NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2017

The NCAA Division II Football Committee is providing this information to outline key actions taken by the committee during the past year. In addition, if you have any questions regarding this information, please contact a member of the committee or Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances, at 317/917-6813 or via email at dwagner@ncaa.org.

1. **2015-16 Committee Members.**
   
   **Super Regional One**
   Reid Amos
   Commissioner
   Mountain East Conference
   600 Marketplace Avenue, Suite 102
   Bridgeport, West Virginia 26330
   Tel: 304/924-1632
   Fax: 888/618-0368
   Email: commissioner@mountaineast.org
   
   Nick Smith
   Director of Athletics
   Assumption College
   500 Salisbury Street
   Worcester, Massachusetts 01609
   Tel: 508/767-7279
   Fax: 508/767-7032
   Email: na.smith@assumption.edu
   
   **Super Regional Two**
   Dick Christy
   Director of Athletics
   University of North Carolina, Pembroke
   1 University Drive
   Pembroke, North Carolina 28372
   Tel: 910/521-6227
   Fax: 910/521-6540
   Email: dick.christy@uncp.edu
   
   Daryl Dickey
   Director of Men’s Athletics
   University of West Georgia
   1601 Maple Street
   Carrollton, Georgia 30118
   Tel: 678/839-6534
   Fax: 678/839-6538
   Email: ddickey@westga.edu
   
   **Super Regional Three**
   Steven Mullins
   Director of Athletics
   Arkansas Tech University
   1306 North El Paso
   Russellville, Arkansas 72801
   Tel: 479/968-0352
   Fax: 479/968-0647
   Email: smullins@atu.edu
   
   Kent Weiser
   Director of Athletics
   Emporia State University
   1 Kellogg Circle
   Emporia, Kansas 66801
   Tel: 620/341-5350
   Fax: 620/341-5603
   Email: kweiser@emporia.edu

2. **2016-17 Football Sponsorship.** There are 171 institutions that sponsor Division II Football. This number includes those institutions that were ineligible for the championship (e.g., provisional members, reclassified members, etc.).

3. **2016 Championship.** The 2016 NCAA Division II Football Championship provided for a field of 28 teams. Seven teams were selected from each of the four super regions. The first-round, second-round, quarterfinal-round, and semifinal-round games were all hosted on the campus of one of the teams selected for the tournament. The finals were hosted by the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and the Kansas City Sports Commission. The national champion was Northwest Missouri State University and the runner-up was the University of North Alabama.

4. **Tentative Dates for the 2017 Championship.**
   
   Selections: Sunday, November 12
   
   All games must be completed by Saturday, November 11
   
   First Round (twelve games): November 18
   
   Second Round (eight games): November 25
   
   Quarterfinal Round (four games): December 2
   
   Semifinal Round (two games): December 9
   
   Championship: December 16

5. **2017 Championship Site.** The 2017 NCAA Division II Football Championship will be conducted at Children’s Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas. The finals will be hosted by the MIAA and the Kansas City Sports Commission. The agreement is through the 2017 championship game.

6. **2017 Championship Structure.** The championship will provide for a 28-team, single-elimination tournament. There will be seven teams selected from each of the four super regions (Super Regional One, Super Regional Two, Super Regional

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**Super Regional Four**

Michael McBroom (Chair)
Director of Athletics
West Texas A&M University
WTAMU Box 60049
Canyon, Texas 79016
Tel: 806/651-4400
Fax: 806/651-4409
Email: mmcbroom@wtamu.edu

John Wristen
Head Football Coach
Colorado State University - Pueblo
2200 North Bonforte Boulevard
Pueblo, Colorado 81001
Tel: 719/549-2075
Fax: 719/289-8021
Email: john.wristen@csupueblo.edu

**Super Regional One**

Michael McBroom (Chair)
Director of Athletics
West Texas A&M University
WTAMU Box 60049
Canyon, Texas 79016
Tel: 806/651-4400
Fax: 806/651-4409
Email: mmcbroom@wtamu.edu

John Wristen
Head Football Coach
Colorado State University - Pueblo
2200 North Bonforte Boulevard
Pueblo, Colorado 81001
Tel: 719/549-2075
Fax: 719/289-8021
Email: john.wristen@csupueblo.edu

**Super Regional Two**

Dick Christy
Director of Athletics
University of North Carolina, Pembroke
1 University Drive
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372
Tel: 910/521-6227
Fax: 910/521-6540
Email: dick.christy@uncp.edu

Daryl Dickey
Director of Men’s Athletics
University of West Georgia
1601 Maple Street
Carrollton, Georgia 30118
Tel: 678/839-6534
Fax: 678/839-6538
Email: ddickey@westga.edu

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Steven Mullins
Director of Athletics
Arkansas Tech University
1306 North El Paso
Russellville, Arkansas 72801
Tel: 479/968-0352
Fax: 479/968-0647
Email: smullins@atu.edu

Kent Weiser
Director of Athletics
Emporia State University
1 Kellogg Circle
Emporia, Kansas 66801
Tel: 620/341-5350
Fax: 620/341-5603
Email: kweiser@emporia.edu

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Three, and Super Regional Four). The top seeded team in each super regional will receive a bye in the first-round.

Note: Super Regions have been realigned for the 2017 championship. Please refer to Item 11.

7. **Selection Criteria.** The committee will select teams for the 2017 championship based on the following:

- Overall Division II in-region winning percentage;
- Overall Division II winning percentage;
- Overall Division II strength of schedule;
- Division II head-to-head record;
- Results versus Division II common opponents;
- Availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships, and;
- Nullification.

The Division II Football Committee also received approval from the Division II Championships Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams (not necessarily in priority order):

- Division II record on the road;
- Division II Results versus teams with .500 records or better; and
- In-region Division II non-conference record.

If you have any feedback that you would like to share with the football committee prior to the committee’s upcoming annual meeting regarding the selection criteria or any other issue, please send those comments directly to Donnie Wagner at the NCAA national office by January 31.

8. **Tentative Future Dates.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Selections</th>
<th>Championship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>December 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>December 19</td>
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9. **Annual Meeting.** The committee's 2017 annual meeting will take place February 6-8 in Indianapolis.

10. **The Football Committee Took the Following Actions on Championship Issues at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

- The committee moved the starting times for all preliminary round game (except semifinals and championship game) to a 1 pm local time start. Hosts can slide the start time by one hour either way with approval of the football committee.
- The committee will continue to use instant replay at both semifinal games and the national championship game if all of these games are televised. Replay is also used at halftime, at sites were a review is available, to review a targeting penalty that was received in the first half.
- The committee continues to use merit as an additional element for consideration in the advancement and assignment of officials throughout the playoffs. Each playoff game had a on-site neutral evaluator that evaluated the officials and provided feedback to the committee.
- The committee did not take any action on recommending Automatic Qualification (AQ) for the football championship but will continue to discuss and monitor for the future.

11. **The Championships Committee Took the Following Actions on Other Issues Regarding Division II Football.**

- Approved realignment, effective with the 2017 championship, that would align the following conferences in their specific regions:
  b. Super Region Two – Central Intercollegiate Athletics Association, Gulf South Conference, South Atlantic Conference and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (43 institutions).
  c. Super Region Three – Great American Conference, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Great Lakes Valley Conference and Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (42 institutions).
  d. Super Region Four – Great Northwest Athletic Conference, Lone Star Conference, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (42 institutions).
- Approved the football committee seeding the four teams that advance to the semifinals with the one seed playing the four seed and the two seed playing the three seed. The committee will use existing selection criteria to seed the four teams.
- Recommended that legislation be adopted to provide a dead period around the AFCA Convention.
- Recommended that non-controversial legislation be adopted to amend Bylaw 31.3.5.1 (requirements) to specify that institutions that are affiliate members of a Division II football-playing conference may be used to satisfy the sport sponsorship requirement for earned access in football.

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