### HOW THE NCAA WORKS: Division I

**When people think about college sports, they most often think about Division I. Its teams are usually the ones broadcast on television, they have the highest profile, and they are frequently subjected to public scrutiny.**

The division is home to a wide range of schools with varying missions, admissions standards and athletics budgets. It includes some of the most highly selective universities in the country and others with open admission.

Despite the differences, Division I schools share a commitment to the well-being of student-athletes, to creating sound academic standards and to promoting fairness.

Led by the overall strategic vision of the Division I Board of Directors, composed mostly of university presidents, the Division I governance structure provides autonomy for the 65 schools in the Atlantic Coast, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences to vote on rule changes in specific categories. The rest of the division is then free to follow those adopted rules.

When governing itself on issues outside the areas of autonomy, though, Division I operates much like the other two divisions: Representatives serve on NCAA committees that determine the division’s direction and develop legislation. Members of the Division I Council vote on these proposals. Both processes often work together to reach a positive outcome for college athletes.

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**DI Legislative Calendar and Convention Process**

**Legislative Calendar**

- **JULY 15** Deadline for conferences to submit legislative concepts under consideration for sponsorship.
- **NOV. 1** Deadline for submission of legislative proposals.
- **NOV. 15** Proposals available for comments, sponsor modification and amendments.
- **JANUARY** NCAA Convention. Votes may occur on some proposals (student-athlete well-being, time sensitive). Other proposals reviewed and discussed.
- **FEB. 1** Deadline for sponsors to refine or change proposals and for conferences to offer amendments to existing proposals to narrow the scope.
- **FEB. 8** Official notice of remaining proposals and amendments.
- **APRIL** Council takes final vote on proposals and amendments.

**Convention**

- **JANUARY** Representative from the ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC, including three student-athletes from each conference, vote on proposals.
- **NOVEMBER** Sponsors refine or change proposals, and autonomy conferences submit amendments to proposals to narrow the scope by Dec. 1.
- **DEC. 15** Proposals available for comments, sponsor modification and amendments.

**AUTONOMY**

The ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC have autonomy to make rules in specified areas such as meals and nutrition and athletics personnel.

**Two ways to pass legislation**

1. Majority vote within 3 of the 5 conferences. + Majority vote within 4 of the 5 conferences.
2. 60% or more of the overall votes + Majority of the overall votes

= 80 total votes

- **Proposed Legislation**
  - ACC: 15 schools + 3 student-athletes = 18 votes
  - Big 12: 10 schools + 3 student-athletes = 13 votes
  - Big 10: 14 schools + 3 student-athletes = 17 votes
  - Pac-12: 12 schools + 3 student-athletes = 15 votes
  - SEC: 14 schools + 3 student-athletes = 17 votes

**Legislation Approved**
**NCAA Division I Legislative Process**

**Board of Directors**
- The Board of Directors is the top governing body for Division I, responsible for strategy and policy oversight.
- Focuses on strategic topics in college sports and their relationship to higher education.
- Monitors legislation to ensure it does not conflict with policies and goals.
- Reviews and approves policies and procedures related to governance structure.
- Approves an annual budget.

**Division I Council**
- The Council has primary legislative authority for Division I, although its work is subject to review by the Board of Directors, which monitors legislation to ensure it does not conflict with the division's policies and goals.

**Board of Directors**
- Adopts legislation when significant values are at stake, or an issue requires fast action that does not allow use of the regular legislative process.
- Collaborates with NCAA staff on how the membership office can best serve Division I members.
- Monitors membership standards and criteria affecting Division I and subdiisional membership.

**Division I Council**
- Made up of 32 presidents and chancellors representing each conference. It is the primary advisory body to the board.
- Can introduce an idea as legislation. Those proposals are reviewed by student/athlete committees, but regardless of their feedback, the Division I Council votes on all conference-sponsored legislation.

**Finance Committee**
- Assists the Division I Board of Directors in providing oversight and approval for the Division I annual budget and allocation of Division I revenue distribution.

**Infractions Process Committee**
- The nine-member Infractions Process Committee reports to the Board and provides guidance and oversight on key, non-case-specific enforcement and infractions strategic issues.

**Committee on Infringements**
- These committees report to the Board of Directors.

**Autonomy**
- Five conferences have autonomy to make rules in specified areas.

**Proposal**
- Made up of practitioners who work daily in Division I college sports, this body:
  - Recommends nonacademic policies to the Board of Directors.
  - Conducts strategic planning activities.
  - Identifies and examines trends and issues in college sports.
  - Takes final action on matters delegated to it by the Board of Directors.

**Council Coordination Committee**
- Made up of Council members who manage routine items of business and other issues that arise between meetings.

**Division I Committees**
- Reviews proposals developed through conferences and Council committees and provides feedback to autonomy conferences about their proposals.
- Oversees regular-season and championships administration in sports other than football and men's and women's basketball.
- Facilitates the process to appoint representatives to DI committees (other than Council committees) and DI vacancies on Association-wide committees.
- Members are college athletes who monitor and act on issues at the campus, conference and national levels.
- Oversees administrative functions that impact governance structure, legal affairs, membership standards, strategic planning and research.
- Decides all matters related to reinstating a Division I college athlete's eligibility.
- Makes final decisions on waiver requests in which no other committee or conference has authority.
- Promotes development of the sport and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason men's and women's basketball.
- Promotes development of the sport and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason football.
- Coordinates strategic planning activities.
- Identifies and examines trends and issues in college sports.
- Takes final action on matters delegated to it by the Board of Directors.

**Competition Oversight Committee**
- Oversees regular-season and championships administration in sports other than football and men's and women's basketball.

**Student-Athlete Committee**
- Oversees nonacademic rules that impact overall student-athlete experience, including areas of amateurism, the overall student-athlete experience, and goals.

**Strategic Vision and Planning Committee**
- Oversees administrative functions that impact governance structure, legal affairs, membership standards, strategic planning and research.

**Committee on Student-Athlete Recruitments**
- Reviews and approves policies and procedures related to governance structure.

**Committee on Legislative Relief**
- Reviews proposals developed through conferences and Council committees and provides feedback to autonomy conferences about their proposals.

**Nominating Committee**
- Facilitates the process to appoint representatives to DI committees (other than Council committees) and DI vacancies on Association-wide committees.

**Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**
- Members are college athletes who monitor and act on issues at the campus, conference and national levels.

**Legislative Committee**
- Reviews proposals developed through conferences and Council committees and provides feedback to autonomy conferences about their proposals.

**Football Oversight Committee**
- Promotes development of the sport and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason football.

**Women's Basketball Committee**
- Promotes development of the sport and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason men's and women's basketball.

**Men's Basketball Committee**
- Promotes development of the sport and makes recommendations related to regular-season and postseason men's and women's basketball.

**Coaches and others knowledgeable about a particular sport make up sport committees that recommend to the relevant oversight committee a rules that when each Division I and National College Championships should take place and who should compete.**

*DI personnel is a member school or conference administrator, faculty athletics representative or other person who works daily in college sports.*