



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I CABINET
MAY 22, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEM.

- **Age-Based Collegiate Eligibility Model.** The NCAA Division I Cabinet discussed the Age-Based Collegiate Eligibility Model and stakeholder feedback, including the application of the model, timing of implementation, exceptions, additional academic considerations and the timeline for action.
 - a. Review of Alternative Model. The cabinet discussed stakeholder feedback recommending an alternative to the age-based collegiate eligibility model that would remove the high school graduation criterion for beginning the five-year period of eligibility. The cabinet continues to support the model that includes the actual or expected high school graduation criterion initiating the start of a student-athlete’s five-year period of eligibility.
 - b. Timing of Implementation. The cabinet supports full implementation of the age-based collegiate eligibility model beginning fall 2027. As previously shared in the NCAA Division I Board of Directors April 27, 2026, meeting report the model will not apply retroactively to student-athletes whose eligibility is or will be completed by spring 2026. Implementation scenarios of the age-based collegiate eligibility model for continuing and incoming student-athletes are set forth in the following chart:

	Which eligibility model applies?
Current student-athletes who initially enrolled full time at any collegiate institution (e.g., two-year, international, Division II/III) prior to the 2026-27 academic year.	
Student-athletes with eligibility remaining (time left in their period of eligibility and seasons of competition remaining).	<p style="text-align: center;">Either the current rules OR new age-based model, whichever is most beneficial to the student-athlete.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Any waivers (e.g., extensions, hardship waivers, delayed enrollment) for current student-athletes based on the current legislation must be submitted no later than July 31, 2026, and will not be available for competition or extenuating circumstances occurring beyond the 2025-26 academic year.</i></p>
Student-athletes who exhausted eligibility in 2025-26 (no time left in their period of eligibility and no seasons of competition remaining).	Current rules; no longer eligible.
Student-athletes who used final season of competition during 2025-26 but have time remaining in their period of eligibility.	Current rules; no longer eligible.

Prospective Student-Athletes Enrolling Full Time at any Collegiate Institution Fall 2026 and Later.	
Prospective student-athletes who initially enroll full time at any collegiate institution in 2026-27.	During the athletics certification process, the NCAA Eligibility Center would apply either current rules or the age-based model, whichever is most beneficial to the prospective student-athlete. <i>*Athletics eligibility waivers (e.g., extensions, hardship waivers) will not be available for prospective student-athletes assessed under the current eligibility rules.</i>
Prospective student-athletes who initially enroll full time at any collegiate institution in 2027-28 or later.	Age-based model only.

- c. Exceptions. The cabinet continues to support exceptions that could pause a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility for pregnancy, official religious missions and active-duty military service. A student-athlete who participates in organized competition (other than low-level or minimally organized competition) during an official religious mission or military service would not qualify for the exception. The cabinet will continue to discuss and refine the application of the exceptions during its June 5 videoconference.
- d. Additional Considerations. The cabinet discussed, but did not support, additional academic considerations for student-athletes who choose to enter Division I under the age-based collegiate eligibility model with fewer than five years of eligibility remaining.
- e. Anticipated Timing of Legislative Action. The cabinet plans to consider the age-based collegiate eligibility model as emergency legislation during its June 23-24 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Report of the April 14-15 Cabinet Meeting.** The cabinet approved the report of its April 14-15 meeting.

Cabinet Chair: Josh Whitman, University of Illinois; Big Ten Conference.
Cabinet Liaisons: Brandy Hataway, Division I Governance and Member Services
 Charnele Kemper, Division I Governance and Member Services
 Leeland Zeller, Division I Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division I Cabinet May 22, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Alisse Ali-Joseph, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.
Lisa Archbald, Northeast Conference (substitute).
Lauren Beach, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
Matt Boyer, Southeastern Conference.
Dan Butterly, Big West Conference, Basketball Subdivision conferences.
John Currie, Wake Forest University; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Jeremiah Donati, University of South Carolina; Southeastern Conference.
Terry Gawlik, University of Idaho; Big Sky Conference, FCS conferences.
Rick George, University of Colorado; Big 12 Conference.
Shawn Heilbron, Stony Brook University; Coastal Athletic Association.
Jenna Jordan, Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Daniel Kaelin, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
Matt Larsen, North Dakota State University; Summit League, Basketball Subdivision conferences.
Andy Louthain; Big 12 Conference (substitute).
Scott McKenzie, Division I Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.
Chris Merino; Pac-12 Conference, FBS Nonautonomy conferences (substitute).
Allison Rich, University of New Hampshire; America East Conference, Basketball Subdivision conferences.
Jennifer Smith, Michigan State University; Big Ten Conference.
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference, FBS Nonautonomy conferences.
Josh Whitman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Big Ten Conference.
Absentees:
Brad Corbin, Washington State University; Pac-12 Conference, FBS Nonautonomy conferences.
Brad Hurlburt, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Northeast Conference, FCS conferences.
Desiree Reed-Francois, University of Arizona; Big 12 Conference.
Guests:
Cassandre Chee, Wilkinson Stekloff.
Rakesh Kilaru, Wilkinson Stekloff.
Max Warren, Wilkinson Stekloff.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Audrey Capannari, Emily Capehart, Brandy Hataway, Charnele Kemper, Karen Metzger, Shelby Sonnefeldt, and Leeland Zeller.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:
Scott Bearby, Tim Buckley, Amanda Conklin, Derrick Crawford, Jon Duncan, Michele Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Dan Gavitt, Terri Gronau, Jennifer Henderson, Brian Higgins, Chelsea Hooks, Travis Johnston, Mike Massa, Binh Nguyen, Greg Pottorff, Geoff Silver, Liz Suscha, Lynda Tealer, Jared Tidemann, Jerry Vaughn, Meghan Wright and Quintin Wright.