

**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III  
SPORTSMANSHIP AND GAME ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016, TELECONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Reaffirmation of commitment to serve on the working group.** Gary Williams, chair of the Sportsmanship and Game Environment Working Group, reaffirmed members' commitment to the working group and asked that if they are no longer able to fulfill the duties of the working group, they should reach out to him or Jay Jones. Given the composition of the working group, Mr. Williams also noted that the need to solicit additional members and support from the Division III membership may be necessary. Mr. Williams is especially interested in gaining insight from a representative from the Collegiate Event and Facility Management Association (CEFMA). It also was noted that despite President Erik Bitterbaum's term on the Division III Presidents Council having come to an end, he is still willing and committed to serving on this working group.
2. **Review of the report from November 10, 2015, teleconference.** The working group reviewed and approved the set of minutes from its November teleconference.
3. **Review of straw poll results from 2016 Division III Issues Forum.** Mr. Jones reviewed the straw poll results from the 2016 Division III Issues Forum. He indicated that despite the questions being purposefully broad, the feedback they received from the membership should prove helpful. Mr. Jones also noted that some participants may have been absent from the room or chose not to respond to each question, which explains the discrepancy in number of respondents for each question. The results indicate there is a desire from the membership to address fan civility and game environment, and that many respondents are willing to participate in a module-based certification regardless of any incentive being provided. The results validated the working group's initial thoughts:
  - a. Parents/Guardians are the group that causes the most difficult issues at institutions' events and,
  - b. There is a greater desire to have best practices in the area of crowd control than there is to having established national guidelines.

4. **Review tentative training module that were discussed on the working group's September 2015 teleconference in light of straw poll feedback.** Mr. Williams reviewed the following tentative training modules that were developed based on discussions during the group's September teleconference:
  - 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.

The group agreed that the creation of established best practices is a critical next step. Based on the working group's discussion, as well as National SAAC feedback provided by Mr. Jones, the group agreed to move forward with the creation of a module based learning environment. The initial focus should be on fan civility. After the implementation and assessment of a fan civility based learning tool, the working group can decide whether similar tools should be used in addressing other aspects of sportsmanship and game environment.

5. **Assign working group members to various modules and discuss who else in the membership (and outside experts) can serve as module 'builders'.** Mr. Williams tasked the working group members with brainstorming initial ideas and talking points for each of the five (a-e) potential modules, asking them to seek feedback from their respective campuses (classes, teams, student-athletes, administrative staff, and coaches). Members will compile information and create a one-page executive summary to be turned into Mr. Jones by Friday, April 8, in preparation of the next teleconference. The group will discuss its findings and decide on next steps during its April teleconference.
6. **Other business.** The next teleconference will be at 2 p.m. Eastern time April 21, 2016. Mr. Jones will look in to adding another SAAC member to the working group.

**7. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Eastern time.

*Chair: Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, North Coast Athletic Conference*  
*Staff Liaisons: Jay Jones, Division III Governance*  
*Jess Duff, Division III Governance*

Teleconference: February 25, 2016	
Attendees	Absentees
Erik Bitterbaum, State University of New York at Cortland	Tracy King, Liberty League
Jennifer Jacobs, Augsburg College	Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8
Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Chris O'Rourke, Becker College
Karen Tompson-Wolfe, Westminster College	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University	
Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, chair	
Other Participants: Ben Brownlee, NCAA Jess Duff, NCAA Jay Jones, NCAA	