



**SPORTS WAGERING DEREGULATION PROPOSAL
QUESTION AND ANSWER DOCUMENT
OCTOBER 29, 2025**

The NCAA legislation that governs sports wagering is “common,” which means the legislation is the same for all three divisions and to be changed, each division must adopt the same proposed changes through its legislative process.

All three divisions have reviewed the legislation governing sports wagering since fall 2023. Discussions have focused on whether prohibition on wagering on professional sports should be deregulated. Based on agreement by the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee, National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Division III Presidents Council, Division III Management Council in April 2025 approved in concept noncontroversial legislation, deregulating the prohibition on wagering on profession sports.

On October 21, 2025, Management Council adopted the proposal in final form with a November 1st effective date. Division II also adopted the changes effective November 1st. However, while Division I adopted the same changes, its effective date is November 22, 2025. Consequently, the changes will not be effective until November 22, 2025. If there are future amendments to the effective date, such changes will be reflected in this document and on LSDBi.

The following question and answer document is intended to address questions related to the application of this legislative proposal.

Question No. 1: What are the current prohibitions on sports wagering and what would change if this proposal were adopted?

Answer: Currently, student-athletes, athletics department staff, nonathletics staff members who have responsibilities within or over athletics and conference office staff are prohibited from participating in sports wagering activities related to any institutional practice or any intercollegiate, amateur or professional competition in a sport in which the NCAA conducts a championship, in Division I bowl subdivision football and emerging sports for women. If this proposal is adopted, the prohibition on wagering on professional sports would be removed from the legislation.

Question No. 2: What sports and events are included in the deregulation of the prohibition on wagering on professional sports?

Answer: As of November 22, 2025, it is permissible for student-athletes and staff members to wager on any professional sport, including sports that are sponsored by the NCAA, such as basketball, football, baseball and ice hockey. In addition, it would be permissible for student-athletes and staff to wager on elite international events such as the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships and World Cup because such events include the participation of professional athletes.

Question No. 3: How does the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee policy on sports wagering apply to student-athletes and coaches who participate in the Olympic games and other elite events?

Answer: The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee policy prohibits participating athletes, coaches and other covered individuals from engaging in sports betting activities related to competitions that fall within the Olympic Games, Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games; or any National Governing Body or International Qualifying Competition.

Question No. 4: Does the proposal change to whom the remaining prohibitions (e.g., intercollegiate and amateur athletics) apply?

Answer: No. Student-athletes, staff members of athletics departments and conference offices and nonathletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department would continue to be prohibited from placing, accepting or soliciting a wager of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate or amateur team or contest.

Question No. 5: What is the rationale for the recommendation to deregulate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports?

Answer: Protecting the integrity of intercollegiate athletics is paramount and the rules prohibiting wagering activities involving intercollegiate athletics activities must remain in place; however, based on the current legal and regulatory landscape, NCAA legislation should not prohibit wagering on professional sports. In addition:

- The most recent data indicates that 30% of Division III men's sports student-athletes reported betting on sports in the past year, which is a violation of NCAA bylaws (17% of Division III men reported betting on sports at least once per month). Nearly 7% of women's sports student-athletes reported betting on sports in the past year.
- Currently, 38 states (plus Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico) offer legal sports betting in some format. There are 30 states that have online sports betting via either smartphone apps or websites.
- Research indicates that prohibitions are not as effective as harm reduction strategies when dealing with problem gambling behaviors.
- The historical intent of NCAA sports wagering legislation is to protect the integrity of the game. By removing prohibitions that do not impact the

integrity of an intercollegiate contest may, for a student-athlete with a gambling problem, remove a barrier to seeking help.

Question No. 6: How does the effective date apply?

Answer: The effective date is November 22, 2025, and is applicable to sports wagering activities that occur on or after the date. As noted above, in order for the proposal to be final and for the legislation to change, it must be adopted by all three divisions. All three divisions have adopted the proposal. Since Division I's proposal is not effective until November 22nd, the changes are not applicable until then. Penalties and conditions that were or are imposed based on violations that occurred before November 22 will remain effective.

Question No. 7: How does the proposal apply to jurisdictions in which sports wagering is illegal?

Answer: The NCAA's constitutional principle of integrity and sportsmanship states that individuals associated with intercollegiate athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty, responsibility, academic integrity and ethical conduct. Student-athletes and staff are responsible for being aware of and understanding the sports wagering laws and regulations in jurisdictions in which they reside, compete or travel.

Question No. 8: Does deregulation of the prohibition on sports wagering mean the NCAA condones student-athletes wagering on sports?

Answer: No. The NCAA does not condone student-athletes wagering on sports. Collegiate populations, specifically men, have the highest incidence of sports betting and are more likely to be predisposed to problem gambling than the general population. Additionally, student-athletes, including those who do not gamble, [may experience harassment](#) from sports bettors.

Question No. 9: How could removing the prohibition on professional sports wagering support the health and well-being of student-athletes?

Answer:

The NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports notes that this change could support local-level implementation of harm-reduction strategies that acknowledge actual behaviors and are aimed at education, prevention, identification and management of problematic betting behaviors.

Research has demonstrated that harm-reduction approaches offer more effective and long-term benefits for college-aged individuals not seen with abstinence-only approaches.

More information on CSMAS' guidance regarding harm reduction considerations for gambling and sports betting can be found [here](#).

Question No. 10:

What is the NCAA doing to address problematic issues related to sports wagering?

Answer:

The NCAA is helping to educate student-athletes, coaches and administrators on what the Association's rules are, helping them understand the dangers associated with engaging in sports betting and providing resources to protect student-athletes and their sports. With assistance from industry experts, the NCAA is educating student-athletes and staff, tracking online threats and monitoring the integrity of competitions to protect student-athletes against the risk of sports betting. [More information](#) is available on the NCAA website.

In addition, the three divisions are working to develop concepts to consider regarding safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties for student-athletes who engage in prohibited sports wagering but seek help for gambling problems. Exploring concepts of safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties for student-athletes reaffirms that harm reduction and education will continue to be paramount when creating an environment for a student-athlete to seek help for problem gambling.

Question No. 11:

If the proposal is adopted, will the NCAA provide additional educational resources and programming that address problematic gambling and harm reduction strategies?

Answer:

Yes.