



DIVISION III
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**NCAA DIVISION III
PRESIDENTS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCILS
SUMMARY OF SPRING 2025
QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

KEY ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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Division III Management Council April 16-17, 2025, Virtual Meeting	Division III Presidents Council April 23, 2025, Virtual Meeting
ATTENDEES	ATTENDEES
<p>Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University Tony Berich, Stockton University Pete Bothner, Nazareth College Kristie Bowers, Rochester Polytechnic Institute Donnie Brooks, Macalester College Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College <i>[Presidents Council vice chair]</i> Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University, SAAC representative Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (MA) Rob Larson, Luther College <i>[vice chair]</i> Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College Muthu Meenakshisundaram, University of Minnesota, Morris, SAAC representative Myranda Nash, Brevard College Keiko Price, Emory University Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference Anthony Scola, North Park University Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Melinda Treadwell, Keene State University Jim Troha, Juniata College <i>[Presidents Council chair]</i> Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire <i>[chair]</i> Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University</p>	<p>Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Dale Caldwell, Centenary University (New Jersey) Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College <i>[vice chair]</i> Alberto Cardelle, State University of New York at Oneonta Lillian Case, Juniata College, SAAC representative Hiram Chodosh, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges Bryan Coker, Maryville College (TN) Suzanne Davis, Greenville University Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College, SAAC representative Lake Lambert, Hanover College Rob Larson, Luther College <i>[Management Council vice chair]</i> Steven Mauro, Alfred State University Milton Moreland, Centre College Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle Jim Troha, Juniata College <i>[chair]</i> Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire <i>[Management Council chair]</i> Renee Wachter, University of Wisconsin-Superior Adam Weinberg, Denison University</p>
ABSENTEES	ABSENTEES
	<p>Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University Julia Jasken, McDaniel College Douglas Lee, Waynesburg University Carolyn Lepre, Salisbury University John Walz, Milwaukee School of Engineering</p>

OTHER PARTICIPANTS	OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Charlie Baker, NCAA Lydia Bell, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA Ben Brownlee, NCAA Tim Buckley, NCAA Dawn Buth, NCAA Jenn Fraser, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Natalia Herrera, NCAA Katie Koenig, NCAA Kevin Lennon, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Katie Mucci, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Nicki Pieart, NCAA Stephanie Quigg, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Anne Rohlman, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Rachel Seewald, NCAA Juanita Sheely, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA Leila Sublett, NCAA Sarah Turner, NCAA JP Williams, NCAA Julie Zike, NCAA	Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA Tim Buckley, NCAA Dawn Buth, NCAA Michael Cioroianu, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Natalia Herrera, NCAA Kevin Lennon, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Katie Mucci, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Juanita Sheely, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA Leila Sublett, NCAA

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

April 16-17 Management Council. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Eastern time, April 16, and 10:02 a.m. Eastern time April 17. The chair, Jason Verdugo, welcomed the council and previewed key agenda items.

April 23 Presidents Council. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. Eastern time, April 23. The chair, Jim Troha, welcomed the council and acknowledged new members Alberto Cardelle from the State University of New York at Oneonta and Lake Lambert from Hanover College.

2. REVIEW OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

a. Management Council Meetings – January 14 and February 17, 2025.

Management Council. The Management Council approved the summary of its January 14 and February 17 meetings.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Presidents Council Meeting – January 15, 2025.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The Presidents Council approved the summary of its January 15 meeting.

c. 2025 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Management and Presidents Councils. The council members reviewed their 2025 assignments.

d. Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the division's philosophy statement and strategic positioning platform and referred to these resources to support discussions throughout the agenda.

e. Administrative Committee Reports.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the committee's action to rename the Ethnic Minorities and Women Internship Grant to the Pathway to Excellence Grant.

f. Presidents Council Policies and Procedures.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved an updated version of its policies and procedures that includes the amendments to the legislative process adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING DIVISION III.

a. Division III Joint Presidents Council/Management Council Committees or Subcommittees.

Staff Liaison:
Regan

Council Reps:
Bednarsh, Belton,
Berich, Brooks,
Lee, Moreland
Verdugo, Walz

(1) Convention Planning Subcommittee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the subcommittee's March report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Blair Hackworth,
Henry

Council Reps:
Bowers, Cardelle,
Lambert

(2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the report from the subcommittee's March videoconference. No action was necessary.

(3) Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC).

(a) Live Streaming Football Stipend Increase.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the recommendation to increase the host stipend to live stream preliminary-round games of the Division III Football Championship from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The council noted the increase supports the Division III Championships Committee's approval to require hosts of first-round, second-round, third-round and quarterfinal games of the Division III Football Championship to provide at least two cameras for live streaming purposes. The increased stipend helps hosts accommodate the second camera.

(b) Division III Membership Dues Assessment.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils noted the committee's initial discussion regarding the membership dues assessment (which is a fee institutions and conferences pay above the annual membership dues) that the division previously agreed to

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Hubert,
Regan, Myers

Council Reps:
Camille, Larson,
Lepre

pause for this year and next year to help reduce the division's reserves in a way that provides a direct benefit to Division III members. The committee discussed the merits of retaining the pause, reinstating the assessment or eliminating it altogether. The councils provided initial feedback as well and agreed with the committee's decision to revisit this issue during its November meeting when it recommends allocations for the next budget cycle (2026-28), as the financial landscape in higher education may be clearer at that time.

(c) Championships Per Diem.

Management and Presidents Councils. The committee reviewed discussions underway within the Division III Championships Committee regarding the previously approved incremental increases in per diem for the current budget cycle: \$135 in 2024-25 and \$140 in 2025-26, with dollars earmarked for a future increase to \$145 in 2026-27 and \$150 in 2027-28. Due to rising costs, the Championships Committee revisited these planned increases and considered whether additional increases were needed. Among the options considered was to increase per diem to \$150 for both 2025-26 and 2026-27, which would provide an immediate benefit without exceeding the previously approved \$150 level for 2027-28. Both councils supported the increase. The committee is expected to submit a formal proposal to the councils for their summer meetings.

(d) Current and Future Budget Review/Projections.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the budget-to-actuals for 2024-25 through March, which includes most of the expenses for fall championships. Nearly 50% of Division III institutions have taken advantage of the \$2,000 grant to support health and safety initiatives on their campuses. Division III members have until August 15 to access those funds for this year. The councils also reviewed the projected budgets through 2032, which have not changed since the councils reviewed them in January.

(4) Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the subcommittee's most recent report, noting the subcommittee affirmed its mission as a thought leadership body charged with providing insights on current and future issues with potential long-range impact on Division III intercollegiate athletics. The subcommittee will bring to and receive from the Presidents Council key issues and topics and will engage the full council accordingly.

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Regan

Council Reps:
Camille, Chodosh,
Davis, Kelly,
Mauro, Rice,
Troha, Wachter

To garner broader perspectives, the subcommittee will consult campus senior leadership and maintain a sound structure for Division III to support member conferences, institutions, and student-athletes. The Presidents Council supported the subcommittee's purpose and work to date and believes this structure will strengthen the council's efforts to address strategic priorities going forward.

b. Division III Committees.

Staff Liaisons:
Peterson-Mlynski,
Williams

Council Reps:
Rogers, Verdugo

(1) Championships Committee.

(a) Committee reports.

Management Council. The council reviewed key informational items from the committee's February and March reports, including the committee's review of per diem [see Item 3-(3)-(c) on page 6], and the current limits to the number of individuals on the bench/sidelines for NCAA championship events. The council affirmed that bench limits are an important topic because of growing rosters resulting from enrollment challenges institutions are experiencing, and the council also noted that any increase would not change the size of the travel party. The council also expressed its support for the committee's ongoing review of the fees being paid to officials for NCAA championships.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Coaches Connect Program.

Management Council. The council approved the Championships Committee's recommendation to establish a Coaches Connect program to enhance the education and engagement of Division III coaches in governance and championships. The program will include representatives from each conference that sponsors the sport, plus the NCAA Division III championship manager, a member of the sport-specific rules committee, a Division III academic and membership affairs staff member, the chair of the relevant NCAA sport committee, and a coaches association or similar sport representative(s). The groups will convene regularly to be apprised of current issues and proposals or policy recommendations being considered within the Division III governance structure that would affect their sport. The Championships Committee will finalize the three sports to begin the program in 2025-26. Assuming the program is successful, three more sports would be added for the 2026-27 academic year. Eventually, all Division III sports except

men's and women's basketball (which already have established coaches engagement programs available through their coaches associations) would be included in the program.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Mikrut

Council Rep:
Gibson

(2) Committee on Infractions.

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Hartung, Higgins

Council Rep:
Savage

(3) Financial Aid Committee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Smith, Walters

Council Rep:
Scola

(4) Infractions Appeals Committee.

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Berg, Myers, Turner

Council Rep:
Gibson

(5) Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC).

(a) 2026 Convention Legislation – Bylaw 16.

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee resulting from its comprehensive review of Bylaw 16 (Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes), the council agreed to sponsor the following proposal for the 2026 Convention:

- 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). Intent: To permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed. The proposal's effective date is August 1, 2026.

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 from its campus. 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 limit. 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.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Noncontroversial Legislation – Bylaw 16

Management Council. Per recommendations from the committee resulting from its comprehensive review of Bylaw 16 (Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes), the council approved, in concept, the following noncontroversial legislative proposals:

- 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). The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation clarifying that student-athletes may receive expenses to attend a recognition banquet and may receive an award at that banquet. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

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.

- 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)). The council approved, 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. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

Rationale. Under current legislation, during a vacation period, or when meals are missed due to practice activities, an institution is permitted to provide meals only 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 also would eliminate the administrative burden of tracking where student-athletes live and who receives meals and when.

- 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). The council approved, 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. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

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.

- Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Non-Athletics Apparel Provided by the Institution – Default to Institutional Policy (Bylaw 16.11.1.7). The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation that would permit institutions to issue non-athletics apparel, consistent with institutional policy. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

Rationale. Current legislation allows an institution to provide student-athletes with one shirt, annually, which they

may keep. While additional non-athletics apparel may be provided, it must be provided on an issue and retrieval basis and may be given to the student-athlete to keep only if it considered not reusable, per institutional policy. Since there is currently a pathway to provide student-athletes with the non-athletics apparel, this proposal would eliminate these steps and defer to institutional policy and discretion regarding appropriate non-athletics apparel.

- Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Retention of Athletics Apparel and Equipment – Default to Institutional Policy (Bylaw 16.11.1.8). The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation that would permit student-athletes to retain their athletics apparel and equipment, consistent with institutional policy. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

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.

- 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). The council approved, 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. The effective date of the proposal is immediate.

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 whether 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.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) **Noncontroversial Legislation – Major Junior Ice Hockey Participation.**

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved, in concept, the following noncontroversial legislative proposal:

- Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment – Elimination of Major Junior Ice Hockey Conditions. The council approved, 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. The proposal is effective for student-athletes enrolling in Division III on or after August 1, 2025.

Rationale. Currently, under the pre-enrollment organized-competition legislation, a prospective ice hockey student-athlete who participates on a Major Junior 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 who 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.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(d) Noncontroversial Legislation – Amateurism.

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved, in concept, the following noncontroversial legislative proposal:

- Amateurism – Financial Donations from Outside Organization – Relationships with Third-Party Organizations (Bylaw 12.6). The council approved, 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.

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 about engaging with third parties (professional sport organizations, national governing bodies, and nonprofit 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 toward 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. *(Note: Any change to the NCAA legislation would not supersede Division III championships policies and procedures.)*

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Hartung,
Higgins, Zike

Council Rep:
Berich

(6) Membership Committee.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council approve establishing a pilot eligibility waiver program to allow Division III student-athletes, pursuant to specific guidelines [see

Attachment], to continue representing their institution in intercollegiate competition while enrolled at another institution that has a formal academic agreement with their institution. The program would become effective August 1, 2025, though institutions would be able to submit waiver requests immediately pending approval by the Presidents Council.

The pilot is the result of actions taken during the 2025 legislative cycle when the Presidents Council referred to the Management Council a proposal from the Membership Committee that would have allowed, under certain conditions, graduated student-athletes to complete their athletics eligibility at the Division III institution while enrolled elsewhere. While there was support for expanding participation opportunities and providing flexibility for institutions that do not offer specific academic programs, the Presidents Council thought the implications of the concept needed further vetting. The Management Council then sent the issue back to the Membership Committee, with input from the council's subcommittee for legislative relief. The resulting review prompted the pilot program focusing on individual student-athlete eligibility waivers as being an effective way to understand the types of academic relationships that exist and the number of student-athletes who could benefit and, in turn, inform whether further legislative action would be warranted. The waiver requests would be reviewed by the Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief and as needed, the Membership Committee, pursuant to the criteria outlined in the attachment. The waivers received during the pilot program would be reviewed annually to determine if continued legislative relief is appropriate.

Presidents Council. The council discussed the proposed pilot and ultimately approved establishing it as specified. Additionally, the council noted the importance of monitoring the potential unknown, unforeseen and unintended consequences and outcomes that may result from this pilot. Accordingly, the council asked for regular updates regarding the pilot to ensure that it achieves its desired intent of benefiting student-athletes while retaining the integrity of the Division III experience.

(7) **Management Council Playing Rules Subcommittee.**

Management Council. The council approved a process to implement the legislation the membership adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention that provides the council the authority to exempt Division III from a newly adopted playing rule. This process does not alter the current Division III federated playing rules process; rather, it grants the council the authority to determine whether Division III member institutions should be exempt from applying a particular playing rule adopted by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Regan, Myers,
Zike, Seewald

Council Rep:
Brooks, Erwin,
MacCulloch,
Nash, Price,
Rogers, Savage

Staff Liaisons:
Roe, Mucci

Council Rep:
Bothner

(8) Nominating Committee.

(a) Governance Committee Appointments.

Management Council. The council approved the following governance committee appointments:

- NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee (immediate vacancy replacing Bill McGinley).
 - Rodrick Andrews, assistant vice president for admissions and financial aid, State University of New York at Oswego, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
- NCAA Division III Membership Committee. (January 2026 appointment).
 - Kristen Bailey, faculty athletics representative, University of New England, Conference of New England.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) NCAA Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Management Council. The council approved the following recommendations from the Nominating Committee. The appointments are effective September 1, 2025.

- Marion Ann Terenzio, president, State University of New York at Cobleskill, North Atlantic Conference (two-year term – will be eligible for reappointment).
- Stephanie Stevens, head women's basketball coach/senior woman administrator, Gallaudet University, United East Conference (two-year term – will be eligible for reappointment).
- Pankil Chander, associate head wrestling coach/athletics diversity and inclusion designee, Wilkes University, Landmark Conference (four-year term).
- Juan Hernandez, vice president for diversity, equity and belonging, Curry College (three-year term).

Staff Liaisons:
Mucci, Spungen,
Trovato,
Youngblood

Council Reps:
Hathaway, Meenak-
shisundaram, Nash,
Wigley

- Ryan Martin, director of inclusive athletics, The City College of New York, City University of New York Athletic Conference (three-year term).

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(9) **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the committee's report. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Bullock, Hubbard,
Perry, Vaughn

Council Rep:
Gibson

(10) **Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee.**

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Trovato, Zike

Council Rep: Both-
ner, Bowers, Erwin,
Larson, MacCulloch,
Price, Summers

(11) **Subcommittee for Legislative Relief.**

Management Council. The council reviewed the subcommittee's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. **Association-Wide Committees.**

Staff Liaisons:
Durden, Rohlman

Council Rep:
Lamb

(1) **Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS).**

Management Council. The council supported the committee's recommendation to refer the potential revisions of interpretations and educational columns concerning sickle cell legislation to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee. The committee noted that recent inquiries prompted a review of existing guidance on sickle cell legislation. The review revealed a need to clarify that guidance for the NCAA membership and more accurately reflect the application of existing legislation.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Hubbard,
Lokhande, Miron

Council Rep:
Lamb

(2) Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA).

Management Council. The council supported the committee's recommendation to sponsor legislation for the 2026 Convention to add women's flag football as an emerging sport and establish legislation related to athletics personnel, amateurism, recruiting, financial aid, playing and practice seasons, and membership, as specified.

The council also was informed that three additional sports – acrobatics and tumbling, stunt, and triathlon – are nearing the sponsorship threshold required to be considered for a National Collegiate championship. The committee will continue to monitor sport sponsorship for each of these sports to determine if it should recommend legislation to create a National Collegiate championship for any of these emerging sports.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Lawrence, Loechel,
Register

Council Rep:
Scola

(3) Honors Committee.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to modify the name, composition and duties of the NCAA Honors Committee as follows: (a) Rename the Honors Committee to the Awards Committee; (b) Increase the composition of the committee from nine to 10 members specifying that one position shall be allocated for a former student-athlete who was a Woman of the Year nominee, and to replace the position allocated for a current or former chancellor or president from a member institution with a senior-level athletics administrator at a member institution or conference; and (3) Expand the duties of the committee to include oversight, management and selection of the Woman of the Year Award.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Blair Hackworth,
Kennedy

Council Rep:
Bowers

(4) Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's report. No action was necessary

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Blair Hackworth,
Kennedy, Miron

Council Reps:
Bowers, Lamb

(5) **Joint Committee on Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests.**

Management Council. The committees had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Seewald

(6) **Playing Rules Oversight Panel.**

Management Council. The council reviewed the panel's reports. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Thomas

Council Rep:
Brooks

(7) **Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.**

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Rogers, Thomas

Council Rep:
Price

(8) **Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.**

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

4. **2026 NCAA CONVENTION LEGISLATION.**

a. **Potential Membership-Sponsored Legislation.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update on the proposals the membership is considering for the 2026 Convention and discussed additional legislative concepts being considered within the governance structure. No action was necessary.

5. **NONCONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE 2026 NCAA CONVENTION.**

Management Council. The council formally adopted, in final legislative format, the following noncontroversial legislative proposal:

- NC-2026-7 Committees – Administrative Committee – Composition. Effective date: Immediate. Intent: To clarify the compositional requirements of the committee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

6. DIVISION III INITIATIVES AND UPDATES.

a. Update from Division I Governance.

Management Council. The council received an update regarding the eligibility review underway in Division I as well as ongoing efforts to restructure the division's governance.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Sports Betting.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation permitting Division III student-athletes and staff to bet on professional sports beginning with the 2025-26 academic year. The council noted several factors to support its action: (1) Research indicates that prohibitions are not as effective as harm reduction strategies when dealing with problem gambling behaviors; (2) The historical intent of NCAA sports betting legislation is to protect the integrity of the game; and (3) Removing prohibitions that do not impact the integrity of an intercollegiate contest may, for a student-athlete with a gambling problem, remove a barrier to seeking help. Finally, the council also noted the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's support for the deregulation. *(Note: The specific sports betting bylaws are common, meaning that all three divisions must agree to amend the bylaws in the same way to adopt a change. Similar to Division III, Divisions I and II have engaged in a review over the past year and are considering deregulating betting on professional sports, effective for the 2025-26 academic year.)*

The council also directed the Division III staff to develop concepts for Division III committees to consider regarding potential safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties for student-athletes who engage in prohibited sports wagering but seek help for problem gambling. The council believes that exploring the concept of a safe harbor or limited immunity for student-athletes reaffirms that harm reduction and education will continue to be paramount when creating an environment for a student-athlete to seek help for problem gambling.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. NCAA Transfer Portal.

Management Council. The council reviewed information from the NCAA research staff about the number of Division III student-athletes who have used the transfer portal, the number who have transferred to an institution within Division III or another division, and the change in those data over several academic years. Because Division III institutions are not required to use the transfer portal, the council was reminded that these data do not represent all transfers for Division III. The council will continue to discuss the transfer portal and its utility for potentially reducing the administrative burden for Division III member institutions.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Student-Athlete Experience Document.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed a document summarizing how the membership has previously defined the student-athlete experience (both the collegiate and athletics experience) and the strategies and initiatives that directly target Division III student-athletes. The Division III Administrative Committee and the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee have also reviewed this document and offered feedback. The councils endorsed the document and requested staff to share it broadly with the membership.

e. Athletics Communication Working Group.

Management Council. The council received the working group's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

f. Faculty Athletics Representative Advisory Group.

Management Council. The council received the advisory group's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. Division III Branding and Promotions.

Management Council. The council reviewed the division's social media engagement, including during the recently completed DIII Week, and noted the expanded reach with Division III messaging and branding.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

h. Championships Live Streaming.

Management and Presidents Councils. Staff also updated the councils on streaming analytics for the fall and winter championships. This fall was the first time Division III required hosts to live stream every round of team championships available on NCAA.com. In total, 210 competitions streamed through the NCAA.com/Hudl. Viewers watched a combined 11.5 million minutes of live content this fall compared to 2.3 million last year. The field hockey championship also was promoted via the NCAA fan database and experienced a 158% increase in viewership. The council also received an update on the volleyball and football championships contests that were aired on ESPN+. There was an increase in viewership for both sports when compared to previous years. All team sport championships in the spring will take advantage of the fan database. Staff also provided preliminary results from the live streaming conducted for winter championships, which produced approximately 12.9 million minutes of live content.

i. Mental Health First Aid Program.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update on the recently approved program with Mental Health First Aid to provide mental health training to all Division III head coaches and athletic trainers. The initiative reflects a recommendation from the review Deloitte conducted last year regarding the division's priorities and opportunities. Staff presented a resource to help explain the program and referenced a [website](#) to help member schools access the training.

j. Officiating.

Management Council. The council received updates on the NCAA Officiating Reform Initiative and the changes made in response to feedback from the membership. The council also reviewed efforts from the Division III Commissioners Association to enhance officiating.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

k. Sportsmanship.

Management Council. The council received an update on the work being done at the national office to support sportsmanship, including the creation of a de-escalation training module for the membership to access via the NCAA's learning portal.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

1. Issues Forum Feedback.

Management Council. The council reviewed a summary of feedback gathered from the Issues Forum at the NCAA Convention regarding name, image and likeness opportunities and reducing administrative burden. The council will discuss this further during its in-person meeting in July.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

7. ASSOCIATION-WIDE UPDATES AND ISSUES.

a. Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.

Management and Presidents Councils. President Baker joined the meetings to update the councils on a number of initiatives, including the status and timing of the House settlement decision; the success of the NCAA fan database, which continues to grow as a resource for identifying fans' interests and notifying them of events accordingly; and the purchasing cooperative initiative. President Baker also praised the councils for supporting the Mental Health First Aid initiative.

b. Board of Governors Updates.

Management Council. The council reviewed the reports from the board's recent meeting.

Presidents Council. In addition to this update, the council as part of the consultative process received an overview of key agenda items for the board's April meeting that occurred the day after the council meeting, including the board initiating its annual evaluation of the NCAA president, and plans to fund various emerging sports for women pending approval from each division.

c. Legal Update.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received updates from the NCAA's office of legal affairs on litigation affecting the Association and Division III if applicable.

d. Sport Science Institute (SSI) Updates.

Management Council. The council received an update regarding the following items:

- (1) **Athletic Training Workforce Stakeholder Meeting.** The SSI will host a stakeholder meeting with representatives from the National Athletic Trainers' Association and its accrediting bodies in July 2025. This is the

second meeting of stakeholders to discuss the credentialing of athletic trainers and the capacity of the credentialing process for athletic trainers.

- (2) **Performance Technology Collegiate Athletic Summit.** The SSI will conduct a summit May 1-2 to discuss the current use of performance technologies in intercollegiate athletics. The goal of the summit is to discuss and consider various aspects of performance technologies, including nomenclature, use trends, responsible use, and its role in medical decision making.
- (3) **Resources.** The council received an update on the development and enhancement of SSI resources, including harm reduction strategies for sports betting, the cannabinoids fact sheet, and the sports medicine handbook.

Presidents Council. No update was provided.

e. **Congressional Engagement.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received updates regarding efforts underway to engage federal legislators on matters that impact intercollegiate athletics.

f. **Purchasing Cooperative Program.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update regarding the NCAA/E&I Cooperative Purchasing Pilot Program. Feedback from institutions that participated in the program showed a cost saving of 34% when purchasing athletics equipment (e.g., weight plates, treadmills) and 12% when purchasing athletic training supplies (e.g., athletic tape, braces). The councils have identified this among priorities for 2025 and will continue to receive regular updates on the status of this program.

g. **Referral of Accreditation Legislation.**

Management Council. The council considered a request to review the current NCAA membership requirement regarding the accreditation of member institutions to determine whether the current definition/requirement is adequate. The Division III Membership Committee cited the issue during its review of the division's consortium legislation. After discussion and review, the council agreed to refer the matter to the Membership Committee and asked for an update and possible recommendation for the council to consider during an upcoming meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

h. Discussion of Key Priorities.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. Council members engaged in an open forum to discuss what the division should be focused on in the immediate future given the evolving intercollegiate athletics landscape.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Presidents Council. The council convened an executive session from 2:45 to 3:01 p.m. Eastern time April 23.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

Management Council. The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m. Eastern time April 16 and 1:46 Eastern time April 17.

Presidents Council. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. Eastern time April 23.



PROPOSED PILOT PROGRAM

Intent.

The pilot program would allow for the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief to consider requests from Division III member institutions for student-athletes to continue their participation while no longer enrolled at the member institution provided certain conditions are met.

Process.

A Division III institution would submit a legislative relief waiver via RSRO, which would then be reviewed by the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief. Additionally, the chair of the Division III Membership Committee would be included during the subcommittee's review of the waivers.

Waiver Guidelines.

1. The student-athlete must have been previously enrolled and participated at the certifying Division III institution.
2. The student-athlete must satisfy all existing eligibility standards (e.g., full-time enrollment, satisfactory progress).
 - (Note: The student-athlete may be an undergraduate or graduate student.)
3. There must be an existing academic relationship between the certifying Division III institution and the non-certifying institution, and the student-athlete is enrolled at the non-certifying institution pursuant to that existing academic relationship.
4. The certifying Division III institution must provide objective documentation confirming the following:
 - a. The existence of an academic relationship between the certifying Division III institution and the non-certifying institution.
 - b. That the non-certifying institution has proper accreditation.
 - c. That the non-certifying institution does not sponsor varsity athletics.
 - d. That both institutions agree to the student-athlete's participation.
 - e. That the conference office has approved the participation.

- f. The proposed process for certifying academic eligibility (e.g., full-time enrollment, satisfactory progress) of the student-athlete.
- g. The student-athlete has adequate insurance coverage (Bylaw 20.8.4.8).
- h. That both institutions agree to cooperate in any investigations involving allegations of NCAA violations.
- i. That the certifying institution acknowledges that it is responsible for and may be held accountable through the enforcement procedures for any violations involving the student-athlete even if the violation is a result of conduct by the non-certifying institution (e.g., the other institution provides the student-athlete financial aid based on athletics).

Pilot Review.

The waivers received during the pilot program will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if continued legislative relief is appropriate.