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 190,000 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 430 schools and more than 40 conferences.

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**DIII Legislative Calendar and Convention Process**

**Legislative Calendar**

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| **JANUARY-JULY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | **JULY 15**
| Division III committees and the Division III membership have ideas for new legislation and discuss these ideas often between January and July. They ask for feedback and input from different groups, refine the ideas and make recommendations. The Management Council and Presidents Council review recommendations during their April or summer meetings and decide whether to move them forward. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **AUG. 15**
| All membership-sponsored 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **SEP. 1**
| Deadline for Presidents Council to sponsor legislation to be voted on at the NCAA Convention. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **SEP. 15**
| Final amendments from the sponsors are due. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **SEP. 23**
| The proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org, this time with membership and governance proposals, in a publication commonly known as SPOPL. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **NOV. 15**
| Publication of the official notice identifying all proposals, resolutions and amendments to be voted on at the NCAA Convention. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **NOV. 1**
| Deadline for any proposal amendments and resolutions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | **NOV. 15**
| Publication of the official notice identifying all proposals, resolutions and amendments to be voted on at the NCAA Convention. |

**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. Beginning with the 2024 NCAA Convention, the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will have 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 if 20 active member schools or two conferences sign on as a sponsor.

**Membership Votes**

In most cases, Division III 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.