ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

   • Selection criteria modification – results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection.

      a. Recommendation. The Division III Men’s and Women’s Soccer Committees recommend that the selection criteria be adjusted to include consideration of the data from the third published ranking and the final, unpublished ranking when viewing results vs. ranked opponents, rather than the current criteria, which allows consideration for only the results vs. teams ranked at the time of selection.

         The new piece of selection criteria proposed by both the men’s and women’s soccer committees would read as follows:

         “Results versus ranked Division III teams as established by the rankings from the third published national ranking and from the final, unpublished ranking immediately preceding selection of the championship field. Conference postseason contests are included.”

         This would replace the current piece of selection criteria that reads as follows:

         “Results versus ranked Division III teams as established by the rankings at the time of selection. Conference postseason contests are included.”

      b. Effective date. September 1, 2016.

      c. Rationale. During the three years that the current selection criteria has been in place for results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection, there have been several instances where the impact of this criteria has been significant enough to shift teams several spots in the final rankings, simply based on the result(s) of a prior opponent(s).

         The committees believe that the current criteria considering only results vs. teams ranked at the time of selection is an extreme measure that has proven to allow for major fluctuations in a team’s standing during the final weeks of a season, regardless of its own results. The committees believe that the proposed revision of the selection criteria will allow for a great compromise between the former “once ranked always ranked” criteria and the current “ranked at the time of selection” criteria.
The committees believe that this revised criteria would give greater transparency to the selection process by affording coaches, student-athletes and administrators a better understanding of their team’s standing heading into and during the time of selection, resulting in less confusion.

d. **Estimated budget impact.** None.

e. **Student-athlete impact.** The committees believe that the rationale provided will afford greater transparency to the selection process for all involved, ultimately leading to a positive impact.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

   a. **Modification to strength of schedule multiplier.**

      (1) **Recommendation.** That the current strength of schedule multiplier be modified with weights of 1.00 and 1.25 for home and neutral site contests, respectively. The current weights of home and neutral site contests are .085 and 1.00, respectively. The current weight of away contests of 1.25 would remain unchanged.

      The proposed strength of schedule multiplier calculation would read as follows.

      (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.

      (3) **Rationale.** The committees believe that the current weights associated with home and neutral site contests can negatively impact a team’s candidacy for postseason play. The committees believe that the current weighting associated with home contests is unjustly penalizing teams for playing home contests.

      The proposed modifications to the strength of schedule weighting remove the penalty associated with home contests, lessening the point value difference between home and away contests.

      Attachment A outlines the differences between the current and proposed weights associated with the strength of schedule multiplier. The committees are in favor of the proposed modifications, as they no longer penalize teams for playing home contests and continue to emphasize non-home contests, without overvaluing those contests.

      (4) **Estimated budget impact.** By removing the negative weighting associated with playing home contests and narrowing weight gap between home and away contests,
teams will no longer have as strong an incentive to play more away contests. As such, this should have a positive impact on institutional travel budgets.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The committees believe that this change will more properly adjust the weighting associated with the strength of schedule multiplier, ultimately having a positive impact on student-athletes.

### b. Publishing of final ranking.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the final ranking be published from the day of selections.

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** The committees believe that the current process of not publishing the final ranking on the day of selections can lead to confusion amongst the membership and also displays a lack of transparency from the committees and national office. The committees believe that publishing the final ranking from the day of selections can help to address some of the questions and concerns that come from the membership following selections.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The committees believe that an increased emphasis on transparency will have a positive impact on student-athletes.

### c. Adjusting hosting language to match rule book with regard to field dimensions.

(1) **Recommendation.** The committees recommend that the preliminary-round hosting language be adjusted to mirror the language from the NCAA Soccer Rules Book. Currently, the hosts are permitted to use fields with a minimum dimension of 65 yard by 110 yards. The NCAA Soccer Rules Book rule 1.1.1 says “The field of play shall be rectangular, with a length of 115-120 yards and width of 70-75 yards.”

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2018.

(3) **Rationale.** The committees believe that the field dimensions used during the championship rounds should be consistent with those outlined in the NCAA Soccer Rules Book. Currently the site selection language allows for championship play to be contested on fields smaller than are permitted by the rules during the regular season. The committees believe the policies and rules should be consistent.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Adjusting this language would have a positive impact on student-athletes by more closely standardizing the competition fields that would be used during the championships, making for a more consistent experience throughout each round.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review 2015 joint meeting report.** The committees approved the 2015 joint meeting report as presented.

2. **Governance update.** The committees received an update from Louise McCleary, NCAA Director of Division III, on the following topics: communication strategies around Division III championships; NCAA Convention legislative updates; charter travel; sportsmanship/game environments; diversity and inclusion efforts; health and safety efforts, specifically with regard to concussions, cardiac care, sexual assault and mental health; the institutional self-study guide; national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) initiatives; and 360 proof.

3. **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 them to a different region. This proposal was referred back to the sponsoring conference with a request to gather more information from the other conferences impacted by potential modifications to the current alignment.

The committees also discussed, at length, the difficulty of comparing teams across regions, specifically in instances where metrics regarding strength of schedule and results versus ranked opponents are not easily comparable due to geographic constraints.

4. **Rankings protocol.** The committees discussed the rankings protocol, including the criteria and evaluation of teams and the ranking call procedures.

5. **Preliminary-round site administration.** The committees discussed preliminary round site administration and noted that the expectation is for hosts to provide a neutral environment with a championship feel. Committee members requested that NCAA staff follow up with each championship host site to provide both positive and negative feedback regarding the participant experience.

Committee members discussed game times and recovery time between rounds. In addition, committee members noted the improved communication process before and throughout the 2015 championships.
The committees discussed squad size and bench size policies and anticipated no change in 2016.

6. 2015 championships. The committees reviewed the 2015 championship finals in Kansas City and noted many positive reviews from the participant survey responses. Committee members noted that the competition field and student-athlete banquet were looked upon positively. Conversely, committee members noted that future improvements are recommended for official practices and hotel breakfast options.

7. 2016 championship finals. The committees discussed the 2016 championship finals, which will be conducted at UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina. The committees noted that the men will play the early games at the finals site in 2016 and the women will play the evening games. Committee members noted that they would like to emphasize the Special Olympics initiative at the championship site, if possible.

8. Officials. The committees met with Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of soccer officials, and discussed a number of items including: officials’ selection and evaluation processes; requirements for championship assignment; and proposed rules changes.

9. Future annual meeting dates. The committees determined that the dates for the 2017 annual meeting will be January 30-February 1, 2017.

Committee Chairs: Travis Beauchamp, Catholic University of America, Landmark Conference (men’s committee)
Susan Hoffman, State University of New York at Brockport, State University of New York Athletic Conference (women’s committee)

Staff Liaisons: John Baldwin, Championships and Alliances
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<td>Travis Beauchamp, Catholic University; Landmark Conference.</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>Michael Fulton, Transylvania University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Susan Hoffman, College at Brockport, State University of New York.</td>
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<td>Matt Klosterman, North Central College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.</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.</td>
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<td>Dave Reyelts, The College of St. Scholastica; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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Michael Schulist, Carroll University (Wisconsin); Midwest Conference.
Jonathan Tymann, Gordon College; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Brianne Weaver, Bowdoin College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Marcus Wood, Hardin-Simmons University; American Southwest Conference.
Mike Zapolski, Augustana College (Illinois); College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Absentees:
Carrie Gardner, Christopher Newport University; Capital Athletic Conference.
Betsy Mitchell, California Institute of Technology; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Guests in Attendance:
Ryan Cigich, national coordinator of soccer officials.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John Baldwin, John Bugner.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Linda Godby, Louise McCleary, Nancy O’Hara, Lauren Tiernan.