



## 120th Annual Convention

This educational resource presents all proposed amendments to NCAA Division II legislation that were properly submitted in accordance with the July 15 deadline (for membership-sponsored proposals) and September 1 deadline (for governance-sponsored proposals) in the NCAA legislative calendar. No attempt has been made to place the proposals in the order in which they eventually might appear in the NCAA Convention agenda. Each proposal is accompanied not only by the traditional statement of intent and proposed effective date, but also by a statement of rationale.

No new proposals may be submitted for the 2026 Convention inasmuch as the July 15 and September 1 deadlines have passed. Member institutions and conferences, as well as the NCAA Division II Executive Board, have until 5 p.m. Eastern time, Saturday, November 1 to submit amendments to these proposals. Such amendments-to-amendments may not increase the modification set forth in the printed proposal. Amendments-to-amendments submitted by the membership must have eight sponsors from active member institutions in Division II. In addition, amendments-to-amendments may be sponsored by at least one member conference (on behalf of eight or more of their active member institutions) in Division II. It should be noted that proposals that are withdrawn after the September 15 sponsor-modification deadline will be included in the Official Notice to indicate the sponsor's intent to withdraw the proposal at the Convention.

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations (see below) of the proposed legislation in this educational resource.

### Request for Interpretation.

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this educational resource. Interpretations related to the proposed legislation in this educational resource may be requested via email to Chelsea Hooks ([chooks@naaa.org](mailto:chooks@naaa.org)) or Rachel Denton ([rdenton@naaa.org](mailto:rdenton@naaa.org)) , not later than December 11, 2025. When submitting such a request, please include the proposal title in question, your institution's or conference's name and your title. All resulting interpretations will be made available to the delegates prior to the divisional business session held in conjunction with the Annual Convention.

Pursuant to NCAA Division II Bylaw 9.3.6.2.1 (official notice), the Official Notice for the 2026 Convention will be released no later than December 10, 2025. This publication will contain all Division II legislation for the Convention, including all amendments-to-amendments and resolutions submitted by the November 1 deadline.

### 2025-26 Legislative Calendar

The legislative calendar, as set forth in Bylaw 9 (legislative process), is summarized here for convenience of reference.

July 15: Deadline for submission of amendments by the Division II membership. Each amendment must include a statement of intent and a separate statement of rationale (200 words or less), as well as identification of the designated primary contact person.

July 21-22: NCAA Division II Management Council Meeting. The Management Council considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor. The Management Council also reviews the amendments submitted by the membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline. See "July 15" above. The Management Council reviews these proposals to determine committee review assignments.

August 6: NCAA Division II Executive Board Meeting. The Executive Board considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor.

August 15 through September 15: Sponsor-Modification Period. Sponsors are permitted to refine and change their proposals in any manner germane to the original proposal. Member institutions and conferences are invited to offer any suggested revisions of a proposal to the primary contact person listed with the proposal. Additionally, members that believe an amendment should not be modified should inform the primary contact person.

August 27: NCAA Division II Administrative Committee Videoconference. On behalf of the Executive Board and Management Council, the Administrative Committee reviews all amendments to be included on the 2026 Convention agenda for placement in the 2026 NCAA Convention Division II Official Notice.

September 1: Deadline for submission of amendments sponsored by the governance structure.

September 15: Deadline for submission by all sponsors (with submission by the primary contact person) of any modification to their original amendments. These modifications may represent either greater or lesser changes; they need only be germane to the original proposal.

September 23: Posting of educational resources. This includes the educational resource that includes all Division II membership-sponsored proposals (as modified), all proposals sponsored by the governance structure and the 2026 Convention Division II Voiceover video.

September 23 through November 1: Amendment-to-Amendment Period. The Executive Board as well as the membership [(see Bylaw 9.3.4.2 (amendment-to-amendment))] may submit amendments to the Division II proposals in the educational resources. These amendments-to-amendments may not increase the modification of the provisions to be amended; they must fall between the provisions of the circulated amendment and the current provisions.

October 7: Deadline for Committee review. Any Association-wide and/or Division II committee charged by the Management Council to evaluate a membership-sponsored amendment must complete its evaluation not later than October 7. The committee must then report the results of its review to the Management Council. The Management Council will review each committee's position at its October videoconference. If the committee issued a position statement, the position must be publicized in the Official Notice.

November 1: Deadline for all resolutions and amendments-to-amendments to be received by the national office. No amendments-to-amendments sponsored by the membership may be submitted

after this date. The Executive Board and the NCAA Board of Governors are authorized to submit further amendments-to-amendments and resolutions at the Convention if it deems such action necessary.

By December 10: Posting of the Official Notice for the Convention. This publication includes all Division II proposed legislation, resolutions and properly submitted amendments-to-amendments.

January 13-16, 2026: NCAA Convention. All delegates have the opportunity to download the NCAA Events app prior to the Convention. The NCAA Events app contains the most up-to-date schedule and other helpful Convention information.

Division II Legislation Committee

Chair – Christopher Ratcliff, Rogers State University

Vice chair – Ashley Grimm, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

Matt Green, Flagler College

Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University

Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University

Jennifer Mercurio, Florida Institute of Technology

Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University

Laura Dahlby Nicolai, Great Northwest Athletic Conference

Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University

Deborah Rodgers, Tuskegee University

Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University

Kevin Schriver, Southwest Baptist University

Melissa Thacker, Cameron University



## 2026 NCAA Division II Convention Proposals

### Governance-Sponsored Proposals

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, FINANCIAL AID AND PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediate.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 7.02.2, 7.3.1.7.1.1, 7.3.1.7.1.1.6, 15.4.2, 15.4.2.1.2, 17, 17.02.16 and 17.02.16.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>To add women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and establish legislation related to membership, financial aid and playing and practice seasons, as specified.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>The continued growth in high school women's flag football and the number of collegiate institutions sponsoring the sport demonstrate the rapid growth of the sport and its potential to reach NCAA championship status at the collegiate level. Enough women's flag football teams met the prescribed guidelines of the Emerging Sports for Women Program application to demonstrate significant interest and sustainability within college athletics. Additionally, the sport is relatively inexpensive to sponsor and attracts additional demographics of potential student-athletes. Also, there is a shared commitment at the collegiate level to increase participation opportunities from institutions and conferences, as well as funding and resources from national governing bodies to further support the sport's growth. Finally, the immediate effective date will allow schools that sponsor the sport in the 2026 spring championship season to count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a national collegiate championship in a women's sport.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediate.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 7.02.2, 7.3.2.1, 8.8, 18.3 and 18.3.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In acrobatics and tumbling, to establish a National Collegiate Championship; further, to establish an acrobatics and tumbling committee.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Acrobatics and tumbling has been an emerging sport in all divisions since 2020. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data, 44 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest. After consultation with various committees in the NCAA governance structure and a financial and championship examination of projected costs to establish a new national collegiate championship, the Committee on Women's Athletics agreed acrobatics and tumbling should be added as an NCAA championship. The sport has continued to grow in the collegiate space and has received continued interest in the youth/k-12 level from related sports. Acrobatics and tumbling has a diverse recruiting pool of student-athletes competing in gymnastics, cheerleading, diving, dance and weightlifting, among other sports, which has created more participation opportunities for women with over 1,100 student-athletes competing in 2023-24 across all divisions. The immediate effective date will permit the acrobatics and tumbling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first NCAA national championship in spring 2027.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS -- STUNT</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediate.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 7.02.2, 7.3.2.1, 8.8, 18.3 and 18.3.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In stunt, to establish a National Collegiate Championship; further, to establish a stunt committee.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Stunt has been an emerging sport in Divisions I and II since August 2023, and Division III since August 2024. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data, 41 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport. After consultation with various committees in the NCAA governance structure and a financial and championship examination of projected costs to establish a new national collegiate championship, the Committee on Women's Athletics agreed stunt should be added as an NCAA championship. Stunt has grown rapidly both in the collegiate space and in the youth/K-12 level with increased stunt competition opportunities. Stunt has also created more participation opportunities for women within the NCAA. In 2023-24, a total of 704 student-athletes competed in stunt in Divisions I and II (stunt was not yet an emerging sport in Division III). The immediate effective date will permit the stunt committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first NCAA national championship in spring 2027.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- WOMEN'S BOWLING</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediate for establishing the committee; and August 1, 2027, to allow the first NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Championship to occur in April 2028.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 8.8.3, Figure 8-2, 17, 17.1.4, 17.6, 17.6.2, 17.6.3, 17.6.5.1, 17.6.5.3, 17.6.8.1.1, 18.3, 18.3.1 and 18.3.2</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In bowling, to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship; further, to establish an NCAA Division II Women's Bowling Committee.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Membership survey results indicate strong support for establishing a Division II-specific championship from the existing National Collegiate championship. Those results indicated that among those institutions that sponsor women's bowling, there is a strong preference for competing in and winning a Division II championship as opposed to a National Collegiate championship. As of the 2023-24 academic year, 38 Division II institutions sponsored women's bowling, which triggered a review of whether to establish a Division II Women's Bowling Championship. The immediate effective date for the formation of a Division II women's bowling committee will permit the women's bowling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first Division II championship in April 2028.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Executive Board [Management Council (Championships Committee)].</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> ELIGIBILITY -- ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF COMPETITION: 10-SEMESTER/15-QUARTER RULE -- FIVE SEASONS OF COMPETITION IN 10-SEMESTERS/15-QUARTERS</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026, for student-athletes that have not exhausted their eligibility before or at the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 14, 14.2.3.1.7.3.2, 14.2.7, 14.4.3, 14.4.3.1, 14.4.3.2.3, 14.4.3.2.4.1, 14.4.3.2.4.1.3, 14.4.3.2.4.1.4, 14.4.3.2.4.1.4.1, 14.4.3.3.5, 14.4.3.4.1.2, 14.4.3.4.1.2.1, 14.4.3.4.1.3, 14.4.3.4.1.4, 14.4.3.4.1.5, 14.4.3.4.1.6, 14.4.3.4.1.7, 14.4.3.5, 14.4.3.5.1, 14.4.3.5.2, 14.4.3.5.2.1, 14.4.3.5.2.2, 14.4.3.5.2.3, 14.4.3.5.2.3.1, 14.4.3.5.2.3.2, 14.4.3.5.2.3.3, 14.4.3.5.2.4, 14.4.3.5.2.5, 14.4.3.5.2.5.1, 14.4.3.5.2.5.1.1, 14.4.3.5.2.5.1.2, 14.4.3.5.2.5.2, 14.4.3.5.2.6, 14.4.3.5.2.7, 14.4.3.6, 14.4.3.6.1, 14.4.3.6.2, 14.4.3.6.2.1, 14.4.3.6.2.1.1, 14.4.3.6.2.1.2, 14.4.3.6.2.1.3, 14.4.3.6.2.1.4, 14.4.3.7, 14.4.3.7.1, 14.4.3.7.1.1, 14.4.3.7.1.2, 14.4.3.7.1.3, 14.4.3.7.1.4, 14.4.8.4, 15.1.1.4 and</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>To amend the seasons of competition legislation, as follows: (1) To permit a student-athlete to engage in five seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport during their first 10-semester or 15-quarters of full-time enrollment; (2) To eliminate the currently legislated exceptions and waivers associated with the seasons of competition legislation; and (3) To amend the exceptions and waivers for the period of eligibility, as specified.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>The Eligibility Review Working Group was formed to perform a comprehensive review of eligibility rules. The working group focused on issues surrounding seasons of competition and period of eligibility and developed guidelines for its review, including using data to make recommendations, developing recommendations consistent with the Life in the Balance Philosophy, and limiting exceptions and waivers as much as possible. The working group reviewed 2022-23 Division II Academic Performance Census data as well as data from pre-pandemic years regarding time to degree for Division II student-athletes and determined the data supported a recommendation for an additional season of competition. Further, initial membership feedback indicated that three-quarters of respondents believed the 10-semester/15-quarter legislation is still appropriate. The working group agreed that the current 10-semester/15-quarter rule allows flexibility for student-athletes who necessitate a break in college attendance that a five-year consecutive clock following initial full-time collegiate enrollment would not provide. Exceptions and waivers to the period of eligibility rule would be available in limited and well-defined instances. Finally, based on the initial survey the working group agreed that current legislation regarding transfers from non-Division II institutions and Division III transfer student-athletes that only practice should continue to apply.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Executive Board [Management Council (Eligibility Review Working Group)].</p>

17.11.9		
TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 18.4.3.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>To specify that Division II team sports shall use the NCAA Power Index (NPI) for championship selections beginning with the 2026-27 academic year.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>The NCAA Power Index, which has been used in the NCAA ice hockey championships for several years and was adopted by Division III last year for all team sport committees, is a system of statistical data that objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on a sport committee's established weighted criteria. The metric can be adjusted by what are referred to as "dials," or specific components of the metric that each sport committee has the authority to set, thus placing any desired subjectivity within the criteria themselves that are then applied objectively. The Division II Championships Committee discussed the merits of the NPI at length over the past year and gathered feedback from sport committees and other membership stakeholders, indicating strong support for using the metric as the sole selection criterion for team sports. Because the NPI eliminates the need for the sport committees to conduct rankings throughout the season, Regional Advisory Committees would be eliminated, effective with the 2026-27 academic year.</i></p>	<p>NCAA Division II Management Council (Championships Committee).</p>

**Membership-Sponsored Proposals**

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> RECRUITING -- DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS -- FOOTBALL RECRUITING DEAD PERIOD</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 13, 13.02.10, 13.02.10.1, 13.02.10.2, 13.1.5, 13.7.4.1, 13.9.1.3</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In football, to specify the following as recruiting dead periods: (1) December 22-January 1; (2) Monday through Wednesday during the week of the annual American Football Coaches Association Convention; and (3) Saturday before Memorial Day through Memorial Day.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Currently, there are only two football dead periods around signing dates, the 48 hours before the Wednesday before the first Saturday in December for midyear two-year college transfers and the 48 hours before the first Wednesday in February for regular football signings. Beyond those dead periods, the rest of the annual football recruiting calendar is now a contact period. This creates an unsustainable, always-on recruiting mentality and environment for coaches and programs and directly contradicts Division II's Life in the Balance philosophy. The addition of three new annual football dead periods in late December/January and around Memorial Day will provide much-needed breaks in the recruiting calendar during the year. It will permit attendance at the annual American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Convention for professional development without expectations of recruiting responsibilities and also permit coaches and staff to spend more time with loved ones without having to worry about potential recruiting concerns and disadvantages during holidays such as Christmas, New Years Eve and Memorial Day, as they do in the currently legislated environment.</i></p>	<p>University of Central Missouri, Anderson University (South Carolina), Carson-Newman University, Colorado Mesa University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Missouri Southern State University, Missouri Western State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Washburn University, Western Colorado University and Wingate University.</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> FINANCIAL AID -- ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS AID -- ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR ATHLETICS AID -- RETROACTIVE ATHLETICS AID -- ISSUANCE OF RETROACTIVE ATHLETICS AID</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 15.1.1.3</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>To permit an institution to provide retroactive athletics aid during an academic year.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Currently, an institution must prorate a student-athlete's athletics aid if it is awarded after the period of the award begins. This is a somewhat misunderstood bylaw, and the prorating calculations are tedious and time-consuming for compliance and the Financial Aid office. Institutions are already permitted to increase athletics aid at any time for any reason. Additionally, institutions are permitted to retroactively award students, other than student-athletes, with scholarships, loans and grants to the beginning of the academic year. This proposal does not increase the amount of aid an institution may provide to an individual student-athlete, nor does it increase the amount an institution may provide to a team. It provides greater flexibility for coaches and administrators in awarding athletics aid; and reduces the financial aid calculation burden on compliance and the Financial Aid office. Finally, this would be permissive legislation, and institutions would not be required to provide retroactive athletics aid.</i></p>	<p>Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference.</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- GENERAL PLAYING-SEASON REGULATIONS -- TIME LIMITS FOR ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES -- DAILY AND WEEKLY HOUR LIMITATIONS -- NONCHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT -- BASEBALL</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.1.6.2</p>	<p><i><b>Intent:</b> In baseball, to increase the weekly hour limitation during the nonchampionship segment from 15 hours per week to 18 hours per week; further, to specify that during the nonchampionship segment, an intrasquad scrimmage may exceed the four-hours-per-day limitation provided the student-athlete does not exceed the 18 hours per week.</i></p> <p><i><b>Rationale:</b> Currently during the nonchampionship segment, a student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities is limited to a maximum of four hours per day and 15 hours per week. All sports place specific, yet vastly different demands upon student-athletes and coaches. In recent years, the governing bodies of college athletics have acknowledged these differences by drafting and approving sport-specific amendments that helped to establish the flexibility required to focus on student-athlete safety, growth and development. In baseball, the current model has unintentionally pushed student-athletes toward outside training organizations and/or internet-based training routines to develop their skillset. Student-athletes are participating in programs that are not fully monitored, less controlled and often dangerous because they cannot receive the training they need from their coaches. Increasing the weekly hour limitation from 15 to 18 hours would grant coaches an enhanced ability to balance their student-athletes' on-field development with proper supervision and protocols. Additionally, given the large squad sizes often carried by baseball teams, as an enrollment tool for their institutions, the extra time would allow coaches to give more attention and opportunities to all members of the team. This would enhance the student-athlete experience and retention.</i></p>	<p>Colorado Mesa University, Albany State University (Georgia), American International College, Angelo State University, Augustana University (South Dakota), Catawba College, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Emporia State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Lubbock Christian University, New Mexico Highlands University, South Atlantic Conference, St. Edward's University, St. Mary's University (Texas), The University of Texas at Tyler, The University of Texas Permian Basin and Walsh University.</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASEBALL -- NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS - - INSTITUTIONAL -- STUDENT-ATHLETE</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.3.7, 17.3.7.1 and 17.3.7.2</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In baseball, to increase the institutional and student-athlete playing season maximum limitation to 52 contests (games and scrimmages).</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>In baseball, an institution and student-athlete must limit its playing season with outside competition to 50 contests. In March of 2023, the NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief approved a blanket waiver for Division I baseball programs to increase their squad size from 35 to 40 players, while also raising the 27-scholarship counter cap to 32 players. These developments point to a drastic shift in college baseball and as the recruiting challenges in Division II increase, they mark a need for increased team-related opportunities for student-athletes in a sport where roster size often exceeds 45 or more players. Student-athletes often attend colleges for the opportunity to play their sport and raising the maximum number of baseball contests from 50 to 52 will create more opportunities for them to do so while growing and developing within a team environment. Additionally, a significant percentage of coaches mentioned that a schedule of 52 games allows teams to even up their schedules and not have to seek an awkward series to get to 50 total contests. Finally, softball allows a maximum of 56 contests during its playing season.</i></p>	<p>Colorado Mesa University, Albany State University (Georgia), Angelo State University, Augustana University (South Dakota), Catawba College, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Eastern New Mexico University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Lewis University, Lubbock Christian University, Missouri Southern State University, Montana State University Billings, New Mexico Highlands University, Regis University (Colorado), St. Edward's University, St. Mary's University (Texas), Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville and The University of Texas at Tyler.</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASKETBALL -- FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.4.3 and 17.4.3.2</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In basketball, to specify that a member institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before the Monday that is 17 weeks before the Division II men's and women's championship selection dates.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Under current legislation an institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in basketball before the second Friday of November, with a few exceptions. However, the second Friday in November can sometimes fall as late as November 14. This results in fewer days and weeks to schedule and complete regular season contests, a severely compressed window to schedule and complete non-conference contests and an increasingly difficult or even total inability to schedule and compete in regional challenge events. Amending the current legislation and taking a similar approach as Division I men's and women's basketball will standardize the length of the regular season, provide for additional days earlier in the season to schedule and complete non-conference contests, allow for those teams looking to participate in region challenge events to do so without additional scheduling burdens and alleviate and/or eliminate the type of scheduling compression that occurs under current legislation when the second Friday in November falls as late as November 14.</i></p>	<p>Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, California Collegiate Athletic Association and Northeast-10 Conference.</p>

TITLE, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AFFECTED BYLAWS	INTENT STATEMENT RATIONALE STATEMENT	SPONSORS
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASKETBALL -- NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS -- REGION CHALLENGE EVENT -- OUT-OF-REGION OPPONENTS FROM CONTIGUOUS STATES</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.4.6.3</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee recommended adopting this proposal as noncontroversial legislation during their September videoconference. Therefore, the sponsors have withdrawn this proposal.</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In basketball, to permit contests against an out-of-region opponent from a contiguous state to be exempted as part of a region challenge event.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Under current legislation, an institution may not exempt any contests played in a region challenge event if an out-of-region institution participates in the event. Regional Advisory Committees count contests against out-of-region opponents from contiguous states as in-region contests when completing rankings, therefore, contests against out-of-region opponents from contiguous states should be allowed to be exempted from region challenge events. Often, one or more conferences in a region shut out the third conference from participating in the region challenge events. Allowing the participation of out-of-region opponents from contiguous states in a region challenge event and permitting those contests to still be exempt, would provide more equitable opportunities for teams from all the conferences in the region.</i></p>	<p>Peach Belt Conference, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference.</p>
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- GOLF -- NUMBER OF DATES OF COMPETITION -- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS -- INSTITUTIONAL -- STUDENT-ATHLETE</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.12.7, 17.12.7.1 and 17.12.7.2</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In golf, to increase institutional and student-athlete playing season maximum limitation to 24 dates of competition; further, to specify that an institution may participate in no more than 10 regular season events.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>In golf, an institution and student-athlete must limit its playing season with outside competition to 21 dates of competition. With the increasing number of three-day events, this change allows institutions to play in two to three three-day events without losing a tournament. Currently, if an institution plays two three-day events, they lose a tournament with only using 20 dates of competition. This change will help from a budget standpoint by reducing the number of entry fees needed. Cost savings by playing in two three-day events (two entry fees) as opposed to three two-day events (three entry fees) alone could help save anywhere from \$2,500-\$5,000. Additionally, this change will decrease the number of 36-hole days, providing more down time for rest and academics. The proposal could also decrease missed class time, because three-day events are typically held Saturday-Tuesday. If an institution participated in two three-day events, they would miss four class days (two Mondays</i></p>	<p>Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and Peach Belt Conference.</p>

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	<i>and Tuesdays) as opposed to three two-day events where the institution would miss six class days (three Mondays and Tuesdays).</i>	
<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- SOCCER -- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST DATE OF PRACTICE -- CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.20, 17.20.2.1, 17.20.2.2 and 17.20.3.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In soccer, to specify that preseason practice shall begin with a four-day acclimatization period for both first-time participants and continuing student-athletes; further, to specify that an institution shall not commence practice sessions before 21 days before the first permissible contest or nine days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Interassociation guidance in Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes emphasizes structured preseason acclimatization and a progressive transition before regular-season play to support student-athlete health and safety. Injury risk is highest early in the preseason and when training loads increase abruptly. Requiring a four-day transition period that phases countable athletically related activities at the start of the fall segment is intended to limit rapid workload spikes, reduce preventable injuries, and improve readiness for the competitive season. To implement this transition without reducing essential team preparation time, the proposal advances the first permissible practice by four days and adjusts the alternate “before first day of classes” trigger accordingly. This preserves overall practice opportunities while embedding a required acclimatization period for all participants, including returning student-athletes and late arrivals. The change also promotes competitive equity and planning consistency across institutions with different academic calendar</i></p>	<p>Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Peach Belt Conference.</p>

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<p><b>Title:</b> PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- SOFTBALL -- NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS -- INSTITUTIONAL AND STUDENT-ATHLETE -- NONCHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 17.21, 17.21.7.1 and 17.21.7.2</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In softball, to specify that an institution or student-athlete shall limit its playing season to 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the segment that concludes with the NCAA championship and four dates of competition (games and scrimmages) during another segment.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>In softball, an institution must limit its playing season with outside competition to 56 contests (games and scrimmages). Further, a student-athlete may participate in 56 contests each academic year. Current legislation has been extremely limiting for the sport of softball with no legislated nonchampionship segment opportunities, thereby requiring any program that wishes to partake in outside competition during the nonchampionship segment to utilize annual and/or discretionary exemptions. Even if a program utilizes their three discretionary exemptions, that proportionally equates to five percent of softball's regular season contests, which pales in comparison to other sport ratios (e.g., soccer at 28 percent). This inequity in nonchampionship segment opportunities puts softball student-athletes at a disadvantage compared to student-athletes in other sports in that it provides fewer opportunities for softball student-athletes to perform and be evaluated by coaches in games that do not count towards championship selection.</i></p>	<p>Minnesota State University, Mankato, East Coast Conference, Montana State University Billings and South Atlantic Conference.</p>
<p><b>Title:</b> CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION -- ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP FOR DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- EXCEPTION FOR FIELD HOCKEY AND WOMEN'S ROWING</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 18.4.1</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>In field hockey and women's rowing, to permit the continuation of the Division II Championship if the sport falls below the 35-minimum threshold required to maintain a Division II Championship.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>During the 2024 NCAA Convention, Division II amended the minimum number of sponsoring institutions required to establish and maintain a Division II championship. With the amendment, the long-standing exception for Olympic Sports was removed. Furthermore, Division I has eliminated any future opportunities for these programs to declare themselves eligible for Division I if a Division II championship is discontinued. Field hockey and women's rowing are currently budgeted in the Division II championships budget, therefore, if adopted there would be no additional financial increases. Women's rowing is conducted jointly with Divisions I and III, further contributing to cost-containment. While these sports have encountered net declining sponsorship recently due to institutions reclassifying or closing, in an age of enrollment driven strategies for institutions, these women's sports do support critical enrollment and participation goals at sponsoring Division</i></p>	<p>Great Northwest Athletic Conference and Northeast-10 Conference.</p>

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	<p><i>II institutions. With mounting financial pressures across the higher education landscape, decline in enrollment and barriers to international student enrollment, Division II must preserve these opportunities and thus reduce additional pressures that would be brought by removing championship access. The absence of guaranteed access will make it difficult, if not impossible, to grow beyond current sponsorship numbers.</i></p>	
<p><b>Title:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2026.</p> <p><b>Affected Bylaws:</b> 18.4.3.2.3</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> <i>To permit a member conference to count institutions in the final year of the membership process towards the minimum of six institutions needed to satisfy the sponsorship requirement for automatic qualification.</i></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> <i>Current legislation does not permit a conference to use institutions in the membership process to satisfy the requirement that it have six active members for purposes of earning automatic qualification (AQ) in a sport. By the time an institution reaches the final year of the membership process, they would have been conducting their athletics programs in accordance with all Division II rules and regulations. With the number of institutions dropping sports and/or changing conferences with little notice, conferences can lose the opportunity to have a team receive an AQ to NCAA Championships if they cannot replace a team within the three-year grace period. Allowing institutions in the final year of the membership process to count will allow conferences to maintain the AQ while working towards adding additional teams, if necessary. Although the proposal will not provide institutions in the final year of the membership process an ability to win the AQ or participate in an NCAA Championship, it will benefit the well-being of the remaining teams in the conference as they will not be at a disadvantage in recruiting and will be able to retain current student-athletes who want to be guaranteed an opportunity to play for an AQ.</i></p>	<p>Peach Belt Conference, Northeast-10 Conference, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference.</p>