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

KEY ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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Division III Management Council October 20-21, 2025, In-Person Meeting	Division III Presidents Council October 28, 2025, In-Person Meeting
ATTENDEES	ATTENDEES
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston, SAAC representative 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 Michael Cohen, King's College (Pennsylvania), SAAC representative Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (MA) Rob Larson, Luther College [<i>vice chair</i>] Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College Myranda Nash, Brevard College Keiko Price, Emory University Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology Meghan Roman, Illinois College Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference Anthony Scola, North Park University Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Jim Troha, Juniata College [<i>Presidents Council chair</i>] (via videoconference) Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire [<i>chair</i>] Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University	Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College [<i>vice chair</i>] Lillian Case, Juniata College, SAAC representative Bryan Coker, Maryville College Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University Suzanne Davis, Greenville University Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College, SAAC representative Lake Lambert, Hanover College Rob Larson, Luther College [<i>Management Council vice chair</i>] Douglas Lee, Waynesburg University Carolyn Lepre, Salisbury University 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
ABSENTEES	ABSENTEES
	Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Dale Caldwell, Centenary University (NJ) Alberto Cardelle, State University of New York at Oneonta Hiram Chodosh, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges Julia Jasken, McDaniel College Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University John Walz, Milwaukee School of Engineering

OTHER PARTICIPANTS	OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Charlie Baker, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Tim Buckley, NCAA Dawn Buth, NCAA Rachel Denton, NCAA Jennifer Fraser, NCAA Sam Atkinson, Gallaudet University (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Terri Steeb Gronau, NCAA Grace Hadlich, NCAA J.D. Hamilton, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Bryn Mangold, NCAA Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Louise McCleary, NCAA Will Morrison, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Deidre Pierson, Hamilton College (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Stephanie Quigg, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Anne Rohlman, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Rachel Seewald, NCAA Elizabeth Serven, NCAA Adam Skaggs, Suffolk University (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Ali Spungen, NCAA Leila Sublett, NCAA Liz Suscha, NCAA Richard Warren, Hanover College (NCAA Pathway Program participant)	Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Michael Cioroianu, NCAA Jennifer Fraser, NCAA Grace Hadlich, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Bryn Mangold, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Will Morrison, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

October 20-21 Management Council. The meeting was called to order at 8:28 a.m. Eastern time, October 20, and 8:29 a.m. Eastern time, October 21. The chair, Jason Verdugo, welcomed the council and asked the two new SAAC representatives, Michael Cohen from King's College and Luana Batista Soares from the University of Massachusetts Boston, to introduce themselves. Mr. Verdugo also asked individuals observing the meeting as participants of the NCAA Pathway Program to introduce themselves.

October 28 Presidents Council. The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. Eastern time, October 28. The chair, Jim Troha, welcomed the council, thanked members for their engagement with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening and previewed key agenda items for this meeting.

2. REVIEW OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

a. Management Council Meeting – July 21-22, 2025.

Management Council. The Management Council approved the summary of its July 21-22 in-person meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Presidents Council Meeting – August 4, 2025.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The Presidents Council approved the summary of its August 4 virtual meeting.

c. 2025 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments.

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.

(1) Committee Appointments.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the Administrative Committee's action to fill immediate vacancies on the following committees:

- NCAA Division III Committee on Infractions – **Ellen O'Brien**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Marymount University (Virginia), Atlantic East Conference.
- NCAA Division III Infractions Appeals Committee – **Jim Hamad**, vice president for athletics, Aurora University, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
- NCAA Division III Membership Committee – **Shana Levine**, commissioner, Northwest Conference.
- NCAA Division III Nominating Committee – **Doug Aiken**, associate director of athletics, Chapman University, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- NCAA Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel – **Jessica Brown**, director of athletics, Westminster College (Missouri), St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and **Marie Stroman**, commissioner, American Rivers Conference.
- NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee – **McKenzie Jones**, East Texas Baptist University, American Southwest Conference; **Jameson Bloch**, University of Maine, Farmington, North Atlantic Conference; **Emily Alicea**, Pacific Lutheran University, Northwest Conference; and **Connor Dong**, University of Chicago, University Athletic Association.

(2) **2026 NCAA Convention Legislation.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the Administrative Committee's action to approve, in final format, the following 2026 NCAA Convention legislative proposals sponsored by the Division III Management Council, consistent with the September 1 deadline.

- (a) **Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Types of Awards, Awarding Agencies, Maximum Value and Numbers of Awards – Remove Exact Dollar Amounts and References to Award Values.** This proposal removes the dollar amounts and references to the value of awards from the awards legislation.
- (b) **Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Permit Actual and Necessary Expenses for One All-Star Contest**

or Other Post-Eligibility Event. This proposal permits institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses for student-athletes to participate in one collegiate all-star contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

- (c) **Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Team Entertainment – Professional Sports Tickets.** This proposal clarifies that institutions may provide reasonable entertainment during the playing season; further that reasonable entertainment could include providing professional sports tickets.
- (d) **Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations – Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes – Require Use of the NCAA Transfer Portal.** This proposal (1) replaces the current “permission to contact” legislation related to NCAA four-year college transfer student-athletes with a “notification of transfer” model; (2) specifies that an institution must place a student-athlete’s written request for transfer into the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven-consecutive calendar days; (3) specifies that a student-athlete must successfully complete an educational module before they are entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal; and (4) maintains the existing processes for the Division III self-release, for student-athletes interested in transferring to another Division III institution.
- (e) **National Collegiate Championship – Acrobatics and Tumbling.** This proposal establishes a National Collegiate championship and establishes a women’s acrobatics and tumbling committee.
- (f) **National Collegiate Championship – Stunt.** This proposal establishes a National Collegiate championship and establishes a women’s stunt committee.

(3) **Noncontroversial Legislation**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the Administrative Committee’s action to approve, in final format, the following noncontroversial proposals that were approved, in concept, during the Management Council’s summer meeting. The committee’s action allowed the proposals to be effective immediately versus waiting until after the October Management Council meeting.

- (a) **Infractions Program – Committee on Infractions – Negotiated Resolution.** The legislation establishes a structured resolution process that enables institutions and involved individuals to address infraction cases collaboratively with NCAA enforcement staff. Parties work together to agree on relevant facts, identified violations, violation levels, and proposed penalties. These

agreements are then submitted for review and approval by the Committee on Infractions, which apply a highly deferential standard where agreements are only rejected if the penalties are found to be “manifestly unreasonable” or if the agreements do not serve the best interests of the Association.

- (b) **Enforcement Policies and Procedures – Multiple Resolution Methods.** The legislation allows a single infractions case to be resolved by multiple methods, such as negotiated resolution, summary judgment or hearing.
- (c) **Organizational Structure and Committees – Playing Rules Oversight Panel and Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities – Establishment of New Playing Rules Structure and Process.** The legislation establishes a new playing rules structure and process for Division III.

(4) **Championship Bracket Enhancements.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the Administrative Committee’s action to approve two requests from the Division III Championships Committee to increase championship brackets in women’s ice hockey from 12 to 13 teams and in men’s volleyball from 19 to 21 teams. The committee’s action allowed the proposals to be effective immediately versus waiting until after the October Management Council meeting.

f. **Management Council Policies and Procedures.**

Management Council. The council approved a revised policies and procedures document that includes its steps to consider a request to exempt Division III from a common playing rule.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. **Presidents Council Policies and Procedures.**

Management Council. No action was necessary.

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

h. **Division III Presidents Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting Debrief.**

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council debriefed the meeting held the previous evening with the PAG, including the roundtable discussion on issues related to the division’s

eligibility rules and whether a comprehensive analysis of Division III is warranted given the evolving and increasingly complex intercollegiate athletics and higher education landscapes. Those discussions also were referenced later in the agenda.

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING DIVISION III.

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

(1) Convention Planning Subcommittee.

Management Council. The Convention Planning Subcommittee reported the following programming:

(a) Educational Session Topics and Timing.

- Connecting with Generation Z: Honor the Relationship; Wednesday, January 14, from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Eastern time.
- Bridging the Gap: Building Campus-Wide Relationships for Athletics Success; Wednesday, January 14, from 1-2 p.m. Eastern time. (This is the NADIIIAA-sponsored session.)
- AI and Division III Athletics Departments: How Technology Can Help; Wednesday, January 14, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

(b) Issues Forum Topics. The council endorsed the topics the Convention Planning Subcommittee recommended for the membership to discuss during the Issues Forum.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

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

(3) Joint Legislative Steering Subcommittee.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils referred to the subcommittee's recommendations during their review of 2026 Convention legislative proposals in Agenda Item 4 beginning on page 16.

Staff Liaison:
Regan

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

Staff Liaisons:
Henry

Council Reps:
Bowers,
Cardelle,
Lambert

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary,
Hubert,
Regan, Myers

Council Reps:
Camille,
Larson, Lepre

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

(a) 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budget-to-Actuals.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the budget-to-actuals for 2024-25 and 2025-26, noting not all expenses have been recorded for 2025-26.

(b) Future Budget Projections.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils revisited the projections they reviewed during their summer meetings, noting that the new fiscal year 2026 budget is approximately \$1.5 million more than fiscal year 2025 budget. The councils also were informed of discussions within the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee related to managing the division's reserves in relation to building the FY27 and FY28 budgets.

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Regan

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

(4) Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee.

Management Council. The council received an update from the subcommittee's September 10 meeting, noting the subcommittee's identification of federal legislation and the implementation of a new governance structure in Division I as key priorities to monitor regarding their potential impact on Division III.

Presidents Council. The council also reviewed the subcommittee's report and noted the importance of the subcommittee given the building consensus regarding the desire to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Division III. Accordingly, the council discussed whether the subcommittee composition, meeting frequency and reporting procedures ensure the subcommittee is best situated to achieve its mission and purpose. The council agreed that these components should be discussed further during the subcommittee's next meeting in December and during a future Presidents Council meeting.

b. Division III Committees.

Staff Liaisons:
Peterson-
Mlynski,
Suscha

Council Reps:
Rogers,
Verdugo

(1) Championships Committee.

(a) Noncontroversial legislation – Bylaw 8.7.6 – Association-wide Committees – Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities – Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee Composition.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to reduce the number of Division II

representatives on the Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one (and thus reduce the total representation on the committee from nine to eight (six Division III members; one Division II member; one non-voting secretary-rules editor). The recommendation is based on the challenges with soliciting nominations for the Division II spots given how few Division II institutions sponsor ice hockey. The Division II Management Council also adopted noncontroversial legislation to accommodate this request. While the recommendation does not affect Division III representation on the committee, the bylaw in question is common legislation and thus requires approval from both divisions.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Championships Bench Limits.

Management Council. The council was advised of the Championships Committee's decision, based on feedback from sport committees, to increase the bench size to include all rostered student-athletes or the number recommended by the sport committee. [See the Attachment.] The council and the committee noted the need to communicate the ability of host institutions to accommodate the bench size increase and ensure only eligible student-athletes participate in the competition.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Mikrut

Council Rep:
Gibson

(2) Committee on Infractions (COI).

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary

Staff Liaisons:
Perry, Zike

Council Rep:
Nash

(3) Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement (SAR).

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

(4) Financial Aid Committee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's report during its review of membership-sponsored legislative proposals for the 2026 NCAA Convention.

Staff Liaison:
Walters

Council Reps:
Scola

(5) **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

(6) **Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC).**

- **Official Interpretation Regarding Sick Cell Solubility Testing.**

Management Council. Per a recommendation from the committee, the council approved the following official interpretation:

The Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that only results from a sickle cell test that meet or exceed the standard of a sickle cell solubility test, as determined by a team physician, satisfy NCAA legislation.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Hartung,
Higgins, Zike

Council Rep:
Berich

(7) **Membership Committee.**

Management Council. The council received an update from the committee's most recent meeting, noting the committee's discussion regarding membership attendance requirements and its decision to permit viewing the live stream of the 2026 Regional Rules Seminar to fulfill a membership requirement to attend the seminar at least once every three years. A decision on whether the provision will extend beyond 2026 depends upon whether the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and the two councils approve funding for subsequent seminars to be live streamed.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Regan, Myers,
Zike, Seewald

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

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

Management Council. The council reviewed the reports from the subcommittee's July and September videoconferences. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(9) Request to Exempt Division from a Common Playing Rule.

Management Council. The council reviewed and supported a request from five Division III conferences to exempt Division III from a newly adopted playing rule in women's lacrosse that requires officials to wear headsets beginning with the 2027 season. The council noted the potential long-term impact on officials within the sport, the precedent this may establish for other sports, the benefit for allowing flexibility for officials in regions where headset use is common, while providing additional time for others to acquire the necessary equipment. . The council's action renders the new playing rule as permissive rather than mandatory.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(10) Nominating Committee.

(a) Noncontroversial Legislation – Exemption to the Current Compositional Requirements for NCAA Division III Management Council-Assigned Committees and the NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation clarifying that an appointed position on a committee does not count for determining area or multi-sport conference representation; and that for the members of the NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee who are not appointed by position (at-large members), there must be at least one representative from each Division III geographic area. The effective date of the legislation is immediate. Current legislation prohibits two people from the same conference serving on a committee at the same time. It implies that if the appointed position is from the same conference as an existing committee member, one of the individuals must be removed from the committee. Additionally, current legislation requires at least two and not more than three members from each Division III geographic area serve on the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. Because the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee has six appointed positions, it is challenging to comply with this requirement.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) NCAA Governance Committee Appointments.

Management Council. The council approved the following January 2026 committee appointments:

Staff Liaison:
Roe

Council Rep:
Bothner

- NCAA Division III Championship Committee – **Bethany Dannelly**, commissioner, Ohio Athletic Conference.
- NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee (Area 4) – **Megan Wilson**, director of athletics, Luther College, American Rivers Conference.
- NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee (Area 1) – **Jeremy Shepherd**, director of athletics, McDaniel College, Centennial Conference; and (Area 2) – **Katie Boldvich**, commissioner, Landmark Conference.
- NCAA Division III Membership Committee – **Dan Kane**, director of athletics, University of Maine at Presque Isle, North Atlantic Conference.
- NCAA Division III Nominating Committee (Area 1) – **JoAnne Bullard**, faculty athletics representative, Rowan University, New Jersey Athletic Conference; and (Area 2) – **Megan Valentine**, director of athletics, St. Joseph's University NY (Brooklyn), Skyline Conference.
- NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee – **Jessica Chapin**, director of athletics, Brandeis University, University Athletic Association.
- NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee – **Carson Strukel**, Coe College, American Rivers Conference; **Davis Bone**, Johnson & Wales University (Providence), Conference of New England; **Zion Baitey**, Alfred University, Empire 8; **Hannah Laughlin**, Franklin College, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; **Enzo Petruzzelli**, Moravian University, Landmark Conference; **Helen Bechthold**, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; **Jaden Wan**, Washington and Jefferson College, Presidents' Athletic Conference; **Isabella Antosiewicz**, Penn State University, Abington, United East Conference; **Rocco Paulson**, University of Wisconsin-Superior, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; and **Caleb Smith**, Mary Baldwin University, USA South Athletic Conference.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) **Division III Management Council Appointments.**

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council approve the following appointments to the Management Council beginning after the January Convention:

- **Todd Gibson**, vice president of athletics, Grove City College, Presidents' Athletic Conference; **Christa Racine**, director of athletics, Drew University; and **Heather Schuyler**, faculty athletics representative, Adrian College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Presidents Council. The council approved the appointments as recommended. An electronic vote will be sent to all Division III directors of athletics and conference commissioners to confirm the nominations.

(d) **Division III Presidents Council Appointments.**

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved the following recommendations to serve on the Presidents Council beginning at the conclusion of the NCAA Convention in January. An electronic vote will be sent to all Division III presidents and chancellors to confirm the nominations.

- NCAA Division III Presidents Council – **David Bushman**, president, Bridgewater College (Virginia), Old Dominion Athletic Conference; **Andrew Martin**, chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis, University Athletic Association; and **Katherine Frank**, chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

The council also approved the appointment of **Andrew Manion**, president, Edgewood University, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference, to the council effective with the close of the 2026 Convention. This action replaces the NACC representative who rolled off the council early.

Staff Liaisons:
Mangold, Spungen,
Trovato,
Youngblood

Council Reps:
Cohen, Nash,
Batista Soares,
Wigley

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

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

Staff Liaisons:
Trovato, Zike

Council Reps:
Bothner,
Bowers, Erwin,
Larson,
MacCulloch, Price,
Roman, Summers

(12) Subcommittee for Legislative Relief.

Management Council. The subcommittee informed the council that it has approved three requests pursuant to the Eligibility Pilot Waiver that permits a student-athlete to compete for their prior Division III institution while enrolled at another institution that has a pre-existing academic relationship with the Division III institution.

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's first meeting in September. 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 June meeting and received a verbal update from the September 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.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Blair Hack-
worth, Merrill,
Miron, Wilson

Council Rep:
Bowers

Staff Liaisons:
Pieart, Rohlman

Council Rep:
Lamb

Staff Liaison:
Seewald

(4) Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).

Management Council. The council received an update from the panel's final meetings. The Association-wide PROP is sunsetting due to the implementation of the new division-specific playing rules structures.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Rogers,
Thomas

Council Rep:
Brooks

(5) 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

(6) Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

4. PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THE 2026 NCAA CONVENTION.

a. Membership-Sponsored Legislation – Governance Position.

(1) Recruiting – Unofficial Visit – Meals for Prospective Student-Athletes and Their Guests.

Management Council. The council supported the proposal to allow institutions to provide meals in an on-campus dining facility for a prospective student-athlete and those individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete. The council believes the proposal alleviates the confusion surrounding the current rule since some institutions are able to use the exception in Bylaw 13.7.3 and provide meals to the guests of prospective student-athletes through their admissions offices but not others.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Participation – Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season.

Management Council. The council recommended no position on the proposal specifying that a student-athlete would be charged with a season of eligibility if the student-athlete competes at any point during the

traditional season. The council believes that the proposal would have a widely varied impact on the Division III membership and should be left to a vote on the Convention floor.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and opposed it, believing that the proposal conflicts with the Division III philosophy and may impose a financial impact on student-athletes.

(3) Playing Seasons – Add a Mandatory Winter Break.

Management Council. The council opposed the proposal to establish a seven consecutive calendar day period over the winter break and to specify that during this break, student-athletes may not be employed at institutional camps and clinics, may not participate in any countable athletically related activities and may not participate in any voluntary athletically related activities on campus unless the facility is open to the general student body. The council believes the proposal is overly restrictive and may impede access to on-campus facilities and place an unnecessary burden on student-athletes who may have to find alternative accommodations and facilities.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(4) Championships – Establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Championship.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council support the proposal to establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Championship starting in the 2027-28 academic year and a Division III Women's Wrestling Committee as specified. The council believes sport sponsorship data merit the establishment of the championship and that sponsorship will continue to grow accordingly.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and supported it.

(5) Automatic Qualification – Required Participation by Conference Core Members.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council support the proposal stating that if an institution is a core member of a conference and that conference has an AQ in a sport, that institution must participate in the conference's fully established AQ process in that sport to have access to the NCAA championship. This access is either winning the conference AQ or through the at-large selection process. The conference has authority to define its AQ process (regular-season champion,

tournament champion, etc.). If the institution decides not to participate in its conference's defined AQ process (including declining participation in the conference's postseason tournament), the institution is not eligible for NCAA selections, including at-large selections. The council believes the proposal maintains the desired integrity within the AQ process.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and supported it.

(6) Automatic Qualification – Multiple Automatic Qualifier Model.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council oppose the proposal to develop a formula to provide multiple automatic qualifiers to multisport conferences that have 12 or more core members that sponsor a sport. Specifically: (1) Once a conference reaches 12 or more core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately receive a second automatic qualifier in that sport; (2) If a conference falls below 12 core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately lose their second automatic qualifier in the sport; and (3) The method by which the conference determines its conference representatives is the responsibility of the conference and shall be declared and outlined at the time of the automatic-qualifier declaration. The council is concerned that the proposal would negatively impact at-large selections.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and opposed it, agreeing that it would likely have a negative impact on the number of at-large selections.

(7) Championships – Amend the In-Region Competition Requirement.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council support the proposal to reduce the required minimum percentage of in-region competition for championships eligibility from 70% to 50% for all sports except golf, which would stay at 25%, and tennis, which would maintain its 50% requirement, and to expand the spring break exception to allow institutions hosting contests during another institution's break to also exempt the out-of-region contest even if that hosting institution is not in an institutional vacation period. The council believes the additional flexibility would benefit Division III members and greatly reduce waiver requests in this space. The council also believes the percentage reduction does not run counter to the emphasis on in-region play in the Division III philosophy statement.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and supported it.

(8) Championships – Automatic Qualification – Waiting Period – Multisport Conference – Adjust from Two Years to One.

Management Council. The council opposed a proposal seeking to reduce the wait time for a multisport conference to receive an automatic qualification from two years to one. The council believes the proposal is unnecessary given the existing waiver process available for conferences with compelling circumstances to reduce the waiting period.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(9) Resolution – Name, Image and Likeness Activities.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council support the resolution to charge the governance structure with monitoring the changing landscape around Division I NIL and its impact on Division III, and to develop strategies, policies and if warranted, propose legislative changes that would protect valid NIL opportunities consistent with the Division III philosophy.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the resolution, as it was considered presidential in nature, and supported it.

b. Proposal Groupings.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the following groupings and order for the 2026 NCAA Convention proposals:

Presidents' Grouping.

1. Championships – Establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Championship.
2. Eligibility – Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility – Minimum Amount of Participation – Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season.
3. Resolution – Name, Image and Likeness Activities.
4. Championships – Amend the In-Region Competition Requirement.
5. Championships – Multiple Automatic Qualifier Model.
6. Automatic Qualification – Required Participation by Conference Core Members.

General Grouping

7. Championships – Automatic Qualification – Waiting Period – Multisport Conference – Adjust from Two Years to One.
8. Playing Seasons – Add a Mandatory Winter Break.
9. Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations – Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes – Require Use of the NCAA Transfer Portal.
10. Recruiting – Unofficial Visit – Meals for Prospective Student-Athletes and Their Guests.
11. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Expenses Provided by the Institution for Practice – Eliminate Distance and Location Restrictions.
12. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Types of Awards, Awarding Agencies, Maximum Value and Numbers of Awards – Remove Exact Dollar Amounts and References to Award Values.
13. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Permit Actual and Necessary Expenses for One All-Star Contest or Other Post-Eligibility Event.
14. Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes – Team Entertainment – Professional Sports Tickets.
15. Division III Membership, Playing and Practice Seasons – Emerging Sports for Women – Women’s Flag Football.
16. National Collegiate Championship – Acrobatics and Tumbling.
17. National Collegiate Championship – Stunt.

c. Review of Noncontroversial Legislation Approved by the Management Council.

- **Sports Wagering Proposal.**

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative form, the proposal to permit wagering on professional athletics:

NC 2026-15: Ethical Conduct – Sports Wagering Activities -- Elimination of Prohibition on Wagering on Professional Sports. Intent: To eliminate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports. The council approved with a November 1, 2025, effective date. (Note: Division II also approved

with the same effective date and Division I approved but amended its effective date to November 22, 2025. Because it is a common provision, the proposal must be the same for all three divisions, which, in turn, means the effective date will be November 22.)

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

5. *DIVISION III INITIATIVES AND UPDATES.*

a. *Convention Update.*

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the upcoming NCAA Convention schedule and noted the meetings pertaining to each group.

b. *Joint Meeting with Division III Conference Commissioners Association (DIIICA) and National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators (NADIIAA).*

Management Council. The council received a summary of the meeting with DIIICA and NADIIAA leadership in August.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. *NCAA ID Numbers.*

Management Council. The council approved a change to its policies for reporting of Division III graduation rate information beginning in 2032. The change will require all Division III student-athletes initially enrolling in a Division III institution beginning in the fall of 2026 to have an NCAA ID number.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. *Athletics Communication Working Group.*

Management Council. The council received a copy of the updated Guide to Strategic Athletics Communication on Campus. The publication was updated to help institutions appropriately emphasize the importance of athletics communicators in Division III and support their staff. Additionally, the council was advised of the working group's request to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to include a grant of up to \$2,000 per year for FY27 and FY28 as part of the new biennium budget to support institutional athletics communication professionals.

Presidents Council. The new guide was distributed during the council's joint meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening.

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.

f. Division III Branding and Promotions.

Management Council. The council received an update on the division's branding and promotions efforts, including the quarterly update from the College Sports Communicators and on the Emerging Elite Program.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. Championships Live Streaming.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update on the live streaming of Division III team championships in 2025-26, including a recent agreement for all rounds of team championships in 2025-26 not already covered by existing ESPN agreements to be streamed free of charge on a centralized platform (i.e., NCAA.com) administered by Hudl.

h. Officiating.

Management Council. The council received updates on the Division III Commissioners Association's partnership with the National Association of Sports Officials to assist with the recognition and recruitment of officials.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

i. Sportsmanship.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update on the new de-escalation training module developed to support the Division III membership's efforts to promote sportsmanship and improve the game environment.

j. Health and Safety Initiatives.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council received this update during its joint meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening.

k. Annual Report.

Management Council. The council was informed that the division's 2024-25 annual report is available online.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

1. Analysis of Division III.

Management Council. The council discussed various concerns and challenges within Division III and agreed that given the current state of intercollegiate athletics and higher education, coupled with the diversity of the Division III membership, a broad analysis of the division is needed. The council identified the following as items that should be considered in the review:

- Membership requirements;
- Requirements for earning an automatic qualifier to participate in a Division III championship;
- Eligibility and enrollment requirements;
- Ability to compete at the conference and national level; and
- Financial stability within higher education and college athletics.

The council noted that the goal of the analysis should be to determine if the core tenets of the division are still appropriate for where the division desires to be in the future, and to identify the areas of concern and provide recommendations to resolve those issues for the membership to consider.

Presidents Council. The council also discussed the merits of conducting a comprehensive analysis of Division III at various points during its agenda and ultimately agreed that such an exercise would be beneficial as the Association and Division III continue to navigate the evolving landscape of higher education and intercollegiate athletics. Accordingly, the council endorsed a focused review of key issues, possibly including championship access, eligibility standards, and membership criteria, beginning with the Presidents and Chancellors Forum and the Division III Issues Forum during the upcoming 2026 Convention. The council noted that this effort is intended to build on recent evaluations conducted by Deloitte (finances), Lewis Rice (Enrichment Fund), and the Division III Philosophy Working Group.

6. ASSOCIATION-WIDE UPDATES AND ISSUES.

a. Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.

Management and Presidents Councils. President Baker updated the councils 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 October 29 meeting.

c. Updates from Division I and Division II Governance.

Management Council. Senior Vice President for Governance and Member Services Jenn Fraser and Division II Vice President Terri Steeb Gronau updated the council regarding initiatives and priorities in Divisions I and II.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Sport Science Institute (SSI) Updates.

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

- (1) **Athletic Trainer Stakeholder Meeting.** SSI has held several meetings with athletic trainer stakeholders: the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the accrediting and educational bodies for athletic trainers. SSI is collaborating with these groups to develop strategies that will positively influence athletic trainers working in intercollegiate athletics, such as mentoring, team physician advocacy, and alternative health care delivery models.
- (2) **Sports Betting – Harm Reduction Strategies.** The council was advised that SSI has published additional resources to assist the membership with the implementation of harm reduction strategies to address sports wagering.
- (3) **Performance Technology.** SSI conducted a summit in May 2025 on the topic of performance technologies, which resulted in the development of nonbinding guidance for the membership that includes a plan for responsible use of performance technology, a process for selecting and implementing those technologies, education and data management. Once finalized, the consensus statements will be reviewed by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and then released to the membership.
- (4) **Mental Health.** The staff advised that SSI is providing the membership with opportunities to receive mental health first aid training. The next opportunity will be at the 2026 Convention.

Presidents Council. The council received this update during its joint meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening.

e. 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. The council received this update during its joint meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening. The council and PAG discussed the importance of affirming the division's commitment to apply its rules fairly and consistently, its established rule making processes, and its opposition to court-ordered exceptions outside of its bylaws.

f. Government Relations.

Management Council. The council received an update from the NCAA's external affairs staff regarding the status of federal legislation affecting Division III.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. Purchasing Cooperative.

Management Council. The council received an update regarding the partnership with E&I designed to consolidate purchasing needs to financially benefit member institutions.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Presidents Council. The council convened an executive session.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

Management Council. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, October 20, and 11:30 a.m. Eastern time, October 21.

Presidents Council. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Eastern time, October 28.



Division III Championships Bench Sizes Effective 2025-26

During its September and October meetings, the Division III Championships Committee approved increased bench limits based on sport committee feedback (see chart below), including those from sport committees desiring to include all rostered student-athletes and those from sport committees that desired to maintain a fixed bench size.

The following sports will maintain a set bench limit:

SPORT	SQUAD SIZE	TRAVEL PARTY	BENCH SIZE
BASEBALL	25	30	47
M BASKETBALL	15	20	25 chairs
W BASKETBALL	15	20	25 chairs
FOOTBALL	58	68	108
M ICE HOCKEY	23	28	30*
W ICE HOCKEY	23	28	30*

**based on NCAA playing rules.*

The following sports may include all rostered student-athletes in the bench limit. Additional personnel (non-athletes) in the bench area are not limited but must have a specific role and are subject to the team's ability to adequately oversee the bench size.

SPORT	SQUAD SIZE	TRAVEL PARTY
FIELD HOCKEY	24	29
M LACROSSE	32	37
W LACROSSE	32	37
M SOCCER	24	29
W SOCCER	24	29
SOFTBALL	20	25
M TENNIS	9	11
W TENNIS	9	11
M VOLLEYBALL	17	22
W VOLLEYBALL	17	22