

Charting the Course: Division II's 2026-32 Operating Plan

Division II is proud to introduce a new six-year Operating Plan that builds on the division's existing strengths and offers innovative initiatives and resources designed to help member schools provide optimal educational experiences to student-athletes through participation in outstanding athletics programs.

The new Operating Plan succeeds the Strategic Plan the division adopted in 2015. The document is being referred to as the Operating Plan to align with the overarching NCAA Operating Plan that Charlie Baker introduced after being appointed NCAA president.

The Division II plan, which runs from January 2026 through 2032 to align with the remainder of the NCAA's current broadcast agreements, outlines the following five focus areas designed to enhance not only the student-athlete experience but also the experience of institutional personnel who understand the balanced approach to athletics as part of the division's educational mission:

- Academics.
- Athletics.
- Health and Wellness.
- Governance.
- Operations and Positioning.

The Division II Executive Board and the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee have worked to ensure that the plan is fiscally responsible to support the initiatives necessary to carry out goals and benefit Division II members.

As the steward of the plan, the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee will continuously monitor its implementation, including conducting a midterm assessment at the three-year mark.

The plan is the result of a successful collaborative effort among Division II stakeholders, including governance and sport committees and affiliate organizations such as the Division II Athletics Directors Association and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association. Division II members were apprised of the plan's progress throughout its development and were provided frequent opportunities for feedback and input.

A summary of the plan follows. The full plan can be found on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).

NCAA Mission

Provide a world-class athletic and academic experience for student-athletes that fosters lifelong well-being.

Division II Vision

Provide an environment in which student-athletes develop well-being and life skills through their desired academic pursuits, through participation in high-level athletics and through impactful civic engagement.



DIVISION II

MAKE IT *YOURS*

Division II Commitments

- Empower student-athletes to excel in their chosen academic curricula and ensure that athletics is an integral component of the holistic educational experience.
- Provide programs and resources to enhance student-athletes' physical, mental, social and personal well-being.
- Deliver an outstanding championships program that provides fair and rewarding postseason experiences.
- Conduct meaningful civic engagement activities to strengthen relationships within the campus and surrounding communities.
- Support student-athletes' personal and professional development as they successfully transition to life after sport.
- Operate an efficient and effective governance structure informed by diligent research that enables Division II members to actualize the mission and vision.
- Promote and celebrate the Division II brand to enhance the public's knowledge and appreciation of the Division II experience.

DIVISION II OPERATING AREAS

Academics

1. Maintain rules and policies that enable schools to support student-athletes' academic achievement.
2. Continue to achieve a student-athlete graduation rate above that of the general student body.
3. Provide resources and initiatives that help student-athletes enhance their community engagement experiences.
4. Ensure that student-athletes are afforded the opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed in life after sport.

Athletics

1. Implement a championships selection and bracketing methodology that enhances the postseason for participants and fans without compromising the regional model as a core tenet of the Division II regular-season experience.
2. Review all aspects of financing the championships program and make recommendations as necessary.
3. Seek innovative approaches to support up-and-coming sports that offer new, exciting and equitable opportunities.
4. Support student-athletes with their opportunities related to name, image and likeness.
5. Develop initiatives and practices that strengthen the officiating pool; provide education, training and resources to support current officials and attract new officials.
6. Review initiatives to help member schools enhance their game day environments.
7. Develop initiatives to enhance the fan experience and exposure related to Division II championships.

Health and Wellness

1. Collaborate with the NCAA Sport Science Institute and the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports to create an environment/culture that supports and enhances total wellness for all individuals (physical, mental, social and personal well-being).

2. Develop initiatives to help athletics departments and conference offices provide optimal health and wellness support for student-athletes.
3. Increase support for the athletic training profession in college sports to help with hiring and retention.

Governance

1. Maintain a governance and committee structure that provides opportunities for service and leadership, is representative of the membership and includes all Division II constituents through the one school/one vote legislative process at the NCAA Convention.
2. Ensure a strong student-athlete presence in decision-making at the campus, conference and national levels.

Operations and Positioning

1. Evaluate the strength of the Division II brand.
2. Maintain/enhance or create programming/initiatives that help designated individuals in athletics (e.g., faculty athletics representatives, senior woman administrators and sports information directors) promote the Division II brand on their campuses and beyond.
3. Ensure that Division II maintains a membership that has both strength in numbers and is composed of schools that share the division's principles and values.
4. Help schools and conferences enhance their operations.
5. Seek new revenue streams and opportunities to increase ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and media partnerships.

