



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2025, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. 2026 NCAA Convention Proposal Grouping.

- Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council recommend to Presidents Council the proposed voting grouping and order as outlined in Attachment for the 2026 NCAA Convention.

(1) Effective date. Immediate.

(2) Rationale. While Presidents Council is ultimately responsible for establishing the order of proposal voting, the committee conducts an initial review and makes a recommendation. The committee submits a proposed voting order as outlined in Attachment.

(3) Estimated budget impact. None.

(4) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Approval of Official Interpretation – Sickle Cell Solubility Test (III).

- Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

The Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that only results from a sickle cell test that meet or exceed the standard of a sickle cell solubility test, as determined by a team physician, satisfy NCAA legislation.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaw 17.1.6.4.1 (Confirmation of Sickle Cell Trait Status)]

(1) Effective date. Immediate.

(2) Rationale. During its July 2025 meeting the committee, with guidance from the NCAA Sports Science Institute, approved a staff interpretation and educational column regarding sickle cell solubility testing for Division III student-athletes. The

staff interpretation was reviewed again at the September 2025 meeting, with staff noting that Division II had published its version as an official interpretation. The committee believes that elevating this to an official interpretation will provide consistency with the other divisions, as well as help institutions correctly understand and apply the legislation.

(3) Estimated budget impact. None.

(4) Student-athlete impact. Student-athlete health and safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The chair, Sarah Otey, welcomed the committee at 9:01 a.m., eastern time. The chair also introduced the new Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative, Bella Nesbeth, a diving and softball student-athlete from Grinnell College.
2. **Review NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.
3. **Interpretations and Legislation Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the roster and agreed to submit any corrections to staff.
4. **Review Meeting Reports.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from its June 12, 2025, videoconference and July 11, 2025, email meetings.
5. **Review of Interpretations and Legislation Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures and made no changes.
6. **Review of 2026 NCAA Convention Division III proposals.** The committee reviewed the Division III proposals under consideration for the 2026 NCAA Convention and offered suggestions for the annual question and answer document. The committee also responded to a request from the NCAA Division III Management Council to review three proposals under consideration:

Division III Proposal – Meals during an unofficial visit. The committee recommends that Management Council support this proposal. The committee agreed that institutional policy as opposed to a national standard is more appropriate in these circumstances, which is also consistent with the rationale for recent recommended changes to Bylaw 16 that come from this committee.

Division III Proposal – Only competition triggering use of a season. The committee recommends that Management Council does not take a position on this proposal. The committee agreed that this is an issue that impacts the philosophy statement and the

membership at-large should determine the direction of the division on these foundational matters without influence from the governance structure.

Division III Proposal – Mandatory winter break. The committee recommends that Management Council oppose this proposal. While the committee fundamentally supports the intent behind the proposal, it has lingering questions about the proposal's application. Further, the committee believes that individual institutions currently have the autonomy to institute breaks at any time of year, should it choose to do so.

7. **Discuss Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).** Staff presented the committee with a potential membership sponsored 2026 NCAA Convention resolution addressing name, image and likeness. The committee also reviewed the current Institutional Involvement resource available to Division III institutions. While no changes were recommended, the committee instructed staff to publish the current NIL resources as educational columns in LSDBi so that they may be tagged to interpretive requests sent in by the Division III membership.

8. **NCAA legal update.** The committee received a general overview and update of the current legal cases facing the Association and Division III membership.

9. **Division III interpretive issues.**

Benefits, expenses and seasons of participation. Staff presented the committee with various situations to seek clarification on whether the receipt of expenses and benefits constitutes the use of a season of participation. The committee provided feedback and instructed staff to present options for action items at a future meeting.

Use of a day when a student-athlete has exhausted eligibility. Staff asked the committee to review the interpretive position that a team must save days from its permitted total in order for a student-athlete who has exhausted their athletics eligibility to continue to train with their institutional coach. The committee determined that the existing position was too restrictive and instructed staff to issue an interpretation to reflect a more flexible position.

Spring period football. At the request of a Division III member conference, staff posed two questions related to the spring period in football to the committee. To the question of whether the football spring period should continue to consist of consecutive weeks, the committee asked for staff to solicit additional feedback from membership groups and report back at a future meeting. To the question of whether football should have a nontraditional segment that is more reflective of the entire sport, the committee determined that such a recommendation should generate from within the membership.

10. **Eligibility Center update.** The committee received an overview from the NCAA Eligibility Center on the 2024-25 amateurism certification cycle for international prospective student-athletes.

11. **NCAA Transfer Portal update.** The committee received a general overview of the Division III membership's use of the NCAA Transfer Portal. Staff also introduced the "tracer only" feature that is new for the 2025-26 academic year. The committee provided staff with various items to monitor as Division III considers mandatory use of the Portal.
12. **Update on required NCAA identification numbers and other governance issues.** Staff updated the committee on the primary topics within the Division III governance structure, including a potential change in policy that would require all student-athletes to obtain an NCAA identification number through the Eligibility Center for purposes of graduation rates reporting. The committee did not indicate any issues with the proposed change.
13. **Review Divisions I, II and III Staff Interpretations.** It was noted there were no staff interpretations issued by Divisions I or II between February 1 and July 31, 2025. Of the three staff interpretations issued by Division III during the same time period, the committee recommended that one be elevated to an official interpretation (see Action Item 2-b).
14. **Review Divisions I and II Official Interpretations.** The committee reviewed official interpretations issued in Division II between February 1 and July 31, 2025, and took no action. It was noted there were no Division I or Division III official interpretations issued during this period.
15. **Review Division I and II Legislative Actions.** The committee reviewed legislative actions in Divisions I and II between February 1 and July 31, 2025, and took no official action. The committee discussed foreign tours and the occasional challenges with only allowing competition against international teams. Consequently, the committee recommended that the NCAA Division III Subcommittee for Legislative Relief consider adding this scenario to its previously approved waivers list. Adding to the previously approved waivers list would allow institution to self-apply a waiver, under limited circumstances, thereby providing relief and reducing institutional burden.
16. **Review Division III Editorial Revisions.** The committee reviewed one editorial revision issued in Division III between February 1 and July 31, 2025, and took no action.
17. **Review Division III Educational Columns.** The committee reviewed the educational columns issued in Division III between February 1 and July 31, 2025, and took no action.
18. **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.

- 19. Future meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
- 20. Other Business.** Staff reminded the committee to complete the NCAA conflict of interest form by September 23, 2025.
- 21. Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 11:28 a.m. Eastern time, September 17, 2025.

Committee Chair: Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association.
Staff Liaisons: Corey Berg, Governance and Member Services.
Jeff Myers, Governance and Member Services.
Becca Trovato, Governance and Member Services.
Sarah Turner, Governance and Member Services.

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee September 16-17, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Rachana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland.	
Matt Grawrock, SUNY Morrisville.	
Andrew Green, Central College (Iowa).	
Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology.	
Danielle O'Leary, William Peace University.	
Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association.	
Andrea R. Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College.	
Bella Nesbeth, Grinnell College. (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, Becca Trovato and Sarah Turner.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Courtney Albertson, Eric Hartung, Erika Klages, Will Morrison, Joan Nissen and Luke Schultheis.	



**Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee
2026 NCAA Convention Proposals: Proposed Voting Grouping and Order**

Proposal Grouping and Order.

At its fall meeting, the Division III Presidents Council determines the voting order and grouping of proposals for the January NCAA Convention. The Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee makes the initial recommendation for this order and grouping.

Presidents' Grouping.

1. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- ESTABLISH A DIVISION III WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP.
2. ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION -- ONLY COMPETITION TRIGGERING USE OF A SEASON.
3. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- MULTIPLE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER MODEL.
4. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- REQUIRED PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CORE MEMBERS.

General Grouping.

1. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- WAITING PERIOD -- MULTISPORT CONFERENCE -- ADJUST FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE.
2. CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AMEND IN-REGION COMPETITION REQUIREMENT.
3. PLAYING SEASONS -- ADD A MANDATORY WINTER BREAK.
4. RECRUITING - CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS - FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES - REQUIRE USE OF THE NCAA TRANSFER PORTAL.
5. RECRUITING -- UNOFFICIAL VISIT -- MEALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR GUESTS.
6. AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE -- ELIMINATE DISTANCE AND LOCATION RESTRICTIONS.
7. AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TYPES OF AWARDS, AWARDING AGENCIES, MAXIMUM VALUE AND NUMBERS OF AWARDS -- REMOVE EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND REFERENCES TO AWARD VALUES.

8. AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- PERMIT ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ONE ALL-STAR CONTEST OR OTHER POST-ELIGIBILITY EVENT.
9. AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TEAM ENTERTAINMENT -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TICKETS.
10. DIVISION MEMBERSHIP, PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL.
11. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING.
12. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- STUNT.