

D2 ADA



Michael Mominey

Nova Southeastern University
Director of Athletics

It is a great pleasure to share some thoughts in this edition of the D2 ADA Corner. The state of intercollegiate athletics is obviously in flux and quite honestly, we are in a very vulnerable position as we continue to deal with the daily complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, I remain hopeful, humbled and optimistic that even though this is a once-in-a-lifetime crisis, there will be tremendous opportunity for all of us. As leaders, role models and as Americans, we are always looking for teaching moments and opportunities to make an impact on our campuses, in our communities and most importantly, on our student-athletes – so now is the time.

Maybe the greatest opportunity during this crisis has been the ability to take the time to reassess our real purpose and our individual “WHY.” Or maybe it is the opportunity to gain

better perspective on what is most important to us – or maybe it's both or a combination of the two. At the very minimum, I believe we have

had the opportunity to reconnect with ourselves, which in turn will allow us to reconnect with our coaches, staff and our student-athletes. We are being forced to be creative and become innovative more than ever before – let's embrace this and get better because of it.

We work in a profession that continues to challenge the balance between our work and life. This concept certainly looks different over the past several months, but I believe that is a good thing. So, the question is how will we handle this as leaders when we return to our “normal” routines? None of us had a playbook or a class to prepare us for what we all have been experiencing across the nation these past several months. As we attempt to get back to playing meaningful athletics competitions very soon, the concept of work-life balance may look a little different and we should not apologize for that if it does.

As difficult and complex as the decisions have been and will continue to be for all of us in intercollegiate athletics, I have found solace in reaffirming the tremendous culture that we have been able to establish here within Nova Southeastern University athletics. It starts with the great people we work with each day and the great student-athletes that we get to serve on our campus. I am sure many of you can relate to this and find the same gratitude that I am speaking of. I have always believed that people and purpose drive culture. So, like no other time before, this crisis has challenged our meaning of culture and created an opportunity to take a deep look into what is most important as we move forward as people with a purpose. For us at NSU and around the country, the opportunities in intercollegiate athletics and in higher education are boundless, even during this time. We just need to see it and believe it.

D2 CCA



Jacqui McWilliams

CIAA
Commissioner

I am amazed at how the events of March 16, 2020, completely changed the game for the CIAA and college sports. As we continue to navigate through unprecedented and in some cases incalculable issues, academics and technology has become more analogous than ever. The utilization of video conferencing tools such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and various social media platforms have shifted from alternative means of communication to becoming pivotal components for powering our now-necessary “remote” educational endeavors. Many previously rejected components have since become required sources of business and educational survival.

While this rapid change in approach has affected the vast majority of industries across the country during this pandemic, there's no

denying that its impact on the world of college athletics – where in-person interaction is paramount – may be far greater than most. We have now

accepted the new normal of clicking a link rather than dialing in and using a passcode. And yes, there are technology rules that require etiquette across platforms to mute and raise your hand, if you can find either button.

Like many athletics administrators across the country, the Division II conference commissioners have become experts on these platforms with it being our only means of real time face-to-face meetings. Since March, our ability to advise, educate and serve our membership, while remaining aware of the almost daily changes within collegiate sports, would have been nearly impossible without the use of video conferencing, cloud-based storage, and various forms of electronic communication. Technology in all forms is essential to our success in managing our Boards, membership, and affiliated associations. Without it, our ability to stay connected, relevant, and informed would be challenging; if not impossible. The use of social media and streaming platforms has become increasingly important as we look to engage and inform the masses during a time when daily routines and annual programming

have been interrupted. Additionally, all our institutions have been forced to alter their educational structure by shifting most of their courses to web-based platforms.

If we have learned nothing else during this pandemic, it is that we should continue to advocate for STEM programming in our education system. One opportunity that many of our institutions are engaging in is esports. For the CIAA, esports is not just gaming but also providing opportunities for engagement to a population that has not had the same access. The CIAA is interested in ensuring that our black, brown, and female students will see the field of STEM as a future and a pipeline for jobs, internship opportunities and sustainable relationships. These programs directly impact many aspects of our everyday lives while playing a pivotal role in the advancement of the world as we know it. As leaders in the world of college sports, D2 CCA must continue to embrace and share the daily opportunities to advance our conferences by maximizing and leveraging the relationship between technology and academics as it pertains to intercollegiate athletics.