

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
 - None.
2. Nonlegislative items.
 - None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introduction.** The NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee commenced business, September 24, 3 p.m. Eastern time.
2. **Review of February report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report of the February 12-13, 2025, meeting.
3. **Review of a Division III Membership Proposal: Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Participation – Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season.** The committee recommends the Division III Management Council oppose this proposal, asserting that the proposed enrollment model is incompatible with standard student financial aid practices at Division III member institutions, Division III Bylaw 15 (Financial Aid) and the Division III Philosophy Statement.

If adopted, the proposal provides an opportunity for student-athletes to extend their enrollment beyond four years to complete their athletics eligibility. The standard policy for financial aid for undergraduate students wishing to extend their enrollment beyond four years “at their option” is that they will not qualify for institutional gift aid and that extending enrollment for athletics participation purposes would meet the definition of “at their option.” The committee noted institutional gift aid, both need-based and non-need-based, is typically limited to four years, or eight semesters, of continuous enrollment, while federal funding in the form of Pell grants and federal loans is available, provided full-time enrollment is maintained.

On the graduate-level, academic programs are primarily funded through federal loans. The committee asserted student-athletes who extend their enrollment for athletics participation purposes would incur higher costs due to the lack of availability of institutional gift aid and emphasized all incoming students are encouraged to complete their undergraduate degree in a timely manner and transition purposefully to their post-college life.

Additionally, the committee identified that the proposal may be incompatible with Division III Bylaw 15 (Financial Aid) and the Division III Philosophy Statement that requires member institutions to treat all students similarly within the student financial aid awarding

process. In the proposed legislation an institution may have to treat student-athletes differently. To address the additional terms of enrollment for student-athletes, an institution may have to adopt unique financial aid and enrollment policies and procedures. This, coupled with the concern that coaches will play an outsized role in determining the student's extended enrollment option, could result in athletes being the primary beneficiaries of institutional gift aid for fifth-year students.

4. **Future meeting.** The committee confirmed its next meeting will be held via videoconference in November 2025.
5. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned September 24, 3:50 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Mark Becker, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Governance and Member Services for Division III
Brittany Higgins, Governance and Member Services for Division III

NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee September 24, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Roderick Andrews, State University of New York at Oswego, State University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Mark Becker, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Taylor Bischoff, Eastern Connecticut State University, Little East Conference.	
Jack Follis, University of St. Thomas, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Christopher Hanlon, Lebanon Valley College, Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Gavin Jones, Westminster College (Pennsylvania), Presidents' Athletic Conference.	
Perry Rettig, Piedmont University, USA South Athletic Conference.	
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Absentees:	
Danielle Lynch, Haverford College, Centennial Conference.	
Jen Windmiller, Bethany College (West Virginia), Presidents Athletic Conference.	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung and Brittany Higgins.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Corey Berg.	