

REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COMMITTEE  
MARCH 27-29, 2017, ANNUAL MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- Committee chair.
  - a. Recommendation. That Darla Kirby, associate director of athletics/Senior Woman Administrator at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, serve as committee chair.
  - b. Rationale. Ms. Kirby's knowledge and experience as a Division III senior level athletics administrator will provide strong direction and properly represent the membership as committee chair. Ms. Kirby served as Division III Women's Golf committee chair from 2005-2006 and again from 2013-2014.
  - c. Effective date. September 1, 2017.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Minutes from 2016 Annual Meeting.** Minutes from the 2015-16 Division III football annual meeting were approved as submitted.
- 2. Governance Update.** Governance staff discussed topics related to Division III football, including current financial status, budget and webcasting updates from the 2017 NCAA Convention.
- 3. Legislative Review.** AMA staff discussed topics related to Division III football, including the Sports Science Institute's Interassociation Consensus Recommendations for Football Practice Contact.
- 4. Interassociation Consensus Recommendations for Football Practice Contact.** The committee discussed the updated recommendations released in January 2017; specifically, the recommendation to eliminate two-a-day practices. The committee also discussed the possible issuance of a one-time, blanket waiver for four additional days of preseason practice. The committee did not support of a recommendation that the Division III Committee for Legislative Relief issue a one-time blanket waiver for the 2017 preseason to permit institutions to start their football pre-season early. The committee had concerns with the short notice regarding the

interassociation recommendations and the potential that a waiver could create vastly unequal practice preparation within conferences and/or for early non-conference games, due to financial inequities.

- 5. 2018 Legislative Proposal Foundations for Football Playing and Practice Seasons.** The committee discussed the updated interassociation recommendations and specifically, how it impacts proposed 2018 Convention legislation. The committee sent recommendations to the Management Council's Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee amending the method for determining the first permissible practice date and implementing a new preseason structure starting in 2018-19 that incorporates the interassociation recommendations. Legislative proposal foundations will be as follows:
- a. First Practice Date (replaces 17.10.2.1): A member institution shall commence official preseason football practice sessions for the varsity, junior varsity or freshman teams not more than 25 calendar days before the first contest.
  - b. 17.10.2 Replacement: The Division III football preseason will be conducted in three phases:
    - Phase One - First six days to include the five-day Acclimatization Period (see 17.10.2.2).
    - Phase Two - 12 practices and 2 days off. (One per seven-day period).
    - Phase Three - Game Week - 17.10.2.1.1.2 (No Changes).
  - c. The updated model creates a standard start date for all institutions that will take into account the practice opportunities which were afforded football under the previous legislation. This recommendation will decrease maximum total practice opportunities from 25 to 23. On some campuses, this could increase the total number of preseason days. The proposal will also eliminate the current start date counting method (e.g., practice calculator). Finally, the proposal incorporates the interassociation recommendations.
  - d. For the health and safety of Division III football student-athletes who do not have spring practices to help teach the techniques of the game or monitored summer conditioning, the committee believes it would not benefit student-athletes to significantly reduce preseason practice opportunities, as there does not seem to be significant research available for any sport to indicate the amount of practice time needed to prepare a team for competition. However, in the past, Division III football has used up to 25 practice opportunities. The committee understands the financial obligations of beginning preseason practice at earlier dates and believes the proposal is a compromise from the interassociation guidelines of adding a week and extra days off to the preseason, yet still keeping the health and safety of student-athletes in mind by providing adequate preparation for their first contest.

**6. 2016 Championships Review.**

- a. Championships travel. NCAA travel and insurance staff joined the committee to discuss results from the pilot program implemented for 2016-17 involving charter flight costs, specifically relating to budget ramifications dependent on available seats purchased at a fixed ticket cost. NCAA travel staff reported that pilot program results were positive for year one and staff will continue to monitor results through year two to determine if the program can be implemented full time.
  - b. Championship site. The City of Salem staff reviewed topics related to the 2016 championship game. It was noted the player of the year banquet will continue to be financed independently from the championship. The championship banquet will be moved from the Salem Civic Center to the Hotel Roanoke or Sheridan Roanoke to create an improved feel. The committee also looks to enhance criteria for maintaining neutrality during preliminary rounds.
  - c. Bid cycle. The committee discussed the 2018-19 - 2021-22 bid cycle and timeline.
  - d. Broadcasts. NCAA staff discussed television ratings and game with the committee. Overall, the championship's rating was up from the previous year. The committee discussed suitable kickoff times and again settled on Friday night as the desired time for the championship game. Staff will work with the television partner and relay the best time for the championship and will provide more information to the committee at a later date.
- 7. Automatic Qualification.** The committee reviewed automatic qualification and will finalize AQ numbers on its July 2017 teleconference.
- 8. Selection Criteria.** The committee discussed topics related to selection criteria modifications including nonconference strength of schedule, results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection and publishing the final rankings for greater transparency.
- 9. Concussion Review.** NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline presented topics related to the health and safety for the sport of football. Dr. Hainline shared results from the Football Health and Safety Summit, and added that along with concussion issues in college athletics, data is also showing that student-athlete mental health is increasing as an issue.
- 10. Rules.** NCAA rules staff updated the committee on current issues, rules and game duration, and requested feedback to pass along to the rules committee for its upcoming session. It was noted that while the rules committee will discuss many modern forms of technology and innovation that will advance the quality of instruction for the game, the group will also factor in how it will affect Division II and Division III programs.

- 11. Officiating.** The coordinator of Division III football officials discussed the state of Division III football officiating and improvements that could be made through the evaluation process. The committee discussed officials' game fees. It was noted that a 10 percent increase in officiating fees for all Division III sports has been proposed. The committee again discussed using an alternate official from the officiating crew's home league. Currently, the alternate comes from the host league and is only paid a game fee and is not reimbursed for travel or meals. The committee confirmed the Division III football coordinator of official's position will receive a stipend beginning in 2017-18.
- 12. Annual Meeting Dates.** The committee will tentatively meet in February 2018 in Indianapolis, IN.

*Committee Chair: Jack McKiernan, Kean University, New Jersey Athletic Conference*  
*Staff Liaison(s): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Football Committee March 27-29, 2017</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jim Catanzaro, Lake Forrest College; Midwest Conference.
Kris Diaz, Baldwin Wallace University; Ohio Athletic Conference.
Erick Hart, State University of New York College of Brockport; Empire 8.
Darla Kirby, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; American Southwest Conference.
Jack Leipheimer, Thiel College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.
Chris Martin, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.
Jack McKiernan, Kean University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Rodney Sandberg, Whitworth University; Northwest Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Mark Baltz, Division III volunteer coordinator of officials.
Carey Harvey cutter, City of Salem.
John Shaner, City of Salem.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Robin Hale, championships and alliances.
Katherine Plessy, championships and alliances.
Nick Strah, championships and alliances.
J.P. Williams, championships and alliances.

<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Dr. Brian Hainline, Sport Science Institute.
Ty Halpin, championships and alliances.
Louise McCleary, governance.
Jeff Myers, amateurism and membership affairs.
Juanita Sheely, travel and insurance.