

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CONVENTION PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
JUNE 18, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review roster.** The subcommittee commenced business at 11:02 a.m. Eastern time.
2. **Approval of March 20 videoconference report.** The subcommittee approved the report without any edits.
3. **Convention updates.** Beginning in 2027, the Convention will be designed specifically for Divisions II and III, as Division I will no longer conduct in-person governance meetings or programming at the Convention. Programming for the Convention will be structured to allow most delegates to attend Wednesday through Friday, requiring only two hotel nights. Hotels for the Convention include the Anaheim Marriott (\$264 per night plus applicable taxes) and the Hilton Anaheim (\$237 per night plus applicable taxes). The meeting space request site opens June 23. The Convention registration opens Sept. 8 with no increase to the registration fee. Transportation will be provided on Friday from the Convention site to John Wayne Airport.
4. **Review of 2027 NCAA Convention schedule.** The subcommittee reviewed the current Convention schedule. Key Division III programming will remain the same as last year. This includes all governance meetings and programming. There will be two Division III-specific educational sessions and joint educational sessions with Division II. New for 2027 is a welcome and keynote session followed by a joint reception.
5. **Education session topics.** The subcommittee discussed the schedule and topics for the 2027 Division III education sessions. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed the results from the membership survey regarding potential education sessions and Issues Forum topics. For the 2027 Convention, there will be two Division III-specific sessions. Both will be based on sessions selected from the proposals submitted by the Division III membership.
 - **Membership proposals.** The membership proposal subgroup met in May to review proposals submitted by the Division III membership for Division III educational sessions at the 2027 Convention. Following an initial screening and presentations from the top four submissions, the subgroup recommended three proposals for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee approved the following, in priority order, as the Division III educational sessions:
 - a. **Beyond ChatGPT Basics: Practical Tools for the AI-Driven Athletics Leader.** This session will provide examples – including AI-assisted searches, post-game recap development, and custom department knowledge assistants – along with structured prompting strategies that move beyond basic email drafting toward meaningful operational support.

Participants will leave with replicable examples and starter prompt frameworks that can be implemented immediately, regardless of institutional size, technical background, or staffing structure.

- b. **Developing and Sustaining a Healthy Department and Team Culture.** This session will focus on assessing an athletic department's culture and provide steps needed to improve and sustain a healthy culture. Attendees will understand the importance of prioritizing culture and the steps and foundational principles needed in developing a healthy culture.
 - c. **Building Leadership Pipeline: Preparing the Next Generation of Division III Athletics Directors.** Utilizing a panel of presenters, this session will explore intentional leadership development through mentorship, sponsorship and self-advocacy for aspiring athletics administrators. Participants will leave with practical strategies for supporting leadership development within their departments while empowering individuals to chart their own professional paths.
- 6. **Keynote topics.** The committee discussed and provided the staff with feedback on potential speakers and topics for a keynote speaker.
- 7. **Issues Forum.** The subcommittee gave its initial approval for the topics for the 2027 Issues Forum. Those topics include the 2027 Convention legislative proposals and updates from the NIL and DIII Analysis working groups.
- 8. **2027 Convention planning timeline and future meetings.** The subcommittee reviewed the planning timeline for the 2027 Convention, noting the scheduled future videoconferences.
- 9. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m. Eastern.

Committee Chair: Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University, Skyline Conference.
Staff Liaison: Bill Regan, Division III Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division III Convention Planning Subcommittee June 18, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Rachel Acosta, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University. Tony Berich, Stockton University. Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference. Donnie Brooks, Macalester College. David Bushman, Bridgewater College (Virginia) Michael Cohen, Kings College (Pennsylvania) Stephanie Dollar, University of Massachusetts, Boston Rob Larson, Luther College Andrew Manion, Edgewood University Angela Pucciarelli Rice, Fredonia State University Casie Runksmeier, Colby College Kristofer Schnatz, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy Jessica Stoltz, Salisbury University	
Absentees:	
Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Milton Moreland, Centre College Kourtney Wilson, Ohio Northern University	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Bill Regan and Lisa Rogers.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bridget Fuller and Crystal Reimer	