### **HOW THE NCAA WORKS:**

## **Division III**

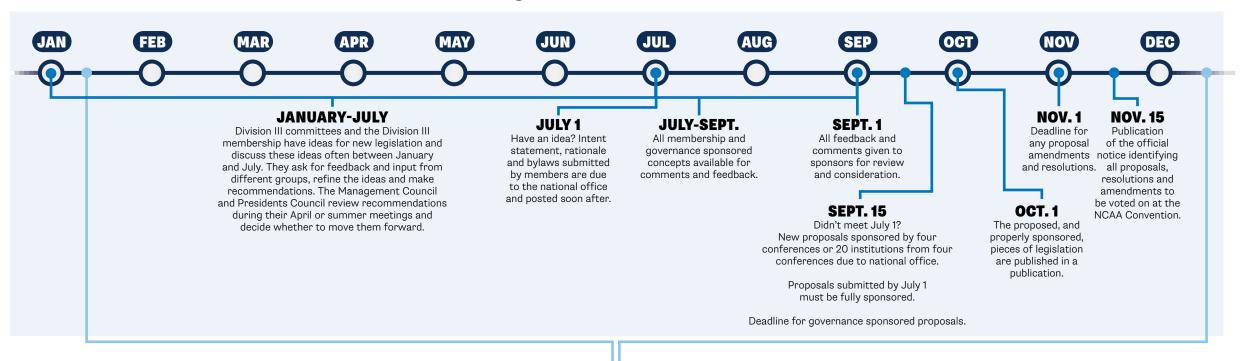
The Division III philosophy maintains that a student-athlete's athletics are an integral part of a well-rounded college experience. The athletic experience is designed to complement time spent in the classroom and pursuing other activities - some related to coursework, others extracurricular.

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

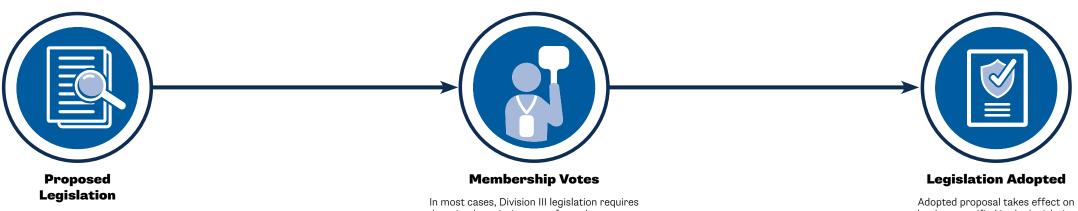
## **Legislative Calendar**



## **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.



sport - legislation applies to the entire

Association, and each division must reach its

own majority vote to pass.

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.

only a simple majority vote of members present. the date specified in the legislation, Sometimes - such as in 2025, when the NCAA usually Aug. 1 of that year. added women's wrestling as a championship



# NCAA Division III Governance and Legislative Process

Start

It all starts here, with the schools and athletics conferences that make up Division III. The idea-generator might be an athletics director interested in allowing football players to suit up in protective gear during spring practice, a faculty athletics representative who wants the division to limit how many hours student-athletes can travel for competition or a coach who thinks scrimmage rules are too restrictive. No matter its origin, the proposal begins life as a discussion topic in one or more Division III committees.

## **DIVISION III COMMITTEES**

### Championships Committee\*\*

Oversees administration of the division's 28 championships.

### 12 Members:

- 2 from Management Council
- 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory
- 1 Faculty athletics representative
- 1 Conference Office staff
- 7 DIII personnel\*

**Financial Aid** 

Committee

bylaws that govern financial aid.

Reviews and considers the

3 - Financial aid administrators

1 - Faculty athletics representative1 - Conference Office staff

1 - from Student-Athlete Advisory

1 - from Management Council

10 Members:

Committee

### **Committee on** Infractions

Holds hearings as needed involving Division III schools accused of violating NCAA rules.

### 5 Members:

**Infractions Appeals** 

Committee

Hears and acts on appeals of

1 - President or chancellor1 - from Management Council

5 Members:

1 - General public

2 - DIII personnel\*

decisions by the Committee on

- 1 from Management Council1 General public
- 3 DIII personnel

### Committee on Student-**Athlete Reinstatement**

Determines reinstatement process for college athletes deemed ineligible because of a rules violation.

### 6 Members:

Interpretations and

**Legislation Committee** 

Interprets all Division III

legislation, issues official

10 Members:

Committee

refines legislative proposals.

1 - from Management Council

1 - Faculty athletics representative1 - from Student-Athlete Advisory

1 - Conference Office staff

- 1 from Management Council1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- 4 DIII personnel\*

Management Council,

which considers these

recommendations.

Schools and conferences continue

to finalize their

proposals to meet

the July 1 or Sept. 15

submission deadlines.

Some legislation is

proposed by the members

themselves. Depending

on when a proposal is submitted certain

sponsorship thresholds

must be met. If those

thresholds are met, the

proposal will reach the

Convention floor no

matter what position the

division's committees and

Councils take

Committees debate the ideas and decide whether 1 - from Management Council1 - from Student-Athlete Advisory to recommend them as pieces of legislation. Next stop:

6 - DIII personnel\*

6 - DIII personnel\* (At least 2 with

# **Committee**

Reviews issues related to Division III membership, including status of incoming and active members.

### 10 Members:

- 1 Faculty athletics representative
- 1 Conference Office staff

## **Student-Athlete**

and monitors the Division III Strategic Plan.

### 10 Members:

**Nominating Committee** 

Suggests individuals who

can fill vacancies on various

- 1 from Management Council
  1 Faculty athletics representative
  1 Conference Office staff
- 1 from Student-Athlete Advisory
- 6 DIII personnel\*

### Strategic Planning and **Finance Committee**

- 2 from Presidents Council
- 2 from Management Council1 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Faculty athletics representative
- 1 Championships Committee chair
- 4 DIII Personnel\*

## **Advisory Committee**

Composed of college athletes who monitor and act on issues representing the student-athlete

### 42 Members:

**1** - Member for every multisport

### \* DIII personnel is a member school or conference administrator, faculty athletics representative or other person who works daily at a member institution or conference.

- \*\* Each Division III 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 sites and dates.
- \*\*\* Effective Aug. 1, 2024, all multisport conferences will be represented on councils. The number of non-student-athlete council members will depend on the number of active multisport Division III conferences.

## **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.

### 23 Members\*\*\*:

- 21 One president or chancellor from half of the active multisport conferences
  2 from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

# **Administrative Committee**

Takes action on issues that arise between meetings of the Presidents Council and Management Council.

- 2 from Presidents Council (chair and vice chair)
- 3 from Management Council (chair, vice chair and most-tenured president)

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## **MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

- and Board of Governors.
- » Recommends policy-oriented sponsorship by the Presidents

- by members at the NCAA

- 21 Representatives from half of the active multisport conferences
- 2 College athletics direct reports
- 2 Faculty athletics representatives
- 6 DIII personnel\*
  2 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee



The proposed rule, recommended by either the





**Proposal** 



**Membership votes** 



**ADOPTED**