



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
POST-CONVENTION VIDEOCONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 17, 2025

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introduction of new members.** The chair welcomed the group to the videoconference and introduced the following new members:
  - a. **Melissa Baumann**, president, Ohio Northern University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
  - b. **Anthony Berich**, executive director of athletics, Stockton University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
  - c. **Russ Rogers**, director of athletics, Stevens Institute of Technology, Middle Atlantic Conferences.
  - d. **Andrea Savage**, commissioner, New England Small College Athletic Conference.
  - e. **Anthony Scola**, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, North Park University, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
  - f. **Patrick Summers**, commissioner, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
2. **Review of 2025 Convention legislation voting results.** The council reviewed the voting results from the Division III Business Session, noting that the six proposals were adopted and that the delegates ratified the emergency legislation the Presidents Council adopted previously.
3. **2026 Convention legislation.** The council adopted, in final legislative format, the following noncontroversial legislative proposal it approved in concept during its January meeting. *(Note: The council initially approved two proposals in January, but those were combined when the legislation was formally drafted for ease of reference.)*
  - NC 2026-6 Infractions Program – Types of Violations – Application of Violation Structure and Application Exception for Limited Sports Wagering Violations. Intent: To (1) codify within Bylaw 19 the long-standing application of case classification for institutions and individuals; and (2) amend the Bylaw 19 processing requirements to

- separate the individual culpability of an involved individual from that of an institution in select cases involving sports wagering (Bylaw 10.3). Effective date: Immediate.
4. **Division III Management Council policies and procedures.** The council reviewed and approved the revisions made to the council's policies and procedures to account for the Division III federated playing rules process and amendments made to the Division III legislative cycle that were adopted at the 2025 Convention.
  5. **Review of the 2025 Convention.** The council reviewed the administration of the January Convention, including overall logistics and the conducting of the Division III educational sessions, Association-wide events, Division III governance meetings, Issues Forum, and Business Session. Overall, council members thought the Convention went smoothly, and they offered feedback accordingly. The council also provided suggestions for the Division III Convention Planning Subcommittee to consider for the 2026 Convention.
  6. **Identification of key issues and strategic priorities for 2025.** Council members identified and discussed the following as key topics and issues that should be addressed and/or monitored through the coming year.
    - a. **Athletics staffing.** During the 2025 Issues Forum, the membership continued to cite concerns with hiring and retaining athletics personnel, particularly athletic trainers and athletics communications professionals. In the fall of 2024, the Division III Athletic Training Working Group released its [recommendations](#) to the Division III membership, and that resource has been well received. Additionally, another working group is updating the [Guide to Strategic Athletics Communication on Campus](#), which was developed several years ago and has proven to be a useful tool in advising athletics communications operations in Division III.
    - b. **Sports betting deregulation and harm reduction strategies.** Council members along with the Presidents Council and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee have discussed the merits of deregulating the NCAA's sports betting policies to allow betting on professional sports but have not reached a consensus. Those discussions will continue during future meetings. All three groups have been unified in emphasizing the need to provide institutions with resources to support their campus harm reduction strategies.
    - c. **Playing rules and the federated rules process.** The council has adopted several changes to the Division III playing rules process, including the creation of a Management Council Playing Rules Subcommittee. The council will receive regular updates regarding the work of that group. Additionally, the council will consider at its April meeting a methodology to implement the playing rules proposal adopted by the membership at the 2025 Convention.

- d. **Strategies to reduce administrative burdens.** The council and Division III committees will consider feedback gathered at the 2025 Issues Forum regarding potential steps the governance structure can take to help reduce the administrative burden for the Division III membership.
- e. **Amplifying the Division III brand; using the NCAA fan database.** Based on the council's previous conversations and feedback from the membership, this continues to be an area of focus. Staff will continue providing the council with concepts to enhance the Division III brand. Additionally, the council will be updated on live streaming of NCAA winter and spring team championships and use of the fan database to promote future championships.
- f. **Championships date formula process.** The council has asked the Division III Championships Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the overlap with the current playing and practice season legislation and the Division III championship date formula. This issue came to the forefront during consideration of a request from the Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees this past fall to adjust the date formula in men's and women's soccer by moving the championship back one week. The council suggested creating a resource that includes the entirety of each playing season – the traditional segment, the nontraditional segment, and the championships segment. This resource will help inform decisions regarding future championship date formula change requests, as it will allow the Championships Committee to view the total impact on campus as it relates to concurrent sport seasons. The Championships Committee discussed an initial plan to conduct the review during its meeting earlier this month and provided feedback to the staff. The committee will update the council in April.
- g. **Purchasing cooperative.** The NCAA has initiated efforts to make the membership aware of a sourcing cooperative currently serving higher education institutions (E&I Cooperative Services). The membership consistently notes the rising costs associated with intercollegiate athletics as a primary threat.
- h. **Name, Image and Likeness.** The council noted the need to continue to address the needs of the Division III membership with NIL and provide educational resources. Staff informed the council that the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee will discuss this topic at a future meeting and consider the feedback gathered on NIL from the 2025 Issues Forum.
- i. **Eligibility and academic relationship.** The council noted its referral of the graduate student proposal (to create an exception for graduated students enrolled at a non-member institution that has a formal academic relationship with a Division III institution) to the Division III Membership Committee and anticipates receiving an update and possible recommendations for consideration during its April

meeting. The council also noted eligibility issues in general, and that Divisions I and II are conducting reviews.

- j. **Congressional engagement.** This continues to be an important initiative for Division III and the NCAA, particularly regarding the consideration of student-athletes as institutional employees.
- k. **Legal and governmental actions.** This also remains a priority given the actions by state and federal legislators and courts that will affect the division and the council as it moves forward with its work.
- l. **Additional topics.** In addition to the priorities listed above, the council also identified the continued efforts toward enhancing mental wellness programming and resources. To that end, the council acknowledged the partnership recently approved with Mental Health First Aid to provide mental health training to athletic trainers and head coaches in Division III. The council also acknowledged that its priorities may evolve depending on current events that affect the intercollegiate athletics and higher education landscape.

7. **Future meeting dates.**

- a. April 16-17 (videoconference).
- b. July 20-22 (in-person meeting in Indianapolis; includes a joint session with the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on Sunday, July 20).
- c. October 20-21 (in-person meeting in Indianapolis).
- d. January 2026 (in-person meeting held in conjunction with the NCAA Convention in Washington D.C.).

*Council Chair: Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Bill Regan, Division III Governance  
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance  
Eric Hartung, Division III Governance  
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance*

Report of the NCAA Division III Management Council

Post-Convention Videoconference

February 17, 2025

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<b>NCAA Division III Management Council February 17, 2025, Post-Convention Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University, Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University, Skyline Conference.	
Anthony Berich, Stockton University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Peter Bothner, Nazareth College, Empire 8.	
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Liberty League.	
Donnie Brooks, Macalester University, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University.	
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland.	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Rob Larson, Luther College, American Rivers Conference.	
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College, City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Myranda Nash, Brevard College, USA South Athletic Conference.	
Nicki Pieart, Lake Forest College, Midwest Conference.	
Keiko Price, Emory University, University Athletic Association.	
Russell Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology, Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Anthony Scola, North Park University, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.	
Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Melinda Treadwell, Keene State University, Little East Conference.	
Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Muthu Meenakshisundaram, University of Minnesota, Morris, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Eric Hartung, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Ali Spungen.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Cory Berg, Olivia Brown, Katie Mucci, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Lisa Rogers and J.P. Williams.	