

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL COMMITTEE
MARCH 26-28, 2018, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Legislative Proposal Foundations for Football Playing and Practice Seasons.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the method for determining the first permissible practice date be amending and Management Council's Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee implement a new preseason structure.
- (2) Rationale. The NCAA Division III Football Committee discussed the updated interassociation recommendations and specifically, how it impacts proposed 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 that incorporates the interassociation recommendations. Legislative proposal foundations will be as follows:
 1. First permissible practice date would be 23 days before the institution's first regular season contest.
 2. Maintain current legislation regarding the one and a half administrative days.
 3. Requires a day off each week of the preseason after the five-day acclimatization period. (e.g. 2 days).
 4. Incorporates the following two provisions of the 2018 waiver:
 - a. Allow the use of footballs during walk through sessions that occur after the acclimatization period; and
 - b. Allow the flexibility to extend the walk-through session when contact practice on that same day is shorter than three hours.

Additionally, any institution that plays the first weekend and starts classes on or after August 27th would be allowed to start practice three days earlier than the current rule. Institutions that conduct their first contest in the second weekend experience the most change compared to the current rule. It ranges from starting practice three days later to three days earlier.

- (3) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. In comparison to Proposal 2018-5, recommended proposal is more favorable.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Minutes from 2017 annual meeting.** Minutes from the 2017 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 2018 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. **Finance review.** The committee noted that the tournament required 9 flights versus 8 the year prior. Flight costs were up approximately \$11,000 per charter and with the additional flight, the travel costs for football were up slightly from the previous year.
5. **2017 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. Future Hosts. The committee discussed the 2018-19 - 2021-22 championship locations and site visit timelines.
 - 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. **2018 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) convention.** Larry Kindbom, Washington University – St. Louis, reviewed issues from the Division III football coaches who attended the convention in January. He noted that the Sunday night meeting with the Coaches Connection board was helpful and should be continued annually. There was much discussion regarding the one-time, blanket waiver for four additional days of preseason practice.
 10. **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.
 11. **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.
 12. **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. 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.

13. **150th Anniversary of College Football.** Oliver Luck attended the meeting to update the committee on preliminary discussions regarding the celebration of the 150th anniversary of college football in beginning in 2019. Committee members noted they are willing to assist as necessary.
14. **Committee Chair. The committee appointed** Jim Catanzaro, head football coach, Lake Forrest College, as committee chair. Mr. Catanzaro’s knowledge and experience as head football coach and involvement in his conference will provide strong direction and properly represent the membership as committee chair.
15. **Annual meeting dates.** The committee will tentatively meet in February 2019 in Indianapolis, IN.

Committee Chair: Darla Kirby, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; American Southwest Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Division III Football Committee March 26-28, 2018
Attendees:
Jim Catanzaro, Lake Forrest College; Midwest Conference.
Kris Diaz, Baldwin Wallace University; Ohio Athletic Conference.
Denny Dorrel, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Darla Kirby, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; American Southwest Conference.
Tony Kunczewski, Berry College; Southern Athletic Association.
Jack McKiernan, Kean University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Rodney Sandberg, Whitworth University; Northwest Conference.
Absentees:
Erick Hart, State University of New York College of Brockport; Empire 8.
Guests in Attendance:
Mark Baltz, Division III Coordinator of Officials.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
None.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Dr. Brian Hainline, Sport Science Institute.
Oliver Luck, Executive Vice President of Regulatory Affairs.

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Louise McCleary, Division III Governance.

Jeff Myers, Amateurism and Membership Affairs.
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Juanita Sheely, Travel and Insurance.
