REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
JUNE 1-2, 2016, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

a. Wrestling committee composition.

   (1) Recommendation. That the Division III Wrestling Committee increase from four to six members.

   (2) Rationale. In 2011, a regional format was established that created six competitive regions, which resulted in two regions not having representation on the four-member committee. The request to add two committee members aligns wrestling with other Division III sports in terms of having one committee member per region.

   The Division III Management and Presidents Councils previously supported this recommendation and its associated expense as part of other championships budget recommendations. Support at this time will formalize support for a legislative change to expand the wrestling committee.

   (3) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. The NCAA travel and insurance department calculated the estimated annual costs of adding two additional committee members at $6,320.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides student-athletes across regions representation on the national committee, and in turn, more equitable access to the championships.

b. Selection criteria in men’s and women’s soccer – results versus ranked opponents.

   (1) Recommendation. That the selection criteria be adjusted to include consideration of the data from the final ranking and the preceding ranking when considering results versus ranked opponents, rather than the current criterion, which allows consideration for only the results versus teams ranked at the time of selection.

   (2) Rationale. The Division III men’s and women’s soccer committee jointly proposed this selection modification in order to stabilize a team’s standing heading into selections. The committee reviewed feedback from all sport committees in response to the proposal from the soccer committees.
During the three years that the current selection criterion has been in place for results versus ranked opponents at the time of selection, some sport committees reported that there have been instances where the impact has been significant enough to shift teams several spots in the final rankings, simply based on the results of other ranked teams (or those that fall out of the rankings); a team may experience a major fluctuation in the standings during the final week of a season, regardless of its own results. Further, sport committees noted the timing of the final two rankings, specifically that they are only a few days apart and conducted during a highly competitive portion of the season (i.e., conference tournaments), therefore meriting the combination of the two rankings leading into selections. The proposed revision allows for a compromise between the former “once ranked always ranked” criterion and the current “ranked at the time of selection” criterion.

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

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

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

c. **Selection criteria for team sports – nonconference strength of schedule.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That nonconference strength of schedule be added to secondary selection criteria for all team sports.

(2) **Rationale.** The strength of a team’s conference influences its strength of schedule (SOS). A separate comparison of SOS outside of conference competition gives sport committees a strong indicator of how teams are competing and scheduling beyond their guaranteed conference contests. As a secondary criterion, the data point supplements the current SOS calculation that considers all contests (both conference and nonconference play), and helps sport committees evaluate teams for regional rankings and select them for at-large berths. The committee reviewed feedback from all sport committees in response to the proposal.

In 2013, the committee submitted a proposal to include nonconference SOS in primary criteria. At the time, the Management Council expressed concern that this policy could create a negative institutional budget impact by reducing conference play as teams look to schedule a stronger nonconference schedule. The committee believes this concern is mitigated by the move to secondary criteria coupled with the in-region competition requirement (i.e., 70 percent of scheduled contests against in-region opponents).

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

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**
   - None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **April teleconference report.** The NCAA Division III Championships Committee approved the April teleconference report as presented.

2. **Governance update.** NCAA governance staff reviewed the following key items with the committee: 1) NCAA Board of Governors update; 2) Division III budget update; 3) Recent changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act and impact on NCAA member schools; 4) Recent NCAA Sport Science Institute initiatives; 5) Sportsmanship and Game Environment Working Group; 6) Playing and practice seasons review; 7) Financial Aid Committee legislative proposal; 8) ADR Institute; 9) FAR initiatives; 10) Diversity and Inclusion Working Group; 11) Eligibility Center changes; and 12) Recruiting Resource Guide.

3. **NCAA Division III Management Council/Presidents Council update.** A committee member provided additional updates from the recent Management Council and Presidents Council meetings.

4. **NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** The SAAC liaison provided an update on behalf of the Division III SAAC from its April meeting.

5. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** An NCAA playing rules staff member updated the committee on the panel’s most recent reports and the progress of the officials background check pilot program.

6. **Academic and membership affairs update.** The committee took action on the following legislative topics:
   - a. **Wrestling committee composition.** Refer to Legislative Item 1a.
   - b. **Automatic qualification waiver request – Empire 8.** The committee approved the Empire 8 request to retroactively apply legislation effective September 1, 2016, to be eligible for an automatic qualification berth beginning with the 2017 Division III Baseball Championship. The new legislation will allow institutions in the final two years of the Division III provisional and reclassifying process to count toward the requisite number of institutions to satisfy the two-year waiting period. The committee acknowledged that the conference’s baseball teams have competed for two years together in the spirit of the new legislation.
Based on staff research, no other conferences have a need to seek similar retroactive application (in any sport).

c. Colonial Hockey Conference – AQ waiver request. The committee denied the Colonial Hockey Conference’s waiver request to grant the conference an automatic berth to the 2017 Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship affirming its support for the current automatic qualification requirements.

7. Championships participation – obligation to compete. As a result of circumstances that occurred during the spring championship season, the committee initiated discussion about whether schools should be required to compete in NCAA championships in team sports after a selections announcement has taken place. Individual-team sports already have processes by which to replace selected student-athletes or fine institutions when selected student-athletes are not able to compete after selections have been determined. However, a comparable process does not exist for team sports, primarily due to issues of replacing a team (at-large versus by conference for automatic qualifiers) and managing changes to an established bracket. The committee did not take action, but requested that NCAA staff summarize the issue in a discussion document to review during a future meeting.

8. Allocation of berths for championship selection. The committee continued discussing Pool B berths for championship selection. NCAA staff presented data summarizing Pool B data, including the number of Pool B schools and the Pool A access ratio by sport. After much discussion, the committee denied the original recommendation from the men’s and women’s tennis committees to combine all Pool B and C berths for at-large selections. The committee remained particularly sympathetic to independent schools and those that are in conferences that sponsor the sport but do not have enough schools to meet the automatic qualification requirements. Alternatively, the committee suggested that sport committees adopt a Pool B national ranking to be published in conjunction with the final weekly ranking. The committee will seek feedback on the idea of a Pool B ranking during its September 2016 in-person meeting with sport committee chairs.

9. Host site selection priorities. The committee reviewed a draft of site selection priorities to guide sport committee review of bids from potential hosts as part of the 2018-22 bid cycle. NCAA staff will incorporate suggestions from the committee and present a revised version during the committee’s next teleconference.

10. Championship hosting. The committee reviewed correspondence between NCAA governance staff and a school concerning the selection of nondetermined host sites, specifically for women’s basketball. Although the committee was sympathetic to the school’s concerns (i.e., consistently being bypassed as a host for geographic reasons even though it has a top program), the committee was reluctant to consider alternatives to the division’s established bracketing principles, including those that permit a school to offset championship expenses in order to host (e.g., travel expense for incoming teams).
11. **Recommended or required game times by sport.** After reviewing various sport committee policies on game times, the committee agreed that it is best to continue to allow sport committees to set their own game times or allow hosts to recommend times. The committee suggested that sport committees dedicate a section of the nonpredetermined bid materials to request that the hosts acknowledge required game times or propose alternate game times. Sport committee chairs will have the opportunity to provide feedback during the September in-person meeting.

12. **Championships and alliances updates.** Due to meeting time constraints, the committee agreed to review reports from the 2016 winter championships and web streaming metrics during its next teleconference.

13. **Championships budget.**
   a. **Fall and winter budget recap.** NCAA staff reviewed committee, game operations, team transportation and per diem expenses. Fall championship expenses are close to final, while some winter championship expenses remain outstanding. NCAA staff reported that there will likely be a favorable budget outcome for the year. A complete review of the budget and actual expenses for 2015-16 championships will take place in September.
   
   b. **Charter seat review.** NCAA staff reviewed results of the charter flight pilot program implemented through the winter championships. The pilot program provides 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. Many of the institutions traveling by charter flight took advantage of the fixed ticket cost, particularly for football; as a result, the pilot program has not incurred any expense. The committee will monitor the results from the spring championship season to further evaluate the program.

14. **Women’s basketball joint championship.** NCAA staff provided a recap of the recent joint championship held with Division I and II. The championship was a success by many measures, including student-athlete experience and fan engagement; an estimated 6,000 spectators attended the Division III final. In addition, the semifinal round held a week prior received positive reviews from the Division III participating teams. The committee will review a final budget summary during its September in-person meeting as some championship expenses remain outstanding.

15. **Championships topics for sport committee feedback.**
   a. **Results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection.** Refer to Legislative Item 1b.
   
   b. **Publishing of final ranking.** Based on sport committee feedback, the committee approved that the final regional advisory committee ranking will be published in conjunction with
selections, effective with the 2016-17 championship season. Committee members agreed that the benefits of creating transparency in regional rankings outweigh any concerns about confusion generated by bracket pairings (i.e., that pairings may be determined by geographic proximity of teams versus team strength). The final ranking will be published in conjunction with or soon following the championship selections announcement.

c. Nonconference strength of schedule. Refer to Legislative Item 1c.

16. Governing sport committee reports.

a. Women’s basketball.

(1) Consolation game. The committee approved that the consolation game contested during the Division III Women’s Basketball Championship be eliminated. After receiving feedback, the women’s basketball committee believes that the consolation game does not enhance the student-athlete experience and that student-athletes find it difficult to embrace a seemingly meaningless game after not advancing to the national championship game.

(2) Automatic qualifiers. The committee approved the following 43 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2017 Division III Women’s Basketball Championship:

Allegany 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 State Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8 Conference; Freedom Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; 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; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
(3) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Bobbi Morgan, head women’s basketball coach and senior woman administrator at Haverford College, serve as chair of the Division III Women’s Basketball Committee.

b. **Field hockey.** The committee accepted the Division III field hockey committee report as presented; no action items were included.

c. **Football.** The committee accepted the Division III football committee report as presented; no action items were included.

d. **Men’s and women’s soccer.** The committee returned to two discussion items previously initiated by the Division III men’s and women’s soccer committees. First, NCAA staff provided an update regarding the strength of schedule multiplier, specifically to account for home and away contests. In conjunction with NCAA statistics staff, the soccer committees continue to evaluate the relevance of the multiplier and whether to move to an alternate method of calculation. The soccer committees along with the Division III men’s basketball committee (which also applies a multiplier) expect to present a recommendation in the near term to be implemented in the 2017-18 championship year. Second, the committee affirmed its support for the championship pairings policy that avoids conference matchups in the first round of competition as long as geographic proximity principles are maintained.

e. **Men’s and women’s swimming and diving.**

   (1) **Increase number of officials at the championships.** The committee tabled the recommendation to increase the number of swimming officials at the Division III Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships from six to 10. The committee agreed to review the request in conjunction with other 2017-19 budget requests during its September in-person meeting. The committee also requested that the swimming and diving committee provide additional rationale as to why 10 officials are needed.

   (2) **Committee chair.** The committee noted that Amy Williams, assistant athletics director at Kenyon College, will serve a second year as chair of the Division III Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Committee.

f. **Men’s and women’s track and field and cross country.** The committee approved that the following sites serve as the regional hosts for the 2016 NCAA Division III Regional Cross Country Championships:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Institution/Conference Host</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>Rowan University</td>
<td>Rowan University West Campus Glassboro, New Jersey</td>
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g. Wrestling.

(1) Committee chair. The committee approved that Dave Kemmy, director of athletics at Roger Williams University, serve as chair of the Division III Wrestling Committee.

(2) Regional realignment. The committee referred back to the wrestling committee the recommendation to realign regions. The committee requested that input be gathered from affected schools and conference offices before submitting a recommendation. Further, the wrestling committee should outline how proposed changes will change the number of schools assigned to each region and recommend a timeline for implementation (no earlier than 2017-18) to allow schools to adjust to changes.

(3) 2017 regionals. The committee approved that the following sites serve as the regional hosts for the 2017 NCAA Division III Wrestling Regionals:

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Institution/Conference Host</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Manchester University</td>
<td>Memorial Coliseum Expo Center, Ft. Wayne, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Rogers Williams University</td>
<td>Campus Recreation Center Gym, Bristol, RI</td>
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17. Playing and practice seasons subcommittee referrals. The committee discussed two referrals from the Division III Management Council’s playing and practice seasons subcommittee. Committee members offered the following feedback:
a. **Standardization of contest exemptions.** After reviewing sport committee feedback, the committee generally supported the concept of maintaining the conference championship exemption and the NCAA championship exemption, while eliminating all other exemptions (both standard and sport-specific) and permitting each sport two scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices against any opponent. The committee emphasized the discretionary nature of the exemptions, which will still allow schools to hold alumni events, for instance. And, the standardization will create an administrative benefit to schools monitoring exemptions across all sports.

b. **Two-period playing season model for baseball.** The committee reviewed the concept of allowing schools the option of establishing a two-period model in baseball (note: feedback was gathered before discussion by the baseball and softball committees). Under this concept, schools would have the option of continuing to conduct the existing traditional and nontraditional segment model in baseball or choosing to establish a two-period model (split regular-season games between the fall and spring). Though the committee encouraged continued conversation on the concept, it expressed a number of reservations, including concern about multi-sport athletes, management of school personnel and other resources (e.g., facility access and athletic training services), the impact of mid-year transfers, and general health and safety concerns. The committee also raised questions about the application of championships selection criteria as the baseball committee evaluates teams with different playing season models (e.g., would there be a limit on the number of fall games allowed; would the same consideration be applied to fall results and spring results, etc.).

18. **Sport and sports rules committee appointments.** The committee approved the following committee appointments:

a. Division III Women’s Basketball Committee – Great Lakes region: Kristin Huffman, women’s basketball coach/assistant director of athletics, DePauw University.

b. Division III Football Committee – North region: Kris Diaz, director of athletics, Baldwin Wallace University.

c. Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee – Kristi Kehoe, head women’s ice hockey coach, New England College; and Arlen Marshall, head men’s ice hockey coach, Manhattanville College.

d. Division III Men’s Soccer Committee – North region: Kirk Artist, head men’s soccer coach, Wartburg College.

f. Division III Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Committee – Johan Lopez, men’s and women’s diving coach, U.S. Merchant Marine.

g. Division III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee – South/Southeast region: Natalie Bach-Prather, head men’s and women’s cross country/track and field coach, East Texas Baptist University.

h. Division III Men’s Volleyball Committee – John Garrett, associate director of athletics, Hunter College.

i. Division III Wrestling Committee – Eric Van Kley, director of athletics/head wrestling coach, Central College (Iowa).

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

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<th>Division III Championships Committee</th>
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<td>June 1-2, 2016, Meeting</td>
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<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>Bill Stiles, Alvernia University; Middle Atlantic Conference.</td>
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<td>Susan Fumagalli, 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>Terry Small, New Jersey Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Joe Weber, University of Texas at Dallas; American Southwest 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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<tr>
<td>Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<th>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Brian Burnsed, Communications.</td>
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Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.
Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.
Dan Dutcher, Governance.
Tracy Hitz, Championships and Alliances.
Michelle Forkner, Championships and Alliances.
Louise McCleary, Governance.
Jeff O’Barr, Finance.
John Pfeffenberger, Finance.
Juanita Sheely, Finance.
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.
JP Williams, Championships and Alliances.