ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. February in-person meeting report. The NCAA Division III Championships Committee approved the February in-person meeting report as amended with two editorial changes.

2. Sport committee reports.

   a. Baseball. The committee approved that Berry College serve as host for the 2016 NCAA Division III Baseball South Regional in Mount Berry, Georgia.

   b. Women’s ice hockey. The committee did not approve an increase from an eight-team bracket to a nine-team bracket in 2017 based on the 1:6.5 access ratio for championships and the sport sponsorship for women’s ice hockey for 2015-16. The committee will reconsider bracket expansion when sport sponsorship supports a change to an even-sized 10-team bracket.

   c. Men’s soccer.

      (1) Committee chair. The committee approved that Michael Schulist, assistant director of athletics at Carroll University (Wisconsin), serve as chair of the Division III Men’s Soccer Committee.

      (2) Automatic qualification. The committee approved that the following 42 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2016 NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference;
North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference.

d. Women’s soccer.

(1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Mike Zapolski, director of athletics at Augustana College (Illinois), serve as chair of the Division III Women’s Soccer Committee.

(2) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2016 NCAA Division III Women’s Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

(3) **Other business.** The committee discussed two items presented in the women’s soccer committee annual meeting report: 1) prescribed game times; and 2) avoiding conference match-ups in first-round competition. NCAA staff will compile a summary of championship game time policies by sport as well as some examples of the impact on bracketing (i.e., additional flights) if first-round conference match-ups
are always avoided for further discussion at the next in-person championships committee meeting.

e. Men’s and women’s soccer joint meeting.

(1) Selection criteria modification – results vs. ranked opponents at the time of selection. The committee tabled the recommendation that the selection criteria be adjusted to include considering 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 committee reiterated its interest to seek feedback on the proposal from sport committees before its next in-person meeting.

(2) Modification of strength-of-schedule multiplier. The committee tabled the 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 (from .085 and 1.00, respectively). The current weight of 1.25 for away contests would remain unchanged. The committee asked that additional input from the NCAA statistics staff be included for discussion during its next in-person meeting. The committee further noted that implementation, if approved, should be considered for 2017-18 rather than 2016-17.

(3) Publishing of final ranking. The committee tabled the recommendation to publish the final ranking from the day of selections. The committee acknowledged past discussion of this topic with sport committee input but agreed to request feedback from sport committees once again to determine if sentiment has changed across sports. NCAA staff will present the feedback along with the past Championships Committee position on the topic for review during the committee’s next in-person meeting.

(4) Adjusting hosting language to match rules book with regard to field dimensions. The committee approved the recommendation that the preliminary-round hosting language concerning field dimensions 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. NCAA Soccer 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.” The committee noted the exception for facilities in use for soccer before 1995, specifically that they “need only to be rectangular, the width of which shall not exceed the length.”

f. Women’s volleyball.
(1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved that Ellen Dempsey, director of athletics at Hiram College, serve as chair of the Division III Women’s Volleyball Committee.

(2) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2016 NCAA Division III Women’s Volleyball Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

3. **Allocation of berths for championship selection.** The committee reviewed feedback from the Division III Membership Committee concerning the allocation of Pool B berths for championship selection. While the Membership Committee did not support eliminating the Pool B allocation, it provided some options to consider, including adding a time limit during which an institution may have access to participate in Pool B and establishing a sponsorship threshold to activate the use of Pool B. The committee agreed to review these options during its next in-person meeting and asked NCAA staff to provide sponsorship and other data to help inform the discussion.

4. **Automatic qualification waiver request – Empire 8.** The committee tabled the Empire 8’s request to waive the two-year waiting period for automatic qualification in baseball. The committee was sympathetic to the conference’s request considering the legislation that will take effect in August 2016 to count provisional institutions in years 3 and 4 of the membership process toward the waiting period. However, the committee agreed to review any other possible instances of an exception before making a final determination during its next in-person meeting.
5. **September chairs meeting.** The committee supported the idea of holding the sport committee chairs in-person meeting every other year. The timing of the meeting will be coordinated with the Division III biennial budget process. As a result, the meeting will take place in September 2016 for the 2017-19 budget process. In alternate years (e.g., September 2017), the committee will facilitate an update on Division III championships business with each sport committee.