



Association of Division III Independents

Executive Committee

**Telephone Conference
Wednesday, June 18, 2003**

Participants: Rob Cashell, Eastern Oregon University
Marv Christopher, Cazenovia College
Debby DeAngelis, California State University, Hayward
Julie Soriero, Colorado College
Dick Strockbine, University of Dallas (chair)
Ted Breidenthal, Sports Association Management, Inc.
John Leavens, director, Association of Division III Independents

Not participating: David Currey, Chapman University; Jim Huckaby, Baptist Bible College; Joel Nielsen, Colorado College; Page Remillard, Agnes Scott College.

1. Mr. Strockbine called the conference to order at 10:06 a.m. Central time.
2. Previous Minutes. The committee approved minutes of the May 8, 2003, meeting.
3. Referral of Proposed Championships Policy Change to Championships Committee. The committee noted that the association's requested change in championships policy to permit all competition among independents to be counted as in-region competition for purposes of championships selection had been remanded by the Division III Management Council to the Championships Committee for reconsideration. Mr. Leavens was directed to provide to members of the Executive Committee names of Championships Committee members and talking points for follow-up telephone calls prior to the committee's June 22-23 meetings.
4. Draft Legislation Related to Season-Ending Competition.
 - a. The committee affirmed its intention to sponsor proposed legislation for the 2004 NCAA Convention to permit an additional contest-limit exemption in each NCAA-sponsored sport for competition in one championship tournament among independents, conducted after the end of the regular season and prior to the NCAA championship in that sport.
 - b. The committee reviewed a summary of sports sponsorship among independents by championships region and considered possible formats for independent championships in several sports selected at random.
 - (1) In the sports of baseball, women's basketball, and women's volleyball, the committee supported the concept of post-season competition in three or four geographical regions (formed by combining NCAA championship regions), with participation based on regular-season records and host sites determined on a rotating basis.

- (2) The committee agreed that in women's swimming (and other sports in which sports sponsorship is relatively low), postseason competition might be limited to a single national or two large regional events.
 - (3) The committee agreed that in each sport, decisions related to conducting postseason competition and event formats should be left to the institutions sponsoring the sport.
 - c. The committee directed Mr. Leavens to circulate proposed legislation among all association members to obtain the required eight institutional sponsors.
 - d. The committee directed Mr. Leavens to circulate representative championship formats in selected sports among independent institutions in Division III and survey those institutions' support for, and interest in participating in, such postseason championship events.
5. Membership.
 - a. Committee members directed Mr. Breidenthal to prepare an illustration of Division III independents geographical distribution nationally, following completion of the June 26-27 provisional member lottery.
 - b. It was noted that during the May 8 meeting, Kristen Hall, Bard College, suggested consideration of a membership committee. The committee requested that Ms. Hall be contacted to determine her continued interest.
6. Assistance to Provisional Members. Committee members agreed that the staff should communicate with all independent provisional members following the June 26-27 lottery with a general welcome and that the Executive Committee would consider in a future call specific means for establishing individual liaison relationships with provisional members.
7. Committee Representation. The committee agreed that this topic should be included on the agenda of a future telephone conference.
8. Student-Athlete Recognition Committee. Mr. Breidenthal reported that the Student-Athlete Recognition Committee had revised the association's 2002-03 recognition process to recognize an independent player of the year. Committee members supported the concept and encouraged the staff to make preparations at the earliest opportunity for a full roll-out of the original player-of-the-month concept in 2003-04.
9. Conference Technology Grant Proposal. Mr. Leavens noted that a conference technology grant proposal of \$9,540 had been submitted by the association, with funds to be used primarily for website development and outsourcing.
10. The telephone conference concluded at 11:18 a.m.