



REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF
APRIL 9, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.**

- **None.**

2. **NONLEGISLATIVE ITEM.**

- **Extend the Pilot Eligibility Program through the 2026-27 academic year.**

a. **Recommendation.** That the Division III Management and Presidents Councils approve an extension of the Pilot Eligibility Program permitting Division III student-athletes to continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate competition while enrolled at another institution that has a formal academic agreement with their institution and does not sponsor varsity athletics.

b. **Effective date.** Immediate.

c. **Rationale.** At the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year, the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief processed five legislative relief waivers under the pilot program criteria. Extending the program for an additional academic year allows for additional data collection to determine next steps. By collecting more data, the committee can better understand the types of academic relationships that exist and the number of student-athletes that could benefit, to determine if further legislative action is warranted.

The requests would be submitted through RSRO and reviewed by the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, and as needed, the Division III Membership Committee pursuant to the criteria outlined in the attachment The waivers received during the pilot program will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if continued legislative relief is appropriate.

d. **Budget impact.** None.

e. **Student-athlete impact.** Will offer expanded pathways for student-athletes to pursue their academic objectives and complete their participation opportunity.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The chair welcomed the subcommittee and introduced new members at noon Eastern and requested members review the roster for accuracy.
2. **Review of NCAA Division III Philosophy Statement.** NCAA staff provided the subcommittee with the Division III Philosophy Statement for review.
3. **Approval of September 2025 report.** The subcommittee reviewed and approved its September 19, 2025, videoconference report.
4. **Review of Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Policies and Procedures.** Staff provided the subcommittee with a review of its policies and procedures.
5. **Review of Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief information standards, guidelines and directives.** Staff provided a review of the subcommittee's information standards, guidelines and directives.
6. **Review of current Division III blanket waivers.** The subcommittee reviewed the five active blanket waivers. Of the five blanket waivers, the subcommittee received requests and approved extensions to the following:
 - a. **Blanket Waiver Request Providing Relief of Bylaws 20.8.4.22 and 20.9.4.6 (Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee).** The subcommittee extended the existing waiver for the 2026-27 academic year and will be reviewed annually to determine if future extensions are warranted.
 - b. **Blanket Waiver Request for Playing and Practice Season in the Sport of Women's Rugby.** The subcommittee reviewed an extension on the pre-existing blanket legislative relief waiver. Specifically, the waiver permitted the sport of Women's Rugby to conduct its playing season pursuant to the period model. The initial waiver was approved for three years which was set to expire at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year. The subcommittee did not agree to another three-year waiver but extended the waiver through the 2026-27 academic year.
 - c. **Blanket Waiver Request for Playing and Practice Season in the Sport of Women's Triathlon.** The subcommittee, along with Divisions I and II received a request from USA triathlon requesting amending the 2026-27 competition start date from September 1 to August 28. USA Triathlon asserted that given September 1, 2026, is on a Tuesday, institutions do not have adequate time to practice and fulfill a complete competitive schedule. The subcommittee directed staff request additional mitigation from USA Triathlon as to why an accelerated start date is warranted.

7. **Review Division III previously approved waiver checklist.** Staff provided a review of its previously approved waivers checklist.
8. **Cases decided from August 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026, at the staff and subcommittee level.** From August 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026, the subcommittee and/or staff received a total of 79 Division III waiver requests, 74 of which were decided and five of which were cancelled. The following is a summary of the decisions made by the staff and subcommittee:
 - Staff decided 72 waivers and two were reviewed directly by the subcommittee.
 - Staff approved 57 waivers (26 with conditions): and denied 15 waivers.
 - Of the approvals, 39 were based on totality of circumstances and/or student-athlete well-being.
 - Eighteen of the approvals were based on the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief information standards, guidelines and directives.
 - Of the 15 denied waivers six were appealed and the subcommittee affirmed the staff positions on four and overturned two.
 - The two waivers reviewed directly by the subcommittee were approved.
9. **Review of Eligibility Pilot Program.** The subcommittee reviewed the five waivers submitted under the NCAA Division III Pilot Eligibility Program during the 2025-26 academic year. The subcommittee recommended, in collaboration with the Division III Membership Committee, that the criteria for the pilot program continue to be evaluated to ensure that the intent of the program is appropriately reflected in the criteria.
10. **Discussion of Legislative Relief Waivers from Union College.** The subcommittee reviewed the legislative relief waivers submitted during 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years by the Union College requesting individual student-athletes be permitted to compete while enrolled less than a full-time program of studies (two courses). The subcommittee directed Union College to continue to submit individual waiver requests to be processed by the NCAA staff. The subcommittee will continue to monitor waivers submitted by Union College and will revisit the conversation at the conclusion of the 2026-27 academic year to determine if the member institution has demonstrated proper compliance, and if a legislative relief waiver specific to Union College's circumstances is warranted.
11. **Discussion regarding coaching activities in preparation for elite competition.** The subcommittee reviewed the directive specific to institutional coaches engaging in coaching

activities with student-athletes in preparation for elite competition. The subcommittee concluded open events do not meet the intent of the directive and recommended that waivers involving open events used for qualification for an elite event should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

12. **Future meetings.** The subcommittee was reminded that they will meet during September 2026.
13. **Other business.** None.
14. **Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 1:46 p.m. Eastern time.

Subcommittee Chair: Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Staff Liaisons: Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief April 9, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Peter Bothner, Nazareth University.
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University.
Todd Gibson, Grove City College.
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College.
Christa Racine, Drew University.
Meghan Roman, Illinois College.
Patrick Summers, New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Becca Trovato and Julie Zike.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Vince Gmerek, Eric Hartung, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Sarah Turner.