



**NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2025-20 Ethical Conduct –
Sports Wagering Activities – Elimination of Prohibition on Professional Sports
Question and Answer Document**

Last Updated: 9/9/2025

The NCAA legislation that governs sports wagering is “common,” which means the legislation is the same for all three divisions and in order 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. Following the discussions on sports wagering during the 2025 NCAA Convention, including the joint meeting of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, Division I Council and Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors Administrative Committee agreed that Division I should consider legislation to deregulate the current prohibition on wagering on professional sports. During its April 21 meeting, the Board of Directors directed the Division I Council to adopt legislation to deregulate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports. During its June 23-24 meeting, the council introduced NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2025-20 into the October 2025 legislative cycle. In the new Division I governance structure, the NCAA Division I Administrative Committee will consider the proposal during its October 7-8 meeting.

The following question and answer document is intended to address questions related to the application of Proposal No. 2025-20.

Question No. 1: What are the current prohibitions on sports wagering and what would change if this proposal is 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, and 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: The current rule prohibits wagering on professional sports that are sports in which the NCAA conducts a championship and emerging sports for women (acrobatics and tumbling, rugby, stunt, equestrian and triathlon). Therefore, pursuant to the proposal, it would be 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:

- 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.
- The most recent data on sports wagering by student-athletes indicate that 21% of men's sports student-athletes across all divisions violated NCAA bylaws within the previous year by wagering on sports for money (over 10% reported wagering on sports once per month or more). Over 5% of women's sports student-athletes reported wagering on sports in the past year.

- With the implementation of the *House* settlement and changes to the governance structure on the horizon, it is appropriate to deregulate NCAA legislation in areas that do not require national standards.

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

Answer: The effective date of the proposal is immediate; applicable to sports wagering activities that occur on or after the date the proposal is adopted by each division. 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. As noted, the Division I Administrative Committee will consider the proposal during its October 7-8 meeting. The NCAA Division III Management Council is scheduled to consider the proposal during its October 20-21 meeting and the NCAA Division II Management Council is scheduled to consider the proposal during its October 21-22 meeting. Therefore, if the proposal is adopted by all three divisions, the prohibition on wagering on professional sports will be eliminated as of October 22, 2025. Penalties and conditions that were or are imposed based on violations that occurred before October 22 will remain effective.

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

Answer: NCAA rules do not address all activities that are illegal. However, 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, help them understand the dangers associated with engaging in sports betting and provide 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 problem gambling. Exploring concepts of safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced immunity 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.