# MINUTES OF THE

# NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

# DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

NCAA National Office
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 26, 2010

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Participants:

Tim Downes, Emory University
Bob King, Trinity University (Texas)
Chris Martin, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin
Louise McCleary, Elms College
Lynn Oberbillig, Smith College
Stuart Robinson, State University College at New Paltz
Sue Viscomi, Hilbert College
Ira Zeff, Nebraska Wesleyan University, chair
Jan Gentry, NCAA
Amy Huchthausen, NCAA
Leah Kareti, NCAA
Liz Turner Suscha, NCAA
John Williams, NCAA

Michelle Gulino, St. Joseph's College (Long Island), was not able to participate on the teleconference.

[Note: These minutes contain only actions taken (formal votes or stated "sense of the meeting") in accordance with NCAA policy regarding minutes of all Association entities. While certain items on the committee's agenda were acted on at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes for convenience of reference.]

Tuesday, October 26

The teleconference was called to order at 11 a.m. by the chair, Mr. Zeff. All members were present as noted above.

1. October 2010 Management Council Report. The committee received a report from Mr. Downes concerning recent actions taken by the NCAA Division III Management Council, specifically those concerning items forwarded by the committee.

2. Single-Sport Conference Waiver – Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference. The committee **denied** the single-sport conference waiver application for automatic qualification submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference (MARC) for the 2010-11 championship season. The committee noted that the MARC has not fulfilled the required two-year waiting period as a recognized member conference and, therefore, is not eligible to be considered for automatic

qualification as a single-sport conference. The MARC became an NCAA member conference effective September 1, 2010.

3. Rowing – Eligibility for Automatic Qualification. The committee requested that the NCAA Division III Women's Rowing Committee evaluate the definition of team participation (i.e., those institutions selected by automatic qualification) at the championship. Specifically, the rowing committee should consider how a team should be composed (e.g., whether or not a team has a minimum of one or two boats) in order to be eligible for championship participation.

4. Men's Volleyball – Automatic Qualification Eligibility. In anticipation of the men's volleyball championship proposal to be considered at the 2011 NCAA Convention, and consistent with the interpretation concerning the committee's automatic qualification (AQ) authority issued by the NCAA Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the committee discussed the establishment of AQ eligibility in the first year of the championship. The committee agreed to the following:

   a. Waive the requirement that a conference be in existence for two years before receiving an AQ [refer to Bylaw 31.3.2.1.1(a)(1)];

   b. Waive the two-year waiting period for established conferences that may not have satisfied the two-year competition and continuity requirements (i.e., the same seven institutions playing volleyball together for two years);

   c. Apply the existing grace period requirements to those conferences receiving an AQ in the first year; and

   d. Request that the Division III Membership Committee extend the 2011 conference application deadline to February 28, 2011 for men's volleyball conferences only. The committee will request that such conferences submit applications for both membership and AQ consideration at the same time and that, if their conference application is approved by the NCAA Division III Management Council, it will automatically be considered by the committee for an AQ at its June 2011 in-person meeting.

   The committee also requested that staff develop a timeline to outline various scenarios, including those with a waiting period, in order to consider policy for AQ eligibility following the first year of the championship.

5. Team Sports – Regional Rankings Procedure. The committee agreed to lift the requirement that team sport committees rank 15 percent of the institutions eligible for championships selection per region or a minimum of two, whichever is more, effective immediately. Furthermore, the committee agreed to delay a change to the regional-rankings procedure until the analysis of sport region alignments is complete and an implementation date is established. The committee recognized that a higher minimum (more than two) and the establishment of a maximum number of ranked teams per region should be considered, but also acknowledged

that consistency across sports in the form of a common rankings percentage (e.g., 15 percent) is important.

6. Progress Update on Sport Region Analysis. Mr. Williams requested that committee members review the updated documents concerning the analysis of sport region alignments and provide feedback to him directly.

7. Women's Basketball – Regional Alignment. The committee **approved** that Gallaudet University, Earlham College, Frostburg State University, University of Dallas, Northland College, and Eastern University be realigned to an appropriate sport region, effective in 2010-11. The identified institutions have joined a conference or moved to a different conference. The realignments place each institution in the same sports region as the rest of their conference members. As a result of the change for Northland College, the committee anticipates it will receive a request from Mount Mary College to waive the 50 percent in-region competition requirement.

8. Football – Regional Alignment. The committee **approved** that Anna Maria College, Castleton State College, Earlham College, Norwich University, Susquehanna University, and The College of St. Scholastica be realigned to an appropriate sport region, effective in 2010-11. The identified institutions have joined a conference or moved to a different conference. The realignments place each institution in the same sports region as the rest of their conference members.

9. Men's and Women's Track and Field. The committee **approved** that the men's heptathlon replace the men's pentathlon in the NCAA Division III Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships schedule, effective 2011-12. The committee appreciated the additional rationale provided by the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee, including the confirmation that the existing two-day format for the championships will remain intact as well as the support demonstrated by the sport's coaches association.

10. Adjournment. The teleconference adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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