



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 13-14, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Referral for Feedback from NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.** The committee discussed a referral from the Division II Legislation Committee regarding the elimination of NCAA Division II Bylaw 13.10 (publicity). The committee highlighted potential unintended consequences related to eliminating the bylaw. The committee determined that anything released publicly should have student-athlete consent to eliminate the pressure of choosing specific institutions based on public opinion or comments shared on social media. The committee also discussed the roles coaches/fan bases could play in the decision-making process if institutions and coaches could publicly comment on the recruitment of prospective student-athletes. It was noted that the recruiting process can be stressful and overwhelming, and the committee recommended that the bylaw be amended but not eliminated.
2. **Referrals for Feedback from NCAA Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.** The committee discussed three referrals from the Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.
 - a. **Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.1 (minimum amount of competition).** The committee recommended changes to Bylaw 14.2.4.1 to support student-athlete retention, team continuity and skill development. When determining a season of competition, the committee discussed developing a metric based on the percentage of contests played in one season rather than a fixed number of contests. The committee also discussed how this metric could affect individual sports. The committee evaluated the effect of this change on student-athletes who decide to transfer without competing in any contests during the previous season. The committee advocated for giving student-athletes one opportunity to play a few contests during any championship season without using a season of competition and noted this would support retention and skill development, especially early in the student-athlete's career. The committee also discussed unintended consequences of expanding this legislation and how it could impact freshmen student-athletes, senior student-athletes and the overall team dynamic.
 - b. **Division II Bylaw 14.2.4.1.6 (preseason exhibition contests or dates of competition/preseason scrimmages during initial year).** The committee supported amending the bylaw to allow student-athletes to participate in preseason exhibition contests, dates of competition or preseason scrimmages beyond their initial year of collegiate enrollment without it counting as a season of competition. The committee stated that the opportunity to compete during the preseason is crucial for skill development and team bonding, especially for new student-athletes.

- c. **Division II Bylaw 14.2.5 (hardship waiver).** The committee discussed the impact of incapacitating injuries or illnesses occurring during competition or prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship for that sport. The committee discussed whether it was still appropriate for the injury or illness to occur prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season to receive a hardship waiver and did not reach consensus.
3. **Discussion on Term Extension for NCAA Board of Governors Former Division II Student-Athlete Representative.** The committee discussed the August 2024 term expiration of Madeleine McKenna, the Board of Governors' former Division II student-athlete representative. The committee requested a one-year term extension through August 2025, noting that she would provide some stability for the Board of Governors' former student-athlete representatives as the new Division I and Division III former student-athlete representatives begin their terms in August 2024.
4. **Discussion on NCAA Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee.** As part of the Board of Governors review of Association-wide committees, the SAAC discussed the work of the Student-Athlete Engagement Committee and whether there remains a need for the committee to continue. The SAAC expressed support for an Association-wide committee that is focused on issues involving all three divisions considering that the divisional SAACs oftentimes focus on issues pertinent to their particular division. The committee is in favor of the Student-Athlete Engagement Committee having its own strategic initiatives as opposed to having similar initiatives as the SAACs. The SAAC feels given the composition of the Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, it can focus on different topics that impact student-athletes and make a difference in other important areas. The SAAC also expressed support for updating the Student-Athlete Engagement Committee's composition by including one administrator from each division instead of having two administrators – one president/chancellor who is a current or former member of the Board of Governors and one member of the Division I Council or Division II or Division III Management Council that is from a different division than the Board of Governors representative.
5. **Discussion on NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Report.** The committee discussed several student-athlete focused recommendations that were put forward by the Division I Transformation Committee. The recommendations will be discussed by the NCAA Division II Membership Committee for further consideration in July.
 - a. **Student-Athlete Survey.** This recommendation, not yet adopted by Division I, would require Division I institutions to administer an NCAA managed survey with their student-athletes about the support received in the Division I student-athlete holistic model (Division I Proposal No. 2023-19) and regularly examine the results for areas of improvement when an institution is not meeting recommended benchmarks. The committee expressed support for the development and administration of a survey for Division II student-athletes. The committee stated

institutions commonly administer a student-athlete survey to gain honest feedback. The committee feels the information Division II could gain directly from student-athletes could be beneficial. While the development of a survey will result in additional work on the committee, NCAA staff and institutions, the committee agreed that the pros outweighed the cons. If Division II creates a survey, the committee stated that it would be important to be mindful of the length of the survey and how long it would take to complete.

The committee thought the survey could be taken by campus SAAC members during campus SAAC meetings and it could be promoted to all student-athletes at practices and meetings. The committee brainstormed an extensive list of topics for a potential Division II student-athlete survey, including:

- Student-athletes' awareness of SAAC and their awareness of their access to resources created by national SAAC, their conference SAAC and campus SAAC;
- Whether non-SAAC members see SAACs as representative of the student-athlete voice;
- Name, image and likeness, including whether student-athletes feel like they are receiving the necessary support;
- Awareness of the mental health resources available;
- Student-athletes' experiences with their coaches and support staff;
- Academic support and whether student-athletes feel they have the support from their professors, coaches and support to prepare for life after college;
- Athletic training support and the support needed to recover from injury;
- Access to proper nutrition and meals;
- Life after the game and whether student-athletes feel they are prepared to succeed after graduation;
- For those who are graduating, their plans for their next step (e.g., internship, full-time job, attending graduate school); and
- Life in the Balance and whether student-athletes can balance academics, athletics and community engagement.

- b. **Student-Athlete Voice in Decision-Making at Conference and Campus Levels.** This recommendation, adopted by the Division I Council as Division I Proposal No. 2023-9, requires conferences to 1) provide SAAC oversight by a senior staff member; 2) establish a SAAC executive team; 3) have at least one student-athlete serving on any ad hoc or conference committee established to address issues directly impacting student-athletes; and 4) recommends that conferences establish sport-specific student-athlete engagement and advocacy groups, in at minimum, football where applicable and men's and women's basketball. As part of Proposal No. 2023-9, the committee learned two additional requirements of conferences for 1) student-athletes to be involved and engaged on conference sport committees; and 2) for student-athletes to be involved and engaged with the primary operational-level committee(s) at the conference level.

The committee expressed support for conference SAACs to be overseen by a senior staff member, for the establishment of a SAAC executive team and to have at least one student-athlete serving on any ad hoc or conference committee established to address issues directly impacting student-athletes. The committee believes these requirements would provide needed structure to help conference SAACs be more effective and stronger, and these requirements would result in conference SAACs being taken more seriously. The committee discussed how a senior staff member would provide stability in the support they provide and provide structure when leadership changes occur with the conference SAAC executive team and when the committee turns over. The committee also expressed how it would be beneficial to have more regular contact with senior staff members and have a greater opportunity to share the student-athlete voice in conference meetings.

The committee expressed support for all conferences having established conference SAACs that meet regularly to discuss conference-wide issues. By meeting regularly, conference SAACs will have a stronger student-athlete voice, will have an opportunity to discuss important issues that are directly impacting them, and it would require that a higher priority be placed on conference SAACs.

The new Division I legislation also requires institutions 1) to provide SAAC oversight by a senior staff member; 2) establish a SAAC executive team; and 3) to have at least one student-athlete serving on any ad hoc or athletics department committee established to address issues directly impacting student-athletes. As part of Proposal No. 2023-9, the committee learned two additional requirements of institutions for 1) student-athletes to be involved and engaged on the primary athletics department operational level committee(s); and 2) student-athletes to be involved and engaged at coaches' meetings.

The committee expressed support for these requirements, believe they would be beneficial for campus SAACs and help campus SAACs be taken more seriously. The committee expressed interest in having campus SAACs be overseen by a senior staff member and believe the senior staff member would provide stability in the support they provide and provide structure when leadership changes occur with the campus SAAC executive team and when the committee turns over. The committee also expressed interest in meeting with campus administrators and coaches and creating mutually beneficial relationships with them.

In addition to having requirements in place, the committee felt accountability by conference and campus administrators with their respective SAACs and the support they provide is important.

- c. **Career Preparation, Education and Programming.** This recommendation, adopted by the Division I Board of Directors as part of the Division I student-athlete holistic model (Division I Proposal No. 2023-19), will require the establishment of an annual attestation requirement for institutions regarding career services

availability for current and former student-athletes. In addition, institutions will be required to annually attest that they provide student-athletes with access to education and programming in the following areas: mental health, strength and conditioning, nutrition, name, image and likeness, financial literacy, transfer requirements, career preparation, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and sexual violence prevention.

The committee felt that it would be beneficial to have career services for current and former future student-athletes and access to education and programming in the areas noted in the Division I proposal. However, the committee acknowledged that it would be difficult for institutions from a financial and staff support perspective to provide the same resources for career services, education and programming as Division I will be required to provide. The committee offered a few ideas for how Division II could consider replicating the intent of the proposal, including sharing a list of important topics as suggestions instead of requirements, offering a predetermined number of education sessions in select topics over the course of an academic year, and building programming in the important areas over time until programming is built in all the topic areas.

6. **Discussion with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** The committee met with President Charlie Baker and discussed an update on the NCAA's sports wagering efforts, NCAA's plans to establish a fan database to promote sports and upcoming championships, the goals of Project Division I and whether it could impact Division II, an update on the discussion to remove cannabinoids from the list of NCAA banned drug classes and the NCAA's Transgender Student-Athlete Participation Policy.
7. **Updates on 2023-24 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed its progress towards the three E's – empowering student-athletes with resources, empathizing with their concerns and enhancing the student-athlete voice and experience – through the work of the following committee teams:
 - a. **Congressional/Civic Engagement.** The congressional engagement team is expanding its focus to also support civic engagement. The team is aiming to provide education surrounding voter registration, mail-in ballots and the importance of voting. The team also plans to address emerging congressional engagement issues.
 - b. **Life After the Game.** The Life After the Game team plans to gather content and resources related to professionalism and career development to promote on the @d2saac [X](#) and [Instagram](#) channels. Additionally, the group is exploring other ways to promote these materials, possibly by reactivation of the Life After the Game podcast.
 - c. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.** The diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging team aims to create a content calendar for the social media subcommittee to highlight diverse groups of student-athletes over the coming months.

- d. **Mental Health.** The mental health team is preparing for mental health awareness month during the month of May. The group plans to spotlight the NCAA Mental Health Best Practices document and develop content for the SAAC's social media platforms to promote mental wellness.
8. **Discussion on April 2025 SAAC Super Region Convention.** SAAC will host its seventh super region convention for schools in the Central and Midwest Regions at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, April 25-27, 2025. The committee discussed topics for the next super region convention and expressed support for continuing to emphasize the importance of the student-athlete voice, mental health, preparation for life after athletics, social justice and biases, and leadership. The committee also discussed potential speakers for NCAA staff to consider pursuing.
9. **Campus SAAC Guide.** The [Division II Campus SAAC Guide](#) is now available for campus SAAC members and campus SAAC advisors. It includes information about the purpose of SAAC, how campus SAACs can consider organizing, best practices for campus SAAC communication, running campus SAAC meetings and much more. The committee is updating a conference SAAC guide and anticipates it will be completed this summer to share with the Division II membership.
10. **SAAC Executive Board Name Change.** Due to the NCAA Division II Presidents Council becoming the NCAA Division II Executive Board on February 1, the committee has voted to change the name of its executive board, which includes the chair, vice chair, internal operations coordinator and external communications coordinator. The executive board's new name is the executive team or E-Team for short.
11. **NCAA Transfer Portal Update.** The committee received an update on Transfer Portal data, such as the number of Division II student-athletes in the portal, where Division II student-athletes are transferring and the percentage of Division I and Division III student-athletes transferring to Division II. The committee was briefed on the transfer trends dashboard designed to provide more transparency in Transfer Portal data to help student-athletes make informed decisions about transferring.
12. **Make-A-Wish®.** Beginning in 2024, Make-A-Wish World Wish Month will be held annually in April. Resources are available for Division II conferences and schools on the [Division II Make-A-Wish program page](#) on ncaa.org to help with their Make-A-Wish fundraising.
13. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee was informed that Division II currently has 166 active matches involving Team IMPACT children and there have been 658 all-time matches with Division II schools. The committee received an update that the Team IMPACT [fellowship program](#) applications deadline has been extended to May.
14. **New NCAA Division II Championships Committee Representative.** The committee elected JJ Hayes (Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference) as the committee's second Division II Championships Committee representative, joining Courtney Medwin (West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference).

Mr. Hayes was elected to the Championships Committee following Management Council's adoption of noncontroversial legislation in January to amend Division II Bylaw 21.8.5.2.1 (Championships Committee – composition) to include a second SAAC representative on the Championships Committee.

15. **New Division II Legislation Committee Representative.** The committee elected Cullen Dore (Francis Marion University, Conference Carolinas) as the committee's second Legislation Committee representative, joining Kara Amos (Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association). Mr. Dore was elected to the Legislation Committee following Management Council's adoption of noncontroversial legislation in January to amend Division II Bylaw 21.8.5.6.1 (Legislation Committee – composition) to include a second SAAC representative on the Legislation Committee.
16. **Division II Committee Reports.** Committee members serving on Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Division II committees represented were the Administrative Committee, the Academic Requirements Committee, Championships Committee, Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, Executive Board, Legislation Committee, Management Council and Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.
17. **Association-wide Committee Reports.** Committee members representing Association-wide committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Association-wide committees represented were the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, Committee on Women's Athletics and the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.
18. **NCAA Board of Governors Update.** The committee received an update on the work of the Board of Governors. In the Board of Governors' January meeting, the board approved the Mental Health Best Practices 2nd Edition, made changes to the penalty tied to the NCAA Campus Sexual Violence Policy for schools that do not meet the attestation deadline, and elected Mary Beth Cooper as vice chair.
19. **Management Council/SAAC Summit.** The committee previewed the Management Council/SAAC Summit taking place in Indianapolis on July 20-21. The summit is in conjunction with the next quarterly SAAC meeting and will allow SAAC to connect with administrators serving on the Management Council and discuss Division II hot topics.
20. **Division II 50th Anniversary.** The committee received an update on the Division II 50th anniversary marketing campaign. The celebration continues with the activation of the \$1,000 scholarship initiative for student-athletes. The Management Council Identity Subcommittee will choose 46 scholarship recipients; one male and one female recipient to represent each of the division's 23 conferences. Recipients will be publicly announced at the Division II National Championships Spring Festival in Orlando. There will be a release

on ncaa.org acknowledging all scholarship recipients. The 50th anniversary celebration will culminate with the Division II Baseball Championship finals in June.

21. **DII Day Recap.** The committee discussed the third annual DII Day. Division II conferences, schools and student-athletes across the country participated in the celebration of Division II and highlighted the division's mission and Life in the Balance philosophy on Feb. 22. Overall, the day was successful as #D2Day was trending at No. 8 on X.
22. **Division II National Championships Spring Festival.** The Division II Spring Festival will be held May 19-25 in Orlando. This festival will host the sports of men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, softball and men's and women's tennis. Division II will host its next festival for the winter sports of men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's swimming and diving and men's wrestling March 11-15, 2025, in Indianapolis.
23. **SAAC Logo Pack.** SAAC logos are available and bring a united and modern look for campus and conference SAACs to identify with and use. Campus and conference SAACs are encouraged to update their existing SAAC logos by pairing their athletics logo with the SAAC mark to support their mission and create visual unity among all the student-athlete leadership groups across the NCAA. Access the logo set [here](#) and the logo guidelines [here](#).
24. **January 2024 and March 2024 Meeting Reports.** The January and March committee meeting reports were reviewed and approved.
25. **Future Meetings.**
 - a. July 19-20, 2024, SAAC meeting; Indianapolis.
 - b. July 20-21, 2024, Management Council and SAAC Summit; Indianapolis.
 - c. November 23-24, 2024; SAAC meeting; videoconference.
 - d. January 13-17, 2025, SAAC meeting in conjunction with 2025 NCAA Convention; Nashville, Tennessee.
 - e. April 24-27, 2025, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Indianapolis.
 - f. July 18-19, 2025, SAAC meeting; Indianapolis.
 - g. July 19-20, 2025, Management Council and SAAC Summit; Indianapolis.
 - h. November 2025, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; dates and location TBD.

Committee Chair: Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance
 Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Becca Burchette Medel, Governance
 Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 13-14, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. (April 14)	
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association. (April 13)	
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference.	
Alexis Devlin, Catawba College, South Atlantic Conference.	
Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University, Conference Carolinas.	
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University, Peach Belt Conference.	
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
DJ Guest Jr., California State University, Dominguez Hills, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference	
Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference.	
Grace Hoepfner, Michigan Technological University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference.	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.	
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference.	
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference. (April 14)	
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Derrick Parker II, Grand Valley State University, At-Large.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. (Management Council chair)	
Larry Parkinson, Division II Executive Board Independent Member.	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida, Gulf South Conference.	
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University, At-Large.	

Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Absentees:
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. (April 13)
Eddie Baker, The College of Saint Rose, At-Large.
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association. (April 14)
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference. (April 13)
Justin Zavala, Bowie State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Marcus Brown, Terri Steeb Gronau, Kendee Hilliard, Chelsea Hooks, Maison Hubbard, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Becca Burchette Medel, Kaylen Overway, Susan Peal, Angela Red and Megan Villanueva.