REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2016, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Committee chair.
      (1) Recommendation. That Corey Borchardt, commissioner of the Upper Midwest
          Athletic Conference, serve as chair of the Division III Championships
          Committee, replacing Gerald Young, director of athletics at Carleton College.

      (2) Effective Date. February 1, 2017.

      (3) Rationale. Mr. Borchardt has past sport committee experience and has been a
          valuable member of the Championships Committee; he will provide excellent
          leadership for the committee.

      (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

   b. Charter flight travel.
      (1) Recommendation. That the cost for charter flight transportation be fixed at a
          maximum of $350 per one-way ticket for all team sports.

      (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

      (3) Rationale. The committee evaluated the favorable results of the 2015-16 pilot
          program (i.e., no budget impact) and agreed to implement the program on a
          more permanent basis. The pilot program was developed in response to
          feedback from the Division III Football Committee and other membership
          constituents to provide a fixed ticket cost for student-athletes, staff or others
          affiliated with the participating team who do not fit within the reimbursable
          travel party size. During the pilot program, participating institutions purchased
          more seats at the fixed rate than they otherwise would, thereby limiting any
          concern about a potential budget impact. The committee supports the program
          for all team sports and will continue to evaluate the program on an annual basis.
(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda. The committee chair facilitated introductions, reviewed the meeting schedule and highlighted key discussion items.

2. August 16 teleconference report. The committee reviewed and approved the August 16 teleconference report as presented.


4. 2017 Legislative proposals. NCAA staff reviewed two legislative proposals for the 2017 Convention, including one that would eliminate the requirement that the mandatory day off for track and field and swimming and diving programs be the same day for every student-athlete. The committee endorsed the proposal, citing the challenges faced in these two sports due to the variety of disciplines within the sport.

The second proposal would allow field hockey and lacrosse teams to conduct an exempted scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice with outside competition prior to the first permissible contest or date of competition. The committee endorsed the proposal, citing it is in line with the soccer/volleyball proposal the committee endorsed last year.

5. Recap of the meeting with sport committee chairs. The Championships Committee valued the discussion on strength of victory as a possible addition to selection criteria and agreed to explore it further. NCAA staff will compile data to demonstrate strength of victory as part of the total selection data. The committee noted several questions for consideration as the concept is evaluated: 1) how does the criterion impact the evaluation of strength of schedule; 2) should there be consideration of a comparable criterion for degree of loss; 3) will the criterion impact scheduling in a negative way (i.e., encourage more out of region play); and 4) to what extent will the swing in an opponent’s results throughout the season impact the data (e.g., a team that starts out strong, but finishes with a significant losing streak)?

The committee also noted the success of the mock rankings exercise and continued to support using team sheets as a tool to present data to the sport committees for rankings and championships selections.
6. **Budget planning.** The Championships Committee discussed input from the sport committee chairs and asked NCAA staff to provide a financial analysis on the following ideas to be evaluated during the committee’s February in-person meeting as part of the 2017-19 budget process:

- **Expand bracket/field sizes** – 2017-18 bracket expansion for team sports based on legislated access ratio and analysis of field size expansion for individual sports where merited.
- **Increase team travel party size** – increase by 10 percent across all sports or evaluate select sports based on average squad size among sponsoring institutions and those participating in the championship.
- **Reimburse teams flying to a championship site for local ground transportation** – various ways to implement: 1) full expense; 2) fixed amount for duration of travel; and 3) fixed amount by travel day.
- **Add day off** – implement a day of rest between semifinal and final rounds of team sports (if appropriate); requires an additional day of per diem.
- **Increase officials’ fees** – institute increases gradually (e.g., 2-3 percent in a given year).
- **Sport committee initiatives** – support various sport-specific operations or championship format requests.

In addition, NCAA administrative services staff discussed with committee members the idea of limiting per diem reimbursement for individual-team sports to days of actual competition and any days in between (versus automatic reimbursement for all days of the championship round). No action was taken, but the committee supported further review of the concept during a future meeting, including feedback on any sport-specific concerns.

NCAA staff also presented an update on the charter flight pilot program (refer to Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b) and the favorable news that the 2016 women’s basketball joint championship experience was conducted within the allocated budget.

7. **Sport committee recommendations.**

a. **Baseball.**

   (1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 41 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Baseball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Freedom Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State College Athletic
Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) **Regional Start Date.** The committee approved that regional tournaments begin Thursday and end Sunday (Monday, if necessary), effective with the 2017 championship. Currently, there is limited turnaround time between the team selection announcement at midnight on Monday to the start of team practices on Tuesday. This change allows for more time to secure travel and remain on campus. Six-team regionals will end Sunday and eight-team regionals will end no later than Monday (dependent on if necessary game; impact limited to two teams).

(3) **Tournament Seeding.** The committee approved that the teams advancing to the championships final site be seeded to balance bracket play and avoid stronger teams meeting in the early round games at the final site, effective with the 2017 championship. Currently, the first-round matchups at the finals site are determined by an eight-year regional rotation. Other team sports benefit from the continuity of a complete bracket published at the time of selections. The baseball committee will use the NCAA online score reporting system with updated results through regional competition to determine seeds (seeds will not be published). The baseball committee received positive feedback from Division III baseball coaches concerning the change.

(4) **Other Business.** The committee noted the following concerning the informational business in the baseball committee’s report: 1) if the baseball committee pursues the application of a strength-of-schedule multiplier, such a multiplier must be submitted to the committee for approval prior to implementation; 2) the super regional championship format will be implemented for the 2019 championship (versus the 2018 championship) due to the scheduling limitations of the 2018 championship venue; and 3) the committee reiterated that only those student-athletes eligible to compete as part of the squad size (25 individuals) may be dressed in uniform in the dugout.
b. **Men’s Basketball.**

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Men’s Basketball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; The City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Freedom Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(2) **Committee Chair.** The committee approved that Kevin Vande Streek, head men’s basketball coach at Calvin College, serve as the Division III Men’s Basketball Committee chair for the 2016-17 academic year.

(3) **Budget Requests.** The committee tabled the recommendations to purchase a new “used” basketball court for semifinal and final rounds and to hire a Division III men’s basketball national coordinator of officials. Both requests will be reviewed during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests. The committee asked the men’s basketball committee to provide more extensive rationale for the new “used” floor, including all options considered in working with the current host as well as the need for a comparable purchase for women’s basketball. The committee also asked the men’s basketball committee to justify the proposed stipend for the national coordinator of officials and provide a job description for the position.
c. **Women’s Bowling.** The committee reviewed the information provided in the bowling committee’s report and noted the anticipated implementation of automatic qualifiers and the changes to the championship format, effective in 2018.


e. **Men’s Golf.**

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 33 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Men’s Golf Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
(2) Committee Chair. The committee approved that William Gorman, associate director of athletics at Wentworth Institute of Technology, serve as the Division III Men’s Golf Committee chair for the 2016-17 academic year.

(3) Budget Requests. The committee tabled the recommendation to modify the team access ratio from 1:7 to 1:6.5 and will review it during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests. In addition, the committee approved increasing the number of individuals selected into the championship not on a team to six (from five) in order to provide an even number of threesome pairings, effective with the 2018 championship. The increase has an estimated budget impact of $3,000 and will be presented with other championships budget recommendations following the committee’s February meeting.

(4) 18-Team and Six-Individual Cut. The committee approved that, after 36 holes, the field will be cut to 18 teams and six individuals, effective with the 2017 championship. The increase to the cut (from 15 teams) will provide an improved championship experience for participating teams as the total field size has grown in recent years. The change does not have a budget impact as teams are already afforded per diem for all travel party members for the duration of the championship.

f. Women’s Golf.

(1) Automatic Qualification. That the following 19* conferences sponsoring women's golf be awarded automatic qualification into the 2017 championships: American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

*Confirmation of automatic qualifiers and pool numbers will be determined based on sport sponsorship information available at the time of championship selections.

(2) Team Access Ratio. The committee tabled the recommendation to modify the team access ratio from 1:7 to 1:6.5 and will review it during the committee’s
February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests.

(3) **Championship Format.** The committee approved that, after 54 holes, the field be cut to 15 teams and six individuals, effective with the 2017 championship. Cutting the field in this manner will provide for only one wave of play on the final day, which will allow greater flexibility to address weather delays. The change may prompt some teams to leave earlier than the current practice, thereby generating a nominal change fee for air travel arrangements. However, since the cut will be determined early evening Thursday, the number of teams leaving early will be limited.

g. **Men’s Ice Hockey.**

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Championship: Commonwealth Coast Conference, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, New England Hockey Conference, New England Small College Athletic Conference, Northern Collegiate Hockey Association, and State University of New York Athletic Conference.

(2) **Committee Chair.** The committee approved that Bill Kangas, head men’s ice hockey coach at Williams College, serve as the Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Committee chair for the 2016-17 academic year (the last year of his service).

(3) **Budget Requests.** The committee tabled the recommendations to require video replay at all games at the finals site and to increase the fees for referees and linesmen, add a fee for the replay official, and provide a stipend to the supervisor of officials at the finals site. The recommendations will be reviewed during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests.

h. **Women’s Ice Hockey.**

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following five conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship: ECAC DIII Women’s West Hockey League; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Hockey Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; and Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.
(2) Committee Chair. The committee approved that Katie Boldvich, commissioner of the Colonial Hockey Conference and the New England Hockey Conference, serve as chair of the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee.

(3) Budget Requests. The committee tabled the recommendations to require video replay at all games at the finals site and to increase the fees for referees and linesmen, add a fee for the replay official, and provide a stipend to the supervisor of officials at the finals site. The recommendations will be reviewed during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests. In addition, the committee did not approve that the championship field be increased from eight to nine teams. The committee reaffirmed commitment to the policy of maintaining even-sized brackets, but agreed to examine during its February meeting whether sports with lower sponsorship should merit an exception to this policy.

(4) Rankings. The committee did not approve a change to the rankings policy to allow that the sport region with the fewer teams rank a minimum of six teams, and that the proportionate percentage of teams ranked apply to the opposite region. The committee was not comfortable providing an exception to the team rankings policy (i.e., each region to rank 15 to 21 percent of teams).

i. Men’s Lacrosse.

(1) Automatic Qualification. The committee approved that the following 24 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Lacrosse Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; NEWMAC Lacrosse League; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Lacrosse Conference, Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association and State University of New York Athletic Conference.

(2) Committee Chair. The committee approved that Jay Gardiner, commissioner of the Southern Athletic Association, serve as Division III Men’s Lacrosse Committee chair for the 2016-17 academic year.

j. Women’s Lacrosse.
(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 29 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Women’s Lacrosse Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) **Squad Size Increase.** The committee tabled the recommendation to increase the squad size from 28 to 30 student-athletes in uniform, thereby increasing the travel party to 32 individuals. The recommendation will be reviewed during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests.

**k. Rowing.** The committee approved that the following four conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Rowing Championship: The Liberty League, Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference, the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference and the New England Small College Athletic Conference.

**l. Men’s and Women’s Soccer.** The committee approved that the current strength of schedule multiplier be eliminated from the strength of schedule calculation, effective with the 2017 championship. Due to a revised calculation from the original method, the current strength of schedule multiplier is no longer achieving the intended effect as when the multiplier was implemented for the men in 2011.

**m. Softball.**

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 42 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Softball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, American Southwest Conference, Capital Athletic Conference, Centennial Conference, City University of New York Athletic Conference, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, Colonial States Athletic Conference, Commonwealth Coast Conference, Empire 8, Great Northeast Athletic Conference, Heartland

(2) **Committee Chair.** The committee approved that Michelle Manning, associate director of athletics at Ithaca College, serve as Division III Softball Committee chair.

(3) **Mileage Radius.** The committee did not approve a recommendation to increase the mileage radius for championship ground transportation from 500 to 600 miles in preliminary-round competition. The committee expressed concern about maintaining a quality travel experience for student-athletes and encouraging schools to depart from campus earlier (i.e., a night earlier) than they otherwise would. The committee agreed to discuss the concept further, including an alternative option to separate top teams in the earlier rounds of competition.

### Men’s and Women’s Tennis.

(1) **Men’s Tennis Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 35 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Men’s Tennis Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic
Conference; New England Men’s and Women’s Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; University Athletic Association; USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) **Women’s Tennis Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following 39 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Women’s Tennis Championships: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Great South Atlantic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletics Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; University Athletic Association; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(3) **Access Ratio.** The committee tabled the recommendation to modify the team access ratio from 1:7.5 to 1:7 and will review it during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests.

o. **Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country.**

(1) **Officials – Recall Starter.** The committee approved that one more recall starter be added to the cross country championship officiating crew, effective with the 2016 championship. The addition bears a nominal expense ($40 fee).
(2) **Committee Chair.** The committee approved that Bill Ross, associate director of athletics and recreation services at Allegheny College, and Thomas Thomasson, associate director of athletics and recreational services at Rutgers-Camden, serve as co-chairs of the Division III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee for the 2016-17 academic year.

(3) **Cross Country – Start Times.** The committee recommended that the men’s and women’s track and field and cross country committee seek feedback on the revised start time protocol from participants following the 2016 championships.

### p. Wrestling.

(1) **2017 Regional Site Selection.** The committee approved the following 2017 regional site selections:

- Central Region – Loras College; Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa.
- West Region – Concordia College, Moorhead; Memorial Auditorium in Moorhead, Minnesota.

The 2017 East and Mideast Regional locations are to be determined.

(2) **Regional Alignment.** The committee approved the following regional placements for new wrestling programs, effective with the 2017 championship:

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>MacMurray College</td>
<td>Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska Wesleyan University</td>
<td>Central Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Virginia University</td>
<td>East Region</td>
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<td>Keystone College</td>
<td>Mideast Region</td>
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<td>Otterbein University</td>
<td>Midwest Region</td>
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<td>Thomas More College</td>
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<td>Castleton University</td>
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<td>New England College</td>
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The committee did not support additional realignment recommendations that aimed to balance the number of teams per region, but will consider changes once the wrestling committee is fully composed (addition of two committee members for the 2017-18 academic year).

### q. Men’s Volleyball.

(1) **Automatic Qualification.** The committee approved that the following eight conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 Division III Men’s
Volleyball Championship: City University of New York Athletic Conference; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; New England Collegiate Conference; North Eastern Athletics Conference; Skyline Conference; United Volleyball Conference.

The Midwest Collegiate Volleyball Conference is a single-sport conference in its first year as eligible for the automatic qualification.

Committee Chair. The committee approved that Russ Rogers, director of athletics at Stevens Institute of Technology, to serve as Division III Men’s Volleyball chair.

Bracket Configuration. The committee did not approve a recommendation to allow the men’s volleyball committee the flexibility to decide the best format for the first-round of competition with matches hosted at two sites with four teams each or four sites with two teams each. While the committee is sympathetic to the challenge of building a viable pool of first-round host sites, the committee expressed concern about the ambiguity and uncertainty of the proposed solution. The committee encouraged the men’s volleyball committee to examine other ways to build hosting interest, including using regional advisory members and conference commissioners to help encourage bid interest.

Budget Requests. The committee tabled the recommendations to modify the championship format to include four three-team first-round sites and a four-team finals site and to increase the officials’ fees at the championship site. The recommendations will be reviewed during the committee’s February 2016 in-person meeting along with all Division III championship budget requests.

8. Playing rules and officiating updates. NCAA playing rules staff provided a general update on the Arbiter system and the officials background check pilot program.

9. Championships participation – obligation to compete. The committee agreed to revisit the topic of championships participation and the obligation to compete once selected during a future meeting. The committee noted the variety of opinions that emerged from the general discussion with the sport committee chairs.

10. Championships committee composition. The committee initiated discussion on the appropriate size and composition of the committee but took no action. The committee agreed to seek input from the championships advisory committee of the Division III Commissioners Association (the topic originated with commissioners), noting that any change would require a legislative action.
11. **Future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed dates for in-person meetings through February 2017. The committee will consider various June meeting dates – options include: June 12-13, June 15-16, or June 19-20. The September 2017 in-person meeting will include the championships committee only; updates with the sport committees will be conducted via teleconference in August and September 2017.

12. **Other business.**

   - **WIAC Baseball Automatic Qualification.** The committee did not approve the request from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference to waive the automatic qualification requirements in baseball upon the conference’s completion of a two-year grace period in 2016-17. The conference is considering the addition of an affiliate member in 2017-18 to fulfill the seven-member requirement; however, the affiliate member will not be an NCAA active member until 2018-19 at the earliest.

15. **Adjournment.** Prior to adjournment, the committee thanked Tracey Ranieri and Terry Small for their service to the Division III Championships Committee.

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**Committee Chair:** Gerald Young, Carleton College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference  
**Staff Liaisons:** Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances  
Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs

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<tr>
<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Jennifer Chuks, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Gettysburg College; Centennial Conference.</td>
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<td>Julie Johnson, Ripon College; Midwest Conference.</td>
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<td>Tracey Ranieri, State University of New York at Oneonta; State University of New York Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Rosa Riccobono, Eastern Connecticut State; Little East Conference.</td>
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<td>Terry Small; New Jersey Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Bill Stiles, Alvernia University; Middle Atlantic Conference.</td>
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<td>Gerald Young, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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<th>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</th>
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Shalisa Griffin, Championships and Alliances.
Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.

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<th>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Dan Dutcher, Governance.</td>
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<td>Reed Fogle, Governance.</td>
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<td>Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Elisa Halpin, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Louise McCleary, Governance.</td>
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<td>Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Nancy O’Hara, Championships Services.</td>
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<td>John Pfeffenberger, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>Katherine Plessy, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Anjellica Rospond, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Juanita Sheely, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>JP Williams, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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