



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE
APRIL 23, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Opening remarks and review of schedule and agenda.** Division III Championships Committee Chair Karen Tessmer welcomed the group and previewed the agenda.
2. **Recent Championships Committee reports.** The committee approved reports from its March 19 videoconference and April 8 electronic vote as presented.
3. **Gender equity review update.** John Baldwin and Leigh Ann Price joined the videoconference to update the committee on processes implemented to help ensure gender equity among like sports in all three divisions. Committee members noted that given the upcoming host bid cycle, it is important for sport committees for like sports to communicate regularly regarding how the venues selected will accommodate similar experiences.
4. **Division III budget guidelines and principles.** Per a request from the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC), the Championships Committee reviewed a newly drafted document outlining the Division III budget principles to guide deliberations related to the potential use of funds allocated to Division III. The SPFC initially reviewed and supported the document during its March 25 meeting but suggested that the Championships Committee review the document as well, since many of the principles are related to championships funding. After review, the Championships Committee offered feedback and noted that the SPFC will conduct a final review during its June meeting, after which the Division III Management Council will be asked to consider sharing the document more broadly (e.g., with Division III governance and sport committees) to help ensure transparency in the division's fiscal decision-making processes.
5. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** The Championships Committee noted that the Division III Management Council during its meeting earlier this month approved in concept the committee's recommendation to adopt the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the metric for selecting non-automatic qualifiers for team sport championships effective with the 2024-25 season. Accordingly, the committee began discussing the particulars of the metric, including the process for sport committees to implement the "dials," or specific components of the metric for their sport, the interval or frequency of which those dials may be changed, consideration of a range in which each of the dials must be set, and whether like sports should have the same dial settings. The committee also discussed its involvement in monitoring the dials over time, including whether any changes should require Championships Committee approval. The committee also discussed the plan to educate the membership and coaches, including an updated FAQ document, additional webinars, and providing a document for each team sport

committee that explains the dial settings for its sport. Ultimately, the committee asked staff to draft a policy document for the committee's consideration during its May 14 videoconference. The committee plans to finalize the implementation procedures at that time before the Management Council considers the concept in final legislative form at its July meeting.

6. Sport committee reports.

a. Football.

- **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved the following 28 conferences for automatic qualification to the 2024 NCAA Division III Football Championship: American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Centennial Conference; Collegiate Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Commonwealth Coast Football; Eastern Collegiate Football Conference; Empire 8; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Women's & Men's 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.

(Note: The Division III Football Committee reviewed the AQs during its January annual meeting based on the current 32-team bracket model and before the Championships Committee during its February meeting agreed to recommend legislative changes that would expand the football bracket to 40 teams and combine Pools B and C into a single at-large pool. If approved by the Division III Presidents Council during its April 24 meeting, the expanded bracket would begin with the 2024 Division III Football Championship and the combined Pools B and C would also be effective with the 2024-25 academic year. Pending approval, the football committee will review the pool allocations again before the 2024 season.)

b. Women's golf.

- **36-hole cut.** The Championships Committee approved the recommendation from the Division III Women's Golf Committee to establish a cut after 36 holes of competition to a field size of 15 teams and six individuals, effective with the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships. In 2016, the Division III Championships Committee approved cutting the field after 54 holes. The championship has grown considerably since then, from 21 teams to 29 teams. Being an outdoor sport, the championship risks weather delays. Cutting the field after 36 holes will provide for only one wave of play on the final two days, which will allow greater flexibility to address weather delays

without jeopardizing the integrity of the championships. It also provides teams and individuals a greater competitive experience as this will improve pace of play and reduce congestion on the driving range and putting greens. A survey of women's golf coaches indicated significant support for the proposal, and the Championships Committee noted that there is no budget impact as well.

7. Future meeting/videoconference dates.

- a. May 14, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- b. June 17-18 (meeting via videoconference).
- c. July 16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference; tentative).
- d. August 20, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (videoconference).
- e. August 29 (tentative; championship bids review)
- f. September 8-10 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis; will include meeting with sport committee chairs)
- g. February 3-4, 2025 (in-person meeting; Indianapolis)

8. Other business.

- **Protecting higher-ranked teams in the bracket.** The committee received an update that championship sport managers are evaluating the prior year's championship brackets, and if warranted, recommending solutions to protect higher-ranked regional teams in the early rounds of the bracketing process. If needed, budget recommendations would be given to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to review during its June meeting.

Committee Chair: Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University

*Staff Liaisons: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division III Championships Committee April 23, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State University.	
Chad Eisele, Hampden-Sydney College.	
Maureen Harty, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin.	
Shannon Howley, Montclair State University.	
Duey Naatz, University of Wisconsin-Stout.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
Sara Shoffner, Huntingdon College.	
Karen Tessmer, Worcester State University.	

Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Absentees:
Adaobi Nebuwa. Colby College.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kevin Alcox, John Baldwin, Margaret Gaines, Victoria Lipscomb, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Leigh Ann Price, Bill Regan, Kelly Whitaker and Demetria Young.