



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 5, 2026, POST-CONVENTION VIDEOCONFERENCE

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. **Todd Gibson**, director of athletics, Grove City College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
 - b. **Christa Racine**, director of athletics, Drew University, Landmark Conference.
 - c. **Heather Schuyler**, faculty athletics representative, Adrian College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
2. **Review of 2026 Convention legislation voting results.** The council reviewed the voting results from the Division III Business Session, noting that of the 17 proposals, 14 were adopted, two were defeated and one was not moved. Additionally, the noncontroversial legislation regarding sports wagering deregulation was referred to the Presidents Council for further discussion.
3. **2027 Convention legislation.** The council adopted, in final legislative format, the following noncontroversial legislative proposals it approved in concept during its January meeting.
 - a. **NC 2027-3 Enforcement Policies and Procedures – Committee on Infractions – Special Operating Rules – Exceptions to Restrictions on Public Disclosure.** Intent: To permit parties to an NCAA infractions case to confirm, correct or deny information made public and allow the NCAA national office to share information if there is an immediate need to prevent harm or to address a potential ongoing violation. Additionally, to provide notice regarding the potential repercussions for parties who improperly disclose information. Effective date: Immediate.
 - b. **NC 2027-4 Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment – Elimination of Academic Year of Residence.** Intent: To eliminate the academic year of residence as a condition for student-athletes who participate in organized competition after delaying their initial full-time collegiate enrollment. 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 aligning the council's

composition with new legislative requirements and clarifying how new members are nominated and elected to the council.

5. **Review of the 2026 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 2027 Convention.
6. **Review of 2025 Division III priorities.** Council members reviewed the priorities identified during last year's post-Convention meeting for 2025 and noted the progress/status of each key area.
7. **Identification of key issues and strategic priorities for 2026.** Council members identified and discussed the following as key topics and issues that should be addressed and/or monitored throughout the coming year.
 - a. **Division III analysis.** During the Division III Presidents Council's October 2025 meeting, the council approved a focused analysis of key issues that may include championship access, eligibility standards, and membership criteria. This effort builds on recent evaluations by Deloitte (finances), Lewis Rice (Enrichment Fund), and the Division III Philosophy Working Group. At the 2026 Division III Issues Forum, delegates in attendance responded to questions regarding the Division III student-athlete experience and identified potential tensions regarding membership responsibility and oversight for those experiences. Delegates also were asked to identify tension points that could be addressed by the NCAA and the Division III structure to avoid "gravity issues" such as campus budgets and higher education. During its Jan. 29 post-Convention meeting, the Presidents Council approved the creation of a representative working group that will coordinate the analysis and report regularly to the Presidents Council. That group will begin meeting in March, and the analysis is expected to continue through December. The Management Council will be actively engaged in the analysis throughout the process.
 - b. **Division III budget.** As this is a budget planning year, the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and the Management and Presidents Councils will review and approve the division's budget for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 during their summer meetings.
 - c. **Division III graduation rates.** During its review of graduation rates at its January meeting, the council examined findings showing higher rates for student-athletes within each demographic subgroup other than Black men. This finding is consistent across six years of mandatory data collection for Division III. Additionally, the

council noted the federal graduation rate for football is consistently the lowest of all sports. The council noted a desire to explore the reasons for this rate and determine potential methodologies and strategies to improve rates for these demographics. Staff noted a small working group will be formed to study the issue and will report to the council at its April meeting.

- d. **Student-athlete name, image, and likeness.** The council noted the resolution adopted at the January Convention that asks the Presidents Council to charge the governance structure with monitoring the NIL landscape and developing strategies, policies, and, if needed, legislative changes to protect valid NIL opportunities for Division III that are consistent with its philosophy statement. The Interpretations and Legislation Committee will begin developing a framework for review during its meetings in February and March and submit recommendations in this regard for the Management and Presidents Councils to consider in April.
- e. **Live streaming and amplifying the Division III brand.** Based on the council's previous conversations and feedback from the membership, this remains an area of focus. Staff will continue to provide the council with concepts to enhance the Division III brand. Additionally, the council will be updated on live streaming of NCAA championships and the use of the fan database to promote Division III championships.
- f. **Championships.** As championships are a significant priority for the membership, the council will monitor discussions underway within the Division III Championships Committee regarding the NCAA Power Index, the bracketing pilot program, per diem, the Coaches Connect Program, championship ticket prices, and adding a regional round to the Division III Men's and Women's Golf Championships.
- g. **Division III Eligibility Pilot Waiver.** The eligibility pilot waiver created by the Division III governance structure began in August of 2025. The Management and Presidents Councils will be regularly apprised of the outcomes from the waiver to ensure it achieves its desired intent of benefiting student-athletes while retaining the integrity of the Division III experience.
- h. **Sports betting and harm-reduction strategies.** Given that the noncontroversial legislation deregulating sports betting on professional sports was referred to the Presidents Council at the January Convention for further discussion, it is unlikely that any formal legislative action will occur in 2026 since the legislation remains as common legislation (i.e., applying to all three divisions). However, discussions continue within the governance structure regarding harm-reduction strategies, and the Division III Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee is examining options to assist student-athletes with gambling issues and addiction.

- i. **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.
 - j. **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.
 - k. **Additional topics.** The council noted a desire to review the interaction between the Management Council and Presidents Council to identify ways to ensure idea sharing on common issues. The council received an update on a membership-wide survey sent in early February from the NCAA chief financial officer. This survey is intended to solicit input from the entire membership about which programs or services may be reduced to generate savings due to rising litigation costs and multiple legal settlements. The council also received an update on the Presidents Council's discussion related to this topic during its Jan. 29 videoconference.
7. **Future meeting dates.**
- a. April 13-14; videoconference.
 - b. July 20-21; in-person meeting in Indianapolis, includes a joint session with the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on Sunday, July 19.
 - c. Oct. 19-20; in-person meeting in Indianapolis.
 - d. Jan. 12, 2027; in-person meeting held in conjunction with the NCAA Convention in Anaheim, California.

Council Chair: Rob Larson, Luther College, American Rivers Conference
Staff Liaisons: Bill Regan, Division III Governance and Member Services
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance and Member Services
Eric Hartung, Division III Governance and Member Services
Jeff Myers, Division III Governance and Member Services
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance and Member Services

Report of the NCAA Division III Management Council

Post-Convention Videoconference

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Attendees:	
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Little East Conference.	
Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University, Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University, Skyline Conference.	
Tony Berich, Stockton University, New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Pete Bothner, Nazareth College, Empire 8.	
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Liberty League.	
Donnie Brooks, Macalester University, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Michael Cohen, Kings College, Middle Atlantic Conference.	
Myranda Crews, Brevard College, USA South Athletic Conference.	
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University, American Southwest Conference.	
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland, United East Conference.	
Todd Gibson, Grove City College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.	
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.	
Christa Racine, Drew University, Landmark Conference.	
Russell Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology, Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Meghan Roman, Illinois College, Midwest Conference.	
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Heather Schuyler, Adrian College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Anthony Scola, North Park University, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.	
Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan, and Ali Spungen.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Corey Berg, Bryn Mangold, Laura Peterson-Mlynski and Lisa Rogers.	