

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III CONVENTION PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review roster.** The subcommittee commenced business at 1 p.m. Eastern time. Committee introductions were made, highlighting new subcommittee members.
2. **Approval of December 8 videoconference report.** The subcommittee approved the report without edits.
3. **Review of 2026 NCAA Convention feedback.** Staff reviewed the results of the NCAA Convention survey, noting the following:

- a. **Convention survey.** The response rate of 41% (510 specific responses) was a significant improvement compared to the prior several years. Consistent with prior years, NCAA business/voting, conference business, and opportunities to connect with other participants were the most often cited reasons for attending the Convention. Notable highlights from the survey included: 92% rated their experience as excellent or good. For Division III sessions, 71% indicated that the Issues Forum was either excellent or good, and 80% rated the Business Session as excellent or good.

Survey participants highlighted the following: concerns about the rising costs of attending the Convention, the need for educational sessions that offer practical solutions, campus-level strategies, and are led by experts. Additional comments emphasized the importance of keeping Issues Forum discussions focused on current issues relevant to membership. Many participants expressed concerns about the length of the business session, particularly repetitive comments and the duration of some speakers.

- b. **Division III education sessions survey.** The subcommittee reviewed the survey feedback for the three Division III educational sessions, noting the following:
 - (1) Connecting with Generation Z: Honor the Relationship. This session received the highest overall rating, with 87% of respondents rating it as excellent or good. Attendees reported that the session offered practical, actionable strategies they could readily implement on their campuses.
 - (2) Bridging the Gap: Building Campus Relationships for Athletic Success. Of those attending this session, 76% rated it as excellent or good.
 - (3) AI and Division III Athletics Departments: How Technology Can Help. Of those attending this session, 53% felt it was excellent or good. Participants thought the session could have been more helpful if it had provided a demonstration of tools or practical application rather than a panel sharing information.

4. **Final 2026 Convention attendance.** The subcommittee reviewed the final attendance report for the Convention.
5. **Planning for the 2027 NCAA Convention.**
 - a. **Educational session topic ideas.** After reviewing previously suggested education session topics and a list of sessions from prior Conventions (2017 through 2026), the subcommittee identified the following as potential educational session topics for the 2027 Convention. These topics will be included in a survey asking the membership for their input on potential educational session topics.
 - Championships topics.
 - What to consider when adding or dropping a sport.
 - Scheduling issues (e.g., non-traditional segments, overlapping playing season).
 - Issues facing higher education and how they intersect with intercollegiate athletics.
 - Branding of Division III
 - Playing rules and the Federated playing rules process
 - Purchasing collective: understanding process, benefits, etc.

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.
 - b. **Issues Forum format and discussion topics.** The subcommittee discussed the format options for the 2027 Issues Forum, including a keynote/professional development speaker. The subcommittee will collect feedback from the membership and revisit the topic during its June meeting.
5. **Membership Convention education session.** The subcommittee reviewed the timeline to consider the educational session proposals from the membership. A subgroup of the committee will evaluate the proposals and provide its recommendations to the subcommittee for its June meeting. Based on feedback from the 2026 Convention survey, the subcommittee will consider recommending up to two membership proposals for the 2027 Convention.
6. **2027 Convention planning timeline and future meetings.** The subcommittee reviewed the planning timeline for the 2027 Convention, noting the scheduled future videoconferences.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.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 March 20, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Rachel Acosta, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University. Tony Berich, Stockton University. Donnie Brooks, Macalester College. David Bushman, Bridgewater University (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. Jess Stoltz, Salisbury University.
Absentees:
Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University. Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference. 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, Crystal Reimer and Kennedy Vaughn.