



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** The NCAA Division III Membership Committee commenced business at 12:02 pm. Eastern.
- 2. Membership Committee Roster and Conflict of Interest.** Committee members were reminded of the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy and proper procedures for recusal if a conflict of interest might arise. Committee members reviewed the roster and conflict of interest documentation and updated it, as necessary. Committee members followed the recusal procedures during all deliberations.
- 3. Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the policies and procedures documents.
- 4. Review of September 2025 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report of the September 18, 2025, videoconference.
- 5. Division III provisional, reclassifying membership, and the exploratory year.**
 - a. Application for Reclassifying Membership.** The committee approved the reclassifying membership applications from:
 - (1) Azusa Pacific University.
 - (2) Saint Francis University.The institutions will begin the reclassification process on September 1, 2026.
 - b. Application for the Exploratory Year.** The committee approved the application from the University of Maine at Augusta for an Exploratory Year beginning September 1, 2026.
 - c. Provisional/Reclassifying/Exploratory Chart and mentor assignments.** The committee reviewed the Provisional/Reclassifying/Exploratory Chart and mentor assignments.

- d. **Convention attendance update for provisional and reclassifying members.** Staff provided the committee with an update on attendance for provisional member institutions required at select NCAA Convention sessions. All members attended.

6. Division III active membership.

- **Eligibility Pilot Program Update.** The committee received an update on the current legislative relief waivers reviewed under the eligibility pilot program including summaries of the four requests that were approved, and the one that was denied. The committee discussed and confirmed the intent of the eligibility pilot program, which permits Division III student-athletes to complete their athletics eligibility while enrolled at an institution other than where they were initially certified. Specifically, the committee affirmed the importance of the two institutions having a formal academic program relationship where the student-athlete continues their academic degree program at the non-certifying institution that does not sponsor intercollegiate athletics, while completing their athletic career at the certifying institution. Further, the committee discussed the nature of academic relationships between institutions, noting the important distinction between having an academic program relationship and simply being part of the same university system. They reasserted that the pilot program is intended to provide a Division III student-athlete with the opportunity to complete their academic and athletic careers within the structure of an academic degree program as opposed to switching paths within the same university system. Finally, the committee believes that the pilot is achieving its intended results and should continue as currently constructed. The committee will continue its review of the pilot program and existing criteria at a future meeting.

7. Division III conference membership.

- **2025-26 Division III conference membership.** The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and realignment.

8. Educational initiatives.

- a. **Conference Rules Seminar application.** The committee approved the application from Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioners Association (MARCA) to host a Conference Rules Seminar in 2027 at York College PA.
- b. **Regional Rules Seminar.** The committee received an update on the 2026 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar, May 13-15, Atlanta. Additionally, the committee was reminded of the recent amendment to its policy permitting virtual attendance to meet the legislative attendance requirement.

- c. **Debrief on the New Member Education.** The committee received an update about the new member education session which occurred at the 2026 NCAA Convention and provided staff with feedback to consider for future sessions.
- 9. **NCAA Division III governance update.** The Division III governance staff updated the committee on key topics within the Division III governance structure.
- 10. **Future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed its upcoming meeting schedule.
- 11. **Other business.** None.
- 12. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned 3:20 pm Eastern time, February 17.

Committee Chair: Chris Roekle, Coast-To-Coast Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Eric Hartung, Division III Governance and Member Services
 Julie Zike, Division III Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division III Membership Committee February 17, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Tony Berich, Stockton University.	
Elizabeth Carleton, University of Rochester (SAAC representative).	
Frederick Clark, Bridgewater State University.	
Greg Cooper, Heidelberg University.	
Daniel C. Kane, University of Maine at Presque Isle.	
Christine Hagedorn-Nordenholt, Rosemont College.	
Brian Johnson, North Central College.	
Shana Levine, Northwest Conference.	
Wayne Lewis, Houghton University.	
Chris Roekle, Coast-To-Coast Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung, and Julie Zike.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Joan Nissen and Bill Regan.	