



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- None.

2. Non-legislative item.

- **Establish a pilot program allowing, pursuant to specific criteria, Division III student-athletes to continue to participate while not enrolled at the Division III institution.**

(1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management and Presidents Councils approve the establishment of a pilot program allowing, pursuant to specific criteria (see attachment), Division III student-athletes to continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate competition while enrolled at another institution that has a formal academic agreement with their institution and does not sponsor varsity athletics.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2025. (Institutions can begin submitting waiver requests upon approval of the recommendation by the Division III Presidents Council.)

(3) Rationale. During the 2025 legislative cycle, the Division III Presidents Council declined to sponsor a proposal that originated with the Membership Committee, that would have allowed, under certain conditions, graduated student-athletes to complete their athletics eligibility at the Division III institution while enrolled elsewhere. While there was support for expanding participation opportunities and providing flexibility for institutions that do not offer specific academic programs, the council determined the implications of the concept needed further consideration and referred the issue back to the governance structure for additional review. In response, the Division III Membership Committee, with input from the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief recommended that a pilot program focusing on individual student-athlete eligibility waivers would be effective in understanding the types of academic relationships that exist and the number of student-athletes that could benefit, to determine if further legislative action is warranted.

The requests would be submitted through RSRO and reviewed by the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, and as needed, the Division III Membership Committee pursuant to the criteria outlined in the attachment The

waivers received during the pilot program will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if continued legislative relief is appropriate.

(4) **Budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Will offer expanded pathways for student-athletes to pursue their academic objectives and complete their participation opportunity.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The NCAA Division III Membership Committee commenced business at 1:03 p.m., Eastern.
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 February meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the February 26-27 videoconference.
5. **Referral of convention proposal.** See the non-legislative action item above.
6. **Future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed its upcoming meeting schedule.
7. **Other business.** None.
8. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned 2:20 p.m., Eastern time, March 20, 2025.

Committee Chair: Miriam Merrill, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
Staff Liaison(s): Eric Hartung, Division III Governance
Brittany Higgins, Academic and Membership Affairs
Julie Zike, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Membership Committee March 20, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Tony Berich, Stockton University.	
Greg Cooper, Heidelberg University.	
Kim Fierke, State University of New York at Oneonta.	
Christine Hagedorn-Nordenholt, Rosemont College.	
Brian Johnson, North Central College.	
Wayne Lewis, Houghton University.	
Miriam Merrill, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.	
Absentees:	
Lillian Case, Juniata College. (SAAC representative).	
Frederick Clark, Bridgewater State University.	
Chris Roekle, Coast-to-Coast Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Rob Larson, Luther College	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung, Brittany Higgins, and Julie Zike.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Bill Regan.	



PROPOSED PILOT PROGRAM

Intent.

The pilot program would allow for the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief to consider requests from Division III member institutions for student-athletes to continue their participation while no longer enrolled at the member institution provided certain conditions are met.

Process.

A Division III institution would submit a legislative relief waiver via RSRO, which would then be reviewed by the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief. Additionally, the chair of the Division III Membership Committee would be included during the subcommittee's review of the waivers.

Waiver Guidelines.

1. The student-athlete must have been previously enrolled and participated at the certifying Division III institution.
2. The student-athlete must satisfy all existing eligibility standards (e.g., full-time enrollment, satisfactory progress).
 - (Note: The student-athlete may be an undergraduate or graduate student.)
3. There must be an existing academic relationship between the certifying Division III institution and the non-certifying institution, and the student-athlete is enrolled at the non-certifying institution pursuant to that existing academic relationship.
4. The certifying Division III institution must provide objective documentation confirming the following:
 - a. The existence of an academic relationship between the certifying Division III institution and the non-certifying institution.
 - b. That the non-certifying institution has proper accreditation.
 - c. That the non-certifying institution does not sponsor varsity athletics.
 - d. That both institutions agree to the student-athlete's participation.
 - e. That the conference office has approved the participation.

- f. The proposed process for certifying academic eligibility (e.g., full-time enrollment, satisfactory progress) of the student-athlete.
- g. The student-athlete has adequate insurance coverage (Bylaw 20.8.4.8).
- h. That both institutions agree to cooperate in any investigations involving allegations of NCAA violations.
- i. That the certifying institution acknowledges that it is responsible for and may be held accountable through the enforcement procedures for any violations involving the student-athlete even if the violation is a result of conduct by the non-certifying institution (e.g., the other institution provides the student-athlete financial aid based on athletics).

Pilot Review.

The waivers received during the pilot program will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if continued legislative relief is appropriate.