



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, IN-PERSON MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaws 21.8.5.2.1 and 21.8.5.6.1 -- Championships Committee and Legislation Committee -- Composition.**

- a. Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaws 21.8.5.2.1 (Championships Committee – composition) and 21.8.5.6.1 (Legislation Committee – composition) to include a second member of the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on the NCAA Division II Championships Committee and NCAA Division II Legislation Committee; further to specify that the one additional student-athlete appointed to the Championships Committee and one additional student-athlete appointed to the Legislation Committee shall: 1) each have one vote; 2) serve a one-year term that is renewable for one year; and 3) be elected by the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The following will be the preferences for student-athlete representatives on the Championships Committee:

- One male student-athlete and one female student-athlete.
- One student-athlete from a team sport and one student-athlete from an individual sport.

The following will be the preferences for student-athlete representatives on the Legislation Committee:

- One male student-athlete and one female student-athlete.
- Diversity of sport.
- Diversity of region.

- b. Effective Date. April 1, 2024.
- c. Rationale. Currently, Division II SAAC is represented by one student-athlete on the Championships Committee and one student-athlete on the Legislation Committee. The committee believes adding one student-athlete to both the Championships Committee and Legislation Committee will strengthen the student-athlete voice by providing additional perspectives in committee discussions that often directly impact student-athletes. The one additional student-athlete on the Championships Committee and one

additional student-athlete on the Legislation Committee will enhance the gender and sport diversity and the conference representation that the current student-athlete members provide. Further, having an additional student-athlete serve on the two committees will increase opportunities for SAAC members to serve on Division II committees. The additional student-athletes will offer support for the current student-athlete members on the Championships Committee and Legislation Committee, which are largely composed of Division II athletics administrators.

- d. Estimated Budget Impact. The addition of one student-athlete to the Championships Committee and one student-athlete to the Legislation Committee will have a minimal budget impact (i.e., travel, meals and per diem for in-person meetings).
- e. Estimated Student-Athlete Impact. The recommended amended compositions elevate the student-athlete voice by adding a second student-athlete member.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Establish Division II SAAC Positions for 2024 NCAA Convention.** The committee reviewed and supported two of the five legislative proposals that will be voted on by the Division II membership at the 2024 Convention. Committee members discussed how their conference voted on the proposals and offered additional feedback they received.

The committee discussed the following pieces of proposed legislation:

- a. **Proposal No. 2024-1:** Playing and Practice Seasons – Football – Preseason Practice and First Contest – First Permissible Contest. **Committee Position: Opposes.**

The committee opposed NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2024-1 due to the proposal reducing one week of the summer break and extending the season by one week, the potential for injuries to occur as a result of the extra week of the season, the bye week not being utilized for rest and recovery, and the additional responsibilities it will place on athletics department staff who the committee stated are already overworked.

- b. **Proposal No. 2024-2:** Playing and Practice Seasons – Softball – Number of Contests – Maximum Limitations – Institutional and Student-Athlete – Championship and Nonchampionship Contests. **Committee Position: Opposes.**

The committee opposed Proposal No. 2024-2 due to concerns that additional games in an already full season could negatively impact softball student-athletes' physical, mental and overall well-being.

- c. **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. **Committee Position: Supports.**
- d. **Proposal No. 2024-4:** Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships – Criteria for Selection of Participants – Automatic Qualification – Automatic Qualification in All Team Sports Other Than Football. **Committee Position: Supports.**
- e. **Proposal No. 2024-5:** Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships – Criteria for Selection of Participants – Earned Access – Football – Earned Access for All Football-Sponsoring Conferences. **Committee Position: Opposes.**

The committee opposed Proposal No. 2024-5 due to it resulting in fewer bids being available to football conferences that usually receive multiple bids as a result of the strength of their teams.

- 2. **Preparation for 2024 Convention Division II Business Session.** The committee assigned members to speak on legislative proposals for the 2024 Division II business session.
- 3. **2024 Convention Overview.** The committee was presented with the 2024 Convention schedule. The SAAC will attend its January meeting, then participate in Convention programming.
- 4. **2024 Convention Programming.** The committee discussed possible topics for the joint SAAC, NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Presidents Council breakfast and meeting. Education sessions will be dedicated to developing a strong campus or conference SAAC; mental wellness; diversity, equity and inclusion; name, image and likeness in Division II; and resources for faculty athletics representatives.
- 5. **2024 SAAC Elections.** The committee will hold its annual elections during its January committee meeting. The committee received a preview of the positions that will be open for election. Committee members will submit nominations for the open positions before the January committee meeting.
- 6. **Updates on 2023-24 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed the current progress towards the three E's – empowering student-athletes with resources, empathizing with their

concerns and enhancing the student-athlete voice and experience. The committee added additional members to the social media subcommittee to allow for more creativity and content diversity. The subcommittee asked the committee for feedback for future content planning. Based on feedback received from institutions and conferences, there is a desire for more education on civic engagement activities to support the division's annual civic engagement day, held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every year. The committee discussed creating guidelines for the day and formed a working group to create a resource.

7. **Discussion on Softball Date Formula During Festival Years.** The committee discussed the softball date formula during festival years and the positives and negatives with changing the date formula to permit softball student-athletes to participate in festival years. Ultimately, the committee agreed that the date formula should permit softball student-athletes to compete in the festival. The SAAC believes the festival experience is a key element of the Division II experience. Committee members shared the overwhelmingly positive feedback they heard from their peers about the festival experience. Committee members referred to the festival as being a “once in a lifetime experience” and a “once in a career experience” and removing it for softball student-athletes would take away an opportunity that student-athletes who compete in it look forward to, enjoy and value.
8. **Congressional Engagement Update.** The committee discussed two student-athlete letters that were sent from the Great American Conference SAAC and SAAC member Davaris Cheeks to the Senate Judiciary Committee for the October 17 hearing. Both letters amplified the voice of Division II student-athletes. The committee and Division II student-athletes were encouraged to continue writing letters to their state and government officials and continue to use the congressional engagement [resources](#) provided by and for student-athletes.
9. **Discussion of Key Goals for Division II Strategic Plan.** The committee discussed the division's key goals for its new strategic plan that will launch in January 2026.
10. **Discussion on Campus and Conference SAAC Guides.** A working group is continuing to update the committee's campus and conference SAAC guides. The goal is for the documents to be finalized and shared in the spring semester with Division II institutions and conferences.
11. **Discussion on Division I Name, Image and Likeness Working Group.** The committee provided feedback on several questions related to legislative proposals that have been created by the NCAA Division I's Name, Image and Likeness Working Group.
12. **2023 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The committee chose its 2023 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award winner. The award honors an institutional faculty member who has demonstrated dedication, support and guidance to student-athletes and the institution's athletics program. The story on the 2023 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award winner will be announced on NCAA.org and the division's social media channels prior to the 2024 Convention. The winner will be recognized during a reception at the

2024 Convention.

13. **2024 Division II Award of Excellence.** The committee received an update on the 2024 Division II Award of Excellence nominations. Fifty-two institutions and two conferences self-nominated and 19 conferences were represented. The Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee will choose the 2024 Division II Award of Excellence national winner, runner-up and third place finalist in December. The top three recipients will be recognized during the 2024 Division II business session.
14. **November 2023 SAAC Super Region Convention.** The committee prepared to lead and facilitate discussions for the division's sixth SAAC Super Region Convention for conferences and institutions in the South and Southeast regions November 17-19 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. Student-athletes and administrators from the Conference Carolinas, Gulf South Conference, Peach Belt Conference, South Atlantic Conference, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference attended. SAAC will host its next super region convention for the Central and Midwest regions in April 2025 and South Central and West regions in November 2025 at locations to be determined.
15. **Make-A-Wish®.** The committee received an update on the division's total donations and number of wish reveals granted for the 2022-23 academic year in Division II. Division II [raised](#) more than \$160,000 for Make-A-Wish. Three Division II institutions raised over \$10,000 and six institutions earned wish reveals by receiving supplemental funds from the division's championships and enforcement fine dollars. The committee was reminded of the Make-A-Wish [tool kit](#) available. The next Week of Wishes will occur February 17-24, 2024.

The committee was reminded that all donations for the 2023-24 academic year should be [submitted directly](#) to Make-A-Wish; and to view the Division II specific Make-A-Wish page at ncaadii.wish.org. This page includes an option to register, donate and frequently asked questions about fundraising. For questions, the committee was asked to contact a new Make-A-Wish representative, Maggie Gibbons (mgibbons@wish.org).
16. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee was informed that Division II donated approximately \$115,000 from its championships and enforcement fines to Team IMPACT.
17. **New Allocation Model for Division II Championships and Enforcement Fines.** Starting with the 2024-25 academic year, Division II will utilize a new model for allocating its championships and enforcement fine dollars. The fine dollars will impact Division II honorees of the Division II Award of Excellence, Team IMPACT and Make-A-Wish. Starting with the 2024-25 academic year, \$7,500 of the fine dollars will enhance Award of Excellence prize money, and of the remaining funds, 60-percent will be distributed to Team IMPACT and 40-percent will be distributed to Make-A-Wish.

18. **Division II 50th Anniversary Celebration.** The division continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The celebration will last through the 2023-24 academic year and culminate with the 2024 Division II Baseball Championship finals.
 - a. **Gold Award.** On November 13, 45 individuals were recognized as finalists for the Division II Gold Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made a lasting and positive impact in Division II. Two Gold Award overall winners (one male, one female) will be announced and recognized at the 2024 Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.
 - b. **Scholarship Opportunity.** Beginning January 22, 2024, nominations will open in NCAA Program Hub for Division II active member institutions to nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the 50th anniversary \$1,000 scholarship. Student-athlete nominees should exhibit the core values of Division II and have athletics eligibility remaining through the 2024-25 academic year. By May 20, 2024, one male and one female student-athlete will be selected from each of the division's 23 conferences and one male and one female student-athlete will represent the division's independent institutions. Scholarship recipients will be announced during the 2024 NCAA Division II National Championships Festival in Orlando, Florida.
19. **Division II Committee and Subcommittee Reports.** Committee members serving on NCAA Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The committees represented were the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee, NCAA Division II Administrative Committee, Championships Committee, Legislation Committee, Management Council and Presidents Council. The committee also received an update from the Management Council Identity Subcommittee.
20. **Association-Wide Committee Reports.** Committee members representing Association-wide committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Association-wide committees represented were the NCAA Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee and NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.
21. **Board of Governors Update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors Division II student-athlete representative Madeleine McKenna. The update included various tasks the Board of Governors are working on and an update on congressional engagement and sports wagering.
22. **Scholarship Opportunities.** The committee received an overview of the scholarships available for Division II student-athletes, including the 2024-25 NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award, Jim McKay Graduate Scholarship, Walter Byers Graduate Scholarship, NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program and Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Graduate Scholarship.

23. July and August meeting reports. The July and August committee meeting reports were reviewed and approved.

24. Future Meetings.

- a. January 9-13, 2024, in conjunction with 2024 Convention; Phoenix, Arizona.
- b. April 13-14, 2024, SAAC meeting; videoconference
- c. July 19-21, 2024, Management Council/SAAC Summit; Indianapolis.
- d. November 23-24, 2024, SAAC meeting; videoconference.
- e. January 14-18, 2025, SAAC meeting in conjunction with 2025 NCAA Convention; Nashville, Tennessee.

Committee Chair: Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance
 Amanda Benzine, Women's Basketball
 Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Megan McDonald, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Becca Burchette Medel, Governance

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee November 16, 2023, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Eddie Baker, The College of Saint Rose, At-Large.	
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Michaela Boyd, Azusa Pacific University, At-Large.	
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
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.	
Molly Hansen, University of Montevallo, Gulf South Conference.	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Myles Jackson, Queens College (New York), At-Large.	
Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.	

David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference.
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
Tanner Olson, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Justin Zavala, Bowie State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Absentees:
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.
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.
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference.
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Sandra Woodley, University of Texas of Permian Basin, Lone Star Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Madeleine McKenna and Carrie Michaels.
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Amanda Benzine, Marcus Brown, Dawn Buth, Terri Steeb Gronau, Kendee Hilliard, Chelsea Hooks, Anna Lynn Houk, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Karen Kirsch, Megan McDonald, Becca Burchette Medel, Angela Red, Alyssa Rice and Sarah Vollaro.