



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2024, IN-PERSON MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

**a. Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.4.3.4.2.1.3, 14.4.3.4.2.1.3.1 and 14.4.3.4.2.1.3.2 -- Elimination of Academic Year in Residence Requirement.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the academic year in residence requirement under the organized-competition legislation. [Attachment A]
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025, for individuals who initially enroll full time at a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, an individual who is charged a season of competition due to the organized-competition legislation must serve an academic year in residence before being immediately eligible to represent the certifying institution in competition, unless they meet an exception. After reviewing feedback from the Division II membership and other affiliate groups, the Legislation Committee determined that charging a prospective student-athlete (PSA) with a season of competition was an appropriate penalty without requiring the PSA to also serve an academic year in residence. Further, eliminating the academic year in residence requirement under the organized-competition legislation would enhance recruitment and student-athlete retention.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. A PSA that is charged a season(s) of competition under the organized-competition legislation will be immediately eligible for competition upon enrolling at a Division II institution.

**b. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaws 14.4.3.4.2.2.4.1 and 14.4.8.3.2.3 -- Elimination of Major Junior Ice Hockey Penalty.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the penalty associated with an individual's participation on a Major Junior ice hockey team. [Attachment B]
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.

- (3) Rationale. Currently, under the organized-competition legislation, a men's ice hockey prospective student-athlete may participate in organized competition for a maximum of three years after they graduate high school, without being charged with a season of competition. However, if a men's ice hockey prospective student-athlete participates on a Major Junior ice hockey team, they would be charged with a season of competition for each consecutive 12-month period that they participate on the team, regardless of the timing of participation (e.g., high school). Eliminating the restriction on Major Junior ice hockey participation creates consistency in the application of the organized-competition legislation in men's ice hockey.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Consistent application of the organized competition for all men's ice hockey PSAs.

**c. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaws 14.4.7.5.1 and 16.8.1.2 -- Other Competition.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit institutions to provide a student-athlete with actual and necessary expenses to participate in: (1) qualifying competition for regional and national championships; (2) qualifying competition for Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, Parapan American, World Championships, World Youth Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade) and World University championships or the junior-level equivalent competition; and (3) National team training and competition used for consideration for selection or to determine members of a national team.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. Following the adoption of the new constitution at the 2022 NCAA Convention, the NCAA Division II Presidents Council, now named the NCAA Division II Executive Board, established the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee, which was charged with starting and leading the division's work. The Implementation Committee reviewed the division's rules and policies and made recommendations to ensure that changes were consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution. The Legislation Committee determined that deregulating the types of events student-athletes may participate in and receive actual and necessary expenses from their institution, will provide student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in elite-level competition. Further, this proposal will provide Division II student-athletes with access to opportunities currently available to Division I student-athletes, while also

allowing institutions to support the athletic endeavors of their student-athletes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Enhance opportunities for student-athletes to participate in elite-level competition.

**d. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 17.14.5.4 -- Annual Exemptions -- Women's Ice Hockey -- Scrimmage/Exhibition Contest.**

(1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit women's ice hockey to participate in one scrimmage or exhibition contest each year and exempt the scrimmage or contest from the maximum number of contests set forth in Bylaw 17.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. Permitting Division II women's ice hockey programs to participate in and exempt one scrimmage or exhibition contest each year will align the playing and practice season with Division I women's ice hockey. Further, Division II traditionally aligns its playing and practice seasons legislation with Division I for National Collegiate Championship sports.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**e. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 17.28 -- Water Polo -- Preseason Practice and First Date of Competition.**

(1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to specify that, in men's and women's water polo, an institution shall not engage in its first date of competition with outside competition (other than an alumni scrimmage) prior to the Friday that is 14 weeks before the start of the NCAA National Collegiate Water Polo Championship. Further, in women's water polo, to specify that an institution shall not commence practice sessions in the championship segment prior to 16 calendar days before the first scheduled intercollegiate contest.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. Establishing a first date of competition dependent on the date of the NCAA National Collegiate Water Polo Championship will promote

consistency in the start of the 14-week championship segment. Further, the Division II playing and practice seasons legislation for National Collegiate Championship sports traditionally aligns with the playing and practice seasons in Division I. Therefore, amending the playing and practice seasons legislation in the sport of water polo will align Division II with the Division I playing and practice seasons legislation for water polo.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of 2025 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Grid and the Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide.** The committee reviewed the Division II Legislative Grid, as well as the Division II Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide to resolve all possible questions and procedural issues prior to the 2025 Convention Division II business session on January 17, 2025. The Question and Answer Guide was approved, as amended. Staff noted that the final version of the guide for the 2025 Convention will be available to the membership no later than December 10, 2024, along with the release of the Division II Official Notice.
- 2. Discussion regarding potential interactions between the NCAA and third-party organizations.** The committee received an update regarding on-going discussions surrounding potential collaborations between the NCAA and third-party organizations (e.g., professional sports leagues). The committee also reviewed current legislation regarding permissible and impermissible engagement with professional sports leagues and/or third-party organizations. The committee determined that the legislation permitting engagement with professional sports leagues and/or third-party organizations remains appropriate. Further, the committee believes the legislation should allow more opportunities for institutions and the NCAA to engage with these entities. Staff will develop potential concepts for the committee to consider during its March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting.
- 3. Discussion regarding the Implementation Committee's Legislative Process and Compliance Subcommittee priority two and three items.** The committee continued its discussion on the Implementation Committee's Legislative Process and Compliance Subcommittee's priority two and three items. Specifically, the committee reviewed feedback from the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee, Division II Coaches Connection groups and Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators (CCACA) regarding

whether the academic year in residence requirement under the organized-competition legislation should be eliminated. Based on the feedback, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to eliminate Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.3 (academic year in residence) and its subsections. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1a.]

The committee also continued its discussion regarding Bylaw 16.8.1.2 (other competition) and recommended noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 14.4.7.5.1 (exceptions to outside-competition regulations) and Bylaw 16.8.1.2. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1c.]

Finally, the committee continued its discussion regarding Bylaw 15 (financial aid) and Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons). The committee will continue its discussion at its March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting.

4. **Division II University update.** The committee reviewed data from the 2024-25 coaches certification required educational modules. The committee also received an update on the new “What Can Division II Do For You” educational modules being developed. Finally, the committee discussed and selected six educational modules that will be required for certification in the 2025-26 academic year, as follows: (a) Elevating Respect; (b) New Signing Model for Division II; (c) NCAA Coaches Assist for Sexual Violence Prevention; (d) NCAA Coaches Assist for Substance Misuse; (e) Recruiting: Benefits for Coaches and Prospective Student-Athletes; and (f) Recruiting: PSA Tryouts. The committee will review and approve test questions for the six modules prior to its March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting.
5. **Review of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2024-56 (amateurism -- involvement with professional teams prior to collegiate enrollment -- men’s ice hockey and skiing).** The committee reviewed Division I Proposal No. 2024-56 to determine whether the current penalty associated with participation on Major Junior ice hockey teams should be eliminated in Division II. The committee agreed to recommended noncontroversial legislation to eliminate Bylaws 14.4.3.4.2.2.4.1 (major junior ice hockey -- men’s ice hockey) and 14.4.8.3.2.3 (major junior ice hockey -- men’s ice hockey). [See Legislative Action Item No. 1b.]
6. **Review of Division I Proposal No. 2021-30 (playing and practice seasons -- ice hockey -- annual exemptions -- scrimmage/exhibition contest).** The committee reviewed Division I Proposal No. 2021-30 and recommended noncontroversial legislation to permit a Division II women’s ice hockey program to participate in a scrimmage/exhibition contest during the playing season and exempt it from the sport’s maximum contests set forth in Bylaw 17. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1d.]
7. **Review of Division I Proposal Nos. 2024-49 (playing and practice seasons -- men’s water polo -- first date of competition) and 2024-63 (playing and practice seasons -- women’s water polo -- first date of preseason practice and competition -- championship segment).** The committee reviewed Division I Proposal Nos. 2024-49 and 2024-63 and recommended noncontroversial legislation to amend the Division II water

polo playing and practice seasons legislation, noting that Division II traditionally aligns its playing and practice seasons legislation with Division I in National Collegiate Championship sports. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1e.]

8. **Review of Division II legislation specific to adding the sport of women's bowling as a Division II championship.** With the adoption of Division II Proposal No. 2024-3 (championships administration -- administration of Division II championships -- minimum sponsorship for Division II championships -- minimum number of sponsoring institutions and three-year grace period), during its November 7, 2024, videoconference, the Division II Championships Committee recommended initiating the process to establish a Division II championship in the sport of women's bowling, which triggered the Legislation Committee's review of legislation that may be impacted. As a result, the Legislation Committee reviewed the sport-specific legislation that would need to be amended if a Division II championship is established for women's bowling. The Legislation Committee will review membership feedback and make any legislative recommendations at a future meeting.
9. **Discussion regarding adding the role of vice chair.** The committee discussed whether adding a vice chair, in addition to the chair, would be appropriate. The committee recommended the addition of a vice chair and will hold elections during its March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting.
10. **Division II strategic planning process.** The committee received an update on the recommendations from the Division II Think Tank that was held in September. Staff noted that a Division II survey will be sent to the broader Division II membership to gather feedback in January 2025. Governance committees will use the results of the survey to finalize the Division II Operating Plan, outline initiatives to accomplish, including the timing for them and determine a funding model for implementation. The final 2026-32 Division II Operating Plan will be shared at the January 2026 Convention.
11. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors most recent meeting.
12. **Update from the Division II Executive Board and NCAA Division II Management Council October 2024 meetings.** The committee received an update on the actions taken at the Executive Board and Management Council October 2024 meetings.
13. **Approval of the September 20, 2024, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 20, 2024, videoconference report.
14. **Review of the September 23, 2024, videoconference report of the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee Interpretations Subcommittee.** The committee reviewed and approved the Interpretation Subcommittee's September 23, 2024, videoconference report.

**15. Future meeting dates.**

- a. March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.
- b. May 20-21, 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
- c. November 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.

*Committee Chair:* Audra Kedy, Great American Conference

*Staff Liaison(s):* Rachel Denton, Academic and Membership Affairs

Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs

Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Legislation Committee November 18-19, 2024, In-Person Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University.	
Matt Green, Flagler College.	
Ashley Grimm, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Dawn Makofski, University of Montevallo.	
Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Christopher Ratcliff, Rogers State University.	
Deborah Rodgers, Tuskegee University.	
Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.	
Kevin Schriver, Southwest Baptist University (Acting chair).	
Melissa Thacker, Cameron University.	
Vaughn Williams, Bentley University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University.	
Audra Kedy, Great American Conference.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Rachel Denton and Chelsea Hooks.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Brooke Dixon, Terri Steeb Gronau, Molly Hansen, Maritza Jones, Becca Medel and Angela Red.	

**Division:** II

**Proposal Number:** NC-2026-5

**Title:** ELIGIBILITY -- ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF COMPETITION: 10-SEMESTER/15-QUARTER RULE -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED COMPETITION BEFORE INITIAL COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- ELIMINATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR IN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

**Convention Year:** 2026

**Date Submitted:** November 21, 2024

**Status:** Ready for Consideration by Management Council

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2025, for individuals who initially enroll full time at a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2025.

**Source:** NCAA Division II Management Council (Legislation Committee).

**Category:** Noncontroversial

**Topical Area:** Eligibility

**Intent:** To specify that a student-athlete who initially enrolls at a Division II institution and is charged with the use of a season of competition per the organized-competition legislation, is not required to fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible for competition in that sport.

**Bylaws:** Amend 14.4.3.4.2, as follows:

14.4.3.4.2 Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment. An individual who does not cease participation by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following their high school graduation date, shall use one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which the individual participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.2.

[14.4.3.4.2.1 unchanged.]

~~14.4.3.4.2.1.3 Academic Year in Residence. An individual who uses a season of competition in a specific sport per Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 shall fulfill an academic year in residence at any member institution before being eligible to represent the certifying institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition.~~

~~14.4.3.4.2.1.3.1 Exception — Transfer Student. A student who has attended a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution for at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters and who has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or 12-quarter hours of transferable degree credit for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year or four-year collegiate institution is not required to fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible to represent the certifying institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition. This exception shall not apply to the use of a season(s) of intercollegiate competition for each 12-month period after the one-year time period and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which an individual participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.2. (See Bylaws 14.2.9 and 14.3 for transfer and progress toward degree requirements.)~~

~~14.4.3.4.2.1.3.2 Exception — Graduate Student. A student who transfers and enrolls in a graduate program, professional school or equivalent degree program is not required to fulfill an academic year in residence before being eligible to represent the certifying institution in that specific sport in intercollegiate competition. (See Bylaws 14.2.4 and 14.2.9 for progress toward degree and transfer requirements.)~~

[14.4.3.4.2.2 through 14.4.3.4.2.3 unchanged.]



**FAQ:**

**Co-sponsorship - Conference:**

None

**Co-sponsorship - Institution:**

None

**Position Statements:**

**Review History:**

Nov 19, 2024: Recommends Approval - NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.

**Additional Information:**

Currently, an individual who is charged a season of competition due to the organized-competition legislation must serve an academic year in residence before being immediately eligible to represent the certifying institution in competition, unless they meet an exception. After reviewing feedback from the Division II membership and other affiliate groups, the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee determined that charging a prospective student-athlete with a season of competition was an appropriate penalty without requiring the individual to also serve an academic year in residence. Further, eliminating the academic year in residence requirement under the organized-competition legislation would enhance recruitment and student-athlete retention.

**Legislative References**

Legislative Cite	Title
14.4.3.4.2	Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment.
14.4.3.4.2.1.3	Academic Year in Residence.
14.4.3.4.2.1.3.1	Exception -- Transfer Student.
14.4.3.4.2.1.3.2	Exception -- Graduate Student.

---

**Division:** II

**Proposal Number:** NC-2026-6

**Title:** ELIGIBILITY -- ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF COMPETITION: 10-SEMESTER/15-QUARTER RULE AND INVOLVEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL TEAMS -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY AND COMPETITION -- PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED COMPETITION BEFORE INITIAL COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT AND COMPETITION WITH PROFESSIONALS -- ELIMINATION OF MAJOR JUNIOR ICE HOCKEY PENALTY

**Convention Year:** 2026

**Date Submitted:** November 21, 2024

**Status:** Ready for Consideration by Management Council

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2025

**Source:** NCAA Division II Management Council (Legislation Committee).

**Category:** Noncontroversial

**Topical Area:** Eligibility

**Intent:** In men's ice hockey, to eliminate the penalty associated with an individual's participation on a Major Junior ice hockey team.

**A. Bylaws:** Amend 14.4.3.4.2, as follows:

14.4.3.4.2 Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment. An individual who does not cease participation by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following their high school graduation date, shall use one season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 and before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in which the individual participates in organized competition per Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.2.

[14.4.3.4.2.1 through 14.4.3.4.2.2 unchanged.]

~~14.4.3.4.2.2.4.1 Major Junior Ice Hockey — Men's Ice Hockey. An individual who participates on a Major Junior men's ice hockey team shall use a season of intercollegiate competition for each consecutive 12-month period in which the individual participates, regardless of when such participation occurs. The individual shall fulfill an academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2.1.3) before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition in men's ice hockey.~~

[14.4.3.4.2.3 unchanged.]

**B. Bylaws:** Amend 14.4.8, as follows:

14.4.8 Involvement With Professional Teams.

[14.4.8.1 through 14.4.8.3 unchanged.]

~~14.4.8.3.2.3 Major Junior Ice Hockey — Men's Ice Hockey. An individual who competes on a Major Junior ice hockey team shall be subject to the seasons of competition regulations set forth in Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2, regardless of when such competition occurs.~~

[14.4.8.3.2.4 renumbered as 14.4.8.3.2.3, unchanged.]

[14.4.8.3.3 unchanged.]

[14.4.8.4 through 14.4.8.6 unchanged.]

**FAQ:**

**Co-sponsorship - Conference:**  
None

**Co-sponsorship - Institution:**  
None

**Position Statements:**

**Review History:**

Nov 19, 2024: Recommends Approval - NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.

**Additional Information:**

Currently, under the organized-competition legislation, a men's ice hockey prospective student-athlete may participate in organized competition for a maximum of three years after they graduate high school, without being charged with a season of competition. However, if a men's ice hockey prospective student-athlete participates on a Major Junior ice hockey team, they would be charged with a season of competition for each consecutive 12-month period that they participate on the team, regardless of the timing of participation. With there only being six Division II institutions that sponsor Division II men's ice hockey, eliminating the penalty tied to Major Junior ice hockey participation creates consistency in the application of the organized-competition legislation in men's ice hockey for those institutions.

**Legislative References**

Legislative Cite	Title
14.4.3.4.2	Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment.
14.4.3.4.2.2.4.1	Major Junior Ice Hockey -- Men's Ice Hockey.
14.4.8	Involvement With Professional Teams.
14.4.8.3.2.3	Major Junior Ice Hockey -- Men's Ice Hockey.

---