



2026 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals

Question and Answer Guide

(Last Updated: December 5, 2025)

*Please note this is the final edition of the 2026 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide. A **hard-copy version of the guide will not be distributed at the Convention in Washington, D.C.** The delegates should plan accordingly.*

DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-1 -- NCAA Division II Membership and Institutional Control, Financial Aid and Playing and Practice Seasons -- Emerging Sports for Women -- Women's Flag Football

Question No. 1: What is the NCAA Emerging Sports program?

Answer: The NCAA Emerging Sports program is intended to grow meaningful participation for female student-athletes in intercollegiate athletics. The goal of the program is to help women's sports in the program reach the minimum number of varsity teams required to achieve NCAA Championship status. Additional information about the Emerging Sports program, can be found at ncaa.org/emerging-sports-for-women.

Question No. 2: How long may a sport be identified as an emerging sport?

Answer: Emerging sports must gain championship status within 10 years or demonstrate steady growth towards that goal to remain on the list.

Question No. 3: What is the proposed championship segment for women's flag football?

Answer: Spring.

Question No. 4: If the proposal is adopted, when would women's flag football be considered an emerging sport?

Answer: Immediately, with the 2026 spring championship season.

Question No. 5: What would be the minimum number of contests required for an institution to use women's flag football for sports sponsorship?

Answer: An institution must complete at least 12 contests against varsity programs from four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions. However, an institution may count up to three contests per year against collegiate club teams toward meeting minimum contest requirements.

Question No. 6: What is the maximum number of contests for the team and individual student-athletes?

Answer: A member institution and a student-athlete must limit its playing schedule with outside competition in women's flag football to 24 contests.

Question No. 7: How will contests played during the 2025 fall term count towards the maximum limitation and sports sponsorship requirements for women's flag football?

Answer: The maximum limitation will not apply until this proposal is adopted. For example, if an institution participates in ten contests during the 2025 fall term, they may still participate in 24 contests during the 2026 spring championship season. Additionally, the contests played during the 2025 fall term may not count towards the minimum for sports sponsorship requirements.

Question No. 8: Have the playing rules for women's flag football been developed?

Answer: RCX Sports Foundation and USA Football, as the sport leaders, submitted playing rules in the original application. The leaders continue to review and update the playing rules that are appropriate to use for collegiate women's flag football. The NCAA does not create or administer playing rules for emerging sports until there is an established National Collegiate Championship.

Question No. 9: If the proposal is adopted, will Division II institutions be required to sponsor women's flag football?

Answer: No. Institutions maintain autonomy regarding the sports they sponsor at the varsity level.

Question No. 10: If an institution has a varsity women's flag football team, will that team need to apply NCAA Division II legislation?

Answer: Yes. Any team recognized by the institution as a varsity team must apply the constitution, bylaws, interpretations and other legislation of the Association.

Question No. 11: Will women's flag football prospective student-athletes be required to receive amateurism certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center consistent with all other sports?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 12: If the proposal is adopted, when will women's flag football student-athletes be able to request their amateurism certification from the Eligibility Center?

Answer: January 2026.

Question No. 13: Will a student-athlete need to have earned nine credit hours during their last full-time term of enrollment to be certified as eligible for the 2026 spring term?

Answer: Yes. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2.9.3.2 (term-by-term credit-hour requirement)].

Question No. 14: What would be the length of the playing and practice season for women's flag football?

Answer: The length of the playing and practice season would be 132 days that may consist of two segments.

Question No. 15: May an emerging sport be used to satisfy sports sponsorship requirements?

Answer: Yes. A Division II institution may use emerging sports to help meet the NCAA minimum sports sponsorship requirements, provided minimum contest requirements for the sport are met.

Question No. 16: What are the requirements to establish women's flag football as a National Collegiate Championship sport?

Answer: Per Bylaw 18.5.2.2 (women's sports), a National Collegiate Championship may be established in a women's sport if at least 40 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 17: If an institution sponsors women's flag football during the 2026 spring championship season, will that count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a National Collegiate Championship in a women's sport?

Answer: Yes, provided the institution's program meets the minimum contests and participants requirement.

Question No. 18: Are all three divisions considering proposals to add women's flag football to the emerging sports list for women?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 19: Do all three divisions need to adopt a proposal to add women's flag football to the emerging sports list for women?

Answer: No.

Question No. 20: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor women's flag football during the 2025-26 academic year based on sports sponsorship data?

Answer: According to sports sponsorship numbers reported to the NCAA by member institutions, there are 40 projected programs across all three divisions in 2025-26. Two in Division I, 15 in Division II and 23 in Division III.

Question No. 21: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor women's flag football during the 2025-26 academic year based on RCX Sports Foundation information.

Answer: Per information provided by RCX Sports Foundation, there are 50 projected varsity programs across all three divisions in 2025-26. Four in Division I, 18 in Division II and 28 in Division III. This exceeds the reported number from NCAA member institutions in the 2024-25 projected Sports Sponsorship Data. In some cases, member institutions may choose not to report sports sponsorship if the sport is not an emerging sport.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-2 -- National Collegiate Championships -- Acrobatics and Tumbling

Question No. 1: What are the current requirements to establish a National Collegiate Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.5.2.2 (women's sports), a National Collegiate Championship may be established in a women's sport if at least 40 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 2: Do all three divisions need to adopt this proposal to establish a National Collegiate Championship for acrobatics and tumbling?

Answer: Yes. All three divisions are considering proposals to establish a National Collegiate Championship for acrobatics and tumbling.

Question No. 3: If the proposal is adopted, when would the first NCAA Acrobatics and Tumbling National Championship be conducted?

Answer: The women's acrobatics and tumbling committee would begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.

Question No. 4: If acrobatics and tumbling is adopted as a National Collegiate Championship, is the division precluded from establishing a Division II Championship in the future?

Answer: No. A Division II championship may be established if 35 Division II institutions sponsor the sport at the varsity level and legislation is adopted by the membership.

Question No 5: If this proposal is not adopted in all three divisions, can Division II adopt a divisional championship?

Answer: No. If there is only one championship offered, it must be a National Collegiate Championship.

Question No. 6: How are National Collegiate Championships funded?

Answer: National Collegiate Championships are included in the Division I championships budget and do not impact the Division II championships budget. The NCAA Board of Governors approved a budget for the Acrobatics and Tumbling National Collegiate Championship in August 2025 using Association-wide funds that will be allocated to the Division I championships budget.

Question No. 7: How will the six members of the NCAA Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee be selected?

Answer: Consistent with Bylaw 8.8.1.1 (method of selection) each Division's governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the committee. Only institutions that sponsor acrobatics and tumbling shall be represented on the committee. Per Bylaw 8.8.1.6 (term of office), committee members shall be appointed to four-year terms. A former member may be appointed to an additional term after a three-year period has elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on the committee may not serve further on the committee.

Question No. 8: How many NCAA institutions sponsored acrobatics and tumbling during the 2024-25 academic year?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, 47 institutions sponsored acrobatics and tumbling across all three divisions.

Question No. 9: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor acrobatics and tumbling during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: There are 48 projected programs across all three divisions in 2025-26. 11 in Division I, 28 in Division II and 9 in Division III.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-3 -- National Collegiate Championships -- Stunt

Question No. 1: What are the current requirements to establish a National Collegiate Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.5.2.2 (women's sports), a National Collegiate Championship may be established in a women's sport if at least 40 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 2: Do all three divisions need to adopt this proposal to establish a National Collegiate Championship for stunt?

Answer: Yes. All three divisions are considering proposals to establish a National Collegiate Championship for stunt.

Question No. 3: If the proposal is adopted, when would the first NCAA Stunt National Championship be conducted?

Answer: The women's stunt committee would begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.

Question No. 4: If stunt is adopted as a National Collegiate Championship, is the division precluded from establishing a Division II Championship in the future?

Answer: No. A Division II championship may be established if 35 Division II institutions sponsor the sport at the varsity level and legislation is adopted by the membership.

Question No. 5: If this proposal is not adopted in all three divisions, can Division II adopt a divisional championship?

Answer: No. If there is only one championship offered, it must be a National Collegiate Championship.

Question No. 6: How are National Collegiate Championships funded?

Answer: National Collegiate Championships are included in the Division I championships budget and do not impact the Division II championships budget. The NCAA Board of Governors approved a budget for the Stunt National Collegiate Championship in August 2025 using Association-wide funds that will be allocated to the Division I championships budget.

Question No. 7: How will the six members of the NCAA Stunt Committee be selected?

Answer: Consistent with Bylaw 8.8.1.1 (method of selection) each Division's governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the committee. Only institutions that sponsor stunt shall be represented on the committee. Per Bylaw 8.8.1.6 (term of office), committee members shall be appointed to four-year terms. A former member may be appointed to an additional term after a three-year period has elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on the committee may not serve further on the committee.

Question No. 8: How many NCAA institutions sponsored stunt during the 2024-25 academic year?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, 45 institutions sponsored stunt across all three divisions.

Question No. 9: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor stunt during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: There are 54 projected programs across all three divisions in 2025-26. 7 in Division I, 30 in Division II and 17 in Division III.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-4 -- Division II Championships -- Women's Bowling

Question No. 1: What are the requirements to establish a Division II championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.1.2 (women's sports), a Division II championship may be established if at least 35 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 2: How many active Division II member institutions sponsored women's bowling during the 2024-25 academic year?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, 35 active Division II member institutions sponsored women's bowling.

Question No. 3: How many active Division II member institutions are projected to sponsor women's bowling during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: For the 2025-26 academic year, 36 active Division II member institutions indicated intent to sponsor women's bowling.

Question No. 4: If the proposal is adopted, when would the first NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Championship be conducted?

Answer: Winter 2028. The Division II Women's Bowling Committee would begin its work immediately to prepare for the first Division II Women's Bowling Championship in winter 2028.

Question No. 5: If the proposal is adopted, will Division II women's bowling programs continue to participate in the National Collegiate Bowling Championship until the first Division II Women's Bowling Championship?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: If the proposal is adopted, will Division II women's bowling programs be required to participate in the Division II Women's Bowling Championship or will there be an option to participate in the National Collegiate Bowling Championship?

Answer: Division II institutions would only be eligible to participate in the Division II Women's Bowling Championship.

Question No. 7: How are Division II championships funded?

Answer: Division II championships are included in the Division II budget. Funding for any new Division II championship will not negatively impact the budget of current Division II championships. The NCAA Division II Executive Board and the NCAA Division II Management Council approved a budget for the Division II Women's Bowling Championship in summer 2025.

Question No. 8: How will the four members of the NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Committee be selected?

Answer: The members shall be nominated by the NCAA Division II Nominating Committee and shall be selected and approved by the NCAA Division II Championships Committee. It is anticipated that these members will be approved during the January 2026 Championships Committee meeting.

Question No. 9: What was the process for women's bowling to be established as a Division II Championship?

Answer: During the 2023-24 academic year, 38 Division II institutions sponsored women's bowling, which triggered a review process of whether to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship. The review included a budget analysis, NCAA Division II Legislation Committee feedback on any sport-specific legislation (e.g., playing and practice seasons, financial aid) and membership feedback. Based on that review, the Division II Championships Committee recommended that the Management Council and Executive Board sponsor legislation to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship.

Per Bylaw 9.3.10.2 (division championship), a division championship may be established by a majority vote of all Division II members present and voting at the NCAA Convention.

Per the Division II budget guidelines and principles, if a proposal to establish a new Division II championship is adopted at Convention, the effective date shall be after a minimum of two National Collegiate championships have taken place and with at least two years notice provided to the National Collegiate Championship committee and sponsoring members in the sport. The two-year waiting period offers time to properly budget for the championship and allows the membership time to schedule their regular-season contests and post-season tournaments accordingly.

Question No. 10: If the Division II sports sponsorship number for women's bowling falls below 35 after a Division II championship is established, will the championship be automatically discontinued?

Answer: No. Bylaw 18.4.1.3 (grace period) would apply beginning in the academic year the Championships Committee confirms that women's bowling has fallen below the 35-minimum threshold. Women's bowling would have three years to regain the minimum number of sponsoring institutions before the Division II Women's Bowling Championship is discontinued.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-5 -- Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Football Recruiting Dead Period

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, there are only two football recruiting dead periods surrounding the football signing dates: (1) 48 hours before the Wednesday preceding the first Saturday in December for football, midyear two-year college transfers; and (2) 48 hours before the first Wednesday in February. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 13.02.10 (institutional athletics aid agreement signing dates)].

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: This proposal will create three additional recruiting dead periods in football: (1) December 22 through January 1; (2) Monday through Wednesday during the week of the annual American Football Coaches Association Convention; and (3) The Saturday before Memorial Day through Memorial Day.

Question No. 3: What is a dead period?

Answer: A dead period is that period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospective student-athletes to the institution's campus.

Question No. 4: May contact occur during a dead period with a prospective student-athlete that has signed the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or after the institution has received their financial deposit in response to its offer of admissions?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: May communication with a prospective student-athlete occur during the recruiting dead periods? [See Bylaw 13.02.2 (communication)].

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: May a prospective student-athlete visit campus during the recruiting dead periods if the visit is unrelated to recruitment?

Answer: Yes, provided the institution's athletics department or booster is not involved in any way with the arrangements for the visit. [See Bylaw 13.4.2.3 (visit unrelated to recruitment)].

Question No. 7: May an institution conduct a tryout for a prospective student-athlete on its campus during a dead period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: May an institution's football camp or clinic occur during the recruiting dead periods?

Answer: No. [See Bylaw 13.9.1.3 (dead period)].

Question No. 9: If the proposal is adopted, during the recruiting dead periods, may a coaching staff member receive actual and necessary expenses from an institution to engage in recruiting activities on behalf of the institution while serving in their capacity as a sports club coach?

Answer: No. It would not be permissible for an institution to finance recruiting activities during a dead period.

Question No. 10: Do these additional recruiting dead periods apply to all sports?

Answer: No. This proposal is specific to football.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 -- Eligibility -- Athletics Eligibility -- Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule -- Five Seasons of Competition in 10-Semesters/15-Quarters

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, a student-athlete may participate in four seasons of intercollegiate competition during their first 10-semester or 15-quarters of full-time enrollment. Additionally, a student-athlete has access to certain exceptions and waivers regarding use of a season of competition and extension of eligibility (i.e., additional semesters/quarters).

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: If the proposal is adopted, a student-athlete may participate in up to five seasons of intercollegiate competition in a sport during their first 10-semester or 15-quarters of full-time enrollment. Additionally, the current exceptions and waivers for use of a season of competition will be eliminated. Therefore, any competition will count as use of a season. (See Question No. 3 regarding what constitutes use of a season of competition). Finally, current extension of eligibility (i.e., additional semesters/quarters) exceptions will remain available to student-athletes along with a few new exceptions, and waivers will remain available in limited and well-defined circumstances. (See chart below).

Question No. 3: What constitutes use of a season of competition?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1 (minimum amount of competition), any competition (including a scrimmage with outside competition), regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport. (See Question No. 4 regarding non-Division II transfers).

Question No. 4: If the proposal is adopted, how will the Division II use of a season of competition legislation apply to non-Division II transfers?

Answer: Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.1 (transfer from a non-Division II institution) will continue to apply. The Division II season of competition legislation does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's participation at a non-Division II institution (e.g., NCAA Division I or III, NAIA, two-year college). A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. However, a Division III student-athlete that is charged with a season of competition for practice only under Division III legislation will not be charged with a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution. (See Question No. 13 regarding whether a non-Division II transfer may have access to a fifth season of competition).

Question No. 5: If adopted, when will this proposal become effective?

Answer: August 1, 2026, for student-athletes that have not exhausted their eligibility before or at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 6: How will the effective date apply to student-athletes?

Answer: If a student-athlete exhausted their seasons of competition or their 10-semester/15-quarters of eligibility after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, then they will not have access to the legislation.

A student-athlete that has both a season(s) of competition **and** semester(s)/quarter(s) remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year will have access to the legislation. See the scenarios section below regarding the application of the effective date.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete otherwise would have exhausted their seasons of competition before or after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, but submitted a season of competition waiver by August 1, 2026, will they have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: It depends. If the season of competition waiver is submitted by August 1, 2026, and ultimately approved, the student-athlete will have access to a fifth season of competition provided they have semesters/quarters remaining. If the student-athlete does not have semesters/quarters remaining, they will not have access to a fifth season of competition.

Question No. 8: If a student-athlete otherwise would have exhausted their semesters/quarters before or after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, but submits an extension of eligibility waiver by August 1, 2026, will they have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: It depends. If the extension of eligibility waiver is submitted by August 1, 2026, and ultimately approved, the student-athlete will have access to a fifth season of competition provided they have season(s) of competition remaining. If the student-athlete does not have a season of competition remaining, they will not have access to a fifth season of competition.

Question No. 9: If a student-athlete uses their fourth season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year, will they have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: Yes. However, if the student-athlete exhausted their semesters/quarters during the 2025-26 academic year, they would need an extension of eligibility waiver to use their fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 11).

Question No. 10: How does the effective date apply to a multi-sport student-athlete?

Answer: The application of the effective date is sport-specific.

For example, a multi-sport student-athlete participates in both volleyball and beach volleyball. At the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year, the student-athlete has semesters/quarters remaining and one season of competition remaining in volleyball. However, the student-athlete has exhausted their four seasons of competition in beach volleyball. The student-athlete may have access to a fifth season of competition for volleyball but not for beach volleyball.

Question No. 11: If a student-athlete exhausts their 10-semesters/15-quarters of eligibility during the 2025-26 academic year, will they have access to an extension of eligibility exception and/or waiver?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will have access to the currently legislated extension of eligibility exceptions and waivers until August 1, 2026. If adopted, after August 1, 2026, a student-athlete will have access to the extension of eligibility exceptions and waivers included in this proposal. (See chart below).

Question No. 12: If the proposal is adopted, after August 1, 2026, will a student-athlete have to demonstrate that they were denied two participation opportunities to qualify for an extension of eligibility waiver?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: If the proposal is adopted, will a non-Division II transfer student-athlete have access to a fifth season of competition?

Answer: It depends. A non-Division II transfer student-athlete may have access to a fifth season of competition if they have not exhausted their seasons of competition or their 10-semesters/15-quarters of eligibility before or after the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Please note, the student-athlete must also meet four-year college transfer requirements to be immediately eligible upon transfer to the Division II institution [see Bylaw 14.3.5 (four-year college transfers)].

For example, if a Division I student-athlete exhausted their seasons of competition during the 2024-25 academic year, then they would not have access to a fifth season of competition in Division II. Additionally, if a Division I student-athlete exhausted their semesters/quarters during the 2024-25 academic year, then they would not have access to a fifth season of competition in Division II.

Question No. 14: If the proposal is adopted, will seasons of competition exceptions and waivers be available for student-athletes until August 1, 2026?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will continue to have access to currently legislated seasons of competition exceptions and waivers until August 1, 2026.

Question No. 15: If the proposal is adopted, will a student-athlete still have access to file a medical hardship waiver until August 1, 2026?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete will have access to a medical hardship waiver provided the waiver is submitted to the conference office by August 1, 2026.

Question No. 16: If the proposal is adopted, will seasons of competition exceptions and waivers be available for student-athletes after August 1, 2026?

Answer: No. A student-athlete will not have access to a seasons of competition exception or waiver after August 1, 2026.

Question No. 17: If the proposal is adopted, will seasons of competition and extension of eligibility waivers approved before August 1, 2026, continue to apply?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 18: Under the Division II Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee guidelines, when may an institution submit an extension of eligibility waiver?

Answer: An institution may submit an extension of eligibility waiver once a student-athlete has entered their eighth semester/twelfth quarter.

Question No. 19: When may an institution submit a season of competition waiver?

Answer: An institution may submit a season of competition waiver once the season has concluded, up until August 1, 2026.

Question No. 20: If a student-athlete participates in intercollegiate competition and is injured after August 1, 2026, do they have access to a medical hardship waiver?

Answer: No. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition waivers. (See Scenario No. 8).

Question No. 21: If the proposal is adopted, will a student-athlete in their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution be able to participate in up to 30% of the maximum permissible number of contests or dates of competition set forth in Bylaw 17 without using a season of competition?

Answer: It depends. The exception is available for a student-athlete participating during the 2025-26 academic year. Effective August 1, 2026, all seasons of competition exceptions will be eliminated. Therefore, if a student-athlete participates in 30% or less of the maximum number of contests or dates of competition set forth in Bylaw 17, during the 2025-26 academic year, they will not use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year. However, if a student-athlete participates in any contests or dates of competition on or after August 1, 2026, they will use a season of competition. (See Scenario Nos. 9 and 10).

Question No. 22: If a student-athlete only participates in the nonchampionship segment in their sport on or after August 1, 2026, will they use a season of competition?

Answer: Yes. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions. (See Scenario No. 11).

Question No. 23: If a student-athlete only participates in a preseason exhibition contest or scrimmage on or after August 1, 2026, will they use a season of competition?

Answer: Yes. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions. (See Scenario No. 12).

Question No. 24: If the proposal is adopted, will any financial aid equivalency relief be provided for the 2026-27 academic year?

Answer: The NCAA Division II Management Council issued a blanket waiver (contingent on adoption of the proposal) to permit a student-athlete, regardless of sport, who would have used their final season of competition during or at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year, to receive athletics aid for the 2026-27 academic year without counting toward team equivalency limits. This relief would only apply if the student-athlete remains at their original institution. If the student-athlete transfers for the 2026-27 academic year, the athletics aid received at the new institution will count toward team equivalency limits.

Question No. 25: May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to a student-athlete who qualifies for the blanket waiver and returns for the 2026-27 academic year, or may the institution only exempt the amount of athletics aid provided during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: Any athletics aid for the 2026-27 academic year received by a student-athlete who would have used their final season of competition during or at the conclusion of the 2025-26 academic year would be exempted from team equivalency limits for the 2026-27 academic year. The amount of athletics aid awarded to the student-athlete is at the institution's discretion.

Question No. 26: How does the financial aid blanket waiver apply to a multi-sport student-athlete?

Answer: The blanket waiver relief is sport-specific. For example, if a student-athlete would have used their **final season of competition** in cross country during the 2025-26 academic year but for the adoption of this proposal, then any athletics aid received in cross country for the 2026-27 academic year **may be** exempt.

The student-athlete also participates in swimming and diving and had **two seasons of competition** remaining in swimming and diving during the 2025-26 academic year. Therefore, any athletics aid received in swimming and diving for the 2026-27 academic year **would not** be exempt.

Question No. 27: If the proposal is adopted, and if a student-athlete uses their fourth season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year but has access to a fifth season of competition and semesters/quarters remaining, does the institution have to provide the student-athlete with written notification if their athletics aid will not be renewed for the following academic year?

Answer: Yes. Financial aid legislation regarding nonrenewals and hearing opportunities will continue to apply. [See Bylaw 15.5.5.1 (institutional obligation) and Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (hearing opportunity)].

Question No. 28: If the proposal is adopted, will a student-athlete still have access to the missed term exception? [See Bylaw 14.2.9.3.7.1 (missed term exception)]?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 29: What happens if this proposal is not adopted?

Answer: If this proposal is not adopted, the current legislation will remain. (See Question No. 1).

The following chart outlines the current rule, and the proposed legislative changes included in this proposal:

	Current Rule	Proposed Rule
Seasons of Competition	A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport.	A student-athlete shall not engage in more than five seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport.
Use of a Season of Competition	Any competition (including a scrimmage with outside competition), regardless of time, during a season in an intercollegiate sport shall be counted as a season of competition in that sport. The Division II seasons of competition legislation does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's previous participation at a non-Division II institution (e.g., NCAA Division I or III, NAIA, two-year college). A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. However, a Division III student-athlete who is charged with a season of competition for practice only under Division III legislation will not be charged with a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution.	No change.
Seasons of Competition Exceptions	<p>The following seasons of competition exceptions are currently available to student-athletes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-Year College Scrimmages; • Competition in the Nonchampionship Segment and Spring Football; • Recognized Foreign Exchange/Study Abroad Program; • Alumni Game, Fundraising Activity or Celebrity Sports Activity; • Preseason Exhibition Contests or Dates of Competition/Preseason Scrimmages; and • Participation During Initial Year of Collegiate Enrollment. 	All seasons of competition exceptions will be eliminated.

Seasons of Competition Waivers	Seasons of competition waivers are currently available to student-athletes (e.g., medical hardship waiver).	All seasons of competition waivers will be eliminated.
Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule	A student-athlete shall complete their seasons of participation during the first 10-semesters or 15-quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution.	No change.
Extension of Eligibility Exceptions	Extension of eligibility exceptions are currently available to student-athletes.	Current extension of eligibility exceptions will remain available to student-athletes and additional exceptions for service, study abroad and internship or cooperative educational work experiences will be available.
Extension of Eligibility Waivers	Extension of eligibility waivers are currently available to student-athletes.	Extension of eligibility waivers will remain available to student-athletes in limited and well-defined circumstances.

The following scenarios are designed to assist the Division II membership with the application of the effective date for Proposal No. 2026-6. Unless otherwise noted, the student-athlete is enrolled at a Division II institution.

Scenario No. 1: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2023-24	First (Fall 2023) and second (Spring 2024) semesters used.	One.
2024-25	Third (Fall 2024) and fourth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Two.
2025-26	Fifth (Fall 2025) and sixth (Spring 2026) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

Scenario No. 2: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2018-19	First (Fall 2018) and second (Spring 2019) semesters used.	One.
2019-20	Not enrolled.	None.
2020-21	Not enrolled.	None.
2021-22	Third (Fall 2021) and fourth (Spring 2022) semesters used.	Two.
2022-23	Fifth (Fall 2022) and sixth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	None.
2023-24	Not enrolled.	None.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition. However, the student-athlete will need an extension of eligibility waiver if they exhaust their 10-semester/15-quarters before exhausting their seasons of competition.

Scenario No. 3: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021) and second (Spring 2022) semesters used.	One.
2022-23	Third (Fall 2022) and fourth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	Two.
2023-24	Fifth (Fall 2023) and sixth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Three.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: No. The student-athlete exhausted their four seasons of competition at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete does not have access to a fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 6).

Scenario No. 4: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2022-23	First (Fall 2022) and second (Spring 2023) semesters used.	One.
2023-24	Third (Fall 2023) and fourth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Two.
2024-25	Fifth (Fall 2024) and sixth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.
2025-26	Seventh (Fall 2025) and eighth (Spring 2026) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** semesters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

Scenario No. 5: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2020-21	First (Fall 2020) and second (Spring 2021) semesters used.	None.
2021-22	Third (Fall 2021) and fourth (Spring 2022) semesters used.	None.
2022-23	Fifth (Fall 2022) and sixth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	One.
2023-24	Seventh (Fall 2023) and eighth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Two.
2024-25	Ninth (Fall 2024) and tenth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Three.

Analysis: No. The student-athlete exhausted their tenth semester at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete does not have access to a fifth season of competition. (See Question No. 6).

Scenario No. 6: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Quarters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021), second (Winter 2022) and third (Spring 2022) quarters used.	None, due to approved medical hardship waiver.
2022-23	Fourth (Fall 2022), fifth (Winter 2023) and sixth (Spring 2023) quarters used.	One.

2023-24	Seventh (Fall 2023), eighth (Winter 2024) and ninth (Spring 2024) quarters used.	Two.
2024-25	Tenth (Fall 2024), eleventh (Winter 2025) and twelfth (Winter 2025) quarters used.	Three.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete had seasons **and** quarters remaining at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition. However, the student-athlete will need an extension of eligibility waiver if they exhaust their 10-semesters/15-quarters before exhausting their seasons of competition.

Scenario No. 7: Does a student-athlete with the following enrollment and participation history have access to a fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2021-22	First (Fall 2021) and second (Spring 2022) semesters used.	One.
2022-23	Third (Fall 2022) and fourth (Spring 2023) semesters used.	Two. Qualified for medical hardship waiver, but the waiver has not yet been submitted.
2023-24	Fifth (Fall 2023) and sixth (Spring 2024) semesters used.	Three.
2024-25	Seventh (Fall 2024) and eighth (Spring 2025) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: It depends. The student-athlete qualified for a medical hardship waiver during the 2022-23 academic year. If the student-athlete submits an approved medical hardship waiver by August 1, 2026, then the student-athlete will have one season of competition and two semesters remaining. Therefore, the student-athlete would have access to a fifth season of competition.

However, if the medical hardship waiver is not submitted by August 1, 2026, then the student-athlete will have no seasons of competition remaining. Therefore, the student-athlete would not have access to a fifth season of competition.

The following scenarios are designed to assist the Division II membership with the application of Proposal No. 2026-6. In each scenario, the student-athlete has access to the proposed legislation. Unless otherwise noted, the student-athlete is enrolled full-time at a Division II institution.

Scenario No. 8: During the 2026-27 academic year, a soccer student-athlete participated in one contest during the championship segment and was injured. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition, and, if so, may the institution submit a medical hardship waiver?

Analysis: Yes, the student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in one contest. No, the student-athlete will not have access to a medical hardship waiver because this proposal eliminates all seasons of competition waivers.

Scenario No. 9: A field hockey student-athlete began their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution during the 2026-27 academic year. The student-athlete participated in three contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in three contests. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions. (See Question No. 21).

Scenario No. 10: A baseball student-athlete began their initial year of collegiate enrollment at a Division II institution during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete participated in three contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year?

Analysis: The student-athlete **did not** use a season of competition during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete participated in less than 30 percent of baseball's Bylaw 17 maximum contests limit and therefore had access to the participation during initial year of collegiate enrollment seasons of competition exception. The student-athlete has five seasons of competition remaining. However, the student-athlete will be charged with the use of a semester for each full-time term of enrollment during the 2025-26 academic year. (See Question No. 21).

Scenario No. 11: During the 2026-27 academic year, a softball student-athlete participated in three contests during the nonchampionship segment and zero contests during the championship segment. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in three contests during the nonchampionship segment. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions.

Scenario No. 12: During the 2026-27 academic year, a basketball student-athlete participated in one preseason exhibition contest and no other contests. Did the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2026-27 academic year because they participated in one preseason exhibition contest. This proposal eliminates all seasons of competition exceptions.

Scenario No. 13: A student-athlete initially enrolled full-time at a Division I institution during the 2025-26 academic year. The student-athlete competed in one football game and did not use a season of competition in Division I due to the Division I seasons of competition exceptions. If the student-athlete transfers to Division II, will they be charged with use of a season of competition for their participation during the 2025-26 academic year upon transfer?

Analysis: No. A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation applicable to the division or association of which the previous institution was a member. (See Question No. 4). Therefore, because the student-athlete was not charged with a season of competition based on Division I legislation, they will not be charged with use of a season of competition upon transfer to a Division II institution.

However, the student-athlete will be charged with the use of a semester for each full-time term of enrollment at the Division I institution.

Please note, the student-athlete must also meet four-year college transfer requirements to be immediately eligible upon transfer to the Division II institution [see Bylaw 14.3.5 (four-year college transfers)].

Scenario No. 14: During the 2025-26 academic year, a student-athlete enrolls full-time at a Division II institution. The student-athlete was certified as a partial qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center and serves their academic year in residence during the 2025-26 academic year, using two full-time semesters. If the student-athlete has the following enrollment history after the 2025-26 academic year, will they need an extension of eligibility waiver to use their fifth season of competition?

Academic Year	Semesters Used	Seasons Used
2025-26	First (Fall 2025) and second (Spring 2026).	None. Student-athlete served an academic year in residence due to partial qualifier academic certification.
2026-27	Third (Fall 2026) and fourth (Spring 2027) semesters used.	One.
2027-28	Fifth (Fall 2027) and sixth (Spring 2028) semesters used.	Two.
2028-29	Seventh (Fall 2028) and eighth (Spring 2029) semesters used.	Three.
2029-30	Ninth (Fall 2029) and tenth (Spring 2030) semesters used.	Four.

Analysis: Yes. The student-athlete exhausted their ninth and tenth semesters during the 2029-30 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete may not participate in a fifth season of competition unless they receive an extension of eligibility waiver.

Scenario No. 15: During the 2026-27 academic year, a golf student-athlete initially enrolls midyear during the 2027 spring term. During the 2027 spring term, the student-athlete participates in two dates of competition. During the following fall term, the student-athlete participates in three dates of competition. How many seasons of competition has the student-athlete used in golf?

Answer: The student-athlete has used two seasons of competition in golf. The student-athlete participated in two dates of competition during the 2027 spring term and therefore used their first season of competition. The student-athlete then participated in three dates of competition during the 2027 fall term and therefore used their second season of competition.

Scenario No. 16: A tennis student-athlete initially enrolled full-time during the 2025-26 academic year. When the student-athlete received their amateurism certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center, they were charged with the use of a season of competition in tennis under the organized competition legislation. [See Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment)]. The student-athlete participated in nine dates of competition in tennis during the 2025-26 academic year. How many seasons of competition has the student-athlete used in tennis?

Answer: The student-athlete has used two seasons of competition in tennis. The student-athlete was charged with the use of their first season of competition based on their amateurism certification. The student-athlete used their second season of competition in tennis during the 2025-26 academic year. Therefore, the student-athlete has three seasons of competition remaining in tennis.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-7 -- Financial Aid -- Eligibility for Athletics Aid -- Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Athletics Aid -- Retroactive Athletics Aid -- Issuance of Retroactive Athletics Aid

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, an institution is prohibited from awarding retroactive athletics aid to a student-athlete. For example, if an institution decides to award a student-athlete with athletics aid one month into the fall term, the institution may not retroactively provide the student-athlete with aid for expenses already incurred during the first month of the term. The institution must prorate and may only award athletics aid to cover the student-athlete's remaining expenses for that term.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution would be permitted to provide a student-athlete with athletics aid that is retroactive to the beginning of that academic year.

Question No. 3: Does this proposal require institutions to provide retroactive athletics aid?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Does this proposal permit an institution to provide a student-athlete with athletics aid that exceeds the value of a full grant-in-aid?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: Does this proposal permit an institution to provide a student-athlete with financial aid that exceeds the student-athlete's cost of attendance?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: Does this proposal change the team maximum equivalency limits for any sports?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If the proposal is adopted, may a student-athlete's athletics aid be retroactively increased for any reason at any time during the academic year?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: If adopted, may a student-athlete receive an initial award of athletics aid at any point during the academic year that is retroactive to the beginning of that academic year?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: If a student-athlete was not previously receiving athletics aid but is later awarded retroactive athletics aid, does the student-athlete become a counter?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: If a student-athlete is awarded retroactive athletics aid, will that athletics aid count towards equivalency limits?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 11: May an institution reduce or cancel a student-athlete's athletics aid at any time?

Answer: No. Athletics aid may only be reduced or canceled during the period of the award if a condition outlined in Bylaw 15.5.4.1 (reduction or cancellation permitted) is met.

Question No. 12: If a student-athlete's athletics aid is reduced or canceled, must they be provided with a hearing opportunity?

Answer: Yes. [See Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (hearing opportunity)].

Question No. 13: If a student-athlete's athletics aid is retroactively increased during the academic year and the institution wants to return the student-athlete to the initial award for the following academic year, is this considered a reduction?

Answer: Yes, and the student-athlete must be provided with a hearing opportunity. [See Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (hearing opportunity)].

Question No. 14: When does an academic year end for purposes of awarding retroactive athletics aid?

Answer: The academic year is based on the institution's catalog.

Question No. 15: If the retroactive aid is awarded after July 1, will the institution have a violation of Bylaw 15.5.5.1 (institutional obligation)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 16: Does this proposal change the one-year period requirement for athletics aid agreements?

Answer: No. Athletics aid must be awarded for a period of one academic year unless an exception applies. [See Bylaw 15.5.3.1.1 (exceptions)].

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-8 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- General Playing-Season Regulations -- Time Limits for Athletically Related Activities -- Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations -- Nonchampionship Segment -- Baseball

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, during the nonchampionship segment a student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities is limited to four hours per day and 15 hours per week.

Additionally, a baseball intrasquad scrimmage (i.e., a scrimmage within the institution's own team) shall not exceed four hours per day.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: During the nonchampionship segment, a student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities will be limited to four hours per day and 18 hours per week.

Additionally, a baseball intrasquad scrimmage may exceed four hours per day provided a student-athlete does not exceed the limit of 18 hours per week.

Question No. 3: Will this proposal change the daily and weekly limit on countable athletically related activities during the championship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Will this proposal change the daily and weekly limit on countable athletically related activities outside of the playing and practice season?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: Will this proposal change the number of required days off for a student-athlete during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: May an institution's **intersquad** scrimmage (i.e., against outside competition) exceed four hours per day?

Answer: No. [See NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.1.6.4.2.1 (exempted scrimmages and exhibitions)].

Question No. 7: Will this proposal extend the baseball nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-9 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Baseball -- Number of Contests -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional -- Student-Athlete

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, an institution's and student-athlete's baseball playing season is limited to 50 contests (games and scrimmages).

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution's and student-athlete's baseball playing season will be limited to 52 contests (games and scrimmages).

Question No. 3: If the proposal is adopted, will an institution and student-athlete be required to participate in 52 contests?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Will this proposal change Division II sports sponsorship requirements in baseball?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If adopted, will this proposal change the number of discretionary exemptions an institution may exempt from their maximum number of contests?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: May an institution choose whether to participate in the 52 contests during the championship or nonchampionship segment?

Answer: Yes. The contests may be played in either segment.

Question No. 7: Does this proposal change the length of the baseball playing and practice season?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: Does this proposal change the start date for practice and outside competition in baseball?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-10 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- First Permissible Contest

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation surrounding the first permissible contest?

Answer: Currently, in basketball, an institution may participate in its first permissible contest with outside competition the second Friday of November.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation surrounding the first permissible contest date?

Answer: An institution may participate in its first permissible basketball contest with outside competition the Monday that is 17 weeks before the Division II men's and women's championship selection dates.

The chart below outlines the first permissible contest under current legislation and the first permissible contest in future years if the proposal is adopted.

Year	First Permissible Contest Under Current Legislation	First Permissible Contest if Division II Proposal No. 2026-10 is Adopted	Men's and Women's Championship Selection Date
2026-27	November 13, 2026	November 9, 2026	March 7, 2027
2027-28	November 12, 2027	November 8, 2027	March 5, 2028
2028-29	November 10, 2028	November 6, 2028	March 4, 2029
2029-30	November 9, 2029	November 12, 2029	March 10, 2030
2030-31	November 8, 2030	November 11, 2030	March 9, 2031

Question No. 3: What is the current legislation surrounding the permissible date for preseason events outlined in NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.4.3.2 (exceptions - preseason events)?

Answer: The events outlined in Bylaw 17.4.3.2 may be played on or after November 1.

Question No. 4: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation surrounding the permissible date for preseason events outlined in Bylaw 17.4.3.2?

Answer: The events outlined in Bylaw 17.4.3.2 may be played up to 10 days before the first permissible contest.

Question No. 5: If the proposal is adopted, will this proposal amend when a region challenge event may occur?

Answer: No. A region challenge event may not occur before the first permissible contest date. For example, if the proposal is adopted, in the 2026-27 academic year, the first permissible contest date is Monday, November 9. Therefore, a region challenge event may not occur until Friday, November 13, 2026.

Question No. 6: If adopted, will this proposal amend when a discretionary exemption may occur?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If adopted, will this proposal amend the first permissible on-court preseason practice date in basketball?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If adopted, will this proposal amend the maximum number of contests in basketball?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-11 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Golf -- Number of Dates of Competition -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional -- Student-Athlete

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, an institution's and student-athlete's golf playing season is limited to 21 dates of competition.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution's and student-athlete's golf playing season will be limited to 24 dates of competition with no more than 10 regular season events. Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.12.7.1.1 (tournament limitations), a regular season event may not exceed three days.

Question No. 3: If the proposal is adopted, will an institution and student-athlete be required to participate in 24 dates of competition?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If the proposal is adopted, will an institution and student-athlete be required to participate in 10 regular season events?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: Will this proposal change Division II sports sponsorship requirements in golf?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If the proposal is adopted, will this proposal change the number of discretionary exemptions an institution may exempt from their maximum dates of competition?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If the proposal is adopted, will participation in a discretionary exemption count towards the institution's limit of 10 regular season events?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If the proposal is adopted, will participation in an annual exemption count towards the institution's limit of 10 regular season events?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: May an institution choose whether to participate in the 24 dates of competition during the championship or nonchampionship segment?

Answer: Yes. The contests may be played in either segment.

Question No. 10: Does this proposal change the length of the golf playing and practice season?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: Does this proposal change the start date for practice and outside competition in golf?

Answer: No.

Question No. 12: Will this proposal change countable athletically related activity limits?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-12 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Soccer -- Preseason Practice and First Date of Practice -- Championship Segment

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, an institution may begin participating in soccer preseason practice 17 days before the first permissible contest date or five days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution may begin participating in soccer preseason practice 21 days before the first permissible contest or nine days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

Additionally, soccer preseason practice shall begin with a four-day acclimatization period for both first-time participants and continuing student-athletes.

Question No. 3: If the proposal is adopted, is an institution required to participate in its first soccer preseason practice 21 days before the first permissible contest or nine days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If an institution chooses to begin preseason practice later than 21 days before the first permissible contest or nine days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier, must they adhere to the four-day acclimatization period?

Answer: Yes. Participation in the four-day acclimatization period is mandatory regardless of when an institution begins preseason practice.

Question No. 5: If the proposal is adopted, may an institution conduct conditioning, speed, strength or agility tests before the start of the four-day acclimatization period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If the proposal is adopted, may an institution conduct more than one on-field practice session per day (e.g., two-a-days) during the four-day acclimatization period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: May an institution divide the team into groups and conduct the on-field practice session for each group at different times, if each student-athlete only has one on-field practice session per day?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: May an on-field practice session last longer than three hours during the four-day acclimatization period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Is weightlifting considered an on-field practice session?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: May an institution conduct one two-hour on-field practice session and one one-hour on-field testing session (e.g., speed, conditioning or agility tests) on the same day?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 11: If the proposal is adopted, what activities may occur during the three continuous hours of recovery?

Answer: During this time, student-athletes may not attend any athletically related meetings or engage in other athletically related activities (e.g., weightlifting); however, time spent receiving medical treatment and eating meals may be included as part of the recovery time.

Question No. 12: When does the three continuous hours of recovery time officially begin?

Answer: When the participating student-athlete is officially released from an on-field practice or testing session (e.g., speed, conditioning or agility tests).

Question No. 13: If the proposal is adopted, during the four-day acclimatization period, may contests, including scrimmages or exhibitions, with outside competition occur?

Answer: No.

Question No. 14: If the proposal is adopted, during preseason practice must institutions provide student-athletes with at least one day off before the first scheduled contest or the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 15: If the proposal is adopted, and if a student-athlete arrives after the first day of practice, are they still required to undergo the four-day acclimatization period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 16: If adopted, will this proposal amend the first contest date in soccer?

Answer: No.

Question No. 17: If adopted, will this proposal amend the maximum number of contests in soccer?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-13 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Softball -- Number of Contests -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional and Student-Athlete -- Nonchampionship Segment

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, an institution and student-athlete may participate in a maximum of 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the nonchampionship segment and championship segment.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: If the proposal is adopted, an institution and student-athlete may participate in four dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment and 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the championship segment.

Question No. 3: What is a contest?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.02.2 (contest), a contest is any game, match, exhibition, scrimmage or joint practice session with another institution's team, regardless of its formality, in which competition in a sport occurs between an intercollegiate athletics team or individual representing a member institution and any other outside team or individual not representing the intercollegiate athletics program of the same member institution.

Question No. 4: What is a date of competition?

Answer: Per Bylaw 17.02.5 (date of competition), a date of competition is a single date on which any game(s), match(es), meet(s), exhibition(s), scrimmage(s) or joint practice session(s) with another institution's team takes place, regardless of its formality, between an intercollegiate athletics team or individual representing a member institution and any other outside team or individual not representing the intercollegiate athletics program of the same member institution.

Question No. 5: If the proposal is adopted, will an institution and student-athlete be required to participate in any dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If an institution does not participate in all four dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment, may they be utilized during the championship segment?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If the proposal is adopted, will this change the number of discretionary exemptions an institution may exempt from their maximum number of contests?

Answer: No. An institution will still be permitted to exempt no more than three discretionary exemptions listed in Bylaw 17.21.7.4 (discretionary exemptions).

Question No. 8: If adopted, will this proposal change when an institution may participate in a discretionary exemption?

Answer: No. [See Bylaw 17.21.3.2 (exceptions)].

Question No. 9: If the proposal is adopted, may softball student-athletes miss class to participate in competition during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No. However, Bylaw 17.1.6.9.2.2 (exception -- nonchampionship segment travel to/from Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or Canada), permits student-athletes on a team sport to miss class time for competition in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or Canada against an institution located in those areas, once every four years.

Question No. 10: If the proposal is adopted, will this proposal amend Bylaw 17.1.6.2 (daily and weekly hour limitations -- nonchampionship segment)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: If the proposal is adopted, will this proposal amend Bylaw 17.1.6.6 (required days off -- nonchampionship segment)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 12: If the proposal is adopted, how will competition count towards the daily hour limitations during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: Per Bylaw 17.1.6.4.2 (competition day), all competition shall count as three hours, regardless of the actual duration. For example, if an institution participates against two institutions on one date of competition (i.e., doubleheader), it shall count as three hours.

Question No. 13: If the proposal is adopted, will this proposal amend the 45-day window during the nonchampionship segment?

Answer: No. [See Bylaw 17.21.8-(b) (nonchampionship segment activities)].

Question No. 14: If the proposal is adopted, will the dates of competition played during the nonchampionship segment count towards championships selection?

Answer: No.

Question No. 15: If the proposal is adopted, will the dates of competition played during the nonchampionship segment count towards an institution's and student-athlete's statistics for NCAA purposes?

Answer: No.

Question No. 16: If the proposal is adopted, will an institution still be required to adhere to the playing rules while participating in its softball contests (e.g., seven innings) during the playing and practice season (four dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment and 56 contests during the championship segment)?

Answer: Yes; however, it is not mandatory for the playing rules to be used in scrimmages or other forms of practice with outside competition. [See Bylaw 17.33 (playing rules)].

Question No. 17: If a student-athlete participates in dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment, but does not participate in any contests during the championship segment, will the student-athlete use a season of competition?

Answer: No, provided the student-athlete was certified as eligible (e.g., athletics eligibility, enrolled full-time) prior to participation during the nonchampionship segment. [See Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.3 (exception -- competition in the nonchampionship segment and spring football)].

Note, if NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 is adopted, Bylaw 14.4.3.4.1.3 will be eliminated. Therefore, a student-athlete would use a season of competition if they participate in dates of competition during the nonchampionship segment, but do not participate in any contests during the championship segment.

Question No. 18: If the proposal is adopted, will dates of competition played during the nonchampionship segment be included in the medical hardship calculations (standard denominator and 30 percent)?

Answer: No. Please note, if Proposal No. 2026-6 is adopted, medical hardship waivers will be eliminated. Therefore, the application of participation in the nonchampionship segment to medical hardship waivers would be moot.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-14 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Minimum Sponsorship for Division II Championships -- Exception for Field Hockey and Women's Rowing

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation?

Answer: Currently, the minimum number of Division II institutions required to maintain a Division II championship is 35 for both men's and women's sports. A sport that falls below the 35-minimum threshold has three years to regain the minimum number of sponsoring institutions before the Division II championship is discontinued.

Question No. 2: If the proposal is adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: This proposal will permit the continuation of the Division II championship in field hockey and women's rowing if either sport falls below the 35-minimum threshold, regardless of the number of sponsoring institutions.

Question No. 3: Does the exception apply to all sports?

Answer: No. The exception is specific to field hockey and women's rowing since all other Division II sports are above the 35-minimum requirement as of the 2024-25 academic year.

Question No. 4: How is sponsorship determined to confirm that a sport meets the 35-minimum threshold?

Answer: The NCAA Division II Championships Committee reviews the sport sponsorship report annually as reported by the membership to the NCAA research staff. This report is typically published in early October.

Question No. 5: What are the current sponsorship numbers for field hockey and women's rowing?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, there were 36 active Division II member institutions that sponsored field hockey and 11 that sponsored women's rowing.

Question No. 6: How many active Division II member institutions are projected to sponsor field hockey and women's rowing during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: For the 2025-26 academic year, 37 active Division II member institutions indicated intent to sponsor field hockey and 14 indicated intent to sponsor women's rowing.

Question No. 7: If this proposal is not adopted, when is the earliest the Division II Women's Rowing Championship may be discontinued?

Answer: As of the 2025-26 academic year, women's rowing is in the second year of the three-year grace period. The 2026-27 academic year would be the third

year, and the championship would be discontinued after the 2026-27 academic year.

Question No. 8: If this proposal is not adopted, and field hockey or women's rowing falls below the 35-minimum threshold and the championship is discontinued, may Division II field hockey or women's rowing programs participate in another NCAA championship?

Answer: No, there is no other NCAA championship opportunity available for Division II institutions if the Division II championship is discontinued.

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-15 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Criteria for Selection in Team Sports -- Required Selection Criteria and Sport-Specific Selection Criteria -- NCAA Power Index

Question No. 1: What is the NPI?

Answer: The NPI is a system that objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; overtime results (when relevant); and minimum wins.

The weight of winning percentage versus strength of schedule is often referred to as one of the "dials" that a sport committee can adjust, placing any subjectivity within the criteria themselves. For example, a sport committee could set the dials to 30/70 (winning percentage/strength of schedule); 25/75, etc. Other "dials" a sport committee can also choose to apply are home and away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB), and overtime win/loss weights. A sport committee can also elect to require a minimum number of wins to be retained in the NPI adjustment.

Dials = The data points that are factored into the NPI calculation. The standard dials are winning percentage and strength of schedule. The optional dials are home and away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB), and overtime win/loss weights. Sport committees determine whether to use the optional dials, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

Weights = The value applied to each dial. Sport committees determine the weight of each dial, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

Question No. 2: Why update the current championship selection process?

Answer: The Championships Committee has been reviewing the current team at-large selection process to ensure that selection criteria is applied consistently to teams during selections. The current championships selection process involves data analysis by each sport committee, which can result in varying approaches. NPI objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on a sport committee's established weighted criteria. This does not eliminate subjectivity entirely; however, the subjectivity is within the sport committee's dial setting process that applies a weight to each dial, which is done prior to the season and not during the selections process.

Question No. 3: Does this mean our current selection criteria goes away?

Answer: Winning percentage and strength of schedule will continue to be used and results against Division II opponents will remain the only results considered.

The following criteria will no longer be used: Division II in-region winning percentage, Division II head-to-head competition; results versus common

Division II opponents; and the selected sport-specific criteria (up to three). Additionally, the requirement that a team have a .500 or better record will also be eliminated.

Question No. 4: Will any new selection criteria be adopted?

Answer: The NPI will continue to use winning percentage and strength of schedule along with a home/away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB); overtime results; and minimum wins.

The home/away multiplier can be used to increase the weight of away wins and home losses while decreasing the weight of home wins and away losses. The QWB provides a bonus for wins against top-level teams, the degree of which is determined by the sport committee. Overtime win/loss weights allow results to be weighted less than regulation wins/losses. The home/away multiplier, QWB and overtime results weights are all optional and do not have to be used if a sport committee elects not to do so.

The criteria are explained in the NPI cheat sheet document included at the end of the FAQ.

Question No. 5: Will selections continue to be done regionally?

Answer: Yes. Sport committees will continue to select and bracket teams regionally. However, the Championships Committee is committed to a review of bracketing principles as part of the new Division II operating plan, which will be released in January 2026. If adopted, NPI could be used to evaluate the placement of teams to balance strength more evenly across the bracket.

Question No. 6: If/when changes are made, how is the membership going to be made aware of the changes?

Answer: Changes to the NPI weights/dials will be communicated to the membership through the sport committee's annual meeting report, published on its NCAA.org landing page, and through various membership communications including the Championships Newsletter and the Division II Monthly Update. The established weights (e.g., how the dials are set) will also be published in each sport's pre-championship manual annually.

Question No. 7: What will happen to regional advisory committees?

Answer: Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) will be eliminated. Since teams will be selected by the NPI, there is no longer a need for RACs to review data and provide recommendations to the national committee.

For additional information regarding Proposal No. 2026-15, please see the [NCAA Power Index \(NPI\) Weights, FAQ and Guide](#).

NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-16 -- Championships Administration -- Administration of Division II Championships -- Criteria for Selection of Participants -- Automatic Qualification -- Requirements -- Division Championship -- Institutions in Final Year of Division II Membership Process

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation regarding automatic qualification?

Answer: Currently, to be eligible for automatic qualification in any Division II championship, a member conference must have at least six active members that sponsor the sport at the varsity intercollegiate level. An institution in the membership process may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how will this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution in the final year of the membership process (i.e., second year of the expedited process or third year of the three-year process), may be used to satisfy the sponsorship requirement of six active institutions for automatic qualification in a sport.

Question No. 3: If a conference does not meet the six-institution minimum, is there a grace period?

Answer: Per NCAA Division II Championships Committee policy, the conference would remain eligible for automatic qualification for three years following the date of withdrawal of the institution(s) that causes the conference's membership to fall below the six-institution minimum, provided the conference remains within one member institution of that minimum (i.e., five institutions). The grace period does not apply if the conference has four or fewer members.

Question No. 4: If a conference has four active institutions and one institution in the final year of the membership process, would the conference meet the five-institution minimum to have access to the grace period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: If a conference does not meet the six-institution minimum for automatic qualification, is there a waiver opportunity?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: If the proposal is adopted, and if a conference has two institutions in the final year of the membership process and four active member institutions, does the conference meet the six-institution requirement?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: Is there a limit on the number of institutions in the final year of the membership process a conference can count to meet the minimum sponsorship requirements for automatic qualification?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If the proposal is adopted, and if an institution is required to repeat the final year of the membership process, can the institution be used to satisfy the minimum sponsorship requirement while they repeat the final year?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: Can an institution in the final year of the membership process earn the conference's automatic qualification entry?

Answer: No. Only active members can earn the conference automatic qualification entry or be selected as an at-large participant.

Question No. 10: Does this proposal change automatic qualification requirements for National Collegiate Championships?

Answer: No.