



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MAY 17, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on NCAA Division I Age-Based Eligibility Concept.** The committee received an update on the Division I age-based eligibility model and its potential impact to Division II. The committee recapped recent discussions from the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee, Legislation Committee and Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee, noting that each group supported additional consideration on a similar age-based eligibility model for Division II. The SAAC discussed the framework of the proposed model, which if adopted in Division II would replace the current seasons-of-competition structure with a five-year eligibility period that would begin at the start of the regular academic year immediately after a student-athlete's 19th birthday, high school graduation date or expected high school graduation date based on the first year of high school enrollment, whichever occurs first. The committee reviewed key implications of the model, including the elimination of seasons-of-competition exceptions, extension of eligibility waivers and delayed enrollment legislation, with limited exceptions for pregnancy, religious mission and military service.
2. **Review of Division II Proposal No. 2026-6.** The committee received a reminder of Division II Proposal 2026-6 and its eligibility framework. The committee recapped the proposal, which would have permitted student-athletes to participate in five seasons of intercollegiate competition within their first 10 semesters or 15 quarters of full-time enrollment. The proposal would have eliminated currently legislated seasons-of-competition exceptions and associated waivers, while maintaining limited and clearly defined exceptions for period of eligibility waivers. The committee reviewed the proposal's intended implementation timeline, noting that the model would have applied to student-athletes with remaining eligibility after the 2024-25 academic year.
3. **Update on Division II Student-Athlete Eligibility Data.** The committee received an update on Division II student-athlete data related to the potential implementation of an age-based eligibility model and reviewed several measures intended to assess how the proposed structure could impact Division II student-athletes. The committee discussed time-to-degree trends and noted that most Division II student-athletes complete their degree in four years or less, though more recent data showed an increase in student-athletes taking longer than four years, which was attributed at least in part to the COVID-19 eligibility extension. The committee also reviewed differences by gender and transfer status, noting that women student-athletes were more likely to graduate within four years, while transfer student-athletes were more likely to experience extended timelines due to credit transfer and degree progression challenges. The committee reviewed data regarding

age at initial enrollment, which indicated that most Division II student-athletes enter college at age 19 or younger, though certain sports such as men's basketball, soccer, tennis, ice hockey and skiing demonstrated a higher percentage of student-athletes entering at older ages. The committee also reviewed data on the average age at which student-athletes exhaust eligibility and discussed how sport-specific structures, delayed enrollment pathways and unique participation trends may create differing impacts across sports.

4. **Discussion on Division II Considering Age-Based Eligibility Concept.** The committee discussed the potential implementation of an age-based eligibility model in Division II and reviewed feedback on key concepts, implementation timelines and educational considerations. The committee highlighted several benefits of the model, including increased opportunities for student-athletes to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees, a simpler and more streamlined eligibility structure than Division II Proposal No. 2026-6, reduced administrative burden and a more balanced competitive environment through age-based parameters. The committee also discussed concerns related to the removal of current waiver opportunities, including medical hardship situations, international student considerations and institutional differences, such as graduate program availability. Additionally, the committee reviewed implementation options for student-athletes who have eligibility only through the 2026-27 academic year and expressed strong support for those student-athletes not receiving an extra year of eligibility, citing the need for consistency and reducing uncertainty for student-athletes, coaches and institutions. The committee supported moving forward with an age-based eligibility model while emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive education strategy that includes simplified resources, scenario-based examples, and centralized information and communication through social media, conference channels and campus stakeholders to ensure accurate understanding and reduce misinformation.
5. **Future Meetings.**
 - a. July 17-18, SAAC meeting; Indianapolis.
 - b. July 18-19, NCAA Division II 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 the NCAA 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 the SAAC Super Region Convention; dates and location to be determined.

Committee Chair: Rachel McCool, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, NCAA Division II Governance and Member Services
 Marcus Brown, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services
 Morgan Melchert, NCAA 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 May 17, 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.
Adoriyan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
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.
Mariah Hughes, Point Loma Nazarene University; Pacific West Conference.
Zeke Jarzyniecki, Belmont Abbey College; Conference Carolinas.
Ronnie Johnson, University of Arkansas, Monticello; Great American Conference.
Mário Kirkov, Eckerd College; Sunshine State Conference.
Maybe Ledesma, Davis & Elkins College; Mountain East 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.
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.
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.
Tyson Sexton, University of Montevallo; At-Large.
Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Carter Walsh, Northwest Nazarene University; Great Northwest Athletic Conference.
Gabe Zeldes, Wayne State University (Michigan); Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lydia Bell, Terri Steeb Gronau, Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Katie Mucci, Angela Red, Megan Villanueva and Courtney Wengryn.