

HOW THE NCAA WORKS:

Division III

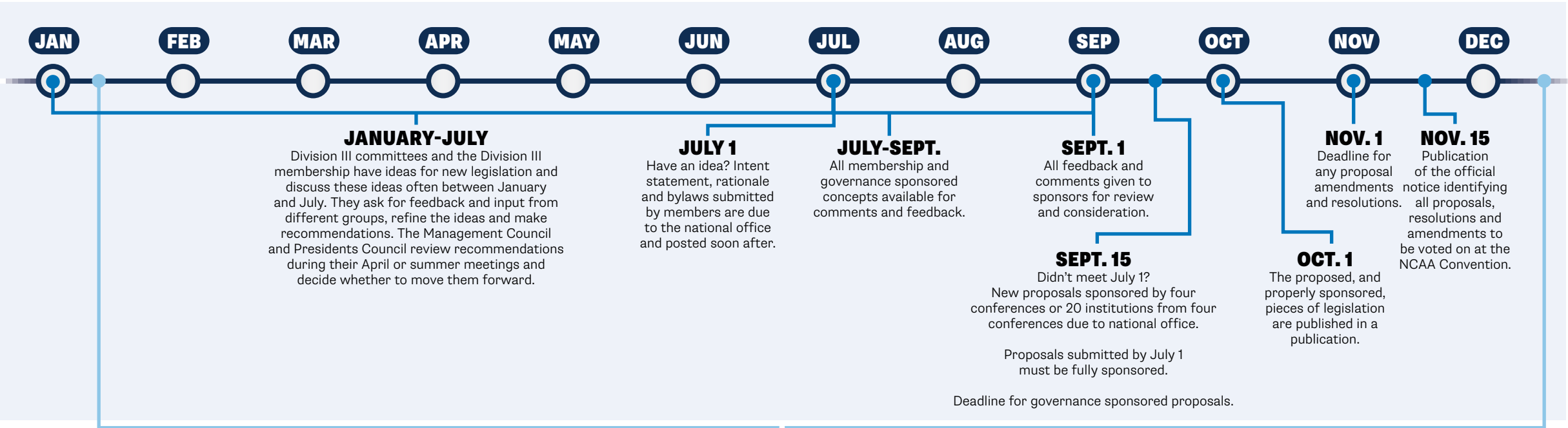
The Division III philosophy maintains that a student-athlete’s athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded college experience. The athletic experience is designed to complement time spent in the classroom and pursuing other activities – some related to coursework, others extracurricular.

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.

Access to competing in national championships is important to Division III, where one of every 6.5 teams competes in the NCAA postseason. Division III is home to more than 200,000 student-athletes – the most in any division – who can earn the opportunity to compete in 28 Division III national championships. The division’s philosophy and the rules that implement it are set by members hailing from approximately 420 schools and more than 40 conferences.

DIII Legislative Calendar and Convention Process

Legislative Calendar



Convention

The NCAA Convention, held each year in January, is the finish line for all sponsored proposals in Division III. Delegates from every school and conference gather during a Convention Business Session to cast their votes on each proposal.

Since the division was established in 1973, it has operated under a “one institution, one vote” model. The Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee also has one vote at the Business Session.



Proposed Legislation

New rules in Division III begin in one of two ways. Proposals can start in Division III committees and be sponsored by the governance structure. Proposals can also be sponsored by the Division III membership. Twenty active member schools or two conferences are needed to properly sponsor a proposal. Membership proposals submitted between Sept. 1 and Sept. 15 require four conferences or 20 active member schools from at least four conferences.



Membership Votes

In most cases, Division III legislation requires only a simple majority vote of members present. Sometimes – such as in 2025, when the NCAA added women’s wrestling as a championship sport – legislation applies to the entire Association, and each division must reach its own majority vote to pass.



Legislation Adopted

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

