



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **2027 NCAA Convention Proposal Grouping.**

(1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council recommend to Presidents Council the proposed voting grouping and order as outlined in the Attachment for the 2027 NCAA Convention.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) 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 the Attachment.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform and Philosophy Statement.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform and Philosophy Statement.
- 2. Interpretations and Legislation Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the roster and agreed to submit any corrections to staff.
- 3. Review Meeting Reports.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from its June 17, 2026, videoconference and April 8, 2026, and May 26, 2026, email feedback.
- 4. Review of Interpretations and Legislation Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures and made no changes.
- 5. Review of 2027 NCAA Convention Division III proposals.** The committee reviewed the Division III proposals under consideration for the 2027 NCAA Convention and offered

suggestions for the question-and-answer document. The committee also responded to a request from the NCAA Division III Management Council to review two proposals under consideration:

- a. **Division III Proposal – Age-Based Eligibility Model.** The committee did not reach consensus on the proposal; therefore, its recommendation to Management Council is to take no position at this time. During its discussions, the committee recognized the complexities and nuances of the proposal and expressed concern that the full implications cannot be adequately assessed within the three-month period leading up to the business session.

While the committee found the Division III Analysis Working Group case study to be helpful, the committee agreed that institutions need time to consider the questions and engage in meaningful and productive discussions about the proposal's potential impact. At this time, there are too many unknowns to determine whether the proposed model would ultimately benefit Division III and its member institutions.

The committee also expressed that the choice is not limited to the current eligibility model and the model outlined in the proposal. Other alternatives may better serve the division; however, the current timeline does not provide sufficient opportunity for the membership to develop, evaluate and consider additional options before the 2027 NCAA Convention.

- b. **Division III Proposal – Football -- Spring Period Practice Modifications.** The committee recommends that Management Council oppose this proposal. The committee expressed concern about the strain this proposal could place on institutional resources, including support personnel, athletics staff and facilities. Given the proposal's allowance for full-contact activities, the committee noted that sports medicine and athletic training staff would likely face increased time demands related to practice oversight and the potential for a higher incidence of injuries. The committee also raised concerns regarding the clarity of the proposal. In particular, it noted that the prescriptive nature of the permitted day allocations could create additional monitoring and oversight responsibilities for compliance and administrative staff, resulting in a greater administrative burden on campus.
6. **NCAA legal update.** The committee received a general overview and update of the current legal cases facing the Association and Division III membership.
 7. **Division III interpretive issues.**
 - a. **Injured Student-Athletes and Use of a Season.** The committee had previously requested that the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement review the hardship waiver legislation for opportunities to reduce burden and bureaucracy for student-athletes who are injured prior to the start of the season and did not meaningfully participate with their team. The committee received an update on the status of the current discussions and provided additional feedback to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement to consider at their December meeting. The committee acknowledged that while the ultimate

outcome may not change, the goal is to reduce the administrative burden for both campus and conference offices.

- b. Student Coaches and Student Managers.** The committee discussed eligibility impacts for students working as coaches and managers and determined that eligibility consequences should be the same for students acting as athletic support staff, regardless of the title assigned by the institution. The committee also determined that student athletic support staff who remain eligible for participation should continue to be eligible to receive benefits, such as team-issued apparel and travel expenses. Additionally, the committee agreed that student athletic support staff with remaining eligibility may be compensated for their work, provided such compensation is consistent with institutional student employment policies. Finally, the committee directed staff to identify and update relevant educational resources and to present those revisions for review at a future meeting.
- c. Staff Interpretation – Regional Training Centers.** The committee reviewed and approved the following staff determination:

Regional Training Center Selection Criteria.

The governance and member services staff determined that if a wrestling student-athlete is only eligible for selection to a Regional Training Center because they were an athlete listed on a collegiate roster for that academic year, it would be impermissible for a coach to also work at that Regional Training Center outside of the declared playing and practice season.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.1.5 (Out-of-Season Athletically Related Activities), 17.1.5.2.1 (Involvement of Coaching Staff), 17.1.5.2.2 (Olympic, Paralympic and National Team Development Program), 17.30 (Wrestling, Women's) and 17.31 (Wrestling, Men's)]

- d. Staff Interpretation – Initial Academic Eligibility Decisions on Transfer Student-Athletes.** The committee reviewed and approved the following staff determination:

Initial Academic Eligibility Decisions on First-Term, First-Year Transfer Student-Athletes.

The governance and member services staff determined that an initial academic eligibility decision that precludes a student-athlete from practice or competition during their first year of collegiate enrollment does not affect the eligibility of a first-term, first-year student-athlete who transfers to a Division III institution during that same term, even if the student-athlete triggers transfer status under Bylaw 14.5.2 at their original institution.

However, if the student-athlete completes the term at the original institution before transferring to a Division III institution, the student-athlete remains subject to the initial academic eligibility decision.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 14.5 (Transfer Regulations), 14.5.2 (Conditions Affecting Transfer Status), 14.5.4 (Two-Year College Transfers) and 14.5.5 (Four-Year College Transfers)]

8. **Update on Governance Issues.** The committee received an update of the primary topics currently within the Division III governance structure.
9. **Eligibility Center update.** The committee received an overview from the NCAA Eligibility Center on the 2026-27 amateurism certification cycle for international prospective student-athletes.
10. **NCAA Transfer Portal update.** The committee received a general overview of the Division III membership's use of the NCAA Transfer Portal.
11. **Review Divisions I, II and III Staff Interpretations.** The committee reviewed staff interpretations issued in Divisions I, II and III between February 1 and July 31, 2026, and took no action.
12. **Review Divisions I, II and II Official Interpretations.** The committee reviewed official interpretations issued in Divisions I, II and III between February 1 and July 31, 2026, and requested to review two Division II official interpretations.
 - a. A July 27, 2026, Division II interpretation permits social media activities outside of the playing season. The committee requested staff seek feedback from the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, specifically whether allowing coaches to interact with social media posts negates the voluntary nature of the out-of-season athletically related activities. The committee will revisit this discussion at a future meeting.
 - b. If the division continues to operate under a 10-semester or 15-quarter model after the NCAA Convention, the committee has requested to revisit at its February meeting a March 20, 2026, Division II interpretation about translating nontraditional academic calendars into full-time semesters and quarters.
13. **Review Division I and II Legislative Actions.** The committee reviewed legislative actions in Divisions I and II between February 1 and July 31, 2026, and took no action. The committee reviewed the Division I and II age-based eligibility proposals along with the related educational columns and directed staff to utilize the relevant application questions for the annual question and answer document.
14. **Review Division III Editorial Revisions.** The committee reviewed three editorial revisions issued in Division III between February 1 and July 31, 2026, and took no action.

15. **Review Division III Educational Columns.** It was noted there were no Division III educational columns issued during the February 1 and July 31, 2026, period.
16. **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.
17. **Future meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
18. **Other business.** Staff reminded the committee to complete the NCAA conflict of interest form by September 25, 2026.
19. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 10:18 a.m. Eastern time.

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

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee September 23-24, 2026, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Rachana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Katie Boldvich, Landmark Conference.	
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University.	
Matt Grawrock, State University of New York at Morrisville.	
Andrew Green, Central College (Iowa).	
Josey Johnson, Capital University (SAAC representative)	
Danielle O'Leary, William Peace University.	
Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association.	
Andrea R. Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College.	
Jeremy Shepherd, McDaniel College.	
Absentees:	
Bella Nesbeth, Grinnell College. (SAAC representative).	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Corey Berg, and Sarah Turner.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Erika Klages, Jeff Myers, Joan Nissen, Luke Scheulteis, Becca Trovato and Julie Zike.	



**Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee
2027 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. Playing Seasons -- Football -- Spring Period Practice Modifications.
2. Division III Presidents Council and Management Council -- Term of Office and Vacancies.
3. Eligibility -- Age-Based Eligibility Model.

General Grouping.

1. Amateurism – Before Initial, Full-time Collegiate – Permit Use of Agents.
2. National Collegiate Championship – Women's Flag Football.