



**REPORT OF THE
DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 14, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Administrative items.

- a. **Roster.** The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
- b. **Expectations of a SAAC Member.** The committee reviewed the expectations of SAAC members and effective strategies to engage with conference and campus SAAC groups.
- c. **Review Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures.
- d. **Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the philosophy statement and how it influences the decisions made across Division III.
- e. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.
- f. **January 12-13th, 2026, Meeting Report.** The committee approved the report with no changes.

2. Division III and Association-Wide Committees and Subcommittee Updates.

- a. **NCAA Division III Committees and Subcommittees.** The committee representatives who serve on Division III committees and subcommittees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.
- b. **Association-Wide Committees and Subcommittees.** The committee representatives who serve on Association-wide Committees and subcommittees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.

3. NCAA National Office Updates.

- **Board of Governors.** The committee was visited by Greg Ricketts, graduated student-athlete representative on the Board of Governors. Ricketts discussed his role on the Board of Governors and reviewed some of the issues facing the association including litigation, budget and the implementation of the House settlement. Ricketts also spoke about the "SAAC-sess" network and asked that all those interested in participating complete the interest form.

4. Division III Initiatives and Updates.

- a. Division III.** The committee received updates from Louise McCleary, Vice President of Division III for Governance and Member Services, and Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III for Governance and Member Services, on a variety of current topics facing Division III including the DIII analysis, commercial logos on uniforms and a review of Name, Image and Likeness based on the passing of Resolution No. 2026-3 at the 2026 NCAA Convention.
- b. Division III Analysis Discussion with Deloitte.** The committee engaged in a private conversation with Deloitte and discussed the key tension points facing Division III from the student-athlete perspective.

5. Strategic Items for Discussion.

- a. Transfer Portal Educational Module.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on a proposed script for the Division III Transfer Portal educational module.
- b. Division III Legislative Discussion Topics.** The committee heard updates on some of the larger legislative topics being discussed across the membership including the eligibility pilot program, NIL resolution, season of participation, consent agenda and individual speaker limits.
- c. Review of Legislative Process.** The committee reviewed the legislative process, including the legislative calendar and how a proposal moves through the process to become legislated.

6. Division III SAAC Business and Subcommittees.

- a. NCAA Board of Governors Graduate Student-Athlete Representative.** The committee reviewed applications for the Division III graduated student-athlete representative to the NCAA Board of Governors.
- b. Special Olympics.** The committee discussed the Special Olympic event scheduled to coincide with the July meeting in Indianapolis, which would take place at the Hall of Champions. The committee was reminded to report on any Special Olympics event that their institution or conference are involved with.
- c. 2026 Division III Week Recap.** The committee reviewed the engagement numbers across the Division III social media accounts during DIII Week. Individual representatives also shared ideas and activities organized by their campus and/or conference SAAC to celebrate DIII week.

- d. **Revisit SAAC Start-Up Guide.** The committee discussed the potential of creating a SAAC Start-Up Guide that would review best practices. They suggested a subcommittee may be best suited to develop the guide and recommended looking at what Division II has developed as an example. The committee will discuss further at its July meeting.
 - e. **Joint MC/SAAC July Meeting.** The committee discussed potential topics for the joint meeting with Management Council in July, including commercial logos, Division III analysis, eligibility and GOALS study.
 - f. **Conference Communications.** The committee discussed best practices when following up with the conference SAAC to share the National SAAC meeting summaries. Individuals were encouraged to reach out to NCAA staff or committee executive board members if they have any issues.
 - g. **Division III Subcommittee Reports.**
 - **DIII Download.** The DIII Download subcommittee outlined upcoming video initiatives and Division III Softball content, with additional videos planned for release in the coming cycle.
 - **Mental and Physical Health.** The Mental and Physical Health Subcommittee discussed the launch of a new podcast series featuring interviews with individuals in the mental and physical health space. The first episode will feature a sports psychologist from Denison University, focusing on burnout and coping mechanisms.
 - **Congressional Engagement.** The Congressional Engagement Subcommittee discussed its efforts to continue to advocate for Division III student-athletes. The subcommittee will continue to engage with fellow student-athletes through social media posts.
7. **Informational Items and Other Business.**
- a. **Future Meeting Dates.**
 - July 18-19, 2026, Indianapolis.
 - November 8, 2026, (tentative date) Virtual.
 - b. **Campus SAAC Liaison Contact Information.** The committee was asked to review the roster for their contact information, specifically any graduating seniors who may need to update their email address. Any changes should be reported to the committee liaisons.

- c. **Division I Advisory and Advocacy Proposal.** The committee reviewed the recent change made for Division I National SAAC as they changed the 'A' from Advisory to Advocacy. The committee discussed the potential name change for Division III but ultimately decided advocacy did not accurately reflect the Division III committee.
- d. **Other Business.**
- **Content Planning and Messaging, Branding and Visuals, Metrics Review and Approval.** The committee discussed strategies for proactively planning social media content, including developing a more streamlined workflow for drafting, reviewing, and approving posts to ensure all material is consistent, appropriate, and aligned with committee messaging. They also established a goal of reaching 5,000 Instagram followers by their July meeting in Indianapolis, emphasizing the importance of intentional engagement and timely content to support continued growth and visibility.
 - **Committee Update Form.** The committee was asked to complete these forms after each committee meeting to ensure all information is documented as soon as possible.
 - **Professional Development Topic Ideas.** The committee discussed completing a DiSC assessment as their professional development at the July meeting in Indianapolis.
 - **CSC Unite.** The committee discussed the College Sport Communicators opportunity to allow a SAAC member to attend their annual conference. Anyone interested in the networking opportunity and professional development should contact NCAA staff.
 - **SAAC Send-Offs.** The committee thanked Zoal Awad and Molly Mason for their service as April was their last meeting.
8. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned Tuesday, April 14, at 9:48 p.m.

Committee Chair: Josey Johnson, Capital University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
Staff Liaisons: Ali Spungen, Division III Governance and Member Services
Bryn Mangold, Division III Governance and Member Services
Becca Trovato, Division III Governance and Member Services
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 14, 2026, Meeting
Attendees:
Zoal Awad, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
Isabella Antosiewicz, Penn State Abington, United East Conference.
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Little East Conference.
Zion Baitey, Alfred University, Empire 8.
Helen Bechthold, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Jameson Bloch, University of Maine at Farmington; North Atlantic Conference.
Davis Bone, Johnson & Wales University -Providence, Conference of New England.
Elizabeth Carleton, University of Rochester; Liberty League.
RJ Casey, Connecticut College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Michael Cohen, Kings College; Middle Atlantic Conference.
Myranda Crews, Brevard College; USA South Athletic Conference.
Connor Dong, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.
Holly Hall; Alma College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Hasan Hammad, University of Mary Washington; Coast-to-Coast Conference.
Josey Johnson, Capital University, Ohio Athletic Conference.
McKenzie Jones, East Texas Baptist University; American Southwest Conference.
Paige Kluba, Piedmont University; Collegiate Conference of the South.
Alfred Lamptey, University of Mount Saint Vincent, Skyline Division Athletic Conference.
Hannah Laughlin, Franklin College, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Molly Mason, Lyon College, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Shea McKenna, McDaniel College; Centennial Conference.
Grace Moothart, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Isabella Nesbeth, Grinnell College; Midwest Conference.
Kyle Neibch, Wheaton College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
Josh Osaе, SUNY Cortland; State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Rocco Paulson, University of Wisconsin – Superior, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Maeve Perry, Denison University; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Dominic Petruzzelli, Neumann University; Atlantic East.
Enzo Petruzzelli, Moravian University, Landmark Conference.
Caleb Smith, Mary Baldwin University, USA South Conference.
Tucker Smith, Hampden-Sydney College, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Carson Strukel, Coe College, American Rivers Conference.
Jaden Wan, Washington & Jefferson College, President’s Athletic Conference.

Christine Yu, Claremont McKenna College; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Edward Zazzali, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
Emily Alicea, Pacific Lutheran University; Northwest Conference.
Todd Gibson, Grove City College, President's Athletic Conference.
Olivia Hanson. Concordia College, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Lauren Krupnikoff, Simmons University, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Kimberly Lila, Berry College; Southern Athletic Association.
Mya Cabanas Montero, Rutgers – Camden, New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Oliver Williams, Westfield State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Kat Harwood, Sam Renuat, Greg Ricketts, and Christa Westheimer.
NCAA Staff Liaisons:
Bryn Mangold, Ali Spungen, Becca Trovato, and Jonathan Youngblood.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Grace Hadlich, Louise McCleary, Bill Regan.