HOW THE NCAA WORKS:

Division II

Division II offers athletics scholarships and limits competitive and practice seasons to improve balance with student pursuits.

The 296 active member colleges and universities in Division II share a commitment to providing college athletes equal growth opportunities in academics, athletics, and campus and community engagement.

Division II schools generally spend less money on athletics than Division I schools and operate on a partial-scholarship model, in which more than 60% of the nearly 120,000 Division II athletes receive some athletics-based financial aid. Full scholarships that cover all of a college athlete’s expenses are uncommon in the division; often college athletes, like the rest of the student body, use a mix of academic scholarships, student loans and employment earnings to fund their education.

Division II prides itself on creating unique championship opportunities. During these championships, teams participate in community engagement efforts; a key component of Division II. Division II is the only division to host championship festivals, where multiple championships are held in the same city over several days. Division II’s access ratio to championships is the best in the NCAA.

NOTE: This document includes several changes approved by the Division II membership at the 2023 NCAA Convention to modify the Division II governance structure and legislative process with specific effective dates.

Updates to the composition of the Administrative Committee will be effective Aug. 1, 2023.

Updates to the composition and duties of the Management Council will be effective Feb. 1, 2024.

Updates to the timing of the Division II legislative process will be immediate for proposals submitted for the 2024 NCAA Convention.

The renaming of the Presidents Council as the Executive Board and updates to the composition of the Executive Board and its duties will be effective Feb. 1, 2024.

The renaming of the Planning and Finance Committee as the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and updates to its composition and duties will be effective Feb. 1, 2024.

DIVISION II

Legislative Calendar

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

New rules in Division II begin in one of two ways. Proposals can start in Division II committees and be sponsored by the governance structure. Proposals can also be sponsored by the Division II membership if 15 active member schools or two conferences sign on as a sponsor.

MEMBERSHIP VOTES

In most cases, Division II legislation requires only a simple majority vote of members present. Sometimes – such as in 2015, when the NCAA added beach volleyball as a championship sport – legislation applies to the entire Association, and each division must reach its own majority vote to pass.

Legislation approved

Approved proposal takes effect on the date specified in the legislation, usually Aug. 1 of that year.

Convention

The NCAA Convention, held each year in January, is the finish line for all sponsored proposals in Division II. Delegates from every school and conference gather during a Convention business session to vote on each proposal.

Since the division was established in 1973, it has operated under a “one institution, one vote” model. But in 2016, for the first time, college athletes were added to the mix, with the national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee casting one vote.

DII Legislative Calendar and Convention Process

JULY 15

Have an idea? Legislative proposals submitted by the membership are due to the national office.

JANUARY-JUNE

Division II committees and the Division II membership have ideas for new legislation and discuss these ideas often between January and June. They ask for feedback and input from different groups, refine the ideas and make recommendations. The Management Council and Executive Board review recommendations during their April or summer meetings and decide whether to move them forward.

SEPT. 1

Deadline for Management Council and Executive Board to sponsor legislation to be voted on at the NCAA Convention.

SEPT. 15

Any final revisions to membership-sponsored proposals are due.

NOV. 1

Any amendments to original proposals and any resolutions are due.

DEC. 10

An official Division II notice of legislation, which includes final versions of all the proposals, is delivered to Division II schools, including every president and athletics director.
New rules for Division II start here, with the schools and athletics conferences that make up the division’s governance structure. No matter the idea—a university president wants to limit the length of a competition season or an athletics compliance administrator wants to change how the NCAA collects information from Division II campuses—it begins as a discussion topic in one or more Division II committees.

**Academic Requirements Committee**
Reviews academic standards and makes recommendations about initial and ongoing eligibility.
- 11 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 Representative from American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
  - 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  - 1 -D personnel

**Championships Committee**
Oversees the conduct and administration of the 25 Division II championships.
- 12 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  - 1 -D personnel

**Committee for Legislative Relief**
Makes final decisions on waiver requests in which no other committee or conference has authority.
- 5 Members:
  - 1 from Management Council
  - 1 -D personnel

**Committee on Infractions**
Hears and acts on appeals of decisions by the Committee on Infractions.
- 6 Members:
  - 1 from Management Council
  - 1 General public
  - 1 -D personnel

**Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement**
Decides all matters related to reinstating a Division II college athlete’s eligibility.
- 9 Members:
  - 1 from Management Council
  - 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  - 1 -D personnel

**Committee on a**: Competes in multiple sports and different leagues.
- 1 from Management Council
- 1 General public
- 1 -D personnel

**Constitution and bylaws Committee**
Hears and acts on appeals of decisions by the Committee on Infractions.
- 10 Members:
  - 1 from Management Council
  - 1 General public
  - 1 -D personnel
  - 1 -DI personnel

**Finance Committee**
Reviews and acts on recommendations from the Division II Executive Board.
- 11 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 Independent
  - 1 -D personnel

**Legislation Committee**
Oversees certain bylaws, interprets Division II specific legislation and considers wording for the NCAA Division II Manual.
- 12 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  - 1 -D personnel

**Mentor Committee**
Reviews issues related to Division II membership, including status of incoming and continuing members.
- 12 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 -D personnel

**Membership Committee**
Suggests individuals who can fill vacancies on various Division II committees.
- 12 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 -D personnel

**Nominating Committee**
Reviews and acts on recommendations from Division II and Association-wide committees.
- 10 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 Independent
  - 1 -D personnel

**Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**
Composed of college athletes who monitor and act on issues.
- 28 Members:
  - 1 from each -D conference
  - 1 from -DI conference

**Strategic Planning and Finance Committee**
Recommends budget priorities to the councils. Oversees strategic plans.
- 11 Members:
  - 2 from Management Council
  - 1 Independent
  - 1 -D personnel

Some legislation is proposed by the members themselves. In order to admit a proposal, it must be the recommendation of a committee or conference or be sponsored by at least 15 Division II schools or two conferences must be sponsors. Those proposals go directly to the NCAA Convention for a written, but Division II committees also discuss and take a position on those proposals.

**Committees debate the ideas and decide whether to sponsor them as pieces of legislation. Next stop: Management Council, which considers the committee’s recommendations.**

**Executive Board***
The top leadership group in Division II is composed of college presidents and chancellors, independent members and student-athletes and establishes and directs general policy.
- Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors.
- Establishes a strategic plan/priority areas for Division II.
- If necessary, sponsors legislative proposals from the governance structure to be considered by members at the NCAA Convention.
- Adopts emergency legislation.
- Approves the Division II budget.
- Provides comments and input to the Board of Governors on matters that impact Division II and the Association.

- 13 Members:
  - 10 Presidents or chancellors
  - 1 from each DII conference
  - 2 Independent

**Management Council**
By design, the Management Council is composed of individuals who have day-to-day knowledge of athletic operations.
- Reviews and acts on recommendations from Division II and Association-wide committees.
- Serve as the advisory group to the Division II Executive Board, handling the day-to-day affairs of the division.
- Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors and the Division II Executive Board.
- Adopts noncontroversial legislation.
- Sponsors legislative proposals from the governance structure to be considered by members at the NCAA Convention.
- 29 Members:
  - 23 from each -D conference
  - 1 from -DI conference
  - 4 Independent
  - 2 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

The proposed rule, if forwarded by the Management Council to the Executive Board, can be sponsored for the Convention or adopted by the Executive Board.

**Administration Committee**
Takes action on issues that arise between meetings of the Management Council and Executive Board.
- 5 Members:
  - 2 from Executive Board
  - 1 from Management Council
  - 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

**Approval**
The Management Council reports to the Executive Board on its actions.

**Membership votes**
Before a proposal is considered by the membership, there are multiple opportunities for input and feedback from the Division II governance structure.

**Proposal**
The proposed rule is reviewed by committees within the governance structure and eventually reaches the Management Council for final consideration prior to submission to the Executive Board.