1. Legislative items.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 21.9.1.4.2 – Division III Committees – Composition Requirements – NCAA Women’s Ice Hockey Committee Composition.**
  
  a. **Recommendation.** That the composition requirements for the NCAA Women’s Ice Hockey Committee be revised as follows: “5, consisting of including three members from the East region and two members from the West region/Independents (one coach from each region).”
  
  b. **Effective date.** September 1, 2019.
  
  c. **Rationale.** Bylaw 21.9.1.4.2 mandates that at least 50 percent of the positions on each team sport committee be filled by athletics administrators. The proposed change to the composition of the committee maintains this requirement but also recognizes the importance of the perspective of coaches and provides for representation of coaches from both regions. The delayed effective date will allow the two coaches currently serving on the committee (both from the East region) to serve a minimum of two years.
  
  d. **Estimated budget impact.** None.
  
  e. **Student-athlete impact.** None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. **Term extension for the Division III Men’s Golf Committee.**

   (1) **Recommendation.** That William Gorman’s term be extended by one year to better stagger committee composition. Mr. Gorman’s term, along with two other committee members, is set to expire August 31, 2018. The recommendation is that his term expire August 31, 2019.

   (2) **Effective date.** Immediate.

   (3) **Rationale.** Three of the committee’s six members are currently set to rotate off on August 31, 2018. The committee believes staggering the rotation would benefit continuity. If the recommendation is approved, no more than two committee members would rotate off in a single year.
b. **Day off between the team and individual portions of the men’s and women’s tennis championships.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That a day off be added between the team competition and the start of the singles/doubles portion of the Division III Men’s and Women’s Tennis Championships. The team competition dates will remain on Monday through Wednesday, with the off day on Thursday and the singles and doubles competition taking place Friday through Sunday.

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

(3) **Rationale.** A day off would provide the student-athletes with proper recovery time to prepare for the singles and doubles competition. For the 2017 championships, the committees observed that a number of student-athletes competing in the team tournament were also selected to compete in the individuals’ tournament. The committees feel that a day off would allow not only proper recovery time, but would also provide a more competitive environment for these student-athletes to compete at the highest level.

Importantly, the NCAA travel department noted that additional per diem would not be a factor for travel parties under this recommendation. Student-athletes and nonstudent-athletes receive 4.5 days per diem for the team tournament and 4.5 days for the singles and doubles tournament. If a student-athlete competes in both, he or she would receive nine total days of per diem, which would cover the day off regardless of when their competition ended. It also would not affect per diem on days of travel.

The only budget impact would come from an additional day of per diem and lodging for the committees, NCAA staff members and officials. Based off of last year’s costs and per diem, the committee believes this would require a $5,000 increase.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** $5,000.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The recommendation would positively affect student-athletes, as it would allow optimal recovery time during the championship week.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**
1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** The committee chair welcomed the group, facilitated introductions, reviewed the meeting schedule and highlighted key discussion items.

2. **Recent committee reports.** The committee approved the following committee reports: June 19-20 meeting, and July 9 and 20, August 9 and September 1 email business.

3. **Governance update.** Staff reviewed the following key items with the committee: 1) Recent NCAA Board of Governors actions, including sexual violence prevention education requirements for NCAA member institutions, and the potential impact on NCAA institutions as a result of the growing interest in esports; 2) The NCAA Pathway to Opportunity branding/promotional initiative; 3) Recent NCAA Sport Science Institute initiatives; 4) Eligibility Center registration for Division III prospects and student-athletes, including a potential one-year pilot program to check the eligibility status of international student-athletes in ice hockey; 5) Division III identity initiatives, including the seventh annual DIII Week April 2-8; and 6) Several Division III working group updates.

4. **Championships and alliances updates.**

   a. **Staffing update.** Staff briefed the committee on various changes within the championships and alliances group that affect Division III championships staffing and support.

   b. **Alcohol sales pilot program.** Staff updated the committee on the second year of the pilot program that added the Divisions I, II and III Men’s Lacrosse Championships, the Division I Women’s Lacrosse Championship and the FCS Football Championship game to the Men’s and Women’s College World Series as events at which beer and wine were sold. Evaluations of the program to date have been favorable, with no negative impacts being reported, including at the 2017 Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship. [Note: The Division III Administrative Committee approved the waiver for the pilot as it relates to Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship, as it is part of the joint championships in that sport.] Overall in fact, alcohol-related citations decreased significantly at all five championships. The NCAA Board of Governors has approved the pilot for a third year to include the championships from the first two years, plus the Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship, the Division I Men’s Frozen Four and the Division I Wrestling Championships. Staff noted that Division I may consider implementing the pilot on a permanent basis as early as 2018-19 at select championships. As such, Division III Championships Committee members were asked to comment on the program and its possible impact on Division III championships. Committee members posed a number of questions that would need to be addressed before any determination could be made. Staff noted that permanent adoption of the program in any form would require a legislative change.
c. **State travel bans.** Staff also updated the committee on states that have imposed travel bans that may affect teams’ ability to participate in NCAA championships. The bans will not cause championships at predetermined sites to be relocated, nor will they affect institutions’ ability to host at nonpredetermined sites. Championships Committee members acknowledged potential challenges for sport committees as they try to accommodate affected institutions without compromising the integrity of the bracket.

5. **NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee update.** The SAAC liaison provided an update on behalf of the Division III SAAC, noting that the group opposes a membership-sponsored proposal to increase the size of the SAAC by requiring representation from each Division III conference.

6. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel update.** An NCAA playing rules staff member updated the committee on the panel’s most recent reports, highlighting trends in technology as it relates to playing rules, the status of a program to conduct background checks on officials in select sports, and the implementation of regular-season bat testing in baseball in all three divisions by 2021.

7. **2018 legislative proposals.** Staff reviewed the nine legislative proposals for the Division III business session at the 2018 NCAA Convention in Indianapolis (five sponsored through the governance structure and four from the membership).

8. **Nullification for individual sports with qualifying regional rounds.** The committee noted ongoing discussions within sport committees and the Division III staff about how the process for nullification should apply in wrestling and cross country, and that a recommendation may be forthcoming during a future meeting or teleconference.

9. **Championships participation – obligation to compete.** The committee reviewed and supported a recommended policy adjustment regarding occasions when NCAA member schools decline to participate in an NCAA championship for various reasons (e.g., a state-imposed travel ban, school-imposed restriction, etc.). The recommendation requires a team that opts not to participate in the NCAA championship to notify the NCAA championships staff at least 48 hours before the published deadline for conferences to submit their automatic qualifier. The recommendation also introduces to-be-determined penalties (e.g., fines and/or withholding from championship participation for the following year) and appellate procedures for failure to meet that deadline or withdrawing from the championship at any point after selections are announced. Staff noted that because this is an Association-wide matter, the proposal will not be finalized until championships oversight groups in Divisions I and II complete their review.

10. **Status of state-of-the-sport teleconferences with sport committee chairs.** The committee noted that previously, the September in-person meeting included a session with sport committee chairs. However, this year the committee is facilitating teleconferences with sport
committee chairs as a way to review hot topics, particularly since this is not a budget year. The teleconferences that have been conducted to date have been productive. The committee reiterated that in budget planning years, sport committee chairs will still be invited to participate in the committee’s September in-person meeting, but that the teleconference approach likely will continue in non-budget planning years.

11. Budget planning. The committee reviewed the most recent budget-to-actual report that includes figures for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017. Staff also provided a summary from the first year of the new charter policy that charges institutions a flat fee for all personnel beyond the official traveling party, noting that the program is achieving its intended outcome of reducing costs and making the process more efficient for member institutions. In addition, the committee reviewed sport sponsorship to begin anticipating sports in which bracket growth may occur, given the prescribed access ratio for various sports. Based on these projections, men’s volleyball, women’s golf and women’s ice hockey could emerge as possible candidates for bracket expansion in the near future. The committee will revisit the matter at its February meeting, and if member sponsorship supports expansion in these sports at that time, recommendations/analyses would be forwarded to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and the Presidents Council for consideration in April 2018 (to apply for championships in 2018-19 if approved).

12. Conference requirements for AQ eligibility. The committee continued its discussion regarding the criteria for new conferences to obtain automatic qualification (AQ). In June the committee noted that current legislation does not prescribe the format a conference must use when conducting regular-season competition, nor how a conference awards the AQ. The Division III Membership Committee, which met after the Championships Committee in June, also noted that conference regular-season scheduling and AQ determination generally occur after the conference has been approved for active membership, and that perhaps that process should be flipped so that conferences are required to serve some sort of exploratory or conditional period before active membership similar to the process provisional member institutions go through. The Championships Committee supported the Membership Committee exploring this type of approach and provided a number of questions and issues for that group to consider at its February meeting. The Championships Committee’s primary goal is for the division to consider criteria that remove any incentive for conferences to form solely for the purposes of obtaining automatic qualification. The Championships Committee agreed it would be helpful to study the percent of competition committed to conference opponents among schools in conferences with automatic qualification to better understand current scheduling practices. Staff noted that if the Membership Committee does indeed suggest requiring an exploratory or conditional period for conferences, it will look to the Championships Committee as the appropriate oversight group to develop AQ requirements as they relate to regular-season scheduling for conferences. The Championships Committee noted that it would be beneficial to continue discussing this matter with the Division III Commissioners Association for additional input.
13. **Selection criteria – RPI.** Members from the statistics staff and the championships and alliances staff provided the group with a comprehensive presentation regarding the Rating Percentage Index (RPI), including its purpose, history, and an explanation of its components. The committee had asked for the review after its decision in June not to support a request from the Division III Women’s Basketball Committee to use the RPI as a selection criterion in place of strength of schedule (the committee wanted to use the actual RPI rank number as another data point in its evaluation process). Division III currently does not allow sport committees to use the actual RPI rank number as a selection criteria, though the three components that comprise the RPI (winning percentage, opponents’ strength of schedule, and opponents’ opponents’ strength of schedule) are part of the division’s selection criteria (opponents’ strength of schedule and opponents’ opponents’ strength of schedule are weighted factors used to calculate the strength of schedule, which is an approved criterion). The purpose of the presentation was to allow committee members to ask questions that help inform whether the division’s current selection criteria could be enhanced. While the committee did not take action after the presentation, members noted that Division III sport committees may continue to ask about the RPI in the future.

14. **Sport committee recommendations.**

a. **Baseball.**

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 40 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Baseball Championship:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial 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; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
(2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Paul Murphy, associate director of athletics and head baseball coach at Gwynedd Mercy University, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Baseball Committee.

(3) **Rest day at the championship site.** The committee did not support a rest day being applied to the final series at the Division III Baseball Championship in years when both pool winners enter the championship series undefeated. The committee acknowledged the unique context regarding baseball that was presented in the recommendation but was concerned about setting an unintended precedent for a rest day in other sports without data or other information regarding the benefits.

(4) **Squad size increase.** The committee did not support a recommendation to increase the championship squad size from 25 to 27, noting concerns regarding the potential impact on the travel party and the support staff that are beneficial to championship participation.

b. **Men’s basketball.**

(1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Tim Fitzpatrick, director of athletics at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, to serve as chair of the Division III Men’s Basketball Committee.

(2) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 43 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Basketball Championship:

- Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference
- American Southwest Conference
- Capital Athletic Conference
- Centennial Conference
- The City University of New York Athletic Conference
- College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin
- Colonial States Athletic Conference
- Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth
- Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom
- 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 College Athletic Conference
- 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 Conference
- North Eastern Athletic Conference
- Northern Athletics 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; USA South Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

c. Football.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 25 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 Division III Football Championship:

  Commonwealth Coast Football; Centennial Conference; Collegiate Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Eastern Collegiate Football Conference; Empire 8; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conferences; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

d. Men’s golf.

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 33 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Golf Championships:

  Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial 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; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conferences; New England Small College 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; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
(2) **Committee term extension.** The committee supported the recommendation that William Gorman’s term on the Division III Men’s Golf Committee be extended by one year (to August 31, 2019) to better stagger committee term rotation. However, because the Championships Committee does not have the authority to grant term extensions, members asked that the Division III Management Council approve this item (see Action Item 2-a).

(3) **Two active coaches at the championship.** The committee tabled a recommendation for two designated coaches from each team being permitted to give advice during competition in order to give the Division III Women’s Golf Committee a chance to decide whether the recommendation would be appropriate for the women’s championships as well.

e. Women’s golf.

(1) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Jerry Bergsma, women’s golf coach at Calvin College, to serve as chair of the Division III Women’s Golf Committee.

(2) **Field size.** The committee approved establishing the field size for women’s golf at 25 teams based on current sport sponsorship and access ratio. At its February 2017 meeting, the Championships Committee supported the Women’s Golf Committee increasing the field size up to 26 teams, pending sport sponsorship review. Based on the 2016-17 sport sponsorship and the access ratio of 1:7, the golf committee decided the field size should be increased to 25. While the Championships Committee has indicated a preference for bracket expansion to even-numbered fields, an odd or even field size is irrelevant in golf, so the golf committee recommended increasing the field size as prescribed by the access ratio. The Championships Committee had approved allocating $34,000 to accommodate expansion up to 26 teams. As such, the $25,000 estimated to fund the expansion to 25 teams fits within that budget.

(3) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 19 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Women’s Golf Championships:

American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Liberty League; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conferences; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
f. **Men’s ice hockey.**

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following seven conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Championship:

- Commonwealth Coast Conference
- Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference
- Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
- New England Hockey Conference
- New England Small College Athletic Conference
- Northern Collegiate Hockey Association
- State University of New York Athletic Conference

(2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Jared Phillips, associate director of athletics at Gustavus Adolphus College, to serve as chair of the Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Committee.

g. **Women’s ice hockey.**

(1) **Committee composition.** The committee agreed to recommend that the Division III Management Council support noncontroversial legislation to adjust the language regarding the composition of the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee (see Action Item 1).

(2) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following six conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship:

- Colonial Hockey Conference
- Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
- New England Hockey Conference
- New England Small College Athletic Conference
- Northeast Women’s Hockey League
- Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association

(3) **Number of ranked teams.** The committee approved allowing the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee to rank 15 to 21 percent of the teams in each region, with a minimum of six teams ranked in each, noting that the process will allow the ice hockey committee to achieve its two primary objectives: to rank a minimum of six teams in each region and to rank a proportionate number of teams in each region. The recommendation also helps mitigate the imbalance of teams in each region for the purposes of ranking (in 2017-18, the East region will have 38 institutions and the West region will have 24 institutions).

h. **Men’s lacrosse.**
(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 25 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship:

Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Lacrosse Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Women’s Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Lacrosse Conference, Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association and State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

(2) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Sean Woods, head men’s lacrosse coach at Colorado College, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Men’s Lacrosse Committee.

(3) **Bench size.** The committee noted an informational item from the lacrosse committee’s report regarding the ongoing discussion about increasing the size of bench personnel permitted during the Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship.

i. **Women’s lacrosse.**

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 29 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship:

Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast 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 Women’s Lacrosse 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; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Women’s Lacrosse Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.
(2) **Squad size increase.** The committee acknowledged a request to increase the squad size from 28 to 30 student-athletes in uniform (which in turn would increase the travel party by two and bench size by two), due to the changing rules in the sport, including the implementation of a shot clock that is expected to increase the pace of play and potentially cause institutions to increase their rosters accordingly. The Championships Committee voted not to support the request at this time, preferring instead to let the new rules play out for a year to measure the actual impact on roster sizes. In addition, because the request carries a budget impact, the committee prefers to consider it in the next budget cycle in 2019-20.

(3) **Day of rest at the finals.** The committee did not support a request to add a day of rest between the Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship semifinals and final. Again, because the request carries a budget impact, the committee prefers to consider it in the next budget cycle in 2019-20.

(4) **Committee chair.** The committee approved Michael Duffy, director of athletics at Adrian College, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Committee.

j. **Softball.**

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 42 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Softball 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 Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
(2) **Seeding of teams for the finals site.** The committee approved allowing the Division III Softball Committee to seed the eight teams advancing from super regional competition to better balance bracket play at the finals site. The committee considered that the softball championship assigned pairings by a random draw prior to the implementation of the super regional format and also noted this change is consistent with the format for baseball.

**k. Men’s and women’s tennis.**

(1) **Committee chairs.** The committee approved Jennifer Dubow, commissioner of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Women’s Tennis Committee, and Adam Strand, head men’s and women’s tennis coach at Luther College, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Men’s Tennis Committee.

(2) **Day off between the team and individual portions of the men’s and women’s tennis championships.** The committee supported the tennis committees’ request to establish a day off between the team championships and the start of the singles/doubles tournaments. The team competition dates will remain as Monday through Wednesday, with the off day on Thursday and the singles and doubles tournaments taking place Friday through Sunday. Additional per diem would not be a factor for travel parties under this recommendation, as student-athletes and nonstudent-athletes receive 4.5 days per diem for the team tournament and 4.5 days for the singles and doubles tournament. If a student-athlete competes in both, they would receive nine total days of per diem, which would cover the day of rest regardless of when their competition ended. It also wouldn’t affect per diem on days of travel. However, because the recommendation does carry a budget impact from an additional day of per diem and lodging for the committees, NCAA staff members and officials (estimated at $5,000), the Championships Committee forwarded the request to the Division III Management Council for consideration (see Action Item 2-b).

(3) **Men’s tennis automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 36 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Tennis Championships:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom;
Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Men’s and Women’s Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Inter. Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; The Commonwealth Coast Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

l. Men’s and women’s cross country and track and field.

- **Committee chair.** The committee approved Thomas Thomasson Jr., associate director athletics and recreation services at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Camden, to serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country Committee.

m. Men’s volleyball.

(1) **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved that the following 10 conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship:

City University of New York Athletic Conference; Continental Volleyball Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences; Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League; New England Collegiate Conference; North Eastern Athletics Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Skyline Conference (year 1 grace period); and United Volleyball Conference.

(2) **Regional alignment.** The Championships Committee approved realigning the United Volleyball Conference from the West evaluation region to the East in order to accommodate growth in the sport by balancing the regions and help better manage the number of ranked teams.

n. Wrestling.

(1) **Regional alignment.** The committee approved recommended realignments effective with the 2017-18 season that accommodate growing sport sponsorship and help ensure geographic proximity, balanced championship access, conference affiliation, and competitive considerations (see the attachment for the specific realignments). The Championships Committee acknowledged the Wrestling Committee’s ongoing work in this regard and applauded the collaboration with stakeholders in the sport to reach a meaningful and productive outcome.
(2) Regional site selection. The committee approved the following as regional hosts for the 2018 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region (2016-17 Region)</th>
<th>Institution/Conference Host</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Midwest (Central)</td>
<td>Loras College</td>
<td>Dubuque, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast (Northeast)</td>
<td>Worcester Polytechnic Institute</td>
<td>Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Midwest (West)</td>
<td>Augsburg College</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Regional realignment – project history and future consideration. Staff revisited the regional alignment topic from the June meeting which was prompted by a discussion of men’s and women’s soccer and provided the committee a summary of the regional alignment work that the Championships Committee began in 2010. The purpose of the review at the time was to explore the merits of aligning regions to minimize the difference in the number of teams in each, and to gain more consistent nomenclature for regions across all sports. While some changes have been made since the project began, staff asked the current committee whether to continue this review, and if so, how aggressively. Staff also noted that a subgroup of the Division III Conference Commissioners Association is reviewing this as well. As such, the Championships Committee agreed that any recommendations for future change would be encouraged from that group, and then the Championships Committee will address those issues as needed.

16. Officials selection. Staff reviewed the process for selecting officials in all sports during championship competition, noting that sports that have implemented a national coordinator have realized improved efficiencies in the selection process. The committee suggested that the information also be provided to the Division III Conference Commissioners Association.

17. First-round conference matchups. The committee revisited its discussion in June related to a concern from the Division III Women’s Basketball Committee regarding first-round conference matchups that occur as a result of restrictions within the bracketing principles. The Championships Committee continues to regard this matter as being worthy of additional discussion and review, and members asked staff to develop several alternative models for the committee to consider at its February meeting in order to measure the financial impact of options to mitigate first-round conference matchups.

18. Ranking protocol. The committee did not act at its June meeting on a request from the Division III Women’s Volleyball Committee to rank 15 to 21 percent of the number of teams per sport region, with a maximum of 10 teams per region, but agreed to review the rankings protocol during its next in-person meeting. Upon revisiting the discussion, the committee decided not to support the request, based on the inconsistencies it would create among sports and the lack of compelling rationale from the sport committee. Championships Committee
members acknowledged that their approval of a request from the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee [see Informational Item 14-g-(3)] could be viewed as being contrary to this decision, but the committee reasoned that the two requests are significantly different based on the different sport sponsorship levels and are intended to achieve distinctive outcomes.


• Required web streaming for preliminary rounds. The committee reviewed a summary of web streaming for championships in 2016-17 as information only.

20. In-region waivers.

a. Emory University – women’s tennis. The committee approved Emory University’s request for an in-region waiver in women’s tennis, noting Emory’s scheduling difficulty due to the proximity of in-region opponents.

b. Colorado College – men’s and women’s lacrosse. The committee approved Colorado College’s request for an in-region waiver in men’s and women’s lacrosse, noting Colorado College’s scheduling difficulty due to the proximity of in-region opponents.

21. North Atlantic Conference field hockey automatic qualification waiver request. The committee voted not to support a request from the North Atlantic Conference (NAC), the North Eastern Collegiate Conference (NECC) and the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) to waive the no grace period requirement for conferences that fall below the minimum of four core members for the purposes of obtaining automatic qualification. The NAC currently has an AQ in field hockey through affiliated membership with NECC and NEAC institutions, but because of upcoming realignment in those conferences, the NAC is expected to fall below the four core member requirement by 2018-19. The Championships Committee is sympathetic to the volatility of realignment affecting the NAC but is reluctant to waive such a basic benchmark for obtaining automatic qualification. In addition, the Championships Committee noted that denying the waiver request does not close off access to the Division III Field Hockey Championship for NAC teams via Pool B and C selection.

22. Sport committee appointments. The committee approved the following sport committee appointments:


c. Division III Women’s Tennis Committee – Northeast region: Chris Colvin, director of athletics, Nichols College.

23. Future meeting dates and sites (all to be held in Indianapolis). The committee noted the following dates for in-person meetings and teleconferences through June 2018:

a. October 24, 2017 (teleconference).


c. December 12, 2017 (teleconference).

d. February 6-7, 2018 (in-person meeting).

24. Other business. The committee recognized the significant contributions from outgoing members Brit Katz and Gerald Young, whose terms will expire in January 2018. The committee also applauded outgoing member Corey Borchardt for his service as committee chair over the past year.

25. Adjournment. Mr. Borchardt adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m. Eastern time, September 19.

Committee Chair: Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Staff Liaisons: Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances
Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division III Championships Committee</th>
<th>September 18-19, 2017, Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Chuks, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Johnson, Ripon College; Midwest Conference.</td>
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<td>Brit Katz, Millsaps College; Southern Athletic Association.</td>
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<td>Matt Knigge, Vassar College; Liberty League.</td>
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<td>Susan Fumagalli Mahoney, Gettysburg College; Centennial Conference.</td>
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<td>Bill Stiles, Alvernia University; Middle Atlantic Conferences.</td>
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<td>Michael Vienna, Emory University; University Athletic Association.</td>
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<td>Gerald Young, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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| **Absentees:**                      |                                |
| None.                               |                                |

<p>| <strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong>          |                                |
| Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.       |                                |</p>
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<th><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Harty, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<th><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Dan Calandro, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Joni Comstock, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Jones, Division III Governance.</td>
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<td>Alaina Keller, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.</td>
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<td>Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Jeff O’Barr, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>Nancy O’Hara, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Angellica Rospond, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Juanita Sheely, Administrative Services.</td>
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<td>Joe Weber, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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