REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WRESTLING COMMITTEE
JUNE 12, 2017 TELECONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Non-legislative Items.
   - None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Alignment. The committee continued to discuss changes to regional alignment for 2017-18 with an agenda to finalize discussions on draft proposal options after the championships committee’s review. Geographic proximity, equal championship access through alignment, conference affiliation, and competitive balance were discussed as the core principles the committee considered. The committee forwarded two regional models for championships committee review. One model focuses strictly on geographic proximity and championship access through alignment, while attempting to comply with Bylaw 31.3.4.3. The second model places a focus on balancing geographic proximity and equal championship access through alignment with the effort of balancing regions competitively, while also attempting to comply with Bylaw 31.3.4.3. Due to the difficulty of balancing each of the four core principles and as a compromise to those values, both drafts would require a conference affiliation waiver of Bylaw 31.3.4.3.

Moving forward, the committee will apply the championships committee’s feedback, if needed, and staff will send survey questions to membership sponsoring the sport for a minimum of 14 days, regarding the two models. Following the collection of responses, the committee will recommend a draft to present at the coaches convention in early August with staff. Subsequently, the wrestling committee will make updates, if needed, and present a final recommendation to the championships committee during its September in-person meeting.
From a historical perspective, the wrestling regional format was implemented for the 2012-13 season consisting of six regions (Central, East, Mideast, Midwest, Northeast, and West).

Due to the continuing growth in sponsorship, to further balance regions geographically, and to level championship access, the committee met at its April 2016 annual meeting to develop a realignment proposal for the upcoming season.

In June of 2016, the Division III championships 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.

In response, to address increased membership needing to be immediately placed in a region, the wrestling committee drafted a second proposal for 2016-17 and shared with coaches at the August coaches convention. A survey of the drafted alignment was sent to head coaches, athletic directors and conference commissioners sponsoring the sport to gather feedback. The recommendation was sent to the championships committee for its September in-person meeting. The championships committee amended the proposal, leaving regions as they were in 2015-16 and adding new programs sponsoring the sport for the first year in their proposed regions.

Rationale: The championship committee elected to wait until there is representation from each of the six regions on the wrestling committee before regional adjustments would be made in order to give each region a representative.

Committee Chair: Dave Kenmy, Roger Williams University, New England Wrestling Association
Staff Liaisons: J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances
### Division III Wrestling Committee

**Attendees:**
- Ron Beachler, Ohio Northern University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
- David Kemmy, Roger Williams University, New England Wrestling Association.
- Roger Krebs, Lycoming College, Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference.
- Nathan Shearer, Washington and Lee University, Centennial Conference.
- Jeff Swenson, Augsburg College, Independent.
- Erik Van Kley, Central College (Iowa), Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

**Absentees:**
- None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
- None.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
- J.P. Williams, championships and alliances.
- Nick Strah, championships and alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
- Liz Suscha, championships and alliances.