



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
JULY 16, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Item.**

- Sports sponsorship – Elimination of minimum participant requirement.
  - (1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council approve noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the minimum participant requirement in acrobatics and tumbling for sports sponsorship.
  - (2) Effective date. 2026-27 academic year.
  - (3) Rationale. When acrobatics and tumbling was adopted as an emerging sport, the legislative proposal established sports sponsorship requirements. In all three divisions, acrobatics and tumbling was identified as a team sport; however, both a minimum contest (six) and minimum participant (18) requirement was established for sports sponsorship. The intent of the minimum participant requirement was to ensure student athletes could compete safely and for institutions to build complete rosters. The NCATA Code of Points (which governs the playing rules for acrobatics and tumbling) governs the minimum participants in order to compete in a meet and take into account health and safety considerations.

As the sport has evolved, a bridge program was adopted effectively for the 2024-25 academic year that allows teams with a roster size under 18 to safely compete. The bridge program utilizes a simplified format and skill set to ensure safety, retention and a positive competitive experience for student-athletes and coaches during the implementation and building of an acrobatics and tumbling program and roster.

Under the current legislation, teams utilizing the bridge program are not able to meet sports sponsorship requirements despite competing in meets that adhere to the playing rules. In Division III, only stunt has a minimum participant requirement. All other team sports defer to playing rules on the minimum number of participants to complete a contest, and for a contest to be considered countable for sports sponsorship purposes it must be completed in accordance with playing rules.

Eliminating the requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation will keep acrobatics and tumbling consistent with other team sports and ensure the playing rules govern the minimum participant requirement for any necessary health and safety considerations. The NCATA executive director also supports the removal of the

minimum participant requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation. Divisions I and II are also considering this legislative change.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. This change will ensure that all meets that student-athletes participate in which are conducted in accordance with playing rules are counted for sport sponsorship purposes.

## 2. Nonlegislative Item.

- None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The NCAA Division III Membership Committee commenced business at 1:10 p.m. Eastern. Agenda item 6-b., the sports sponsorship waiver request from Trinity Washington University, was removed from the agenda because the request was withdrawn.
2. **Membership Committee Roster and Conflict of Interest.** Committee members were reminded of the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy and proper procedures for recusal if a conflict of interest might arise. Committee members reviewed the roster and conflict of interest documentation and updated, as necessary. Committee members followed the recusal procedures during all deliberations.
3. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the policies and procedures documents.
4. **Review of June 2026 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the June 24-25 meeting.
5. **Review of Athletic Program Assessments.** The committee reviewed and accepted the athletics program assessments from the following institutions, which they were required to complete during the first year of their probationary periods:
  - a. Lehman College (probation) - accepted.
  - b. Vermont State University Lyndon (probation) – accepted. Due to conflict of interest, Dan Kane was recused.

- c. University of Maine Presque Isle (probation) – accepted. Due to conflict of interest, Dan Kane was recused.
6. **Consideration of a sports sponsorship waiver request from Pratt Institute.** The committee denied a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.4 for the 2025-26 academic year of the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements in the sports of men’s indoor track, men’s outdoor track, and men’s golf, noting insufficient mitigation was provided. Due to conflicts of interest, Chris Roekle and Elizabeth Carleton were recused.
7. **Future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed its upcoming meeting schedule.
8. **Other business.** The committee approved a recommendation from the NCAA Women’s Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee to recommend the Division III Management Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the minimum participant requirement in acrobatics and tumbling for sports sponsorship.
9. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 2:05 p.m., Eastern time, July 16.

*Committee Chair:* Chris Roekle, Coast-to-Coast Conference  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Eric Hartung, Division III Governance and Member Services  
Vince Gmerek, Division III Governance and Member Services  
Julie Zike, Division III Governance and Member Services

| NCAA Division III Membership Committee<br>July 16, 2026, Videoconference |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Attendees:</b>                                                        |  |
| Tony Berich, Stockton University.                                        |  |
| Elizabeth Carleton, University of Rochester (SAAC representative).       |  |
| Frederick Clark, Bridgewater State University.                           |  |
| Greg Cooper, Heidelberg University.                                      |  |
| Daniel C. Kane, University of Maine at Presque Isle.                     |  |
| Shana Levine, Northwest Conference.                                      |  |
| Wayne Lewis, Houghton University.                                        |  |
| Chris Roekle, Coast-To-Coast Conference.                                 |  |

|                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Absentees:</b>                              |
| Brian Johnson, North Central College.          |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>                   |
| None.                                          |
| <b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>       |
| Vince Gmerek, Eric Hartung and Julie Zike.     |
| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b> |
| Secaida Howell and Joan Nissen.                |