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

KEY ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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Division III Management Council Oct. 19-20, 2026, Videoconference		**Division III Presidents Council Oct. 27, 2026, Meeting**
ATTENDEES		ATTENDEES
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston, SAAC representative Melissa Bauman, Ohio Northern University Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University Tony Berich, Stockton University Pete Bothner, Nazareth College Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Donnie Brooks, Macalester College Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College *[Presidents Council chair]* Michael Cohen, King's College (Pennsylvania), SAAC representative Myranda Crews, Brevard College Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University Todd Gibson, Grove City College Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (MA) Rob Larson, Luther College *[chair]* Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College Scott Musa, Wilkes University Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology Meghan Roman, Illinois College Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference Heather Schneider, Adrian College Anthony Scola, North Park University Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference		Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute *(Management Council vice chair)* David Bushman, Bridgewater College (VA) Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College *[chair]* Alberto Cardelle, State University of New York at Oneonta Suzanne Davis, Greenville University *[vice chair]* Connor Dong, University of Chicago, SAAC representative Katherine Frank, University of Wisconsin-Stout Holly Hall, Alma College, SAAC representative Julia Jasken, McDaniel College Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University Lake Lambert III, Hanover College Rob Larson, Luther College *[Management Council chair]* Milton Moreland, Centre College Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury University Andrew Manion, Edgewood University Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle Jim Troha, Juniata College *[ex officio]* Adam Weinberg, Denison University
ABSENTEES		ABSENTEES
None.		Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University Gary Crosby, Saint Elizabeth University Andrew Martin, Washington University in St. Louis

OTHER PARTICIPANTS		OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Rachel Acosta, Mary Hardin-Baylor University (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA Dawn Buth, NCAA Liz Dennison, Hobart and William Smith Colleges (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Lauren Bryne-Dunn, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NCAA Pathway Program participant) Jenn Fraser, NCAA Leah Hartsock, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Brian Higgins, NCAA Bryn Mangold, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Heather McVeigh, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Nikki Pieart, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Rachel Seewald, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA Sarah Turner, NCAA Derek Viveiros, Bridgewater State University (NCAA Pathway Program participant)		Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (via videoconference) Leah Hartsock, NCAA Malik Henry, NCAA Secaida Howell, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Bryn Mangold, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Oct. 19-20 Management Council. The videoconference was called to order at 11 a.m. Eastern time on Oct. 19 and 20. The chair, Rob Larson, welcomed the council and introduced new member Scott Musa, the director of athletics at Wilkes University, as well as the guests attending as part of the NCAA Pathway Program.

Oct. 27 Presidents Council. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. Eastern time, Oct. 27. The chair, Marc Camille, 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 Meetings – July 20-21, 2026.

Management Council. The Management Council approved the report from its July 20-21 in-person meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Presidents Council Videoconference – Aug. 3, 2026.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved the summary of its Aug. 3 virtual meeting.

c. Summary of Summer 2026 Quarterly Meetings.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the summary of their summer meetings.

d. 2026 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council members reviewed their 2026 assignments.

e. 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.

f. Presidents Council Policies and Procedures.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council received the policies and procedures as information.

g. Administrative Committee Report.

(1) Committee Appointments.

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

- **NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports – Dr. Melanie Haines**, public physician with expertise in endocrinology.

- **NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact – Carlos Vega**, senior assistant director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

(2) Noncontroversial Legislation.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils ratified the Administrative Committee's action to approve, in final form, noncontroversial legislation amending Bylaw 21.9.5.4.1 to expand the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement to 10 members who meet the criteria listed in Bylaw 21.9.5.1.

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, legislative proposals for the January Convention, and the ongoing review of the Division III Analysis Working Group and the Name, Image and Likeness Working Group. 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.

Staff Liaisons: Regan, Trovato

Council Reps: Bednarsh, Belton, Berich, Brooks, Bushman, Moreland, Manion

Management Council. The council reviewed and supported the draft agendas for the Issues Forum and the Business Session, as well as the following educational sessions to be conducted on Wednesday, Jan. 13:

- Beyond ChatGPT Basics: Practical Tools for AI-Driven Athletics (11 a.m. to noon); and
- Developing and Sustaining a Healthy Department and Team Culture (1 to 1:50 p.m.)

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the schedule of presidential programming during the Convention.

Staff Liaisons: McCleary, Myers, Regan

Council Reps: Bauman, Bednarsh, Camille, Cottrell, Frank, Jasken, Larson, Scola, Weinberg

(2) Joint Legislative Steering Subcommittee.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the subcommittee's recommended proposal grouping identified in Item 4-b on page 16.

Staff Liaison: Henry

Council Reps: Bowers, Cardelle, Lambert

(3) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

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

Staff Liaisons: McCleary, Hubert, Regan, Myers

Council Reps: Bowers, Davis, Lepre,

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

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received the committee's report from its September meeting as information. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: McCleary, Regan

Council Reps: Camille, Crosby, Davis, Frank, Kelly, Rice, Troha, Weinburg

(5) Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update regarding the subcommittee's most recent meeting and the ongoing discussion regarding the Division III Analysis, including the options forwarded to each council. [see Item 5-b on page 19] No action was necessary.

b. Division III Committees.

Staff Liaisons: **Peterson-Mlynski, Suscha**

Council Reps: Larson, Rogers

(1) Championships Committee.

(a) Live Streaming Proposal.

Management Council. The council noted that the Championships Committee is asking the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to provide the team championship live streaming grant to men's and women's tennis in 2027, a year earlier than originally requested and approved with the FY28 budget cycle. The SPFC will consider the recommendation during its December meeting. No action from the council was necessary at this time.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Discussion of Alcohol Sales Policy at Division III Championships.

Management Council. The council received an update that the Championships Committee continues to discuss the division's alcohol policies, which prohibit the sale of alcohol at championships except for during joint championships with other divisions conducted at the same venue. The committee will review questions to be included in an upcoming membership survey. Survey feedback will help inform future Championships Committee discussions.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship Sites.

Management Council. The council noted that the Championships Committee accepted the invitation from Division I to participate in a joint women's lacrosse championship in 2027 and 2028. The 2027 NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship game will be held at Johnny Unitas Stadium on the campus of Towson University in Towson, Maryland, and the 2028 championship game will be at Subaru Park in Philadelphia, hosted by Temple University. This new format will also require a change to the tournament schedule to align with the dates of the joint championship.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(d) NPI Dial Change Summary.

Management Council. The Championships Committee approved NPI modifications for the 2027-28 championships as reflected in the NPI Division III Weights, FAQ and Guide. Additionally, the council was advised of the recent publication of NPI educational materials. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: **Perry, Zike**

Council Rep: Crews

(2) Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Mikrut**

Council Rep: Musa

(3) Committee on Infractions (COI).

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – Enforcement Policies and Procedures.**

  Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to update Bylaw 32.1.1.2 to specify that an institution will be provided notice before the NCAA national office publicly shares information about a pending infractions case to prevent harm to the integrity of contests, to protect the well-being of student-athletes or to address a potential ongoing violation; and to specify that in the event the exception is used, the information will not identify current or former student-athletes by name.

  Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Hartung**

Council Rep: Savage

(4) Financial Aid Committee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Smith**

Council Rep: 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, Turner**

Council Rep: Erwin

(6) Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC).

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: **Hartung, Zike**

Council Rep: Berich

(7) Membership Committee.

Management Council. The council received the committee's reports as information. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(8) Nominating Committee.

Staff Liaison: Roe

Council Rep: Bothner

(a) NCAA Governance Committee Appointments.

Management Council. The council approved the following committee appointments, effective Jan. 17, 2027, unless otherwise noted:

- **NCAA Division III Championships Committee** – **Lesley Irvine** (immediate vacancy), vice president and director of athletics, Colorado College, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee** – **Leslie Schuemann** (immediate vacancy, Area 4), commissioner, American Southwest Conference; and **Heather Gilmour**, (January vacancy, Area 1), associate professor, sport management, Springfield College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee** – **Curtis Campbell** (Area 3), director of athletics, Roanoke College, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Membership Committee** – **Wendy McManus** (immediate vacancy), assistant vice president – intercollegiate athletics, State University of New York at Oswego, State University of New York Athletic Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Nominating Committee** – **Kevin Fenstermacher** (immediate vacancy), deputy director of athletics, Westminster College (Pennsylvania), Presidents' Athletic Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement** – **Melissa Reilly** (January vacancy – Region 2), commissioner, Skyline Conference; **Ellen O'Brien** (immediate vacancy, Region 3), deputy director of athletics/senior woman administrator/Title IX deputy, Marymount University (Virginia), Atlantic East Conference; and **Katherine Chronic** (immediate vacancy, Region 4), head men's and women's swimming and diving coach, Illinois Institute of Technology, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.

- **NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee** – **Dream Takemoto** (immediate vacancy), Willamette University, Northwest Conference; **Cael Whitchurch**, Illinois

Wesleyan University, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; **Hank Burns**, Asbury University, Collegiate Conference of the South; **Bryce Terry**, Skidmore College, Liberty League; **Madison Roszkowski**, Worcester State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; **Enrico Parrella**, Stevens Institute of Technology, Middle Atlantic Conferences; **Liselot VandenBroek**, Luther College, Midwest Conference; **Isabella Ornelas**, Bowdoin College, New England Small College Athletic Conference; **Skye Higashihara**, Smith College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; **Kyri Meak**, University of Maine, Farmington, North Atlantic Conference; **Abbie Marshall**, Heidelberg University, Ohio Athletic Conference; **Wilson McManus**, Rhodes College, Southern Athletic Conference; and **Ryan Dahl**, University of Dallas, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) NCAA Division III Management Council Appointments.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council approve the following appointments to the Management Council beginning with the close of the January 2027 Convention:

- Three-year terms (January 2030): **Matt Hill**, director of athletics, University of Northwestern-St. Paul, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; **Jeanette McKillop**, executive director of athletics and recreation, Colby-Sawyer College, Great Northeast Athletic Conference; **Mike Snyder**, director of athletics, Pacific Lutheran University, Northwest Conference; **Mark Whitworth**, athletics direct report/senior vice president and chief of staff, Asbury University, Collegiate Conference of the South; and **Lou Zadecky**, director of athletics, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference;.

- Four-year terms (January 2031): **Ann Hickey**, faculty athletics representative/associate professor, Whittier College, Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and **Karen Petersen**, president, Hendrix College, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

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.

(c) NCAA Division III Presidents Council Appointments.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved the following appointments to the Presidents Council with the close of the January 2027 Convention:

- Three-year terms: **Rebecca Ehretsman**, president, Wartburg College, American Rivers Conference; **Andrea Talentino**, president, Augustana College (Illinois), College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; **Wayne Lewis**, president, Houghton University, Empire 8; **Jesse Bernal**, president, Western Connecticut State University, Little East Conference; and **Donna Hodge**, president, Fitchburg State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

- Four-year terms: **Brad Andrews**, president, Brevard College, USA South Athletic Conference; and **Suzanne Rivera**, president, Macalester College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

An electronic vote will be sent to all Division III presidents and chancellors to confirm the nominations.

Staff Liaisons: Mangold, Spungen, Trovato, Youngblood

Council Reps: Crews, Gibson

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

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update from their SAAC representatives summarizing highlights from the committee's most recent meetings and previewing the committee's November meeting during which SAAC members will take official positions on the 2027 Convention legislative proposals. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: Turner, Gmerek

Council Reps: Bothner, Erwin, Gibson, MacCulloch, Musa, Roman, Summers

(10) Subcommittee for Legislative Relief.

Management Council. The council received the subcommittee's report as information. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

- **Augsburg University Appeal**.

  Management Council. The council upheld the subcommittee's decision denying Augsburg's request that a four-year transfer football student-athlete be immediately eligible to participate. In

upholding the decision, the council noted the subcommittee did not improperly apply NCAA legislation or official interpretations, did not take an action inconsistent with established precedent, and did not deviate from its approved procedures or that the decision was clearly erroneous.

[Note: Donnie Brooks recused himself from voting because he is from the same conference as the appellant institution. Members of the subcommittee (Patrick Summers, Peter Bothner, Ryan Ewing, Heather MacCulloch, Scott Musa, Meghan Roman and Todd Gibson) per protocol were not eligible to vote.]

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Regan**

Council Reps: Brooks, Crews, Erwin, MacCulloch, Rogers, Savage, Schuyler

(11) Management Council Federated Playing Rules Subcommittee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

c. Association-Wide Committees.

Staff Liaisons: **Berg, Blair Hackworth, Miron, Wilson**

Council Rep: Bowers

(1) Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: **Pieart, Rohlman**

Council Rep: Lamb

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

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Seewald**

Council Rep: Brooks

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

Management Council. The council noted the panel's review of feedback from the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee regarding protective equipment in men's and women's ice hockey, requested by the Management Council and subsequent approval of a rules change to require cut-resistant equipment on the neck, wrists, and ankles beginning with the 2027-28 season. This change aligns with the requirement and timeline for Division I student-athletes.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison: **Thomas**

Council Rep: Lamb

(4) Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons: **Thomas, Rogers**

Council Rep: TBD

(5) 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 2027 NCAA CONVENTION.

a. Membership-Sponsored Legislation – Governance Position.

(1) Playing Seasons – Football – Spring Period Practice Modifications.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council oppose the proposal to amend the spring football practice period as specified. The council expressed concern regarding the proposal's potential negative impact on student-athlete health and safety, as well as on institutional resources to accommodate the addition of full-contact practice sessions. In addition, while the council is not against adding structure and clarity to the nontraditional segment, members believe that any proposed change should wait until the Division III Analysis Working Group completes its broader review of playing and practice season legislation.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and opposed it. The council agreed with the Management Council's assessment regarding the Division III Analysis Working Group's broader review of playing and practice season legislation and expressed concern that the proposal does not align with the intent of the nontraditional segment.

(2) Division III Presidents and Management Council – Term of Office and Vacancies.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council support the proposal to change the length of an unexpired term that requires a vacancy to be filled from at least two years to at least one year for the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and Management Council to avoid periods in which an active multi-sport conference is not represented on either council. The council believes the proposal supports the original intent of the legislation to ensure conference representation on one of the two governing bodies.

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

(3) Eligibility – Five-Year Period of Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model.

Management Council. The council recommended that the Presidents Council oppose the proposal to transition from a season-based eligibility model to a continuous, five-year age-based eligibility model that mirrors the framework adopted by Divisions I and II. The council noted that more time is needed to observe the implications of the legislation adopted by Divisions I and II and to assess the division's current eligibility model before considering a change. [See Item 5-a on page 18 for more detail.]

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the proposal, as it was considered presidential in nature, and voted to take no position. The council discussed the merits of the proposal at length and noted that the significant divergence of opinion expressed within the governance structure and the membership at large indicates that further review is necessary and that a close vote would not be in the division's best interests. As such, the council believes the division's eligibility rules require additional study and agreed to take no position on the proposal rather than oppose it, with the intent of moving to refer the proposal to the Presidents Council for continued evaluation.

(4) Eligibility – Five-Year Period of Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model – Removal of 19th Birthday (Amendment-to-Amendment).

Management Council. The council discussed but did not recommend a position regarding this amendment. The council noted that the amendment could provide an opportunity for older student-athletes and those who pursue a nontraditional path to participate. However, it does not provide flexibility once individuals are enrolled. The council did acknowledge that this amendment should be considered as part of any future discussions regarding the division's eligibility standards if the age-based eligibility proposal is defeated or referred.

Presidents Council. Due to time constraints, the council agreed to review this amendment during a subsequent videoconference.

(5) Eligibility – Five-Year Period of Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model – Define as Division Dominant (Amendment-to-Amendment).

Management Council. The council discussed but did not recommend a position regarding this amendment. The council generally agreed that eligibility standards should be supported by a strong majority of the membership but also noted that the division dominant process may have unintended future consequences. Specifically, if the amendment and the proposal were adopted, the affected bylaws would become division dominant, meaning only the Division III Presidents Council would be permitted to propose future amendments.

Presidents Council. Due to time constraints, the council agreed to review this amendment during a subsequent videoconference.

[Note: After these meetings, the parliamentarian reviewed this amendment-to-amendment and determined it was out of order. Consequently, it will not be discussed and voted on at the NCAA Division III Business Session.]

b. Proposal Groupings.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the following groupings and order for the 2027 NCAA Convention proposals that were recommended by the Joint Legislative Steering Committee and the Interpretations and Legislation Committee:

Presidents' Grouping

(1) Playing Seasons – Football – Spring Period Practice Modifications.

(2) Division III Presidents and Management Council – Term of Office and Vacancies.

(3) Eligibility – Five-Year Period of Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model.

General Grouping

(1) Amateurism – Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment – Permit Use of Agents.

(2) National Collegiate Championship – Women's Flag Football.

c. Noncontroversial Legislation Approved by the Management Council.

(1) NC 2027-9 Committees – National Collegiate Championship Sport Committees – Composition Requirement.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to amend the composition of the National Collegiate Championship committees to add nonvoting members; add a non-voting Division I student-athlete; and specify that when an autonomy conference sponsors a sport at the conference level, that conference must be represented by one of the Division I members on the committee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) NC 2027-10 Eligibility – Hardship Waiver Appeal – Practice While Waiver is Pending.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to permit a student-athlete to practice while a hardship waiver is pending with the NCAA staff. This permits a student-athlete to continue to practice but not compete, provided the institution has filed a hardship

waiver appeal; and specifies that if the hardship waiver appeal is denied by the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff, the student must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of denial, regardless of whether the institution ultimately appeals the decision.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(3) NC 2027-12 Amateurism – Before Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment – Permit All Prize Money.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to permit individuals before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in team sports to accept prize money beyond actual and necessary expenses, and permit all individuals to accept any prize money from the sponsor of the event, even if the event is not an open event.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(4) NC 2027-13 Legislative Authority and Process – Conventions and Meetings – Order and Grouping of Legislation – Consent Agenda.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to allow the NCAA Division III Presidents Council to create a consent agenda at the annual NCAA Convention meeting for use at the Division III Business Session, when appropriate.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(5) NC 2027-14 Legislative Authority and Process – Eligibility for Membership – Allow Conferences to Fill Vacancies on Same Committee.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to eliminate the restriction on conferences not being immediately eligible for representation on the same committee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(6) NC 2027-15 Division III Membership Requirements – Sport Sponsorship – Remove Participant Requirement for Sport Sponsorship for Acrobatics and Tumbling.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to eliminate the minimum number of participants requirement in acrobatics and tumbling for sport sponsorship purposes.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(7) NC 2027-16 Governance Structure and Committees – Association-Wide Committees – Sunset Awards Committee.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to eliminate the NCAA Awards Committee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

[Note: NC 2027-11, which expands the roster of the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, was previously approved in final legislative format by the Administrative Committee as noted in Item 2-f-(2) on page 4 and thus is not included in this list.]

d. Modification of Wording Approved by the Management Council.

- **M 2027-1 Amateurism – Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment – Clarify Professional Draft Opportunities.**

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a modification of wording regarding the professional draft before initial enrollment to more clearly reflect the intent of Proposal No. 2002-44, which clarifies that an individual may enter and/or be drafted by a professional league prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment without jeopardizing their eligibility.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

5. DIVISION III INITIATIVES AND UPDATES.

a. Age-Based Eligibility Discussion.

Management Council. The council discussed the membership-sponsored age-based eligibility legislative proposal cited in Item 4-a-(3) on page 14 and the related amendments-to-amendment. During its review, the council noted that no clearly defined issue has been identified with the current Division III eligibility model that the proposal is intended to address. The council also expressed concern regarding several significant and largely unknown impacts for the division, member institutions, and student-athletes that should be thoroughly evaluated before any changes are made to the division's existing eligibility framework (e.g., impact on degree completion and institutional resources; financial aid implications, and loss of waiver flexibility). While the council acknowledged potential benefits associated with aligning the Division III eligibility model with those used in Divisions I and II, it concluded that, at this time, the uncertainty surrounding the proposal's potential consequences outweighs those benefits. Overall, the council believes additional analysis is necessary to determine what changes, if any, are needed for Division III, and to better understand the impacts of the changes made in Division I and II before considering changes to the division's longstanding eligibility framework.

Presidents Council. The council discussed the legislative proposal at length during its meeting as well as during its session with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening and expressed concerns similar to those cited by the Management Council. Ultimately the council agreed that the proposal requires additional review and should be referred to the Presidents Council to oversee this review rather than be voted on at this time.

b. Division III Analysis Working Group.

- **Review of Identified Tensions and Potential Mitigation Options.**

  Management Council. The council received an update from the working group and discussed the two options that were referred to the council:

  - **Collective Purchasing Consortium.** The council raised the question of applicability across the diverse range of institutions in Division III and acknowledged there may be a lack of awareness despite ongoing educational efforts. The council agreed to continue to discuss this option at future meetings.

  - **Model 2035 Membership.** The council supported the continued consideration of this option, noting the need for the division to have a plan to address the inevitable change to the Division III membership that will occur through closures and membership transition in the years ahead. The council believed that the timeline for the option was appropriate.

  Presidents Council. The council received an update from the working group and discussed the two options that were referred to the council:

  - **Extend Presidents Council Chair Term.** The council discussed and initially supported the concept of extending the council chair's term from one to two years. The council believes doing so would add continuity to the leadership position and provide the chair the opportunity to more fully engage with and understand the membership's perspective on the important issues. The council also understands that extending the chair's term may have negative unintended consequences (e.g., it could narrow the pool of eligible candidates given the current three- and four-year terms council members serve) and asked staff to present implementation options for the council to consider during its January meeting to help inform a final recommendation.

  - **Model 2035 Membership.** The council supported the continued consideration of this option, both to prepare for fluctuations in membership but also to explore ways to mitigate the ever-present financial pressures facing Division III member schools. The council believes its Futures Subcommittee is well positioned to conduct additional review of this option.

c. Name, Image and Likeness Working Group.

Management Council. The council reviewed reports from the working group's most recent meetings as information, noting results from a membership survey regarding NIL trends and activities that will help inform discussion of the topic during the Issues Forum at the NCAA Convention in January. The working group also reviewed the case study from the Division III Analysis Working Group specific to name, image and likeness activities in Division III that provides further insight into where the membership currently stands. As a result, the Analysis Working Group has tasked the NIL Working Group with drafting guardrails and a best practices document for membership use.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Division III Strategic Priorities.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed two documents, one providing talking points regarding the division's strategic priorities for 2026-27 and highlighting current wins and future opportunities, and another that provides talking points on the Division III student-athlete experience.

e. Division III Budget.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the 2025-26 and 2026-27 budget-to-actuals and the future budget projections as information. No action was necessary.

f. Graduation Rates Working Group.

- **Study of Division III Football Student-Athletes' Academic Outcomes.**

  Management Council. The council endorsed the proposed timeline of activities for the two-part study, which will run simultaneously. The first is a retrospective study of the 2019 graduation rates cohort and the second is a prospective study of the 2026 entering cohort. Both will ask member institutions that sponsor football to submit limited information (i.e., NCAA ID, name, date of birth) for student-athletes in the requested cohorts. The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) will then be engaged on two separate occasions to determine enrollment status for each student-athlete. Aggregate reports will be provided to the Division III Management Council. The entire study is expected to be completed by fall 2027.

  Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. Division III FAR Advisory Group.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

h. Division III Branding, Promotions, and Social Media.

Management Council. The council received an update on the success of the division's various social media platforms and recent efforts to develop new PSAs that are targeted for release during the NCAA Convention. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

i. NCAA Eligibility Center and Profile Accounts.

Management Council. NCAA staff notified the council that the NCAA Eligibility Center will begin charging $5 for the creation of an Eligibility Center Profile Account that generates an NCAA Identification Number beginning in early 2027. Earlier in 2026, the council adopted a policy requiring an NCAA Identification Number be established through the Eligibility Center for all Division III student-athletes beginning with the 2026-27 first-time enrollees for the reporting of NCAA Division III graduation rates information.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

j. Division III Annual Report.

Management Council. The council was provided a link to the 2025-26 report.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

6. ASSOCIATION-WIDE UPDATES AND ISSUES.

a. Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.

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

Presidents Council. The council engaged with President Baker during its meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening.

b. Board of Governors Updates.

(1) Board of Governors Meetings.

Management Council. The council reviewed the report from the board's August meeting as information. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council also reviewed the August report and, as part of the consultative process, received an overview of key agenda items for the board's October meeting.

(2) NCAA Board of Governors Division III Representative Election.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council elected Marc Camille to replace Jim Troha as the Division III representative on the Board of Governors. President Camille will serve a two-year term in this capacity beginning when President Troha's term expires after the board's January meeting. Similar to President Troha, President Camille will serve as an ex officio member of the Presidents Council during this time. The council expressed its appreciation to President Troha for his leadership on the board, including having served as the board's vice chair this past year.

c. NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.

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

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

d. Sport Science Institute (SSI) Updates.

Management Council. NCAA staff highlighted SSI's ongoing work to develop and update consensus-based guidance related to prevention and harm reduction, cardiac care, and concussion. Multiple educational programs and resources were also discussed, including American Health Care Association education, athletic trainers' workforce resources, SSI Spotlights and team physician town halls. Staff updated the council on progress to update the NCAA's Injury Surveillance Program.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

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 meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening.

f. Congressional Engagement.

Management Council. The council received an update from the external affairs staff regarding recent actions to engage federal legislators regarding the Protect College Sports Act.

Presidents Council. The council received this update during its meeting with the Presidents Advisory Group the previous evening. The council expressed interest in sending a letter on behalf of the council to all members of the U.S. House of

Representatives to support passage of the Protect College Sports Act, noting that the letter should also promote the unique characteristics and attributes of Division III and continue emphasizing the negative consequences of considering student-athletes as university employees.

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h. Transfer Portal Dashboard.

Management Council. NCAA staff updated the council on the newly created NCAA Transfer Portal Dashboard, which will provide statistical information about outcomes of student-athletes who enter the transfer portal (e.g., successful transfer, increased or decreased playing time, athletics aid, etc.). Initially, the dashboard will include information on football and basketball transfers with the intent of adding sports over time. The goal of the dashboard is to provide a more transparent view of student transfer activity to help inform current student-athletes and their families. The dashboard is expected to go live in late November.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Management Council. The meeting adjourned October 19, 3:49 p.m. Eastern time, and October 20, 2:43 p.m. Eastern time.

Presidents Council. The meeting adjourned October 27, 11:33 a.m. Eastern time.