

OPERATING AREA: ATHLETICS

No. 1 – Implement a championships selection and bracketing methodology that enhances the postseason for participants and fans without compromising the regional model as a core tenet of the Division II regular-season experience.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Adopt a results-based metric as the sole selection criterion for team sports.	Championships Committee.	Aug. 1, 2026.	No.	
b. Develop a new bracketing model that enhances the championship experience.	Championships Committee.	Aug. 1, 2027.	Potentially, if the new bracketing model creates more flights.	
			Budget Estimate – TBD.	
			Budget Source – New \$4 million-\$5 million allocation to championships.	
c. Evaluate the merits of a 16-site/three-weekend format		Sept. 1, 2026.	Potentially, if the length of select	

for men's and women's basketball.	Championships Committee and relevant sport committees.		championships is expanded.	
			Budget Estimate – TBD.	
			Budget Source – \$1.05 million enhancement (championships triennial).	
d. Evaluate the merits of a 16-site/three-weekend format for women's volleyball.	Championships Committee and relevant sport committee.	Sept. 1, 2026.	Potentially, if the length of the championship is expanded.	
			Budget Estimate – TBD	
			Budget Source – \$1.05 million enhancement (championships triennial).	

e. Consider strategies to increase attendance at championships (e.g., use the NCAA fan database; seek corporate partner support).	Championships Committee.	Sept. 1, 2026.	No.	
f. Review the Division II National Championships Festival.	Championships Committee; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	TBD, pending the structure and timing of future bid cycles.	Not for the review itself but potentially, pending what is recommended.	Depending on outcome, the division will need to discuss how to reallocate the dollars (e.g., joint championships, student-athlete experience)
g. Explore ways to improve the Division II Football Championship.	Football Committee; Championships Committee.	July 1, 2026.	TBD.	Bracket expansion will be in place for the 2026 championship, but this review should also consider long-term membership classification implications.
No. 2 – Review all aspects of financing the championships program and make recommendations as necessary.				
Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Review the current budget line items (championships versus initiatives) to determine whether allocations are appropriate (i.e., whether the current	Strategic Planning and Finance Committee; Championships Committee.	Aug. 1, 2026.	No.	This review should take into consideration the funding for championships enhancements and the costs paid by schools that participate in championships.

60% allocation to championships should be adjusted).				
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No. 3 – Seek innovative approaches to support up-and-coming sports that offer new, exciting and equitable opportunities.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Explore grants for schools adding sports as an incentive to build sponsorship to assist with creating National Collegiate Championships and/or Division II-specific championships.	Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.	Aug. 1, 2026.	Yes, if grant program is adopted.	
			Budget Estimate – TBD	
			Budget Source – New \$4 million-\$5 million allocation to championships.	

No. 4 – Support student-athletes with their opportunities related to name, image and likeness.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
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a. Explore what schools are doing currently to collect best practices and determine what should or should not be required of Division II schools related to NIL.	Legislation Committee; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; Division II Athletics Directors Association; Division II Conference Commissioners Association; NIL third-party providers (e.g., Opendorse).	Ongoing.	No.	
b. Monitor NIL legislative requirements to determine educational opportunities and flexibility regarding institutional involvement.	Legislation Committee.	Ongoing.	No.	
No. 5 – Develop initiatives and practices that strengthen the officiating pool; provide education, training and resources to support current officials and attract new officials.				
Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Provide opportunities for campuses to develop an officiating certificate within sport management or similar majors to help grow	Championships Committee; Strategic Planning and Finance Committee; D2CCA; D2ADA.	Ongoing.	Yes.	

<p>officiating as a viable career path. Opportunities include providing grant funding to assist with the costs of developing a program/ curriculum and/or partner with organizations that have existing programs or curriculum that could be used.</p>			Budget Estimate –	
			TBD.	
			Budget Sources –	
			New \$4 million-\$5 million allocation to championships and/or \$1.05 million enhancement (championships triennial).	
<p>b. Determine ways to educate student-athletes on the officiating profession – target officials who are former student-athletes to speak with current student-athletes.</p>	<p>Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; D2CCA; D2ADA.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>No.</p>	
<p>No. 6 – Review initiatives to help member institutions enhance their game day environments.</p>				
Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes

a. Determine potential incentives and/or requirements for using the Make Game Day Yours platform.	Management Council Identity Subcommittee; Championships Committee; D2ADA.	Ongoing.	No.	
b. Consider expanding the current neutrality policy (pregame only at preliminary rounds) to permit hosts to conduct contests (from start to finish) as done in the regular season.	Championships Committee.	July 1, 2026.	No.	
No. 7 – Develop initiatives to enhance the fan experience and exposure related to Division II championships.				
Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Review livestreaming requirements and platforms and make recommendations to ensure consistency among host sites (preliminary-round and finals sites), enhancements (e.g., additional cameras), sports included for web streaming	Championships Committee.	Aug. 1, 2027.	No.	

and fan experience on ncaa.com.				
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