



DIVISION III
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NCAA DIVISION III
PRESIDENTS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCILS
SUMMARY OF WINTER 2026
QUARTERLY MEETINGS

KEY ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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| Division III Management Council January 13, 2026, In-Person Meeting | Division III Presidents Council January 14, 2026, In-Person Meeting |
|---|--|
| ATTENDEES | ATTENDEES |
| <p>Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University Tony Berich, Stockton University Pete Bothner, Nazareth University Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Donnie Brooks, Macalester College Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College [Presidents Council vice chair] Keiko Price Carter, Emory University Michael Cohen, King's College (Pennsylvania), SAAC representative Myranda Crews, Brevard College Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (MA) Rob Larson, Luther College [vice chair] Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology Meghan Roman, Illinois College Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference Anthony Scola, North Park University Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston, SAAC representative Patrick B. Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Jim Troha, Juniata College [Presidents Council chair] Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire [chair] Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University</p> | <p>Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College [vice chair] 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 Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University Suzanne Davis, Greenville University Julia Jasken, McDaniel College Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College, SAAC representative Lake Lambert III, Hanover College Rob Larson, Luther College [Management Council vice chair] Douglas Lee, Waynesburg University Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury University Steven Mauro, Alfred State University Milton Moreland, Centre College Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle Jim Troha, Juniata College [chair] Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire [Management Council chair] Adam Weinberg, Denison University</p> |
| ABSENTEES | ABSENTEES |
| None. | <p>Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Renee Wachter, University of Wisconsin-Superior John Walz, Milwaukee School of Engineering</p> |

| OTHER PARTICIPANTS | OTHER PARTICIPANTS |
|---|---|
| Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (<i>via teleconference</i>) Deena Casiero, NCAA Michael Cioroianu, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Noah Pennington, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Nikki Pieart, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Anne Rohlman, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Liz Turner Suscha, NCAA | Abbey Bales, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (<i>via teleconference</i>) Katherine Franks, University of Wisconsin-Stout (incoming council member post-Convention attending as an observer) Katie Koenig, NCAA Andrew Manion, Edgewood University (incoming council member post-Convention attending as an observer) Louise McCleary, NCAA Mario Morris, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA |

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

January 13 Management Council. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. Eastern time, January 13. The chair, Jason Verdugo, welcomed the council and reviewed guest presenters and key agenda items.

January 14 Presidents Council. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, January 14. The council began the meeting in executive session. The chair, Jim Troha, welcomed the council and introduced Katherine Franks from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and Andrew Manion from Edgewood University who will begin their terms on the council after the Convention and are attending this meeting as observers. President Troha also noted two other incoming members who were unable to attend this meeting: David Bushman from Bridgewater College (Virginia) and Andrew Martin from Washington University (St. Louis).

2. REVIEW OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

a. Management Council Meeting – October 20-21, 2025.

Management Council. The Management Council approved the report and the summary of its October 20-21 in-person meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Presidents Council Meeting – October 28, 2025.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The Presidents Council approved the summary of its October 28 in-person meeting.

c. 2026 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments.

Management and Presidents Councils. The council members reviewed their 2026 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. Presidents Council Policies and Procedures.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved its policies and procedures as presented.

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING DIVISION III.

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

(1) Convention Planning Subcommittee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the Convention Planning Subcommittee's reports from November and December. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

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

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

(a) 2025-26 Budget-to-Actuals.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the budget-to-actuals for 2025-26.

(b) Future Budget Projections.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils revisited the projections they reviewed during their fall meetings, noting that the new FY26 budget is approximately \$1.5 million more than FY25.

(c) Membership Dues Assessment.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved continuing to pause the Division III membership dues assessment (\$1,100 for institutions and \$550 for conferences) for FY27. The councils previously approved pausing the dues assessment for FY25 and FY26 based on the division's reserves coupled with the tight campus and conference budgets. The SPFC believes the recommendation to continue the pause is prudent, particularly given the upcoming analysis of Division III that the Presidents Council authorized conducting in the coming months, as well as the ongoing financial uncertainty surrounding higher education. While continuing the pause means the division will sacrifice approximately \$500,000 in annual revenue, the impact on the membership is meaningful, and the loss of revenue does not compromise the division's ability to provide resources and programming to benefit

Staff Liaison:
Regan

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

Staff Liaisons:
Henry

Council Reps:
Bowers, Cardelle,
Lambert

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary,
Hubert,
Regan, Myers

Council Reps:
Camille,
Larson, Lepre,
Roman

its members. The SPFC and councils will re-evaluate whether to continue the pause beyond FY27.

(4) Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee.

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Regan

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

Management Council. The council received an update from the subcommittee's December meeting, noting the subcommittee's recommendation that the Presidents Council and the Presidents Advisory Group participate in a joint in-person meeting with the Division II Executive Board in October 2026.

Presidents Council. The council approved the full Presidents Council and Presidents Advisory Group participation in a joint in-person meeting with the Division II Executive Board in October 2026. The Division II Executive Board, the equivalent to the Division III Presidents Council, is hosting a meeting to examine higher education and its impact on college athletics. The meeting is an outcome of Division II's recently completed operating plan for 2026-32. Division II is asking the Division III Presidents Council and Presidents Advisory Group to participate in this meeting that will take place immediately before the October PAG/council meetings in Indianapolis, as the leadership bodies from both divisions likely share common perspectives and concerns regarding the issues at hand.

b. Division III Committees.

Staff Liaisons:
Peterson-
Mlynksi,
Suscha

Council Reps:
Rogers,
Verdugo

(1) Championships Committee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's recent reports, noting the committee's decisions regarding championship bench limits in team sports, including the appropriate penalty when a student-athlete who is not in the designated playing squad enters the contest. The council also received an update on the committee's discussion of the use of technology during a championship and how those decisions are determined.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Committee on Infractions (COI).

Staff Liaison:
Mikrut

Council Rep:
Gibson

Noncontroversial Legislation – Public Disclosure.

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved in concept noncontroversial legislation within Bylaw 32.1.1 to allow two exceptions to the restriction on public disclosure of information during an infractions case. The first exception permits the parties to an infractions case to respond to divulged information related to an ongoing infractions case by confirming, correcting, or denying the information. The second exception permits the NCAA national office to

share information if there is an immediate need to prevent harm or to address a potential ongoing violation.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(3) Financial Aid Committee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(4) Infractions Appeals Committee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(5) Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC).

Noncontroversial Legislation. Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment – Elimination of Academic Year of Residence.

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved in concept noncontroversial legislation eliminating Bylaw 14.2.4.4.1 (Academic Year of Residence) as a condition for student-athletes who participate in organized competition after delaying their initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Currently, prospective student-athletes who delay their initial full-time collegiate enrollment and continue to participate in organized competition after the legislated one-year grace period (a) lose a season of eligibility for each 12 months in which they continue to participate; and (b) must sit out from competition during their initial year of residence at a Division III institution. During that time, however, individuals are still eligible to practice, which means they must decide whether they use a season of participation by practicing when they are not permitted to compete. Loss of a season is an appropriate condition for when an individual delays their initial collegiate enrollment past the grace period because it negates any competitive advantage gained. There is no need to also require the student to serve an academic year of residence during their initial year in Division III, prohibiting them from being immediately eligible for competition.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Hartung

Council Rep:
Savage

Staff Liaison:
Smith

Council Rep:
Scola

Staff Liaisons:
Berg, Myers,
Turner

Council Rep:
Gibson

(6) Membership Committee.

Staff Liaisons:

Hartung, Zike

Council Rep:

Berich

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(7) Nominating Committee.

Staff Liaison:

Roe

Council Rep:

Bothner

(a) NCAA Governance Committee Appointments.

Management Council. The council approved the following committee appointments, effective at the conclusion of the Convention unless otherwise noted:

- i. NCAA Awards Committee – **Aliceann Wilber**, national distinguished citizen; **Lily DeSpain**, former Woman of the Year recipient; and **Ryan Wildenhain** (effective immediately), associate director of athletics for student-athlete development, Marymount University (Virginia), Atlantic East Conference.
- ii. NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee – **Kaitlin Harty** (effective immediately), former recipient.
- iii. NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee – **Molly Mason** (effective immediately), Lyon College, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; **Mya Cabañas Montero**, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey Athletic Conference; and **Tucker Smith**, Hampden-Sydney College, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Division III Presidents Council Appointments.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved a recommendation from the Division III Nominating Committee to appoint **Gary Crosby**, president at Saint Elizabeth University, as a new Presidents Council member, effective immediately. President Crosby is replacing Dale Caldwell, who left the council in November.

(8) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Staff Liaisons:
Mangold,
Spungen, Trovato,
Youngblood

Council Reps:
Crews, Wigley

NCAA Division III SAAC Presidents Council Representatives.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council appointed **Connor Dong**, University of Chicago, University Athletic Association, who will serve through January 2028, and **Holly Hall**, Alma College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, who will serve through January 2027, as SAAC representatives to the Presidents Council effective with the close of the 2026 NCAA Convention.

(9) Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee (SAR).

Staff Liaisons:
Perry, Zike

Council Rep:
Crews

Cross-Divisional Issues Policy Amendments.

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved amendments to the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Policies and Procedures (Cross-Divisional Issues Policy). For student-athletes that transfer from Division I or II to Division III, the amendment will clarify which division's bylaws and guidelines apply to the waiver or reinstatement request. As the result of the federation of the NCAA Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, the Division III SAR believes the amendments eliminate confusion surrounding cross-divisional issues.

The council also received an update on the committee's ongoing discussion of how to address reinstatement requests involving student-athletes who wager on intercollegiate athletics. The committee considered concepts including deferment and/or reduced penalties. The committee noted the importance of supporting student-athletes through harm reduction strategies and education. The committee will continue to review and discuss this topic during its spring meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(10) Subcommittee for Legislative Relief.

Staff Liaisons:
Trovato, Zike

Council Reps:
Bothner,
Bowers, Carter,
Erwin, Larson,
MacCulloch, Ro-
man, Summers

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. Association-Wide Committees.

Staff Liaisons:

Hammers,
Lawrence

Council Rep:
Scola

(1) Awards Committee.

Management Council. The council received an update from the committee's recent meetings. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.

Management Council. The council received an update from the committee. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

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

Management Council. The council reviewed the report from the committee's September meeting and received a verbal update from the December meeting. The committee has asked relevant playing rules bodies for sports that limit substitutions and/or reentry to allow exceptions for any student-athlete seeking timely medical evaluation and/or treatment of any condition with the potential to cause catastrophic injury or illness (including, but not limited to diabetes, sickle cell trait, asthma), as determined by the primary athletics health care provider. No action from the council was necessary.

The council also reviewed the new nonbinding Performance Technology Consensus Statements. The committee approved these during its December meeting. The statements resulted from the NCAA Summit on Performance Technologies in Collegiate Athletics. The statements provide the NCAA membership with recommendations for the responsible use of performance technologies.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Seewald

Council Rep:
Brooks

(4) Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

Management Council. The council reviewed the report from the newly created panel's first meeting in October. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(5) Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

Staff Liaison:
Thomas, Rogers

Council Rep:
Brooks

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(6) Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

Staff Liaisons:
Thomas, Rogers

Council Rep:
Carter

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

4. 2026 NCAA CONVENTION LEGISLATION.

a. Review of Convention Logistics.

Management and Presidents Councils. Staff reviewed the delegates' schedule, the joint Management Council/Presidents Council/Student-Athlete Advisory Committee breakfast, the Issues Forum, the Presidents and Chancellors Forum, and the Division III Business Session. No action was necessary.

b. Review of Convention Official Notice.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the Official Notice, including updates on items in the blue pages. No action was necessary.

c. Review of Legislative Proposal Question and Answer Guide.

Management and Presidents Councils. Staff reviewed the Q&A with the councils. No action was necessary.

d. Review of Speaker Assignments.

Management and Presidents Councils. Staff reviewed and confirmed the council speaker assignments for designated proposals.

e. Review of Parliamentary and Voting Procedures.

Management Council. The council reviewed the Convention Mootnicity and Related Parliamentary Issues document and recommended that the Presidents Council formally adopt it, noting that there are no mootnicity issues for any of the proposals.

Presidents Council. The council voted to adopt the Mootnicity and Related Parliamentary Issues document.

5. NONCONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE 2027 NCAA CONVENTION.

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

- a. NC-2027-1 Association-Wide Committees – Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities – Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee Composition. Effective date: Immediate. Intent: To reduce the number of Division II representatives on the Division II and III Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one (and thus reduce the total membership on the committee from nine to eight (six Division III members; one Division II member; one non-voting secretary-rules editor).
- b. NC 2027-2 Division III Committees – Exemption to the Current Compositional Requirements for NCAA Division III Management Council Assigned Committees and NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. Effective date: Immediate. Intent: To clarify that an appointed position on a committee does not count for determining area or multisport conference representation; and that for the members of the NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee that are not appointed by position (at large members), there must be at least one representative from each Division III geographic area.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

6. DIVISION III INITIATIVES AND UPDATES.

a. Division III Graduation Rates.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received a presentation of the most recent Division III graduation rates. Using the federal graduation rate, the councils noted 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. The councils will continue discussing these findings at future meetings.

b. Championships Livestreaming.

Management Council. The council reviewed the results from the livestreaming of the 2025 fall Division III championships except football and women’s volleyball. The council noted that this is the second year that every fall championship was streamed (211 events). There was an 8% increase in total minutes watched compared to fall 2024.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. Division III Branding and Promotions.

Management Council. The council received an update on the division's branding and promotions efforts, including events planned to recognize the 15th anniversary of the division's relationship with Special Olympics.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Analysis of Division III.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update regarding the narrowly focused analysis of the division that the Presidents Council approved in October. The goal of the analysis is to identify points of tension that currently exist with, but not limited to, the division's legislation, policies and decision making and to provide recommendations to resolve those issues for the membership to consider. The analysis will begin with the Presidents and Chancellors Forum and the Division III Issues Forum during the 2026 Convention. The Presidents Council will finalize the process to conduct the analysis at a future meeting.

e. 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.

7. ASSOCIATION-WIDE UPDATES AND ISSUES.

a. Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.

Management Council. President Baker updated the council on issues affecting the Association overall and Division III in particular.

b. Board of Governors Updates.

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

Presidents Council. In addition to reviewing those reports, the council as part of the consultative process received an overview of key agenda items for the board's January 15 meeting.

c. Sport Science Institute (SSI) Updates.

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

- (1) **Membership engagement.** The council was informed of the efforts being made to engage the membership, student-athletes, and additional elite athletics organizations.
- (2) **Athletic trainers.** The council was advised of SSI's efforts to collaborate with various national athletic trainer organizations. These efforts include monthly meetings focused on the creation of mentoring pipelines, team physician advocacy program, and a resource that provides examples of various health care delivery options.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Legal Update.

Management Council. The council received updates from the NCAA's office of legal affairs on litigation affecting the Association and Division III.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

e. Recognition of Outgoing Members.

Management Council. The council formally recognized and appreciated the outstanding contributions from the following members whose terms on the council expire at the end of the NCAA Convention. The council members also expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the leadership Jason Verdugo provided as chair of the council during his term.

- Keiko Price Carter, associate vice president/director of athletics and recreation at Emory University.
- Jason Verdugo, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
- Brian Wigley, faculty athletics representative at Shenandoah University.

Presidents Council. The council formally recognized and appreciated the outstanding contributions from the following members whose terms on the council expire at the end of the NCAA Convention. The council members also expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the leadership Jim Troha provided as chair of the council during his term.

- Doug Lee, president, Waynesburg University.
- John Walz, president, Milwaukee School of Engineering.
- Lillian Case, student-athlete at Juniata College and representative from the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- Sebastian Knowles, student-athlete at Hartwick College and representative from the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

8. *EXECUTIVE SESSION.*

Presidents Council. The council convened an executive session prior to beginning the meeting.

9. *ADJOURNMENT.*

Management Council. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. Eastern time, January 13.

Presidents Council. The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. Eastern time, January 14.