REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SOCCER COMMITTEES
JANUARY 31, 2017, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Increase of bench size.

      (1) Recommendation. That the bench size be increased from 34 to 40 individuals during the NCAA tournament.

      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

      (3) Rationale. The committees believe the current bench size is leading to a negative student-athlete experience due to noted increased roster sizes in Division III soccer. Most tournament teams carry more student-athletes than the squad size limit. Often times, those additional student-athletes are already traveling and are forced to sit in the spectator area away from their teammates, leading to a negative student-athlete experience.

The committee notes that the Division III philosophy encourages participation, and that the bench limit contradicts that philosophy by ostracizing team members from the rest of the team. In addition, campus admissions offices are encouraging larger roster sizes to help boost enrollment. The committee agrees that the squad size of 24 is enough for postseason competition. The increase of six individuals from 34 to 40 is reflective that the average tournament squad size is 30, which is six greater than the current squad size.

Attachment A outlines the roster sizes for the three last three years for Division III men’s soccer, showing that 60 of 62 teams had a greater roster size than the squad size in 2016; 59 of 61 teams in 2015; and 57 of 61 teams in 2014. In addition, 16 of 62 teams had a larger squad size than the current bench size of 34.

The discrepancy between roster size and squad size is not as pronounced for Division III women’s soccer, but the committees support moving this forward as a joint recommendation in an effort to remain consistent for both genders.
(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Providing an increased bench size will improve the student-athlete experience and ease the burden on coaches from excluding team members from the rest of their teammates during the championship experience.

b. Add a rest day to the championship final site.

(1) Recommendation. That there be a day of rest added between the semifinals and the final at the championship final site.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

(3) Rationale. A day of rest would provide the student-athletes will proper recovery time prior to the biggest game of the year. In addition, it would allow the amount of rest time for Division III soccer to be consistent with Divisions I and II at the finals site.

The committees are interested in a day of rest between all games throughout the entirety of the championships but understand that there are significant cost implications that would come with such a change. This proposal is a step in that direction, while also being mindful of cost concerns.

This recommendation also begins to address some of the health and safety concerns specific to recovery time that were highlighted as part of the 2015 Sports Science Institute Soccer Summit. These concerns continue to be paramount to the committees and soccer membership.

(4) Estimated budget impact. $9,880.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would be positively impacted by this recommendation, as it would allow a more optimal amount of recovery time during the championship weekend.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review 2016 joint meeting report. The committees approved the 2016 joint meeting report as presented.

2. Governance update. The committees received an update from Jay Jones, NCAA associate director of Division III, on the following topics: playing and practice seasons, championships web streaming, divisional finances, NCAA Convention, partnership with Special Olympics, diversity initiatives, sportsmanship and game environment, and future championship sites.
3. **Academic and Membership Affairs update.** The committees received an update from Maureen Harty, NCAA associate director of academic and membership affairs, on the following topics: legislation from the recent NCAA Convention, upcoming regional rules and conference rules seminars, championships committee and budget priorities.

4. **Regional alignment.** The committees discussed a proposal for a relocation of the New Jersey Athletic Conference. While the committees recognized that the current alignment is not ideal, they believed that the proposal did not eliminate issues; rather, it simply shifted current concerns to a different region. The committees believe a more thorough regional realignment review across all eight-region sports of similar sport sponsorship would be a more ideal approach to addressing any realignment concerns.

5. **Regional rankings.** The committees discussed the rankings protocol, including the number of ranked teams in each region. The committees agreed to review the number of ranked teams in each region separately, which is reflected in the men’s soccer annual report.

The committees also received positive feedback during the 2016 season regarding the published ranking at the time of selections.

6. **Officials.** The committees met with Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of soccer officials, and discussed several items, including: officials’ selection process, regional assignors, providing game film to officials, timing of championship assignments and opportunities to provide feedback on officials. Mr. Cigich shared that there will be referee clinics next summer as part of a new officiating improvement initiative.

7. **Review of 2016 championships.** The committees reviewed the 2016 championship finals in Salem, Virginia, with representatives from the city of Salem, Carey Harveycutter and John Shaner. The committee discussed positive feedback from the championships, as well as areas for improvement in future years. The committee also reviewed participant, host and officials survey results, as well as web streaming metrics.

8. **2017 championship finals.** The committees discussed the 2017 championship finals, which are scheduled to be conducted at UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina. The committees expressed a desire for clarification on the status of this championship site, given the relocation of the 2016 championship that was originally scheduled to be conducted in Greensboro, North Carolina.

9. **2018-21 championship finals bid discussion.** The committees discussed bids and made site recommendations for the 2018-21 championships. The committees noted its preference to award only two years at a time in the future, believing that Division III institutions are hesitant to bid for an event four to six years out.
10. **Film exchange.** The committees discussed film exchange during the championships. There was interest in pursuing film exchange in the future, but the committees took no action on this topic.

11. **Future annual meeting dates.** The committees determined that the dates for the 2018 annual meeting will be January 29-31.

12. **Other business.** The committee met with Rob Kehoe to discuss the Division III initiatives from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

   The committees voted to change the evening game time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. during the second day of a given championship weekend, noting that the rest time was shorter for the night game times than for the day game options. The 7 p.m. start will provide the same amount of rest time for both sets of game time options.

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*Committee Chairs:* Michael Schulist, Carroll University (Wisconsin), College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (men’s committee).

Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois), College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (women’s committee).

*Staff Liaisons:* John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances.

John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.

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**Division III Men’s and Women’s Soccer Committees January 31, 2017, Meeting**

**Attendees:**

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<td>Ken Andrews, Middle Atlantic Conferences.</td>
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<td>Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.</td>
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<td>Bob Durocher, St. Lawrence University; Liberty League.</td>
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<td>Dan Gilmore, Rowan University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Susan Hoffman, College at Brockport, State University of New York; State University of New York Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>David Hoffmann, University of Dallas; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Paul Moyer, McDaniel College; Centennial Conference.</td>
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<td>Joanne Renn, Virginia Wesleyan College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Dave Reyelts, The College of St. Scholastica; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Michael Schulist, Carroll University (Wisconsin); College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.</td>
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<td>Justin Serpone, Amherst College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brianne Weaver, Bowdoin College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Marcus Wood, Hardin-Simmons University; American Southwest Conference.</td>
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<td>Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois); College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.</td>
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**Absentees:**
None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of soccer officials; Carey Harveycutter, director of NCAA championship events, Salem, Virginia; Rob Kehoe, director of college soccer programs, National Soccer Coaches Association of America; John Shaner, director of parks and recreation, Salem, Virginia.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
John Baldwin, John Bugner, Nancy O'Hara, Nick Strah.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Maureen Harty, Jay Jones.