



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 11-12, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** The committee met with President Charlie Baker to discuss updates on topics related to congressional engagement, such as President Donald Trump's "Urgent National Action to Save College Sports" executive order and the SCORE Act, a Division I eligibility concept, recent NCAA championship experiences and the discussions around creating a Division II football transfer window.
2. **Discussion on NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 Referral.** The committee discussed the referral of Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 (eligibility -- athletics eligibility -- seasons of competition: 10-semester/15-quarter rule -- five seasons of competition in 10-semester/15-quarters) and strategies to improve student-athlete education on a future eligibility proposal. The committee noted that limited awareness and understanding of the proposal from a student-athlete perspective contributed to its referral by the Division II membership at the 2026 NCAA Convention. The committee discussed challenges related to the timing of when the proposal's question and answer document became available, clarity and distribution of educational materials, as well as inconsistencies in understanding the proposal at the campus and conference levels. The committee emphasized the importance of earlier and more accessible education, including simplified resources and clearer messaging. The committee also discussed the role of compliance administrators and coaches in understanding the proposal to support education efforts and ensure accurate information is shared with student-athletes. The committee provided feedback on potential improvements, including earlier dissemination of materials, a more comprehensive explanation of the proposal and enhanced communication strategies across all levels. The suggested communication strategies included creating visuals, such as graphics or PowerPoint slides to help the membership better understand the proposal.
3. **Discussion on Student-Athlete Time Demands Using the 2025 NCAA Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students (GOALS) Survey Results.** As part of the 2026-32 Division II Operating Plan, the committee has been tasked with re-evaluating student-athlete time demands using the GOALS study survey data to ensure student-athletes are positioned to succeed academically. The committee reviewed trends indicating a slight increase in time spent on athletics and a decrease in time spent on academics, alongside an increase in time spent socializing, relaxing and sleeping. The committee discussed student-athlete schedules, noting the significant weekly time commitment required to balance academics and athletics, as well as variations across sports in time demands, travel and missed class time. The committee also reviewed data on student-athlete engagement, including involvement on campus, community engagement participation and factors influencing student-athletes' desire for increased

campus engagement. Additionally, the committee discussed student-athlete well-being indicators, including sleep trends and the importance of maintaining a balanced experience, and evaluated how these findings align with Division II's "Life in the Balance" philosophy, emphasizing the need to ensure student-athletes are able to successfully balance academics, athletics and personal commitments.

4. **Discussion on SAAC Super Region Convention.** The committee received an update that as part of the new operating plan action plan, a working group was established to evaluate potential enhancements to the SAAC super region convention and ensure the program aligns with its intended goals and objectives. In preparation for the working group's conversations, SAAC discussed the 2025 super region conventions and potential enhancements for future programming, including whether to adjust the timing of the social event or modify the format of featured speakers. The committee also discussed the idea of offering rotating professional development topics for student-athletes, identifying key focus areas such as financial literacy, interview preparation, resume resources and strategies for networking and building relationships. Additionally, the committee suggested incorporating a national SAAC panel to further educate student-athletes and administrators on the role and responsibilities of national SAAC.

5. **Discussion on Transfer Windows in Division II.** The committee received an update on the Division II Management Council considering a recommendation at its April meeting to add a Division II football notification of transfer window. The discussion included an overview of current Division II transfer legislation, the proposed change that would align Division II with the Division I football notification of transfer window and the rationale behind these considerations, including recruiting inequities and roster management challenges. The committee provided feedback on key elements of the proposal, including general support for implementing a football notification of transfer window, while emphasizing the importance of creating a spring transfer window to permit student-athletes to submit their notification of transfer after spring practices conclude. The committee's football student-athletes acknowledged the importance placed on student-athlete development in spring practices and how the spring helps inform student-athletes of their role on the team heading into fall practices. The committee also discussed the proposed reduction in the time frame for football student-athletes entering the transfer portal (i.e., 14 days) and the need to account for institutional resources and academic calendars for football student-athletes who decide to transfer in January. Additionally, the committee supported a June 1, 2026, effective date.

When considering the addition of transfer windows for all sports other than football, the committee discussed the impact on student-athletes, ultimately expressing a preference for timelines that allow adequate flexibility. The committee noted that further discussion will be necessary and emphasized the importance of ensuring any changes prioritize student-athlete well-being, informed decision-making and equitable opportunities.

- 6. Discussion on Use of Commercial Logos.** The committee received an update on potential legislation related to the use of commercial logos on Division II uniforms and apparel. The discussion focused on whether Division II should mirror recent Division I changes that would permit commercial or nonprofit logos during non-NCAA championship competition. The committee discussed potential benefits, including revenue generation opportunities for institutions, while also identifying concerns related to competitive equity among schools if some schools secure a commercial logo partner and some do not, institutional resources, uniform consistency and the overall impact on student-athletes. The committee emphasized the importance of establishing guardrails around the types of logos that could be permitted, including protections related to gambling, alcohol, tobacco and other products that may not align with student-athlete values or NCAA principles. The committee also discussed whether any proposed change should move forward through the full legislative process or as noncontroversial legislation. While the committee expressed support for the potential legislation, several questions were asked. The committee noted the importance of clear guidance and continued membership input.
- 7. Discussion on Participation in Mental Health First Aid Training.** The committee discussed an opportunity presented by the NCAA Sport Science Institute to be mental health first aid certified. The committee was provided an overview of the opportunity and the time commitment of the training, knowing it would need to occur in person around one of the committee's quarterly meetings. The committee confirmed its interest in being mental health first aid certified and in the 5.5-hour training that requires up to two hours of self-paced prework prior to the training. The Division II staff will work with SSI to schedule the training.
- 8. Updates on 2025-26 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed its progress toward its two goal themes – maintaining consistent communication with campus and conference SAACs to keep student-athletes informed on Division II events and issues, and encouraging and spotlighting community engagement efforts in Division II conferences and schools. Below are the committee's goal updates:

 - a. Communication.** The committee discussed their current communications initiatives, including progress toward implementing a communication tracking log and the development of a best practices resource to support consistent information sharing. The committee discussed strategies to improve awareness of SAAC and its role among student-athletes, including the creation of educational materials and enhanced collaboration with social media efforts. The committee emphasized the importance of strengthening communication across campuses, conferences and the national level to ensure student-athletes are informed and engaged.

- b. **Community Engagement.** The committee discussed their ongoing community engagement initiatives, including efforts to collect and highlight campus-level programming across Division II. The committee noted that multiple submissions have been received and will be shared through Division II SAAC's social media to increase visibility and recognition of student-athlete impact. The committee also discussed opportunities to further support engagement by providing campuses with ideas and resources to assist those seeking to increase participation in community engagement initiatives.
9. **Update on NCAA Transfer Portal Data.** The committee received an update on the NCAA Transfer Portal, including trends in transfer activity among Division II student-athletes. The committee reviewed data on the percentage of student-athletes entering the transfer portal, noting a return to pre-COVID trends, as well as an increase in multiple transfers and the potential impact on academic progress and degree completion. The committee also discussed outcomes for student-athletes who enter the portal, including the percentage who secure opportunities at other NCAA institutions and overall movement trends across divisions. Additionally, the committee reviewed factors influencing transfer decisions, including playing time, academics, coaching changes and mental health considerations, and discussed the importance of increasing awareness of available resources to better inform student-athletes considering transfer decisions.
10. **Update on Cross Divisional Student-Athlete Group.** The committee received an update on the upcoming cross divisional student-athlete group meeting scheduled for April 15. The update included an overview of the meeting agenda, which will feature a recap of recent NCAA Board of Governors discussions, a review of the consultative process in advance of the April 30 Board of Governors meeting and continued dialogue on student-athlete engagement initiatives. Additional topics on the cross divisional student-athlete group's agenda include feedback on the joint SAAC lunch held at the 2026 Convention, exploration of a potential Association-wide student-athlete newsletter, development of Association-wide best practice resources for campus and conference SAACs and consideration of virtual education and networking opportunities for SAAC advisors. The committee was encouraged to provide feedback through its executive team to inform ongoing discussions among the cross divisional student-athlete group.
11. **Update on Division I SAAC's Formal Name Change.** The committee received an update on Division I SAAC's formal name change from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to the Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee. Division I SAAC's intent for the change is to emphasize Division I SAAC's primary role in advocating for student-athletes while also enhancing clarity, visibility and alignment within the Division I governance structure. Division I SAAC also believes the change reflects a broader effort to ensure student-athlete representation is more influential and meaningful within the Division I governance process. The name change has been approved by the Division I Board of Directors Executive Committee and is effective immediately. Division II SAAC previously discussed

the name change in concept at its January meeting and continued to note support for Division I SAAC's decision while expressing no interest in pursuing a similar name change for Division II at this time.

- 12. SAAC's Involvement in 2026-32 Division II Operating Plan.** The committee received an update on the Division II Operating Plan, which will guide the division from 2026 through 2032. The committee reviewed an overview of the plan, including its key priority areas. The committee discussed SAAC's role in supporting the implementation of the plan, including the creation of a working group focused on reviewing the SAAC Super Region Convention and determining enhancements that could be made, and evaluating feedback from the 2025 GOALS study to re-evaluate Division II student-athlete demands to ensure student-athletes are positioned to succeed academically. The committee was informed that the key priority areas will be addressed over time, with staff liaisons tracking progress and bringing forward relevant topics for discussion as they align with the plan's timeline.
- 13. Update on Student-Athlete Congressional Engagement.** The committee received an update on student-athlete congressional engagement efforts, including recent communication from the NCAA office of government relations and ongoing initiatives related to the SCORE Act. The committee reviewed progress on conference SAAC outreach, noting 14 of 23 Division II conference SAACs have submitted letters to elected officials. The committee was encouraged to continue participating in advocacy efforts, including writing letters and utilizing available resources, such as sample templates and educational materials available [here](#). The committee also discussed the importance of maintaining engagement and ensuring the student-athlete voice is represented in ongoing legislative conversations.
- 14. Discussion on Creating a Policy for Sharing SAAC's Formal Positions.** The committee discussed creating a policy for sharing SAAC's formal positions following its November meeting. The committee believes sharing its positions will increase transparency and awareness of SAAC's perspective and will provide campus and conference administrators with a clearer understanding of the committee's positions and rationale. The committee also discussed considerations related to when the positions would be shared, potential external feedback that could be received after the positions are shared and the ability to revisit positions at its January meeting if additional information becomes available. The committee emphasized the importance of ensuring accurate, consistent communication while continuing to represent the interests of Division II student-athletes.
- 15. Board of Governors Update.** The committee received a Board of Governors update that included ongoing discussion surrounding the SCORE Act and broader congressional engagement, with an emphasis on continued advocacy to ensure the student-athlete voice is represented in legislative efforts. The committee was informed of the upcoming evaluation process for NCAA President Charlie Baker and committee members were

- encouraged to provide feedback to support Division II's representation in that process. An update was provided on anticipated Board of Governors committee member transitions, noting that the Division I graduate student-athlete representative's term will conclude in August. The committee also discussed recent conversations surrounding sports wagering.
16. **Make-A-Wish® Update.** The committee received an update from Make-A-Wish and was reminded of the deadline for donations to count toward a school's 2025-26 fundraising total. Online donations should be submitted through the Make-A-Wish website and mail-in donations should be postmarked by July 15. In 2026, thus far, Division II has raised over \$72,000 through 842 donations, with participation from 73 schools. The committee was also reminded of the resources available for Division II conferences and schools on the Division II Make-A-Wish Canva page.
 17. **Team IMPACT® Update.** The committee received an update from Team IMPACT. Eighty-nine children have been matched with a Division II team this year. The application deadline for the Team IMPACT Fellowship Program is May 1.
 18. **Management Council/SAAC Summit Preview.** The committee previewed the Management Council/SAAC Summit taking place in Indianapolis July 18-19. The summit is in conjunction with the next quarterly SAAC meeting and will allow SAAC to connect with administrators serving on Management Council. The summit will feature a mix of roundtable discussions and collaborative sessions including professional development conversations, SAAC's feedback on 2027 Convention legislation and discussion on Division II hot topics.
 19. **SAAC Executive Team Orientation Recap.** The committee's executive team recapped their recent orientation, noting it provided clarity on roles, responsibilities and expectations for serving in leadership positions. The executive team emphasized a focus on improving communication and supporting committee members in their roles. The committee was reminded of available resources, including role and responsibility documents housed in SharePoint and was encouraged to utilize executive team members, mentors and peers for guidance as needed.
 20. **Overview of Campus and Conference SAAC Guides.** The committee was reminded about the [Division II Campus SAAC Guide](#) and [Division II Conference SAAC Guide](#) being available for campus and conference SAAC members, advisors and liaisons. The guides include information about the purpose of SAAC, how campus and conference SAACs can consider organizing as a committee, best practices for communication, running meetings and much more.

- 21. Division II Committee Reports.** Committee members serving on Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Division II committees represented were the Academic Requirements Committee, Administrative Committee, Championships Committee, Executive Board, Legislation Committee, Management Council and Management Council Identity Subcommittee.
- 22. 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 and Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.
- 23. Division II Day Recap.** The committee received a recap on Division II Day and the social media engagement from the day. The division's platforms reached over a million impressions and just under 30,000 engagements on the day.
- 24. Make It Yours Paid Media Update.** The committee received an update on Division II's efforts to develop new public service announcements (PSAs) and expand its "Make It Yours" brand activation. Staff shared that Division II initiated a request for proposal process to engage external partners and develop multiple campaigns with themes focused on the division's core messaging and "Life in the Balance" philosophy, community engagement, and key selling points of Division II, such as championships access, scholarships, regional rivalries, student-athlete voice and a focus on mental and physical well-being. Staff noted that the initiative will also include a comprehensive graphics package to enhance digital and web-based activations, which has not been included in previous campaigns. The committee was informed that meetings with potential companies who are interested are expected to take place in the coming months, with the goal of launching new PSAs ahead of the next academic year. Additionally, the PSAs will be integrated into a new paid media campaign following the success of previous campaigns to maximize reach across digital platforms. The committee also discussed the use of animated versus real life content, noting the balance between cost efficiencies and the value of authentic student-athlete storytelling and expressed support for the overall direction of the initiative.
- 25. SAAC Logo Pack.** The committee was reminded of the NCAA-provided SAAC logos that 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 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. The committee was reminded that the logo set is available [here](#) and the logo guidelines are available [here](#).

- 26. SAAC Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and unanimously approved editorial changes to the committee's policies and procedures. Changes included updated legislative references and language adjustments to ensure alignment with current standards, revisions to diversity and inclusion related language, the addition of the cross divisional student-athlete group charter, updates to mentor and mentee responsibilities and updates to references to the external communications coordinator. The committee also approved the addition of a policy outlining the opportunity and process for an alternate SAAC member to observe an Executive Board meeting if the committee's representatives are unable to attend, mirroring the existing Management Council alternate representative policy.
- 27. January 2026 Meeting Report.** The January committee meeting report was reviewed and approved.
- 28. Future Meetings.**
- a. July 17-18, SAAC meeting; Indianapolis.
 - b. July 18-19, Management Council and SAAC Summit; Indianapolis.
 - c. November 21-22, SAAC meeting; videoconference.
 - d. January 11-15, 2027, in conjunction with the 2027 NCAA Convention, Anaheim, California.
 - e. April 2027, in conjunction with Division II SAAC Super Region Convention; dates and location to be determined.
 - f. July 16-17, 2027, SAAC meeting; Indianapolis.
 - g. July 17-18, 2027, Management Council and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Summit; Indianapolis.
 - h. November 2027, in conjunction with Division II SAAC Super Region Convention; dates and location to be determined.

Committee Chair: Rachel McCool, Ashland University, Great Midwest American Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Division II Governance and Member Services
Marcus Brown, Division I Governance and Member Services
Morgan Melchert, Eligibility Center
Katie Mucci, Division II Governance and Member Services
Megan Villanueva, Division II Governance and Member Services*

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 11-12, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Tiayo Adelekan, Chestnut Hill College, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Yahir Chairez-Salazar, Colorado School of Mines, At-Large.
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair). (April 11)
Adoriyan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. (April 12)
Darcey Dorris, Central State University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Lorenza Foster-Simbulan, Dominican University of California, At-Large.
Connor Fournier, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. (April 11)
Mariah Hughes, Point Loma Nazarene University, Pacific West Conference.
Zeke Jarzyniecki, Belmont Abbey College, Conference Carolinas. (April 12)
Ronnie Johnson, University of Arkansas, Monticello, Great American Conference. (April 12)
Mário Kirkov, Eckerd College, Sunshine State Conference.
Ryan Lovelace, Lee University, Gulf South Conference.
Vivian Martinez, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California Collegiate Athletic Association.
Rita-Marie Masi, Mercy University, East Coast Conference.
Abbie McCants, Coker University, South Atlantic Conference. (April 12)
Rachel McCool, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
Emma Neal, Maryville University of Saint Louis, Great Lakes Valley Conference.
Brelee Nichols, Western New Mexico University, Lone Star Conference.
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. (April 12)
Larry Parkinson, Executive Board Independent Member.
Alex Robbins, University of South Carolina Beaufort, Peach Belt Conference.
Rowan Ruggiero, American International College, Northeast 10 Conference.
Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. (April 12)
Tyson Sexton, University of Montevallo, At-Large.
Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. (April 12)
Carter Walsh, Northwest Nazarene University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Absentees:
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair). <i>(April 12)</i>
Adoriyan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. <i>(April 11)</i>
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. <i>(April 12)</i>
Zeke Jarzyniecki, Belmont Abbey College, Conference Carolinas. <i>(April 11)</i>
Ronnie Johnson, University of Arkansas, Monticello, Great American Conference. <i>(April 11)</i>
Maybe Ledesma, Davis & Elkins College, Mountain East Conference.
Abbie McCants, Coker University, South Atlantic Conference. <i>(April 11)</i>
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. <i>(April 11)</i>
Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. <i>(April 11)</i>
Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. <i>(April 11)</i>
Gabe Zeldes, Wayne State University (Michigan), Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Davaris Cheeks <i>(April 12)</i> , Nicole Colley <i>(April 11)</i> , Alex Givens <i>(April 11)</i> and Erin Loughlin <i>(April 11)</i> .
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Lydia Bell, Marcus Brown, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Karen Keyler, Katie Mucci, Kaylen Overway, Megan Villanueva and Courtney Wengryn.