



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I CABINET
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

KEY ITEMS.

1. NCAA Division I [Proposal No. M-2026-1](#) – Athletics Eligibility – Five-Year Period of Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model – Application and Exceptions. The NCAA Division I Cabinet adopted Proposal No. M-2026-1, which is a modification of wording related to Proposal No. [2026-44](#) to clarify the intent of specific applications of the age-based eligibility rules. (*Unanimous voice vote.*) The changes include:
 - a. A clarification that the application of the five-year period of eligibility is based on five academic years.
 - b. A clarification of the beginning of the period of eligibility based on the timing of an individual's 19th birthday. For an individual who turns 19 years old on or after September 1 but before January 1, the subsequent academic year is the start of the regular academic year (i.e., fall semester/quarter) that begins in the calendar year following the individual's 19th birthday.
 - c. A clarification regarding how the timing of initial full-time enrollment translates to the beginning of the five-year period based on academic years. See NCAA Bylaw 12.6.2 in Proposal No. M-2026-1.
 - d. Clarifications regarding eligibility following a final fall term. See Bylaws 12.6.3 and 12.6.3.1 in Proposal No. M-2026-1.
 - e. Clarifications of the application of service exceptions based on academic terms. An academic term that occurs while an individual is engaged in the noted services is excepted from the five-year period, provided the individual is not enrolled full time and does not participate in practice.
2. Division I [Proposal No. 2026-68](#) – Athletics Eligibility – Postseason and Regular Season Competition – Initial Enrollment at Midyear. The cabinet modified the effective date of Proposal No. 2026-68 from immediate to August 1, 2027. The cabinet also received an update on feedback from sports oversight committees that have reviewed the proposal. With the change to the effective date, the cabinet plans to discuss the proposal and additional feedback during its October 6-7 meeting and consider voting on it during its January 12-13, 2027, meeting. (*Unanimous voice vote.*)

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Legislative Relief Waiver Appeals.** The cabinet received an update regarding legislative relief waiver appeals considered by the NCAA Division I Cabinet Subcommittee to enter a student-athlete's information into the transfer portal outside of the legislated notification of transfer windows. The cabinet discussed potential policy solutions to address concerns based on the fact patterns of recent waiver requests. The cabinet agreed to continue discussions during its October meeting with possible legislative action as soon as November.
2. **Preenrollment Professional Participation.** The cabinet discussed issues related to the eligibility of student-athletes who have previously participated in professional sports leagues. The cabinet will continue to review and discuss the issues during its October 6-7 meeting.
3. **Update from NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.** The cabinet received an update from the NCAA office of legal affairs.
4. **Report of the August 3 Cabinet Meeting.** The cabinet approved the report of its August 3 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 September 9, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Lisa Archbald, Northeast Conference, FCS conferences.	
Matt Boyer, Southeastern Conference.	
Jason Burrow-Sanchez, Faculty Athletics Representative Association.	
Brad Corbin, Washington State University; Pac-12 Conference, FBS nonautonomy conferences.	
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.	
Allen Greene, University of Pittsburgh, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Shawn Heilbron, Stony Brook University; Coastal Athletic Association, FCS conferences.	
Jenna Jordan, Georgia Institute of Technology; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Daniel Kaelin, University of Virginia; Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Matt Larsen, North Dakota State University; Summit League, Basketball Subdivision conferences.	
Kimya Massey, University of San Diego, West Coast Conference, Basketball Subdivision conferences.	
Desiree Reed-Francois, University of Arizona; Big 12 Conference.	
Caemon Scott, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (substitute).	
Jennifer Smith, Michigan State University; Big Ten Conference.	
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference, FBS nonautonomy conferences.	
Brad Walker, Northeast Conference, Basketball Subdivision conferences.	
Josh Whitman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Big Ten Conference.	
Absentees:	
Abby Lynch, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Guest(s) in Attendance:	
Rakesh Kilaru, Wilkinson Stekloff.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Audrey Capannari, Brandy Hataway, Charnele Kemper, Karen Metzger, and Leeland Zeller.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Charlie Baker, Scott Bearby, Geoff Bentzel, Tim Buckley, Deena Casiero, Amanda Conklin, Claire Cummings, Jon Duncan, Michele Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Dan Gavitt, Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Jennifer Henderson, Brian Higgins, Lynn Holzman, Leilani Hubbard, Jobrina Marques, Felicia Martin, Mike Massa, Binh Nguyen, Greg Pottorff, Bridget Rigney, Geoff Silver, Liz Suscha, Jared Tidemann, Jerry Vaughn, Meghan Wright, and Quintin Wright.	