

HOW THE NCAA WORKS: Division II

The division offers athletics scholarships and limits competitive and practice seasons to improve balance with student pursuits.

The 308 colleges and universities in Division II share a commitment to providing college athletes equal growth opportunities in academics, athletics, and campus and community involvement.

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 percent of the 122,000-plus 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. It is the only division to host championship festivals, where multiple championships are held in the same city over several days. During these championships, teams participate in community engagement efforts, a key component of Division II. One in every 8.8 student-athletes earns the chance to compete for a national title, the most opportunities per student-athlete in the NCAA.

Each Division II championship sport has a committee made up of coaches and athletics administrators with knowledge of that sport. These committees rank and select teams and individuals for championships competition, plus recommend championship sites and dates.

START

New rules for Division II start here, with the schools and athletics conferences that make up the division. No matter the idea – perhaps a university president wants to limit the length of a competition season or an athletics compliance officer 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 or councils.

Some legislation is proposed by the members themselves. In order to submit a proposal, 15 active Division II schools or two conferences must be sponsors. Those proposals go directly to the NCAA Convention for a vote, but the Division II committees also discuss and take a position on those ideas.

DIVISION II COMMITTEES

<p>Legislation Committee</p> <p>Interprets Division II-specific legislation and considers wording for the NCAA Division II Manual.</p> <p>12 members:</p>	<p>Membership Committee</p> <p>Reviews issues related to Division II membership, including status of incoming and continuing members.</p> <p>12 members:</p>	<p>Student-Athlete Advisory Committee</p> <p>Composed of college athletes who monitor and act on issues.</p> <p>29 members, including: 1 from each DII conference; 1 representing independent schools; 2 from membership at large; and 2 members from the Management Council.</p>	
<p>Committee for Legislative Relief</p> <p>Makes final decisions on waiver requests in which no other committee or conference has authority.</p> <p>5 members:</p>	<p>Academic Requirements Committee</p> <p>Reviews academic standards and makes recommendations about initial and ongoing eligibility.</p> <p>11 members:</p>	<p>Committee on Infractions</p> <p>Meets as needed to participate in hearings involving Division II schools accused of violating NCAA rules.</p> <p>7 members:</p>	<p>Infractions Appeals Committee</p> <p>Hears and acts on appeals of decisions by the Committee on Infractions.</p> <p>5 members:</p>
<p>Championships Committee</p> <p>Oversees the conduct and administration of the 25 Division II championships.</p> <p>12 members:</p>	<p>Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement</p> <p>Decides all matters related to reinstating a Division II college athlete's eligibility.</p> <p>6 members:</p>	<p>Nominating Committee</p> <p>Suggests individuals who can fill vacancies on various Division II committees.</p> <p>11 members:</p>	

Committees debate the ideas and decide whether to sponsor them as pieces of legislation. Next stop: Management Council, which considers the committees' feedback.

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

The top leadership group in Division II, it is composed of college presidents and chancellors and establishes and directs general policy.

- Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors.
- Establishes a strategic plan for Division II.
- Sponsors legislative proposals from the governance structure to be considered by members at the NCAA Convention.
- Can adopt administrative bylaws and regulations without approval of members, but sometimes seeks member support for these changes.
- Develops and approves the Division II budget.
- Approves regulations for Division II championships.

On rare occasions, the college presidents on the Presidents Council will propose legislation that goes directly to members for a vote at the NCAA Convention.

Composition based on regional membership numbers. Currently, **16** presidents and chancellors:

Planning and Finance Committee

Recommends budget priorities to the councils. Oversees strategic plan.

7 members:

Administrative Committee

Takes action on issues that arise between meetings of top councils.

5 members:

The Management Council reviews each proposal and chooses to recommend or not recommend it before forwarding to the Presidents Council.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

By design, the Management Council is composed of individuals who have day-to-day knowledge of athletics operations.

- Reviews and acts on recommendations from Division II and Association-wide committees.
- Serves as the advisory group to the Presidents Council, handling the day-to-day affairs of the division.
- Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors and the Division II Presidents Council.
- Makes interpretations of Division II bylaws.

29 members:
1 from each of 24 voting conferences; 1 from an independent school; 2 at-large positions to enhance diversity; 2 SAAC members

At least:
4 ADs, 4 SWAs, 4 FARs, 1 conference administrator, 2 SAAC members

KEY

- Legislative path
- Alternative legislative path
- Communication path
- Presidents Council member
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member
- Management Council member
- General public
- Representative from American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
- Division II president not on Presidents Council
- Member school and conference administrators, faculty athletics representatives and others who work daily in college sports

Besides the various required roles, the NCAA also works to ensure gender, racial and geographic diversity on its committees. Many of those diversity standards are mandated by legislation.

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 place their votes on each proposal.

Proposal

Membership votes

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.

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. In still other cases, Association-wide legislation touches on an issue so important that it requires a two-thirds majority vote of all three divisions voting in a joint session.

Legislation approved

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

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- JULY 15** Have an idea? Legislative proposals submitted by members are due to the national office.
- AUG. 15** All those proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org in a publication commonly known as IPOPL, so schools can review them and begin developing opinions.
- SEPT. 1** Deadline for Presidents Council to sponsor legislation to be voted on at the NCAA Convention.
- SEPT. 15** Any final revisions to membership-sponsored proposals are due.
- SEPT. 23** Once again, the proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org, this time with proposals from both members and the committee structure, in a publication commonly known as SPOPL.
- NOV. 1** Any amendments to original proposals and any resolutions are due.
- NOV. 15** An official Division II notice of legislation, which includes final versions of all the proposals, is delivered to high-ranking individuals at Division II schools, including every president and athletics director.

FINISH