

**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III
SPORTSMANSHIP AND GAME ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP
APRIL 21, 2016, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of the report from February 25, 2016, teleconference.** The working group reviewed and approved the set of minutes from its February 25, 2016, teleconference.

During its review of the report, the working group was reminded of the tentative learning modules that were developed based on discussions during the group's September teleconference. These five modules were referenced throughout the remainder of the teleconference. The five tentative learning modules are:

- a. Why a certification program is important;
 - b. A self-assessment tool for an institution's current game environment;
 - c. A learning module focused on creating service excellence for institutions events, regardless of resources and staff capabilities;
 - d. Assistance with conflict resolution or bystander intervention; and
 - e. A campus action plan.
2. **Report from Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct's February 16, 2016, teleconference.** The working group received a report from Ben Brownlee and Karen Tompson-Wolfe regarding the outcomes from the NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct's February 16, 2016, teleconference. Mr. Brownlee focused particular attention on the revamped RESPECT campaign and noted that materials and co-branded signage templates would be made available to the membership as a part of that revamped campaign and that a third-party company was being used to prepare those materials.
 3. **Discussion of feedback received from outside groups on the five tentative learning modules.** The working group discussed feedback that was received from conference meetings, classroom discussions on campuses, the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Division III Management Council. Highlights from this feedback included:

- a. Mr. Jones noted that the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is planning to develop a ‘student-athlete’s perspective’ learning module that can be used as a sixth module within the program. As a deliverable included within this particular module, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee also is considering drafting a template letter to parents that member institutions can use for distribution at the beginning of each season.
 - b. There were some concerns expressed about the idea that an institution would not objectively be able to complete a ‘self-assessment’. Instead, it was noted that the working group might want to consider the option of having someone from a different institution conduct the audit or consider alternative methods to access an institution’s current game environment.
 - c. It was noted that the overall training program might need to be required, or at least have some certification or recognition attached to it.
 - d. The Division III Management Council noted that interaction with campus safety, institutional presidents and athletic direct reports would be key elements to the success of the overall program.
 - e. One element noted for consideration was the inclusion of best practices and ‘ideas that work’. Examples of these include putting team benches on the opposite side of the playing field from the main grandstand, not allowing visiting fans to sit directly behind home benches, etc. ...
4. **Review of potential concepts for tentative learning modules.** The working group reviewed two working proposals from outside firms. Both of the proposals were obtained by Mr. Jones and are aimed at building some of the learning modules. The working group determined it was best to wait on making any official decisions on proposals for work until after the learning modules have been more fully vetted. The working group also reviewed examples of ‘mystery shopper’ programs within the athletics context in order to determine how those programs might work within the overall program and whether that concept could serve as a potential deliverable within the program.
 5. **Discussion of next steps and short-range timeline for work.** The working group agreed to use a form to provide individual input on potential learning outcomes and delivery methods for each of the tentative learning module. Upon receipt of all individual feedback forms, the working group will be broken into smaller subsets to begin synthesizing the results in order to develop a firm plan for each learning module.
 6. **Other business.** The next teleconference will be at 2 p.m. Eastern time June 30, 2016.

7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Eastern time.

Chair: Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, North Coast Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison: Jay Jones, Division III Governance

Teleconference: April 21, 2016	
Attendees	Absentees
Erik Bitterbaum, State University of New York at Cortland	Chris O'Rourke, Becker College
Jennifer Jacobs, Augsburg College	Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University
Tracy King, Liberty League	
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8	
Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	
Karen Tompson-Wolfe, Westminster College	
Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, chair	
Other Participants: Ben Brownlee, NCAA Jay Jones, NCAA	