



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 23-24, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Establish Division II SAAC Positions for 2025 NCAA Convention.** The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reviewed and supported seven of the eight legislative proposals that will be voted on by the Division II membership at the 2025 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. **NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2025-1: National Collegiate Championships – Women's Wrestling. Committee Position: Supports.**
- b. **Proposal No. 2025-2: Recruiting and Playing and Practice Seasons – Tryouts and General Playing-Season Regulations – Mandatory Medical Examinations – Timing of Medical Examination. Committee Position: Opposes.**

The committee opposed Proposal No. 2025-2 due to the proposal potentially limiting the most recent health records on file for student-athletes and since the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports also opposed it.

- c. **Proposal No. 2025-3: Eligibility – Academic Eligibility – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements – Eligibility for Competition – Credit Hours Earned During the Regular Academic Year – Elimination of the 18-Semester/27-Quarter Hours Requirement. Committee Position: Supports.**
- d. **Proposal No. 2025-4: Eligibility – Transfer Regulations – Two-Year College Transfers – Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid – All Other Qualifiers and Partial Qualifiers – Elimination of English, Math and Science Requirement for Qualifiers. Committee Position: Supports.**
- e. **Proposal No. 2025-5: Eligibility – Athletics Eligibility – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Competition – Participation During Initial Year of Collegiate Enrollment. Committee Position: Supports.**

- f. **Proposal No. 2025-6:** Eligibility – Athletics Eligibility – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Competition – Up to Four Dates of Competition – Men's Wrestling. **Committee Position: Supports.**
 - g. **Proposal No. 2025-7:** Playing and Practice Seasons – General Playing-Season Regulations – Required Day Off – Civic Engagement – Exception and Policy Requirement. **Committee Position: Supports.**
 - h. **Proposal No. 2025-8:** Championships Administration – Administration of Division II Championships – Criteria for Selection of Participants – Automatic Qualification – Football. **Committee Position: Supports.**
- 2. **Selection of Nonprofit Organization for Division II Penalties of the NCAA Board of Governors Campus Sexual Violence Policy.** The committee was provided an update on the revised penalty structure for schools who fail to complete the attestation requirement of the NCAA policy on campus sexual violence. During its April meeting, the Board of Governors revised the penalty structure for schools that fail to submit an attestation form or do so after the deadline. The new penalty structure states that a school that does not submit the attestation form will be fined \$5,000, which will be distributed to a philanthropic organization identified by each division whose efforts focus on campus sexual violence prevention. The SAAC was presented with a list of four potential organizations to consider receiving fines from Division II schools that are unable to attest. The committee reviewed and supported the selection of the It's On Us campaign. The NCAA Board of Governors Executive Committee will be notified of each national SAAC's selection before its next meeting in January.
- 3. **Preparation for 2025 Convention Division II Business Session.** The committee assigned members to speak on legislative proposals for the 2025 Division II business session.
- 4. **2025 Convention Overview.** The committee was presented with the 2025 Convention schedule. The SAAC will attend its January meeting, then participate in Convention programming.
- 5. **2025 Convention Programming.** The committee discussed possible topics for the joint SAAC, NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Executive Board breakfast and meeting. In addition, it was noted that Division II education sessions will be dedicated to strategic approaches to adding Division II sports; name, image and likeness at the Division II level; enrollment management/roster management; fundraising/alternative revenue streams and staffing at Division II campuses.

6. **Discussion with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** SAAC members had the opportunity to speak with President Baker about the NIL settlement and its impact on Division II, the fan database, how student-athletes can advocate for protections with sports wagering, his takeaways from the NCAA Division II Think Tank and an update on a study conducted by the NCAA and Signify Group related to online harassment during select championships.
7. **Discussion with NCAA Chief Medical Officer Deena Casiero.** The committee was introduced to new Chief Medical Officer Deena Casiero. As part of her introduction, the committee learned about her previous work experience and her dedication to the health and well-being of student-athletes. She also provided an update on the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports' September sports wagering discussion. She summarized the committee's thoughts on the discussions all three divisions are having on whether the NCAA should deregulate legislation around betting on professional sports.
8. **Review of NCAA Sports Wagering Legislation.** Following the summary of the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports' recent sports wagering discussions, SAAC discussed the NCAA's sports wagering legislation after previously discussing it at the July Management Council/SAAC Summit. The committee further discussed the idea to deregulate the sports wagering legislation to permit student-athletes, athletics department staff and conference office staff to wager, as permitted by law, on professional sports. In a straw poll, the committee was supportive of deregulating the sports wagering legislation related to professional sports. The committee felt the NCAA's current legislation does not prevent student-athletes from wagering on professional or collegiate sports and it is difficult for compliance staff to monitor student-athletes' wagering on sports. The committee believes the prohibition on college sports wagering should remain in place to protect the integrity of the college game. The committee acknowledged that removing the prohibition on professional sports wagering could increase the likelihood of student-athletes wagering on college sports. Regardless of whether the prohibition is removed, the committee expressed the importance of harm reduction strategies, including education for student-athletes.
9. **New SAAC External Communications Coordinator.** SAAC elected the committee's new external communications coordinator. Addison Courtney (Mountain East Conference, Fairmont State University) will fill this role. This position oversees the implementation and execution of national SAAC communications within the Division II Strategic Plan. As part of this responsibility, the external communications coordinator serves as the chair of the social media and community engagement subcommittees.

10. **2025 SAAC Elections.** The committee will hold its annual elections during its January 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 meeting.
11. **Update on 2024-25 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed progress made toward its two activation ideas for the 2024-25 academic year, as part of the committee's goals. The committee reviewed the execution of its civic engagement activation efforts prior to the recent Election Day. The committee also reviewed each team's progress toward the development of internal documents to support continuity of the work of national SAAC's goal teams. The committee plans to have both activations complete by the 2025 Convention.
12. **Discussion on Division II Football Date Formula.** The committee discussed a review of the Division II football date formula. As part of the review, the NCAA Division II Football Committee is seeking membership feedback on moving the football championship from the third weekend in December to January. SAAC initially discussed the impact of moving the championship to January on the regular-season schedule, how a January game could impact the division's winter break legislation for the two teams participating, and the importance of the game being on a linear ESPN network. SAAC believes it is important to gather additional student-athlete feedback on the date formula review and is interested in learning the results of the membership survey that is being administered. SAAC will further discuss the football date formula at the 2025 Convention prior to the Football Committee meeting in February 2025.
13. **Division II Strategic Planning Process.** The committee discussed the outcomes of the Think Tank. Additionally, the committee received an update that the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee is conducting a review of current budget items by line item to determine whether changes to current allocations are warranted. The committee was asked to provide feedback on Division II budget items. The committee did not suggest any reductions or eliminations to items in the Division II budget. The committee suggested increasing items in the budget that provide opportunities to enhance all student-athletes, not just the student-athletes who compete in championships and suggested the division consider focusing on items that impact the student-athlete experience, such as mental health, nutrition and the APPLE Training Institute. The new long-range budget will be approved by the Management Council and Executive Board in 2025.

The committee also provided feedback on the student-athlete voice and student-athlete experience sections of the membership survey that will be distributed following the 2025 Convention. Results from the survey will guide the division in creating a new strategic plan for 2026-32.

14. **NCAA NIL Assist.** The NCAA and name, image and likeness services provider Teamworks have launched [NCAA NIL Assist](#). The platform is designed to help student-athletes access NIL service providers and educational resources and will serve as a database for student-athletes to further investigate potential NIL opportunities. These resources and additional information are available [here](#) or through the Teamworks Influencer app.
15. **2024 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award honors an institutional faculty member who has demonstrated dedication, support and guidance to student-athletes and the institution's athletics program. SAAC's Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee has chosen the division's 2024 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award winner. The winner will be announced in a story that will be posted to NCAA.org and the division's social media channels prior to the 2025 Convention. The winner will also be recognized during a reception at Convention.
16. **Discussion on Division II SAAC Newsletter.** The committee was reminded of the 2024-25 biannual cadence and content plan for the SAAC newsletter that is sent to campus SAAC advisors and campus SAAC presidents who are listed in the SAAC Network. The first newsletter of the academic year was sent in September 2024 and the second will be sent in February 2025. The fall newsletter highlighted the work of the congressional engagement and life after the game goal teams. The spring newsletter will highlight the work of the mental health and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging teams.
17. **Division II Make It Yours Brand/Marketing Strategy.** Division II has partnered with advertising firm BarkleyOKRP on the continued activation of the Make It Yours brand. Division II's current project with Barkley centers on influencing the perception of Division II among its target audiences, which includes prospective student-athletes and their influencers, such as their parents/guardians. Beginning January 6 through March 14, 2025, paid media placements will run on YouTube, Meta, TikTok, and live-streaming services like Hulu and YouTube TV. Additionally, two 30-second PSAs will be shown during the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships on CBS and ESPN+, respectively.
18. **2025 November SAAC Super Region Convention.** SAAC will host its eighth super region convention for schools in the South Central and West regions at the Grand Hyatt in Denver, November 21-23, 2025.
19. **Make-A-Wish®.** In 2023-24, Division II raised more than \$200,000 in membership donations and the division's championships and enforcement fines for Make-A-Wish as recapped [here](#). Two Division II conferences raised over \$30,000 each, three Division II institutions raised \$10,000 or more and nine institutions earned wish reveals by receiving supplemental funds from the division's championships and enforcement fine dollars. The committee was informed about several new Make-A-Wish resources available [here](#),

including information about how to donate, how to get started with fundraising, a fundraising toolkit, a game day activation guide, a preapproved fundraising ideas list, a thank you card template, a sample event flier and sample wish week fliers. The committee also learned that this year's Week of Wishes will occur February 15-22, 2025.

The committee revisited a discussion from its July meeting on the division's Make-A-Wish fundraising goal for 2024-25 and reconfirmed a goal of \$175,000 in membership donations. The committee was informed that all donations for the 2024-25 academic year should be submitted directly to Make-A-Wish by July 31 for online donations and must be received by Make-A-Wish by July 15 for mail-in donations.

The committee learned NCAA staff and Make-A-Wish are also collaborating on a monthly spotlight that is being sent to conference SAAC liaisons. The email includes tips and resources for conferences to provide helpful information to their member schools. Conference SAAC liaisons should expect quarterly Make-A-Wish donation totals to share with their member institutions.

20. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee was informed that Division II currently has 178 matches, 49 of which are new matches during 2024. It was also noted that Division II donated approximately \$70,000 from its 2023-24 championships and enforcement fines to Team IMPACT.
21. **Championships and Enforcement Fines.** In January 2023 the Executive Board (formerly Presidents Council) approved an adjustment to the allocation model for the division's championships and enforcement fine dollars received during the NCAA's fiscal year. The new allocation model went into effect September 1, 2023. Championships and enforcement fine dollars benefit honorees of the Division II Award of Excellence and continue to benefit Team IMPACT and Make-A-Wish in the following ways: \$7,500 of the fine dollars enhance Award of Excellence prize money and of the remaining funds, 60% are distributed to Team IMPACT and 40% are distributed to Make-A-Wish.
22. **Scholarship Opportunities.** The committee learned the 2025-26 application for the Division II Degree Completion Award opened October 15. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Eastern time February 17. The committee was encouraged to visit this page [here](#) to learn more about the program and other graduate scholarships offered by the NCAA.
23. **Division II Committee Reports.** SAAC 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, Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee. The committee also received an updated from the Division II Management Council Identity Subcommittee.

24. **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, Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee and the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.
25. **Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee.** The committee was provided an update on the Board of Governors' decision to restructure and enhance how the board will receive feedback from student-athletes across the NCAA. In place of the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, the board voted to direct the divisional SAACs to identify and implement opportunities to meet more frequently to discuss Association-wide issues. The board noted recent enhancements to student-athlete representation and voice in governance structures, including the addition of three graduated student-athletes to the board in 2022 as well as roles on key committees across all three divisions. The three graduated student-athletes on the board supported the decision to restructure and expand the student-athlete feedback mechanism, emphasizing that the divisional SAACs include more members with greater diversity of sport and geographic location than the Student-Athlete Engagement Committee.

The committee was informed that the development of an enhanced student-athlete feedback mechanism to the board will be the topic of discussion during the joint Divisions I, II and III national SAAC lunch at the Convention in January.

26. **July and September meeting reports.** The July and September committee meeting reports were reviewed and approved.
27. **Future Meetings.**
- a. Jan. 13-17, 2025, in conjunction with 2025 Convention; Nashville, Tennessee.
 - b. April 24-27, 2025, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Indianapolis.
 - c. July 16-17, 2025; SAAC meeting; videoconference.
 - d. July 18, 2025; Management Council/SAAC Summit; videoconference.
 - e. Nov. 20-23, 2025; in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Denver.
 - f. Jan. 13-17, 2026; in conjunction with 2026 NCAA Convention; Washington, D.C.

Committee Chair: Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference

Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance

Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs

Becca Medel, Governance

Morgan Melchert, Eligibility Center

Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee November 23-24, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
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.	
Adorijan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, At-Large.	
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.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference.	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. (November 23)	
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.	
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference. (November 23)	
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	
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.	
Larry Parkinson, Executive Board Independent Member.	
Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
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:
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Grace Hoepfner, Michigan Technological University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. <i>(November 24)</i>
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference. <i>(November 24)</i>
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Marcus Brown, Deena Casiero, Danielle Day, Brooke Dixon, Terri Steeb Gronau, Chelsea Hooks, Corey Jackson, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Karen Kirsch, Becca Medel, Morgan Melchert, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red and Megan Villanueva.