DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

The NCAA mission and Division III philosophy statement articulate principles that represent a commitment to the Division III student-athlete experience. It outlines the principles and expectations institutions and conferences strive for regarding the student-athlete collegiate and athletics experience.

NCAA Mission.

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

Student-Athlete Collegiate Experience.

- Primarily focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year undergraduate experience.
- Seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of their educational experience.
- Assure that student-athletes are supported in their efforts to meaningfully participate in nonathletic pursuits to enhance their overall educational experience.

Student-Athlete Athletics Experience.

- Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach the highest levels of athletics performance, with a primary emphasis on conference and regional competition, while providing access to national championships.
- Prioritize the experience of the participants, and the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) rather than on the entertainment needs of spectators or the general public.
- Develop and maintain an environment that promotes sportsmanship and a positive culture for student-athletes, coaches, and administrative personnel, recognizing the role intercollegiate athletics can play in human development. Ensure spectators contribute to a positive sporting experience in support of all participants.

The governance structure, with input from the membership, has identified the following strategic priorities and vision for the division that directly impact student-athletes.

Promote Association-wide initiatives.

- Engage Congress to introduce federal legislation addressing current threats to collegiate athletics.
- Support key initiatives to advance the division (e.g., fan database, purchasing cooperative, post-eligibility insurance, officiating resources).
- Monitor and proactively address legal, state and governmental challenges.

Enhance the championships experience.

- Expand championships opportunities through new sport sponsorships (e.g., women's wrestling, flag football).
- Increase branding through a comprehensive live streaming strategy and new PSA videos.
- Identify opportunities to increase financial support for participating institutions and conferences.
- Maintain NPI – a transparent and objective software system to rank teams for at-large selections.
- Seek local sponsorships for championships to generate revenue.

Effectively advance and provide for equitable opportunities and access.

- Provide professional development opportunities, promote educational programs and maintain grant funding.

Support the student-athlete experience.

- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the division to mitigate tensions and strengthen the student-athlete experience.
- Provide resources and funding to support athletic training and athletic communication departments.
- Provide mental health training to head coaches and athletic trainers and provide relief through the waiver process based on a student-athlete's mental health.
- Promote the use of the Injury Surveillance Program to provide division specific data to inform playing rule changes.
- Support sportsmanship and game environment initiatives.
- Promote institutional commitment to sexual assault violence prevention education.

Division III, home to more than 210,000 student-athletes, provides an equitable and inclusive environment for student-athletes to participate in a competitive athletics environment, take responsibility for their own paths, follow their passions and discover their potential through a comprehensive educational experience.