. **Championships budget update.** The committee reviewed budget-to-actuals for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

b. **Triennial budget timeline.** Committee members were reminded of the timeline for the 2018-21 budget triennium. Preliminary budget requests from sport committees will be reviewed at the February 2017 Championships Committee’s in-person meeting and discussed in more detail during a meeting with sport committee chairs in September 2017 (see Informational Item 6).

5. **Committee updates.**

a. **Membership Committee.** Staff reviewed the Division II Membership Committee’s most recent actions from its July meeting, during which decisions were rendered on moving institutions along in the membership process and applications from potential new members were considered.

b. **Legislation Committee.** The Division II Legislation Committee is noting instances, particularly in wrestling, in which institutions are paying actual and necessary expenses for eligible student-athletes to travel to the championship to serve as practice partners for qualifying participants. As such, the Legislation Committee asked the Championships Committee whether noncontroversial legislation should be proposed to allow this practice. Championships Committee members are not opposed to the idea as long as it is wrestling-specific and not proposed for all individual sports, and as long as it is clear that these practice partners are not eligible to receive other championships benefits (awards, mementos, etc.).

c. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** The committee reviewed recent PROP reports as information only.

6. **State of the sport reports.** Committee members reviewed reports from sport committee chairs and staff liaisons as a way to provide updates during the years in which the Championships Committee does not conduct an in-person meeting with sport committee chairs. The review included some of the budget requests that can be anticipated for the 2018-21 budget triennium. The committee noted it will conduct an in-person meeting with sport committee chairs in September 2017 to discuss these budget requests more formally.

7. **Selection criteria timeline.** Staff updated the committee on an editorial change made to the timeline for recommending modifications to team selection criteria. Proposals for such changes would come forward in June the year before implementation (for example, June 2017 for implementation in September 2018).
8. **Principles of nullification.** The committee noted the following addition/clarification to the principles of nullification document regarding penalties for using an ineligible student-athlete (new language noted in *italics*): “Nullifications do not carry over to the next academic year for eligibility violations detected after the season is complete. *However, the application of Bylaw 31.2.1.7. (Notification of Ineligibility) and its subsections could impact future championships.*” The committee noted that the addition was necessary because, while the ability for nullification penalties to be imposed in future years is not new, it was never included in the nullification principles document. As such, many institutions delayed notification of an ineligible player until after the championship, thinking there would be no penalty.

9. **Regionalization.**

   a. **First-round conference matchups.** The committee continued its review of regionalization, particularly as it relates to exploring ways to mitigate conference matchups in the preliminary rounds of Division II team-sport championships. The committee had asked staff to compile data tracking the frequency of first-round conference matchups in team championships over the last five years and found that they occur on average about 25 percent of the time. Those results only added to the committee’s belief that alternative bracketing models should be explored. To help in that regard, the committee agreed with a Division II Presidents Council suggestion to create a working group to delve into the matter further and report back to the Championships Committee with recommendations. While the composition of the working group is yet to be determined, the committee did make it clear that this group’s focus would be limited to finding the best overall approaches to bracketing teams once they are selected, not to change the principles of regionalization. (See Nonlegislative Item 2-a.)

   b. **Conference regional alignment.** As part of the regionalization discussion, the committee reviewed whether conferences are currently aligned correctly by region and agreed that no changes should be made at this time.

   c. **Regional placement for Salem International.** The committee noted that Salem International University is no longer a member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference and is now classified as an independent institution. Given that many institutions likely have scheduled competition with Salem International based on the G-MAC’s placement in the Midwest region, the Championships Committee voted to align Salem International in the Midwest region for the 2016-17 academic year. However, if Salem International continues to classify as an independent in 2017-18, the Championships Committee will place the institution in the Atlantic region for championship selection purposes to more appropriately align with the school’s location in Salem, West Virginia.

10. **Sport committee reports.** In addition to the Nonlegislative Items from sport committee reports noted above, the Championships Committee took action on the following:

   a. **Men’s golf.**
• **Chair appointment.** Approved Ken Badylak, head men’s and women’s golf coach and sports information director at Saint Joseph’s College (Indiana), as chair for 2016-17.

• **Scheduling policy.** The Championships Committee considered a recommendation from the golf committee to create a policy designed to discourage institutions from changing their competition schedules during the season. The golf committee’s recommendation would not only require teams to submit any schedule changes to the committee for approval, but also state that any team withdrawing from a regularly scheduled tournament or canceling a scheduled tournament will incur losses to each team in the field, unless the cancelation is for reasons beyond the control of the team. The Championships Committee supports the intent of the recommendation but wants the golf committee to consider clarifying that institutions would be required to report changes to the golf committee only in cases of withdrawal or cancelation, not an addition.

b. **Men’s lacrosse.** Approved Dan Blair of Franklin Pierce University as chair for 2016-17.

c. **Men’s and women’s track and field and cross country.** Approved Preston Grey, head cross country and women’s track and field coach at Azusa Pacific University, as chair for 2016-17.

d. **Women’s rowing.** Approved Brian Lang, associate director of athletics at Assumption College, as chair for 2016-17.

e. **Women’s golf.** Approved Val Verhunce, head men’s and women’s golf coach at Sonoma State University, as chair for 2016-17.

f. **Women’s lacrosse.** Approved Jesse Balcer, associate director of athletics at Chestnut Hill College, as chair for 2016-17.

11. **Sport issues and updates.**

a. **Division II calendar.** Staff noted that columns for AQ due date and the selection date have been added for each sport in the championships future dates and sites chart.

b. **National Championships Festival.** Staff provided updates on renovations to the CrossPlex in Birmingham and other administrative improvements made since the festival was first held there in 2013. Staff also noted an effort to develop an app for fans and participants to use at the 2017 festival.

c. **Soccer length-of-season proposals.** The committee continued its discussion of proposals from the men’s and women’s soccer committees to extend the preseason practice period and modify the championship date formula. The Championships Committee had forwarded the proposals to the Division II Management Council in February, but the Council in April...
referred them to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) for comment. CSMAS noted that it was unable to take a position on the preseason acclimatization component of the proposal because the data the group needs to inform a decision is not sufficient, due to the lack of information from Division II institutions via the Datalys system. As such, the Championships Committee voted not to support the preseason proposal at this time, noting however that it will encourage Division II members to provide more data in order to facilitate revisiting this proposal in the future. As for the proposals to modify the championship date formulas, the Championships Committee asked the soccer committees to draft alternative models for the Championships Committee’s February meeting that outline the effects of moving the championships later, adjusting the time between contests for rest and recovery purposes, etc.

d. **Minimum sports sponsorship.** The Championships Committee asked sport committees and the Division II Membership Committee to examine the minimum number of contests for selections and sponsorship in various sports to ensure alignment. The Membership Committee recommended increases for women’s lacrosse (from nine to 15 contests) and women’s volleyball (from eight to 10 dates of competition). The membership will vote on those proposals at the 2017 NCAA Convention.

e. **Membership-sponsored legislative proposals.** Staff reviewed membership-sponsored proposals for the 2017 Convention that the Presidents Council referred to the Championships Committee for comment.

   - **Recruiting calendar in football.** **Intent:** To revise the recruiting calendar to begin the winter contact period on the Monday after Thanksgiving. **Championships Committee’s position:** The Championships Committee agreed to take no position, noting that the proposal does not directly affect NCAA Championships and was referred as a procedural matter, since the Division II Football Committee, which has supported the proposal, reports to the Championships Committee.

   - **Playing and practice seasons in tennis.** **Intent:** To expand the playing and practice season, as specified. **Championships Committee position:** No position. Similar to the football proposal above, the Championships Committee noted that the proposals does not directly affect NCAA Championships, but the Division II tennis committee had reviewed and agreed to oppose the proposal, preferring instead to support the nonchampionship segment proposal that expands the nonchampionship segment window from 45 days to 60 days while providing two additional days off for student-athletes.

f. **Officials’ fees: ArbiterSports update.** Per the committee’s request, staff provided a summary of officials’ fees in all sports from all three divisions. Committee members noted a number of disparities when comparing the three divisions and agreed to ask the Division II Conference Commissioners Association to provide information on the fees conferences pay their officials for regular-season contests and conference tournaments to help inform
future decisions. The committee also appointed a subcommittee composed of Sue Willey, Barbara Dearing, Mike Anderson, Julie Ruppert and Jim Johnson to review these data further and make preliminary recommendations for the full committee to discuss at its February in-person meeting. In a related matter, Dan Calandro from the playing rules staff updated the committee on the NCAA officiating program administered through ArbiterSports, including progress on conducting background checks on officials in various sports.

g. Anthony Travel update. Staff noted that having Anthony Travel secure hotel arrangements at final sites has been successful, and individuals within the membership have suggested the program be extended to include regional rounds. Staff noted a pilot program will be conducted for the men’s and women’s basketball regionals this year to determine whether such expansion is feasible.

12. Staff updates.

a. Legal update. Donald Remy and Scott Bearby from the legal affairs staff updated the committee on a decision the NCAA Board of Governors issued September 12 to relocate all seven previously awarded championship events from North Carolina during the 2016-17 academic year due to the cumulative actions taken by the state concerning civil rights protections. Of the seven championships affected, one is a Division II event (baseball in Cary). Mr. Remy noted that all predetermined championships sites (including those that have already been awarded as well as those in the 2018-22 bid cycle) are following newly established protocols for the NCAA to evaluate whether their championships environments can comply with NCAA standards regarding fairness and inclusion. However, the situation in North Carolina required a more timely response because that state’s legislation is such that it precludes any host community within the state from providing an environment that is consistent with NCAA values and principles. Mr. Remy said the Board of Governors’ decision applies only to championships in the 2016-17 academic year. He also noted that, given the additional protocols for institutions bidding on future championships, the original December deadline for submitting bids for the 2018-22 cycle has been moved to spring or summer of 2017. With regard to the 2017 Division II Baseball Championship, staff noted that bids will be solicited through September 27 and that the Championships Committee will recommend a new site during its October 6 teleconference.

b. Governance. Staff updated the group on the priorities the Presidents Council agreed upon for 2016-17, and on a new online site for the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan. Staff also noted updates to Division II-specific content on NCAA.org and NCAA.com.

c. Institutional Performance Program. Staff demonstrated a pilot program that allows conferences to access the IPP.

13. Future meetings and teleconferences.
October 6 teleconference, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.

November 3 teleconference, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.

December 1 teleconference, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.

January 5, 2017 teleconference, 2-3 p.m. Eastern time.

In-person meeting, February 14-15, 2017.


15. Adjournment. Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

Staff Liaison(s): Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances
Katie Willett, Academic and Membership Affairs

| Attendees: | 
| --- | --- |
| Michael Anderson; Gulf South Conference. | Pat Britz; South Atlantic Conference. |
| Tonya Charland; Great Lakes Valley Conference (Management Council vice chair). | Barbara Dearing, Western Oregon University; Great Northwest Athletic Conference. |
| Kim Duyst, California State University, Stanislaus; California Collegiate Athletic Association. | Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. |
| Jake Long, Regis University (Colorado); Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (via teleconference; substituting for Ty Dennis as SAAC representative). | Kristin Mort, Colorado Mesa University; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. |
| Julie Ruppert; Northeast-10 Conference. | Tom Shirley, Philadelphia University; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference. |
| Kim Vinson, Cameron University; Lone Star Conference. | Sue Willey, University of Indianapolis; Great Lakes Valley Conference. |

| Absentees: | 
| --- | --- |
| Ty Dennis, University of Minnesota, Mankato; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. | Jacqie McWilliams, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (Management Council chair). |
| Mike Scales, Nyack College; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (Presidents Council liaison). | 

NCAA/09_15_2016/RLP:Idh
**Guests in Attendance:**
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Roberta Page, Championships and Alliances.
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.
Katie Willet, Academic and Membership Affairs.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Scott Bearby, Legal Affairs.
John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Amanda Conklin, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Morgan DeSpain, Championships and Alliances.
Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.
Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.
Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.
Faith Morrison, Division II Governance.
Donald Remy, Legal Affairs.
Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.
Juanita Sheely, Administrative Services.
Stephanie Quigg Smith, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Alex Stanley, Championships and Alliances.
Rachel Stark, Strategic Communications.
Ali Teopas, Championships and Alliances.
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Karen Wolf, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Andrea Worlock, Administrative Services.