

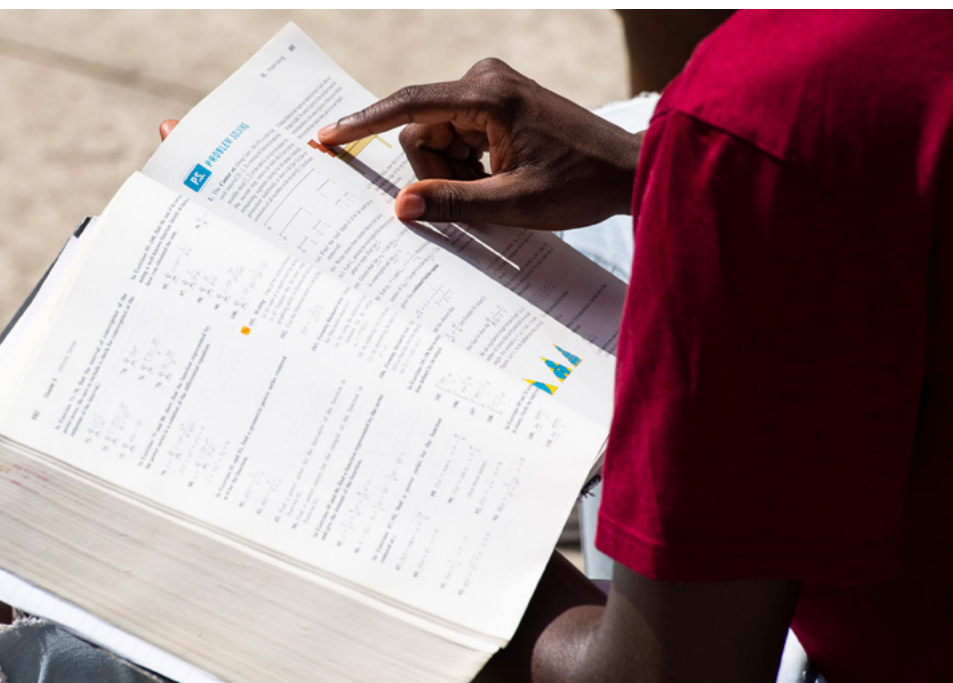
# 2019-20 Division II Priorities



## Division II University

The 2019-20 academic year marks the first time that coaches will earn their annual certification to recruit off campus and participate in athletically related activities by successfully completing six educational modules in the Division II University online education system. In the coming year, Division II will:

- Create future educational modules for coaches, while expanding the system's reach by developing content for other Division II constituents such as chancellors and presidents, directors of athletics and compliance administrators.
- Join Divisions I and III in exploring the possibility of expanding the scope of Division II University through a broader Association-wide pilot program for coaches credentialing.



## Academics

- **Academic Advising.** The division has allocated \$150,000 in annual funds to directly support athletics academic advising positions on campuses that will be distributed through the Division II Strategic Alliance Matching Grant Program starting in the 2019-20 academic year. Continuing education opportunities also will be increased through expanded Division II University modules and updated online resources.
- **African American Male Graduation Rates.** The division's governance committees will closely examine factors affecting Federal Graduation Rates and Division II Academic Success Rates of African American male student-athletes, which have remained relatively constant during the past decade while rates for other student-athletes of color, including African American females, have risen.

## Championships Initiatives

- **Joint Men's Basketball Championships.** The NCAA will celebrate the 2019-20 men's basketball season by staging the Divisions II and III national championship games April 5 in Atlanta, in conjunction with the Men's Final Four®.
- **Festival Working Group.** The group reviewed all aspects of the Division II National Championships Festivals and recommended enhancements to the Division II Championships Committee in June 2019, for implementation starting in 2019-20.
- **Championships Bid Process.** The process for soliciting 2022-26 championship sites started in August 2019 and will conclude in February 2020. Sites will be announced in October 2020.
- **Football Bracketing.** The Division II Football Committee is exploring bracketing options to decrease travel costs without jeopardizing the student-athlete experience. The 2019 championship will pilot an alternate bracketing model.
- **Triennial Budget Process.** Division II sport committees will recommend budget items to the Championships Committee by September 2020 for implementation in September 2021.
- **Coaches Connection.** The Coaches Connection program, which uses former coaches to strengthen communication between the coaching constituency and the NCAA national office, will expand to include men's and women's basketball and field hockey.



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## SAAC Initiatives

The Division II National SAAC will host its third Super Region Convention April 17-19, 2020, in Los Angeles for institutions in the South Central and West regions.

The SAAC is developing new initiatives that are part of an overarching goal called the “Total Package Student-Athlete,” as reflected below:

### TOTAL

#### **Mental health.**

Continue to break the stigma.

### PACKAGE

#### **Diversity and inclusion.**

Support diversity in all of its forms and promote inclusion.

### STUDENT

#### **Professional development.**

Help prepare student-athletes for life after college sports.

### ATHLETE

#### **Love2Play.**

Encourage young athletes to play multiple sports and to have fun while they play.



## Health and Safety

The division will collaborate with the NCAA Sport Science Institute on the following:

- Administer the first health and safety survey that focuses on the organizational and administrative aspects of athletics health care delivery. Results will be incorporated into the Institutional Performance Program and will allow schools to make comparisons with institutional peer groups.
- Continue to implement a communication plan to increase the number of institutions that voluntarily participate in the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program to build data that help inform injury prevention policies and practices.
- Partner with the Gordie Center for Substance Abuse to track action plans for the 38 institutions that attended the third Division II-specific APPLE Training Institute in March 2019. The next Division-II specific APPLE Training Institute will be held in fall 2020.



## Diversity and Inclusion

The division will collaborate with the NCAA office of inclusion on the following:

- Fund attendance of implementation teams from approximately 40 Division II institutions to the 2020 NCAA Inclusion Forum April 17-19 in Denver to develop institution-specific action plans that enhance diversity and inclusion on campus.
- Develop and execute action steps to optimize the role of the senior woman administrator.

## GOALS Survey Results

The 2019 GOALS study will reflect the athletics, academic, social and wellness-related experiences of student-athletes across all sports and help the division shape policy and devote resources to enhance those experiences in the future. Data on time demands will provide the second assessment of the “Life in the Balance” playing and practice season legislation the Division II membership adopted in 2010 and 2011. New items in the quadrennial study include questions about online courses, recruitment and reasons for choosing a particular college, injuries, and nutrition.



## Brand Activation

Division II’s Make It Yours® brand supports the Life in the Balance philosophy by encouraging student-athletes to make the Division II experience their own through academics, athletics, community engagement and more.

The division will continue to promote Make It Yours and Life in the Balance through the current regular-season media agreement, now in its second year, in which the division partners with participating conferences and institutions to broadcast and/or stream select games. Additional games are streamed exclusively on the ESPN app.

Division II also will join Divisions I and III in celebrating the 150th anniversary of college football in 2019.