



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 20, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

**a. Convention Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Expenses Provided by the Institution for Practice – Eliminate Distance and Location Restrictions (Bylaw 16.8.1.1).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council sponsor 2026 NCAA Convention legislation that would permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, an institution may pay for expenses for a practice trip anywhere within the state or if outside the state then no more than 100 miles. This has vastly different applications depending on the state and where within the state, a Division III institution is located. Removing the location and mileage restrictions will acknowledge these differences and permit institutions to provide practice expenses absent an arbitrary limitation. Further, the condition that class time may not be missed for practice activities maintains the philosophical tenet of Division III athletics existing as part of the academic experience.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary based on institutional interest in offering alternative practice sites.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Enhance the student-athlete experience and practice opportunities for Division III institutions, regardless of geographic location.

**b. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Recognition Banquet – Clarify Allowable Expenses (Bylaws 16.1.4.4; 16.1.6.1 and 16.10.1.4).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation clarifying that student-athletes may receive expenses to attend a recognition banquet and may receive an award at that banquet.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. Currently, there are multiple bylaws that address whether student-athletes receive expenses for attending a banquet and receive an award. Those bylaws are confusing and can be applied inconsistently. This proposal would consolidate the bylaws and clarify that booster clubs and local civic organizations may provide student-athletes with an award and pay expenses for the student-athletes to attend the awards banquet.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Improves the student-athlete experience at a recognition banquet hosted by a booster club or local civic organization.

**c. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Meal Allowances – Default to Institutional Policy for Student-Athletes Not on a Meal Plan (Bylaw 16.5.1-(b) and Bylaw 16.5.1-(d)).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would permit an institution to provide meals to student-athletes not on a meal plan in the same manner as those on a meal plan when meals are missed for practice activities, or during a vacation period, consistent with institutional policy.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Under current legislation, during a vacation period, or when meals are missed due to practice activities, an institution is only permitted to provide meals to student-athletes who are on the institutional meal plan. Student-athletes who live off-campus, commute or are otherwise not on institutional meal plans may not receive the same benefit. This proposal eliminates this restriction and defers to institutional policy in these situations. It would also eliminate the administrative burden of tracking where student-athletes live and who receives meals and when.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary based on institutional policies and interest in providing meals.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides an opportunity for student-athletes not on an institutional meal plan to receive the same meal benefits as their teammates who are on such a plan.

**d. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Occasional Meals – Remove the Location Restriction (Bylaw 16.11.1.5 and Bylaw 16.11.1.6).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would permit a student-athlete or team to receive an occasional meal, at any location, from an institutional staff member, a relative of a student-athlete or booster, consistent with institutional policy.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation differentiates who (i.e., institution, family members, representative of athletics interests) may provide student-athletes or teams an occasional meal. and where (i.e., in or outside the locale of the institutions) those meals may be provided. By consolidating multiple existing bylaws, this proposal would maintain that such meals may still only be provided on an occasional basis, but permit an institutional staff member, a relative of a student-athlete or booster to pay or provide the meal at any location. Additionally, the meal would need to be provided consistent with institutional policy.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Receiving an occasional meal may enhance the student-athlete experience.

**e. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Nonathletics Apparel Provided by the Institution – Default to Institutional Policy (Bylaw 16.11.1.7).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would permit institutions to issue non-athletics apparel, consistent with institutional policy.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation allows an institution to provide student-athletes with one shirt, annually, which may be kept by the student-athlete. While additional non-athletics apparel may be provided, it must be provided on an issue and retrieval basis and may only be given to the student-athlete to keep if it considered not reusable, per institutional policy. Since there is currently a pathway to provide student-athletes with the nonathletics apparel, this proposal would eliminate these

steps and defer to institutional policy and discretion regarding appropriate non-athletics apparel.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary based on institutional policy.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. When permitted by institutional policy, allows students to keep the nonathletics apparel they have previously worn.

**f. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Retention of Athletics Apparel and Equipment – Default to Institutional Policy (Bylaw 16.11.1.8).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would permit student-athletes to retain their athletics apparel and equipment, consistent with institutional policy.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Current legislation allows an institution to provide student-athletes with athletics apparel and equipment to keep at the end of their college career, or earlier, if the apparel or equipment is considered to not be reusable, per institutional policy. Because an institution could permissibly provide the apparel and equipment to the student-athletes and deem it not reusable, updating this bylaw to defer to institutional policy removes this additional step.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary based on institutional policy.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. When permitted by institutional policy, allows students to keep the athletic apparel and equipment they have been using.

**g. Noncontroversial Legislation. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Academic and Other Support Services – Consolidate and Clarify Permissible Programming Consistent with Institutional Policy (Bylaw 16.3.1, Bylaw 16.3.2, Bylaw 16.3.3, Bylaw 16.3.4 and Bylaw 16.11.1.15).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation consolidating bylaws addressing academic, career and other support services and clarifying that institutional policy is the standard to determine the permissibility of such programming.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. Currently, institutions may provide academic, career readiness and other support programming and services only when similar programming and services are available to the general student body or to a segment of the student body determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. Bylaws also allow institutions to provide expenses for student-athletes to attend identified career programming, regardless of if such opportunities are available to students generally. Academic and career support should be a matter left to the discretion of the institution, consistent with institutional policy. The proposal would consolidate all permissible programming under one bylaw and confirm that such programming should be subject only to institutional policy.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. May vary based on institutional policies and interest in offering programming.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Enhances the student-athlete experience by ensuring the student-athletes have access to meaningful programming and services offered by the athletics department.

**h. Noncontroversial Legislation. Amateurism – Financial Donations from Outside Organization – Relationships with Third-Party Organizations (Bylaw 12.6).**

- (1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve in concept noncontroversial legislation that would deregulate the Financial Donations from Outside Organizations legislation and allow for institutions and conferences to pursue partnerships and sponsorships with third parties, including professional sport organizations.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The national office has been reviewing ways to modernize the collegiate landscape and capitalize on the growth of NCAA championships. One avenue was updating NCAA legislation regarding engaging with third parties (professional sport organizations, national governing bodies, and non-profit organizations) to support NCAA championships and the student-athlete experience.

In Division III, institutions and conferences currently are restricted from publicizing sponsorships with third parties, like professional leagues, and institutions may not use any funds from professional leagues towards their athletics departments. This proposal would give institutions and conferences the opportunity to generate revenue consistent with their priorities and leverage their network and

relationships to enhance their student-athletes' experiences. It would also permit reciprocal marketing agreements, allowing for the promotion of the sponsorship agreements by both the third party and the institution or conference.

Please note: any change to the NCAA legislation would not supersede Division III championships policies and procedures.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Enhances the student-athlete experience by providing opportunities to increase revenue earned by Division III institutions and/or conferences.

## 2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review February Report.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from its February 18-19 videoconference and February 28 email feedback.
2. **Bylaw 16 Recommendations.** The committee reviewed its recommended changes within Bylaw 16 and determined how to move forward with recommendations to Management Council. The committee will address the remaining recommendations at its June meeting. [See Action Items 1-a through -g]
3. **Review Policies and Procedures.** The committee approved changes to the "Length of Term" and "Role in Legislative Process" sections within the Policies and Procedures.
4. **Legislative Process Plan.** Staff provided the committee with an update on its progress for implementing the new legislative process legislation, Proposal 2025-3, which was approved at the 2025 NCAA Convention.
5. **Relationships with 3rd Parties.** The committee continued its discussion of legislative updates to engage with professional sports leagues, national governing bodies, and non-profit entities to reflect the emerging regulatory environment. [See Action Item 1-h]
6. **Emergency Legislation Ratification Process.** The committee discussed the emergency legislation ratification process and agreed the current process provides appropriate notice and is otherwise sufficient.

7. **Future meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
8. **Other Business.** The committee agreed to review and approve the 2025-26 NCAA Division III compliance forms via email.
9. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 2:18 p.m. Eastern time.

*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 March 20, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
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.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Harry Dumay, Elms College.	
Morgan Shaw, Willamette University. (SAAC representative)	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>	
Corey Berg, Jeff Myers, Becca Trovato and Sarah Turner.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Louise McCleary, Joan Nissen and Luke Schultheis.	