

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CONVENTION PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review roster.** The subcommittee commenced business at 1:02 p.m. Eastern time. Committee introductions were made, highlighting new subcommittee members.
2. **Report of December 9, 2024, videoconference.** The subcommittee approved the report without edits.
3. **Review of 2025 NCAA Convention feedback.** Staff reviewed the results of the NCAA Convention survey, noting the following:
 - a. **Convention survey.** The response rate of 28% (333 specific responses) of all Division III attendees is consistent with the rate from prior years. Like prior years, NCAA business/voting, conference business and opportunities to connect with other participants were the reasons most often cited for attending the Convention. Notable highlights from the survey included: 85% rated their experience as very good or good, and 92% said they would recommend the Convention to others. For Division III sessions 76% indicated that the Issues Forum was either good or very good, and 91% rated the Business Session as good or very good. Comments from participants supported the change to the timing of the Convention. Additional themes from the survey noted the increasing expense to attend the Convention, the need to provide more professional development, and to ensure the Issues Forum discussions are focused on current issues and provide a meaningful way to inform membership and governance structure decisions and actions.
 - b. **Division III education sessions survey.** The subcommittee reviewed the survey feedback for the three Division III specific educational sessions and noted the following:
 - (1) Fan Behavior and Sportsmanship. Of survey respondents, 81% evaluated this session as good or very good. This session was also the second highest rated education session of all educational sessions offered at the Convention. Approximately 340 individuals attended this session.
 - (2) Survive and Thrive. Seventy-seven percent of survey participants indicated that the session was good or very good. There were approximately 325 attendees.
 - (3) Recruitment and Retention of Athletics Personnel (NADIII AA lead session). This session was evaluated as good or very good by 73% of those responding to the survey. Approximately 203 individuals attended this session.

4. **Final 2025 Convention attendance.** The subcommittee reviewed the final attendance report and noted the total number of registered delegates was 2641 (2591 attended). From Division III, 1186 registered and 1170 attended the Convention.
5. **Planning for the 2026 NCAA Convention.**
 - a. **Overall Convention format.** The subcommittee was informed by the NCAA Convention planning team that senior management is reviewing the Convention schedule. Any suggested changes that result from the review will be discussed with the subcommittee at its June meeting.
 - b. **Educational session topic ideas.** The subcommittee reviewed the recommendations for future educational session topics from the 2025 Convention survey responses and a list of sessions from prior Conventions. Each year, Division III has three educational slots, one overseen by the National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators (NADIII AA). For the 2026 Convention, NADIII AA will continue to oversee a session, and another session is planned for the membership to oversee and conduct (see item six below). The subcommittee discussed the benefits of having a moderator for educational sessions that is not participating as a panelist and whether one of the subcommittee members should be appointed as that moderator. The subcommittee will continue to discuss the format and topics for the educational sessions at its June meeting. Some preliminary topics being considered for 2026 include:
 - AI and how it can help an athletic department.
 - Current legal issues impacting Division III
 - Using technology to make a difficult job easier.
 - Brainstorming contingency plans (e.g., business continuity).
 - Branding.
 - Collective purchasing.
 - Professional development.
 - Fundraising.

The subcommittee will review the list with the Division III Management Council during its April meeting. After that meeting, staff will survey the membership via the Monthly Update and the NADIII AA listserv. The survey will allow the membership to provide feedback and offer recommendations for other topics. The subcommittee will review the survey results during its June teleconference.

- c. **Issues Forum format and discussion topics.** The subcommittee discussed the format options for the 2026 Issues Forum, which include providing a keynote/professional development speaker. The subcommittee will continue to discuss how to enhance the Issues Forum and collect feedback regarding potential topics in 2026.
 - d. **Business Session format.** The subcommittee endorsed the changes made for the 2025 Business Session, which will be implemented moving forward.
6. **Membership Convention Education Session.** The subcommittee finalized the pilot program to have the Division III membership plan and conduct one the division's Convention educational sessions. The subcommittee approved the timeline and communication strategy to solicit and review proposals. The subcommittee also reviewed and approved the matrix for evaluating membership proposals. Additionally, a subgroup of the subcommittee was created to review and assess the membership proposals.
7. **2026 Convention planning timeline and future meetings.** The subcommittee reviewed the planning timeline for the 2026 Convention.
8. **Other business.** There was no other business.
9. **Adjournment.** The videoconference adjourned at 2:03 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University, Skyline Conference.

Staff Liaison: Bill Regan, Division III Governance

NCAA Division III Convention Planning Subcommittee March 19, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Angela Baumann, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Tony Berich, Stockton University. Donnie Brooks, Macalester College. Carrie Gardner, Christopher Newport University Jason Imperati, Lawrence University Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Casie Runksmeier, Colby College. Kiana Verdugo-Maday, Alma College. John Walz, Milwaukee School of Engineering. Kourtney Wilson, Ohio Northern University.	

Absentees:
Keri Alexander Luchowski, North Coast Athletic Conference Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University Doug Lee, Waynesburg University Milton Moreland, Centre College. Jason Verdugo, Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Bill Regan and Lisa Rogers.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Crystal Reimer and Whitney Tharp.