

Minutes of Liberty League Spring Meeting May 28-29, 2025 – The Landing Hotel – Schenectady, N.Y.

Present: Stefanie Carrington, Andy Salvatore (Bard); Laurel Kane (Clarkson); Brian Miller (Hobart and William Smith); Susan Bassett, Sean Fitzmaurice, Tyler Heisey (Ithaca); Kristie Bowers, Katie Paradise (RPI); George VanderZwaag, Kristine Shanley (Rochester); Jackie Nicholson, Scott McVean (RIT); Randy LaBrake (St. Lawrence); Gail Cummings-Danson, Megan Buchanan (Skidmore); Jim McLaughlin, Beth Tiffany, Erin Gehen (Union); Michelle Walsh, Matt Brennie (Vassar); Tracy King, Katie Meline (Liberty League).

I. Call to Order

Gail Cummings-Danson (Liberty League President) called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the January 16, 2025, meeting at the NCAA Convention were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted.

Motion: A motion (Nicholson, Miller) to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting was APPROVED 11-0-0.

III. Financial Report

A. FY25 Budget Update / FY26 Proposed Budget: Tracy King reviewed the financial report. Current Liberty League checking account bank balance totals \$211,300.98. This does not include the league's certificate of deposit, which is valued at approximately \$129,000. Current revenues for FY25 total \$348,803.05 while current expenses total \$232,486.26. Primary expenses remaining include NCAA conference grant expenditures and payroll expenses. A slight budget surplus is projected for FY25.

FY26 proposed budget includes budgeted revenues of \$373,400 – includes an increase in full-member dues from \$21,500 to \$22,000 and an increase in single-site associate member dues from \$500 to \$1,000. Budgeted expenses total \$373,350 for a slight budget surplus of \$50.

Motion: A motion (VanderZwaag, Cummings-Danson) to approve the FY26 proposed budget was APPROVED 11-0-0.

B. Liberty League 7-Month CD Renewal – August 22, 2025: The Liberty League's current 7-month certificate of deposit (CD) is scheduled to mature on

August 22, 2025. The CD will generate approximately \$3,000 in interest and will have a value of approximately \$132,000 at maturity. Options include either rolling the entire amount over to a similar rate or withdrawing some funds to use with the current operating budget.

Motion: A motion (Cummings-Danson, Bowers) to invest the entire balance of the CD at maturity into a new CD at a comparable rate and term was APPROVED 11-0-0.

IV. Commissioner's Update

- A. Recap of 2024-25 Champions / League Success:** Katie Meline reviewed a document highlighting the academic and athletic accomplishments of Liberty League student-athletes and teams during the past academic year. Three Liberty League teams – RPI (men's lacrosse), RIT (men's lacrosse), William Smith (women's soccer) – reached at least the quarterfinals in NCAA competition. Three Liberty League student-athletes combined to win five NCAA individual championships. Seven different institutions captured Liberty League team championships. Additionally, a total of 2,392 student-athletes qualified for the Liberty League All-Academic Teams (3.30 cumulative GPA or higher) in their respective sports – the most in a single academic year.
- B. Report on Hardship Waivers Granted:** A total of 54 hardship waivers have been granted thus far for the 2024-25 academic year – 34 in men's sports and 20 in women's sports – which marks a 10 percent increase from the previous year – 49 total – and is also the largest number granted in a single year since the league's inception in 1995-96.
- C. NCAA Woman of the Year / Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year:** NCAA Woman of the Year nominees must be submitted via the NCAA online portal by Friday, June 23. King will conduct an email vote for the Liberty League Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year. These awards are presented to graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics, leadership and service. The individual selected as Liberty League Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year will be the league's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. Both honorees will also be the league's nominees for the Division III Commissioners Association Student-Athletes of the Year.

V. Review of Sport & Committee Reports

- A. Single-Site Championship Dates and Host Rotation:** King reviewed the single-site championship dates and sites for 2025-26. The sites for men's golf (Turning Stone Resort – Shenendoah Course), rowing (Union hosting at Saratoga Lake), squash (St. Lawrence), swimming and diving (Ithaca) and tennis (Cornell) are expected to remain the same. Cross country (Clarkson hosting at St. Lawrence's Ronald C. Hoffmann Cross Country Course), indoor track and field (RIT) and outdoor track and field (St. Lawrence) are established by a rotation.

The women's golf coaches have expressed an interest in moving to a different course after two years at Pinehaven Country Club in Guilderland, N.Y.

B. Sport/Committee Assignments (Soccer, Swimming & Diving): With Susan Bassett retiring, the new sport liaisons for soccer and swimming and diving will need to be selected. With Ithaca serving as the host for the league's swimming and diving championship, Bassett recommended that Ithaca retain the liaison responsibilities. Rensselaer associate athletic director Katie Paradise agreed to serve as liaison for men's and women's soccer.

C. Reports from Sport Groups:

1. **Field Hockey:** Discussion items: 1.) *Proposed rule changes* – the coaches discussed proposed rules up for adoption, including: overtime moving directly into a shootout instead of 7 v. 7 overtime period and then a shootout; masks being required for all defensive field players defending corners; the completion of three full quarters in order for a game suspended due to weather to be counted as a complete game. Officiating coordinator Julie Clark provided the officials' viewpoint on the proposed rule changes. Clark also discussed the overall pool of officials and how they are assigned throughout the year and in the league tournament. 2.) *Video referral* – field hockey rules permit the use of video referral (instant replay). It has been implemented by several schools, including William Smith and St. Lawrence. There has been no league-wide proposal to implement video referral. 3.) *Sportsmanship* – coaches expressed concerns about moments when lack of sportsmanship was apparent, which included trash talking toward opposing coaches/officials in addition to intentional physical/rough play. Greater awareness and opportunity for improvement is necessary. Action items: None.
2. **Football:** Discussion items: 1.) *NCAA rules updates* – Union coach Jon Drach, who serves on the NCAA Football Rules Committee, provided an update on NCAA rule changes. Key rule change topics include targeting; instant replay; feigning injuries; communication/technology; and eye shields. 2.) *Liberty League tiebreakers* – the coaches discussed utilizing the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the final tiebreaker for determining the league's NCAA automatic qualifier instead of a coin flip. 3.) *Empire 8 Scheduling Agreement* – the league is working with the Empire 8 Conference to develop a new two-year scheduling agreement where each team would play two games against teams from the other conference. Action items: 1.) to permit the permissive use of instant replay for Liberty League football games. 2.) to utilize the NCAA Power Index (NPI) ranking instead of a coin flip as the final tiebreaker for the NCAA automatic qualifier.

3. **Soccer:** Discussion items: 1.) *Video exchange* – the coaches discussed video exchange, timeliness and a desire to exchange video from all games, not just league games. A concern with requiring all games to be uploaded is obtaining video from away games when teams are not able to bring a videographer and need to rely on the host school to provide video. Best effort should be made to obtain video. Video quality was also discussed and teams will continue to focus on providing the best video possible given facility constraints. 2.) *All-region voting* – the league has not had full participation during all-region voting, which negatively impacts the league’s student-athletes when ballots are not submitted. It is a coach's responsibility to vote even when he or she does not have any players nominated. 3.) *NPI update* – the potential impact of the NCAA Power Index on scheduling was discussed. Scheduling and beating teams with high NPI rankings strongly benefits teams in consideration for at-large bids. Action item: to implement video sharing of all games while uploading video within 24 hours, regardless of when the game is played.

4. **Volleyball:** Discussion items: 1.) *Tournament review* – the coaches considered potential formats for the league tournament, including a Saturday-Wednesday-Saturday format where the higher seeds host each round, but for the five teams – including the top two seeds with byes and the three non-qualifying teams – that would not play on that first Saturday, it would shorten the season by a week. 2.) *Officiating / assigning* – the coaches expressed continued frustration with officiating assignor Mara Wager and felt that she makes her assignments later than other assignors, which may limit the pool of available officials. Some coaches have also had to spend unnecessary time trying to assist in finding officials and line judges when there have been late cancellations. The preference among the coaches is to utilize Jeff McKinney, who is based in the Rochester area and currently assigns for both the Empire 8 and SUNYAC. 3.) *Scouting / video exchange* – the coaches agreed that the timeline for uploading video under the current league policy was too long. Currently, any matches played on the weekend (Friday-Saturday) need to be uploaded by 9 a.m. Tuesday, which would make scouting and preparing for a Wednesday match difficult. The recommendation was that all weekend matches should be uploaded by noon on Monday. 4.) *Court markings* – it was noted that some schools are not following NCAA rules for boundary lines, which should be solid, uninterrupted lines. Action items: 1.) to utilize Jeff McKinney for the assignment of women’s volleyball officials. 2.) to revise the women’s volleyball video exchange policy whereby home matches shall be uploaded by midnight following the match and for weekend away matches to be uploaded by noon Monday.

5. **Cross Country:** Discussion items: 1.) *2025 Liberty League Championship* – Clarkson is the designated host for the 2025 Liberty League

Championship. Previously, Clarkson had hosted the championship on a campus course, but the school is exploring other options, including potentially hosting at Lake Placid, or utilizing the Ronald C. Hoffmann Cross Country Course at St. Lawrence. Given that St. Lawrence may be hosting the NCAA regional two weeks later, there was interest among the coaches to hold the league championship at St. Lawrence. 2.) *Future host rotation* – the current championship rotation includes six schools, but Union, RIT and Ithaca, which are not currently part of the rotation, expressed an interest in hosting the meet. The host rotation will be reviewed to provide all schools with an opportunity to host. 3) *Minimum standards for championship course* – developing a set of minimum standards for a championship course would help ensure a consistent and safe experience for Liberty League competitors from year to year. A committee consisting of John Lynch, Dave Warth, Torin La Liberte and James McCowan agreed to work on a set of proposed standards. Action items: None.

6. **Track & Field:** Discussion items: 1.) *Championship host rotation* – with Ithaca constructing a new outdoor track, the school will now be able to host the Liberty League outdoor track and field championship. Similar to the cross country championship rotation, a new rotation for track and field will need to be established. In doing so, no institution should be scheduled to host more than one league championship (cross country, indoor or outdoor) in a given year. 2.) *Championship hosting expenses* – hosting expenses for the Liberty League track and field championships continue to increase. The bill paid by RIT from Leone Timing for the outdoor championship was \$8,618, which was a 40 percent increase from 2023. It was suggested that the league review the data for hosting to determine if an entry fee for participating teams is warranted. 3.) *Officiating / assigning* – securing quality officials for the track and field championships continues to be a concern. While the coaches had previously expressed an interest in having Tom Mooney assign officials for the league championships, Mooney, who is based in Rochester, didn't feel he could commit to assigning for championships that are hosted by schools outside of the Rochester area – RPI, St. Lawrence and Vassar. Schools hosting league championships should begin to secure officials well in advance. Action items: None.
7. **Basketball:** Discussion items: 1.) *Game management / handshakes* – pregame handshakes and fist bumps with officials are not part of the league's pregame protocol. Coaches were reminded that following league guidelines is required and not optional. Athletic directors asked to be notified if coaches and teams are not following league protocol. 2.) *Media timeouts* – the coaches were unanimously in support of utilizing media timeouts in all games, not just league tournament games. Brian Miller noted that the use of media timeouts would typically not lengthen games.

3.) *Video review / replay* – the coaches supported the implementation of video review at the scorer’s table during league play. Technology required is a tablet or laptop along with the ability to rewind the live stream to review the play in question. Replay might help address end-of-period situations (whether a shot got off in time) that could be corrected. 4.) *Officiating / assigning* – men’s basketball officiating coordinator Tom Reinisch announced that he will be stepping down after the 2025-26 season. 5.) *Voting transparency* – in selecting the All-Liberty League teams, the coaches would like to be able to rank their own nominees and would also like to share the final voting results to increase transparency. A concern expressed among the athletic directors is that divulging voting results may result in outside individuals having access to the data. Action items: 1.) to use media timeouts (one minute in length) in all Liberty League regular-season games. 2.) to utilize video review during all Liberty League regular-season and championship games. 3.) to rank all-league nominations and divulge voting results.

8. **Swimming & Diving:** Discussion items: 1.) *All-academic recognition* – the coaches agreed to shift recognition of the league’s all-academic team honorees from Saturday to the evening session on Friday. 2.) *Championship format* – over the course of two meetings, the coaches extensively discussed the format of the Liberty League championship. The discussions centered around changing the meet format from four days to three-and-a-half days while also eliminating prelim relays. Shortening the meet to three-and-a-half days would potentially reduce costs for competing teams, but compressing the championship program might also disadvantage swimmers in terms of rest time. Conducting relays as timed finals and eliminating prelim relays could potentially help maximize individual performances by reducing the number of swims that athletes would have to make each day. Action items: 1.) to announce the Liberty League All-Academic Teams Friday prior to the finals session while keeping the senior recognition ceremony unchanged on Saturday. 2.) to change the format of the championship relays to timed finals beginning in 2026 while eliminating prelim relays. 3.) to specify that both A and B relays are conducted in finals sessions with A relays swimming together based on seed time and B relays swimming together based on seed time. If there are 10 relays requiring two heats, the top relay teams seven would swim together and the bottom three would swim together.
9. **Squash:** Discussion items: 1.) *Fordham membership inquiry* – the coach at Fordham University, which is a varsity men’s squash program that is not currently affiliated with a conference, inquired about participation in the Liberty League championship. Three Liberty League teams – Bard, Haverford and Vassar – competed against Fordham this past season. The addition of an eighth men’s team would allow for a full bracket in which all teams would play three matches at the championship. Fordham has

not submitted a formal application for associate membership. 2.) *Championship date* – the coaches discussed dates for the 2026 Liberty League championship with potential weekends of Feb. 7-8 (reciprocal dates) and Feb. 14-15. Some coaches felt that the championship was too early this season and it was difficult to maintain momentum heading into the College Squash Association Championships. The coaches ultimately agreed on Feb. 14-15. 3.) *Sportsmanship* – the coaches discussed the importance of continuing to focus on encouraging good sportsmanship between teams, among competing student-athletes and by spectators. Action item: to recommend Fordham as an associate member in men’s squash.

10. **Men’s Lacrosse:** Discussion items: 1.) *Sportsmanship / in-game conduct-related incidents* – the process for reviewing in-game conduct-related incidents was discussed. For incidents involving in-game conduct related incidents that may not be flagged or seen by game officials, coaches can submit video clips to the league’s officiating coordinator for review. If the coordinator feels the incident warrants further review by the league, the coordinator can contact the commissioner for further action. Action items: None.
11. **Women’s Lacrosse:** Discussion items: 1.) *Postseason awards* – an award for Midfielder of the Year was added this spring, but it wasn’t specifically stated that the Offensive Player of the Year award needed to be an attacker. As a result, the same player received both the Offensive Player and Midfielder of the Year awards. The coaches recommended changing Offensive Player to Attacker of the Year. The potential use of AI to assist in the selection process was also discussed. 2.) *NPI review* – RIT associate athletic director Jeff Siegel, chair of the Division III women’s lacrosse committee provided an overview of the new NPI ranking system and how it impacts NCAA championship selections. Suggestions for scheduling to enhance rankings were also discussed. Action item: To change the Offensive Player of the Year award to Attacker of the Year.
12. **Rowing:** Discussion items: 1.) *Championship review* – the 2025 league championship was reviewed. While the Saratoga Rowing Association (SRA) was better to work with than in past years, there were still challenges relating to the clear delineation of responsibilities between the host school and SRA. Several items were highlighted to enhance the championship for next year. The coaches again expressed an interest in conducting the championship on Saturday or Sunday as opposed to Friday. 2.) *Championship events / prioritizing entries* – the coaches discussed events at the championship, goals of the league and prioritization of entries. The trend in rowing has been moving away from novice-only events. No other Division III conference is supporting novice-only events at its championship. The coaches felt strongly that

fours events should not be eliminated altogether, rather than conduct a novice four event with few entries, a larger open four event should be contested. The coaches also discussed whether eights should be prioritized in entries ahead of fours and whether the women's AQ should be determined by combined points from the eights rather than just the varsity eight. Action item: to adjust the events at the Liberty League Championship to eliminate the novice and varsity four events and have an "open four" category only for both men and women.

13. **Men's Golf:** Discussion items: 1.) *Weather communication plan* – weather was a factor at the Liberty League championship this spring. The coaches discussed having a communication plan to deal with inclement weather. It was recommended that a group messaging platform be utilized and should include the USGA official. An inquiry will be made with Turning Stone as to whether an air horn can be utilized to notify golfers to leave the course. 2.) *Tournament committee composition* – the tournament committee has typically included the host coach and two other coaches selected by ballot vote. It was agreed that the committee in future years will include the host coach, previous host coach and next host coach as a way to maintain continuity. 3.) *Venue Coordination and Planning* – Turning Stone will be contacted to see if a multi-year agreement can be reached rather than scheduling year-to-year. Action items: None.
14. **Women's Golf:** Discussion items: 1.) *Championship planning* – after holding the Liberty League championship at Pinehaven Country Club in Guilderland, N.Y., the last two years, the coaches expressed a desire to explore options for 2026. Mohawk Country Club (Schenectady, N.Y.) and Teugega Country Club (Rome, N.Y.) were suggested as possibilities while Pinehaven remains an option. Coaches will reach out to the two courses and provide an update. 2.) *All-League awards* – for postseason award nominations, it was recommended that coaches be copied on the email to athletic communication offices in which end-of-season award nominations are sought. Action items: None.
15. **Tennis:** Discussion items: 1.) *Tournament review* – the Liberty League championship at Cornell was reviewed. Because Cornell's outdoor courts were unplayable due to cracks, the entire tournament was conducted indoors. It was unclear when they will be resurfaced. Some coaches supported utilizing Ithaca's outdoor courts as an alternative. The athletic directors noted that the league championship was moved to Cornell to provide a neutral site, so utilizing Ithaca's courts would remove that aspect of the championship. Ithaca noted that it could potentially have lacrosse games being played simultaneously at the adjacent field. 2.) *Officiating/assigning* – securing officials for Liberty League regular-season matches, which is a league requirement, has been a challenge due to the small pool of officials. At times, officials assigned to Liberty League

matches have been pulled from those matches and reassigned to Division I matches with little advance notice. Coaches should inform their respective athletic directors if there is no official for the match. Action items: None.

16. **Softball:** Discussion items: 1.) *Regular-season make-up policy* – with no specific league make-up policy for softball, teams have to work together to come up with mutually agreeable dates to reschedule games that have been postponed due to inclement weather. This becomes especially challenging on weekends in which league doubleheaders are scheduled for Friday and Saturday. It was suggested that the league explore policies for rescheduling games. 2.) *League tournament – host challenges* – an ongoing challenge for teams participating in the league tournament has been securing hotel rooms on short notice. Between the final day of the regular season and the start of the Liberty League tournament, teams typically have three or four days to make travel plans. When institutions in the area are hosting commencement ceremonies on the same weekend as the league tournament, the inventory of hotel rooms in the immediate area is low and costly. As an alternative, the coaches discussed the possibilities of either having a championship host rotation or a neutral site tournament. In both cases, participating teams could make travel plans in advance. Both options pose challenges in terms of staffing and would also diminish the importance of winning the regular-season title. To address the challenges, it was suggested that teams begin exploring hotel options in early April. Action items: None.
17. **Baseball:** Discussion items: 1.) *Regular-season crossover weekend* – the regular-season crossover weekend, in which teams from one division play doubleheaders against two different teams from the other division have created challenges when the weekend is impacted by inclement weather. To alleviate the challenge, the coaches recommended playing a three-game set against one cross division opponent, which is consistent with the divisional weekends. 2.) *League awards* – all-league voting can be challenging when coaches may not have seen all teams during regular-season play. A possible alternative could be divisional teams. The coaches also supported the addition of a second relief pitcher to each of the all-league teams. Additionally, the criteria that a utility player play no more than 50 percent of the games at one position has been restrictive and isn't utilized for all-region selections. The coaches supported removing the restriction. 3.) *Rescheduling timeline – optional make-up games* – if the third game of a weekend series is postponed due to inclement weather, it does not need to be rescheduled, but can be done by mutual agreement. To avoid potential gamesmanship in deciding whether to reschedule games, it was recommended that any optional make-up games be played no later than two weeks from the originally scheduled date. 4.) *League scheduling discussion* – the league schedule continues to be a point of

contention. Some coaches support the elimination of divisions and moving back to an unbalanced schedule, similar to what had been done before divisional play. As part of that discussion, the format of the league tournament was discussed with the concept of eliminating the crossover division series and moving to a six-team tournament was considered. An in-person meeting is planned for Sept. 3 to discuss scheduling options. Action items: 1.) to adopt a revised 2026 schedule with the crossover weekend changing from doubleheaders against two teams to a three-game set against one team. 2.) to add a second relief pitcher to each of the All-Liberty League teams. 3.) to eliminate the criteria for All-Liberty League utility players that they can play no more than 50 percent of their games at a particular position. 4.) to specify that the third game in a weekend series that may be rescheduled by mutual agreement shall be played no later than two weeks from the originally scheduled date.

18. Sports Medicine: Discussion items: 1.) *Sports medicine handbook revisions* – The athletic trainers reviewed a number of recommendations made by the 3 Fold Group regarding the Liberty League’s Sports Medicine Handbook and agreed to form a committee to consider revisions to the handbook. Proposed revisions would be presented for consideration at the league’s fall meeting. Action items: None.

19. SAAC: Discussion items: Megan Buchanan provided a recap of the in-person Liberty League SAAC meeting, held Oct. 20, 2024 in Utica. Vassar deputy athletic director Kaitlin Leach and Claire Zickl facilitated the NCAA Division III LGBTQ+ OneTeam Program for attendees. The group also discussed NCAA legislation and key campus initiatives and issues. Ideas for potential future topics are welcome. Action items: None.

D. League Championship Hosting – Hotel Availability: Given the challenges that teams participating in the Liberty League baseball and softball championships have encountered in terms of securing hotel rooms, the role of the host institution in securing lodging was discussed. The host institution may offer suggestions or recommendations for local hotels, but it was agreed that it is ultimately the responsibility of each participating institution to secure lodging as needed.

E. Empire 8 Football Scheduling Agreement – 2027-2028: King provided an update on football crossover scheduling with the Empire 8. The two sides had initially drafted a crossover schedule with each team playing two games against opponents from the other conference – one home and one away. The games included a matchup between Hobart and Alfred. Those two teams had been playing in week one, aside from the agreement, for several years and asked to keep that game separate. A revised schedule of opponents is being drafted with the goal of having it completed by June 30. Opponents will

continue to be shuffled with each schedule. A desire was expressed to limit overnight trips where possible.

VI. NCAA Update

- A. Division III Management Council Update:** Division III Management Council representative Kristie Bowers provided an update on NCAA issues. The Management Council is scheduled to meet July 19-22. Key topics include: 1.) Eligibility pilot waiver; 2.) Sports betting – non-controversial legislation to deregulate professional sports betting; 3.) 2026 NCAA Convention proposals; 4.) Women’s flag football; 5.) Division III championship updates – increase in host and participant per diem; 6.) Championship season review; 7.) Rates for championship officials; 8.) Coaches Connect program; 9.) Livestreaming requirement for hosting NCAA football - \$2,000 stipend for host school; 10.) Federated playing rules process; 11.) Mental Health First Aid; 12.) Transfer portal – should Division III require students to go through the portal? 13.) Athletics Communications Guide; 14.) SSI – wearable performance technology; 15.) NCAA corporate purchasing pilot; 16.) NCAA emerging sports – flag football and stunt; 17.) Congressional engagement. Individuals can email Bowers with feedback to bring to the upcoming Management Council meeting.
- B. NCAA Division III Presidents Advisory Group Representative:** The Liberty League has an opening on the NCAA Division III Presidents Advisory Group. Skidmore president Marc Conner has completed his term and a successor needs to be identified. King will email the athletic directors with information regarding PAG to share with their respective presidents.
- C. NCAA Officiating Reform Initiative:** In order to comply with the NCAA’s Officiating Reform Initiative, a conference must be utilizing RefQuest+ (RQ+) to assign all Central Hub sports. In addition, all conference members must be utilizing RQ Pay to pay officials in all Central Hub sports. While the Liberty League is currently utilizing RQ Assign in all sports, only five of the league’s 11 members are paying officials through RQ Pay. Clarkson, Hobart and William Smith, RIT and St. Lawrence are all in the process of working with RefQuest+ to assign through RQ Pay. At present, Bard and Skidmore have not signed up with RQ Pay. Conferences that meet all the requirements will receive access to the full suite of RQ+ products at no cost to the conference, its institutions or its coordinators.

Motion: A motion (Walsh, McLaughlin) to require all institutions to utilize RQ Pay to pay officials beginning in the Fall of 2025 was APPROVED 10-1-0.

- D. Division III Mental Health First Aid:** Division III has launched its Mental Health First Aid Program, which is free to all Division III member institutions. Up to 30 individuals at each institution, with a specific focus on head coaches and athletic trainers, are eligible for this funded training opportunity. The

institution's staff members will attend a seven-and-a-half-hour in-person training session with expert instructors on the school's campus. Upon completion, they will be certified in MHFA for Higher Education. League members are evaluating the program for possible participation.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 4:38 p.m.

Thursday, May 30

Meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

VII. Video Review / Instant Replay

As a follow-up to the video review proposals made by the football and basketball coaches, the general concept of instant replay and video review across multiple sports was discussed. As technology continues to evolve, video review will become more prevalent across sports. NCAA rules currently permit it in a number of sports. In some sports, the technology may already be in place, making implementation more feasible. A committee consisting of Jim McLaughlin, Brian Miller, Kris Shanley and Michelle Walsh agreed to review the technology and potential options and provide a report for the fall meeting.

VIII. Vote on Sport Action Items

- A. **FOOTBALL: Motion** to permit the permissive use of instant replay for Liberty League football games. *FAILED 0-6-5.*

Motion to utilize NCAA Power Index (NPI) ranking instead of a coin flip as the final tiebreaker. *PASSED 6-0-5.*

- B. **SOCCER: Motion** to implement universal video sharing of all games while uploading video within 24 hours regardless of when the game is played. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

- C. **VOLLEYBALL: Motion** to utilize Jeff McKinney as the assignor for women's volleyball officials effective with the 2025 season *PASSED via email vote.*

Motion to revise the volleyball video exchange policy whereby home matches shall be uploaded by midnight following the match and for weekend away matches to be uploaded by noon Monday. *PASSED 9-0-2.*

- D. **BASKETBALL: Motion** to use media timeouts (60 seconds in length) for all Liberty League regular season games. *PASSED 8-2-1.*

Motion to utilize video review during all Liberty League regular season and championship games. *FAILED 4-4-3.*

Motion to rank nominations and divulge voting results. *FAILED 1-9-1.*

- E. SWIMMING & DIVING: Motion** to announce the Liberty League All-Academic Teams Friday prior to the finals session while keeping the senior recognition ceremony unchanged on Saturday. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

Motion to change the format of championship relays to timed finals beginning in 2026. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

Motion to specify that both A and B relays are conducted in finals sessions with A relays swimming together based on seed time and B relays swimming together based on seed time. If there are 10 relay teams requiring two heats, the top seven would swim together and the bottom three would swim together. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

- F. SQUASH: Motion (Walsh/Miller)** to add Fordham as an associate member in men's squash if Fordham completes the Liberty League associate member application process and meets membership requirements. *PASSED 6-0-5.*

- G. WOMEN'S LACROSSE: Motion** to change "offensive" player of the year to "attacker" of the year. *PASSED 11-0-0.*

- H. ROWING: Motion** to adjust the events at the Liberty League Rowing championship to eliminate the novice and varsity four and have an "open four" category only for both men and women. *PASSED 7-0-4.*

- I. BASEBALL: Motion** to add a second relief pitcher to each of the All-Liberty League Teams. *FAILED 0-11-0.*

Motion to eliminate the criteria for All-Liberty League utility players that they can play no more than 50 percent of their games at a particular position. *PASSED 11-0-0.*

Motion to specify that for the third game in a series that may be rescheduled by mutual agreement, the game shall be played no later than two weeks from the originally scheduled date. *PASSED 11-0-0.*

Motion to approve the revised schedule for the regular-season crossover weekend from two doubleheaders against different opponents to one three-game set against one opponent. *PASSED 11-0-0.*

IX. Other Business

- A. Salary / Staffing Survey:** The concept of a league-wide staffing and salary survey was revisited. Given that starting salary ranges are required for job postings in higher education, the consensus was that all institutions should be

able to provide data for a survey. King will work with Cummings-Danson on a data collection tool to provide to member institutions. Data will be collected and then compiled anonymously to show ranges for various coaching and administrative positions.

- B. League Role in Member Compliance Inquiries:** The league's role in compliance inquiries and potential rules violations was discussed. If members of an institution believe individuals at another league institution committed violations of NCAA or Liberty League rules, the institution can contact the commissioner to investigate. The commissioner will then contact the accused institution's athletic director. Coaches should not contact the league directly, but should first discuss potential rules violations with their respective athletic director or compliance officer. It was suggested that the league set up a meeting with member compliance officers to discuss protocols.
- C. Liberty League Ejection Policy – Follow-Up:** As a follow-up to the January meeting, the NCAA ejection policies of various sports were reviewed. There is no common policy or protocol on where individuals are required to go after being ejected from a contest. While most sports typically require the ejected individual to leave the venue, that is not always the case (e.g., softball), leaving game administrators questioning what to do. A potential league-wide ejection policy was considered, but given that some outdoor venues are offsite, it would be challenging to require all ejected individuals to go to the same place (i.e., locker room). It was ultimately determined that NCAA rules for each sport would be followed when an ejection occurs.
- D. Campus DEI / ADID Initiatives:** Given the changing landscape of diversity, equity and inclusion on college campuses, many institutions have made changes to DEI policies, focusing on inclusivity. The role of the Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee (ADID) on campuses continues to evolve. Athletic departments are continuing their efforts while focusing on community and belonging rather than diversity, equity and inclusion. State institutions may be more pressured to make changes than private institutions.
- E. Membership / Sport Sponsorship Opportunities:** Members were surveyed on possible sport sponsorship changes and potential impact on the league. Hobart and William Smith is exploring women's flag football as a potential sport while softball remains under consideration. Three league institutions currently sponsor men's volleyball, but all three have conference affiliations. There do not appear to be any teams at member institutions in search of a conference affiliation in a particular sport.
- F. Future Meeting Dates / Sites**

 - 1. 2025 Fall Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 25
(D3 Commissioners Fall Meeting – Sept. 17-18, 2025)
 - 2. 2026 Winter Meeting:** Thursday, Jan. 15

- (NCAA Convention: Jan. 13-16, 2026, Washington, D.C.)
3. **2026 Spring Meeting:** Wed.-Thu., May 27-28, 2026
(Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2026)

X. Executive Session

The following items were discussed during the Executive Session:

- A. **Enforcement / Penalties for Video Exchange:** Enforcing video exchange policies and deadlines has been challenging. Some coaches feel there is no penalty for an institution that misses deadlines. While the commissioner has contacted athletic directors when coaches fail to upload videos according to league policy, there is no league penalty. The potential use of fines was discussed. King will gather information from other conferences on video exchange compliance and enforcement.

- B. **League Championship Branding / Enhancements:** Finding ways to enhance league championships was discussed. While Liberty League banners have been provided to each institution to utilize when hosting league championships, what other enhancements or branding initiatives could be implemented to give individual tournament games held on campus more of a championship feel? King will inquire with other conferences as to what they have done to enhance their championship contests.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.