



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 18 AND 19, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Noncontroversial Legislation. Eligibility -- Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility -- Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment -- Elimination of Major Junior Ice Hockey Conditions.**
  - a. Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would confirm that Major Junior ice hockey participation is subject to the same standards as all other pre-enrollment participation.
  - b. Effective date. For student-athletes enrolling in Division III on or after August 1, 2025.
  - c. Rationale. Currently, under the pre-enrollment organized competition legislation, an ice hockey prospective student-athlete who participates on a Major Junior ice hockey team is automatically charged a season of participation for each consecutive 12-month period that they participate on the team and must serve an academic year of residence before competing for a Division III institution. Major Junior participation is the only participation that is subject to this analysis for Division III. For all other ice hockey participation and for all other sports, an individual does not incur similar consequences for participation until a year after they graduate high school and only if they compete with individuals that receive above actual and necessary expenses. Eliminating the conditions tied to Major Junior ice hockey participation creates consistency in the application of the organized-competition legislation in ice hockey for the Division III membership.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes who have participated in Major Junior ice hockey prior to full-time enrollment will be treated similarly to student-athletes in all other sports upon their enrollment at Division III institutions.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.

2. **Interpretations and Legislation Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the roster and agreed to submit any corrections to staff.
3. **Review November Reports.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from its November 18 videoconference and November 27, 2024, email feedback.
4. **Review of Interpretations and Legislation Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures, including changes made to its meeting schedule. Staff informed the committee that additional edits to reflect changes to the Division III legislative process will be reviewed at a future meeting.
5. **Review Divisions I, II and III Staff Interpretations.** It was noted there were no staff interpretations issued by Divisions I, II or III between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025.
6. **Review Divisions I and II Official Interpretations.** The committee reviewed official interpretations issued in Divisions I and II between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, and took no action. It was noted there were no Division III official interpretations issued during this period.
7. **Review Division I and II Legislative Actions.** The committee reviewed legislative actions in Divisions I and II between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, and took no action.
8. **Review Division III Editorial Revisions.** The committee reviewed one editorial revision issued in Division III between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, and took no action.
9. **Review Division III Educational Columns.** The committee reviewed one educational column issued in Division III between August 1, 2024, and January 31, 2025, and took no action.
10. **Requests/Self-Reports Online Update.** The committee reviewed a summary of the interpretative requests submitted via the Requests/Self-Reports Online case management system. The summary provided the number of interpretive requests, staff response times and bylaw areas of the requests.
11. **Update on Governance Issues.** The Division III governance staff provided the committee with an update of the primary topics currently within the Division III governance structure.
12. **Review of 2025 NCAA Convention Division III Legislation.** The committee reviewed the question-and-answer document (now education columns) for the legislative proposals adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention and took no further action. The committee also reviewed an updated educational column specific to EM-2025-1 and provided feedback.
13. **Division III Interpretative Issues.**

- a. **Major Junior Ice Hockey.** The committee reviewed Bylaw 14.2.4.4.3, which dictates how participation in major junior ice hockey is reviewed prior to initial collegiate enrollment. [See Action Item 1.]
  - b. **NCAA Relationship with Third Parties.** The committee continued its discussion of potential policy modifications to engage with professional sports leagues, national governing bodies and non-profit entities to reflect the emerging regulatory environment. The committee directed staff to develop potential concepts for the committee to review at a future meeting.
  - c. **NCAA Transfer Portal.** At the request of NADIII AA and DIIICA, the committee discussed the current permission to contact process and whether it may reduce administrative burdens on campus to utilize the NCAA Transfer Portal. The committee did not propose any changes but directed staff to gather feedback from membership groups and from the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- 14. Review Bylaw 16.** The committee continued its holistic review of Bylaw 16, focusing on various benefits provisions. The committee noted opportunities for modernization and burden reduction and will review again at its March 2025 meeting, for potential legislative recommendations for the Division III Management Council to consider at its April 2025 meeting.
- 15. Staff Interpretations.** The committee reviewed two staff interpretations and approved the following staff determinations:

Triathlon and Bicycle Road Racing, Cross Country, Track and Field and Swimming are the Same Sport (III).

The academic and membership affairs staff determined for purposes of determining an individual's amateur and pre-enrollment participation eligibility the following sports are considered the same as triathlon:

- Bicycle road racing;
- Cross country;
- Track and field; and
- Swimming.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 12.1.3.3 (Triathlon and Cross Country, Track and Field and Swimming) and 14.2.4.4 (Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment)]

Institutions with Rolling Enrollment (III).

The NCAA academic and membership affairs staff determined that if an institution offers rolling enrollment (e.g., classes beginning any day of the year without any designated terms) a student-athlete who enrolls at such an institution is not considered enrolled in a full-time program of studies during a regular term of an academic year. Therefore, enrollment at such an institution would not: (1) Constitute a full-time term for purposes of the 10-semester/15-quarter legislation; (2) Consider the student-athlete to be a transfer; or (3) Constitute initial collegiate enrollment for purposes of determining an individual's amateur and pre-enrollment participation eligibility.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 14.2.2 (10-semester/15-quarter rule); 14.2.4.4 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment); and 14.5.2 (conditions affecting transfer status).]

- 16. Men's and Women's Water Polo Playing Seasons.** Staff provided the committee with information on changes to the Divisions I and II playing season for water polo. The committee will review the topic at a future meeting once the affected Division III institutions determine a consensus recommendation.
- 17. Update on Championships Selections/End of Playing Season.** Staff provided the committee with an update on the Division III Championships Committee's review of the playing season structure and championship selection formula. It is anticipated that this review will help inform decisions regarding future championship date formula change requests and that the committee will provide feedback, as appropriate.
- 18. Division I Eligibility Update.** The committee received an update on litigation affecting the association and Division III as well as the status of eligibility reviews currently being conducted in Divisions I and II. The committee will continue to monitor and discuss at future meetings to determine if legislative changes may be appropriate.
- 19. 2025 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.** The committee received an update about the sessions planned for the 2025 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar in Indianapolis.
- 20. Future meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
- 21. Other Business.** Staff informed the committee that the Subcommittee for Amateurism Fact-Finding (SAFF) recently reviewed minor edits for its policies and procedures for review and

recommended the committee's approval of policies and procedures. The committee agreed to vote on final approval via email.

**22. Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 2:18 p.m. Eastern time, February 19, 2025.

*Committee Chair:* Michael Mattia, Gettysburg College.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs  
 Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs  
 Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs  
 Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee February 18 and 19, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Rachana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland.	
Andrew Green, Central College (Iowa).	
Bethany Marren, Rochester Institution of Technology.	
Michael A Mattia, Gettysburg College.	
Danielle O'Leary, William Peace University.	
Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association.	
Andrea R. Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College.	
Morgan Shaw, Willamette University. (SAAC representative)	
Absentees:	
Harry Dumay, Elms College.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Corey Berg, Jeff Myers and Sarah Turner.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Louise McCleary, Joan Nissen, Bill Regan, Luke Schultheis, Jared Tidemann and Paul Wasilchak.	