HOW THE NCAA WORKS: Division III

Athletics complements academics, and scholarships are based on merit and financial need.

The Division III philosophy ensures a student-athlete’s athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded college experience. The athletic experience is designed to complement time spent in the classroom and pursuing other activities — some related to coursework, others extracurricular.

While Division III doesn’t permit athletics scholarships, roughly 80% of Division III student-athletes receive some form of academic grant or need-based scholarship. They have the same access to financial aid as the rest of the student body.

Access to competing in national championships is also important to Division III, where one of every 6.5 teams compete in the NCAA post-season. Division III is home to more than 195,000 student-athletes — the most in any division — who can earn scholarships. They have the same athletic scholarships, roughly 10 members:

- Legislative path
- Division III committees
- Financial Aid Committee
- Membership Committee
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Interim Interpretations and Legislation Committee
- Committee on Interim Interpretations
- Committee on Interim Legislation
- Committee on Student-Athlete Recruitment
- Committee on Student-Athlete Eligibility
- Division III Oversight Committee
- Oversight administration of the division's championships, 6 members
- Championship Committee
- Oversight of the division's championships, 6 members

Each Division III championship sport has a committee made up of coaches and athletics administrators with knowledge of that sport. Those committees rank all eligible teams and individuals for championships competitions due recommendation, sites, and dates.

Some legislation is proposed by the members themselves, in order to submit a proposal. 20 active Division III committees or self-conferences must sign on as sponsors. If those thresholds are not, the proposal will reach the Convention floor no matter what the division's committee and councils take.

The Division III philosophy and the rules that implement it are set by members hailing from the college conferences that make up Division III. The idea-generator might be an athletic director interested in allowing football players to suit up in protective gear during spring practice, a faculty athletics representative who wants the division in limit how many hours student-athletes can travel for competition or a coach who thinks scholarship rules are too restrictive. No matter its origin, the proposal begins life as a discussion topic in one or more Division III committees.

How the NCAA works: Division III

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

The top leadership group in Division III, the Presidents Council is composed of presidents and chancellors and establishes and directs general policy.

- Establishes a strategic plan for Division III.
- Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors.
- Can sponsor legislative proposals that are considered by Division III members each year at the NCAA Convention.
- Can adopt some administrative bylaws and regulations without approval of full membership.
- Approves the Division III budget.
- Approves championships regulations.
- Orders proposals for voting at the Convention business session.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Management Council is composed primarily of individuals who have day-to-day knowledge of athletic operations, including college athletics representatives, - the college faculty members who are designated liaisons to athletics.

- Implements policies adopted by the Presidents Council and Board of Governors.
- Recommends policy-oriented legislative proposals for sponsorship by the Presidents Council.
- Makes interpretations of Division III bylaws.
- Makes recommendations to the Presidents Council related to Division III.
- Reviews appeals by members of decisions made within the Division III governance structure.
- Sponsors administration proposals for membership vote.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Date Proposed

| Date Proposed | Date Published on ncaa.org | Date Published in SPOPL | Date Ballots Due | Date Ballots Counted | Date Final Vote | Date Final Vote Counted |

Legislative proposals submitted by members are due to the national office.

All those proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org, each will be reviewed by the committee structure, in a publication commonly known as SPOPL.

Any amendments to original proposals and any resolutions can occur.

An official Division III notice of legislation, which includes all provisions of any proposal, is delivered to the governing representatives of all Division III schools, including every president and athletics director.

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