

2020-21 Division II Priorities



COVID-19 Response

Since early March 2020, the Division II governance structure has actively taken steps to ease the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student-athletes, schools, conferences and the division overall:

- Provided significant flexibility in academic eligibility, awards and benefits, championships, financial aid, membership, transfer eligibility, playing and practice seasons, recruiting, reinstatement, and more.
- Approved changes to the division's long-range budget, prioritizing expenses in the following order in accordance with the Division II budget guidelines and principles: (1) contractual obligations; (2) championships; (3) enhancement fund; (4) conference grant program; and (5) strategic initiatives.
- Waived the sports sponsorship and three-season requirement for conferences and schools, and approved changes to the minimum number of contests for championships selection, and maximum number of contests and dates of competition for the 2020-21 academic year only.
- Continues addressing ongoing and emerging concerns.

Championships

Winter and Spring Sports. Given the challenges associated with COVID-19, the Championships Committee will make recommendations to the Management and Presidents Councils on items such as bracket/field size and timing of championships for winter and spring sports to provide student-athletes with a safe and rewarding experience.

Triennial Budget Requests. Championships priorities for the 2021-24 triennial budget (e.g., officiating fees, travel reimbursement, per diem, participation opportunities, championships experience) will be considered in the fall/winter of 2020-21.



NIL Legislation

Following the charge of the NCAA Board of Governors, Division II will consider legislation at the 2021 NCAA Convention to permit student-athletes to benefit from their name, image and likeness. The fall will focus on membership education regarding the current legislation and proposals. After Convention, assuming adoption of the proposals, Division II will shift its attention to helping the membership (including student-athletes as the group most directly impacted) effectively implement the new legislation.



Division II University

After a successful first year using DII U to administer the required annual coaches certification, 2020-21 will look to build on that accomplishment by adding four courses on NCAA rules and one on health and safety. Coaches seeking to recruit off campus and participate in countable athletically related activities will be required to complete a course on Bylaw 17 and Life in the Balance, which includes tips and best practices developed by the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Future modules will target other Division II constituents, including courses on gameday operations and customer service, as well as courses directed at faculty athletics representatives.

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SAAC

Total Package Student-Athlete. The Division II SAAC will continue focusing on initiatives supporting the overarching goal called the “Total Package Student-Athlete”:

- **Total: Mental health.** Break the stigma and inspire others to promote mental wellness.
- **Package: Diversity and inclusion.** Celebrate the diversity within athletics and promote inclusion to enhance the student-athlete experience.
- **Student: Professional development.** Prepare student-athletes for experiences and challenges in life after athletics.
- **Athlete: Love2Play.** Encourage young athletes to play multiple sports and to have fun while they play.

RISE to Vote. Partnering with the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) and the Divisions I and III SAACs, the Division II SAAC will educate student-athletes on how to vote in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, the importance of voting and how student-athletes can use their platform to amplify their voice for civic engagement.

Monitoring Transfer Portal. With the Division II membership adopting the notification of transfer model beginning Aug. 1, 2020, the division will monitor the NCAA Transfer Portal to review the rate at which student-athletes transfer in the new legislation compared to the previous permission-to-contact legislation



Coaches Connection

The successful program that uses former coaches to strengthen communication between the coaching constituency and the NCAA national office will expand to include women’s rowing.



Inclusion Forum

Fund activation teams from approximately 40 Division II institutions to attend the 2021 forum April 16-18 and develop institution-specific action plans to enhance diversity and inclusion on campus.



Health and Safety

Survey. Seek input on the organizational and administrative aspects of athletics health care delivery and incorporate responses into the Institutional Performance Program so that schools can compare their programs with institutional peer groups.



Injury Surveillance Program. Continue increasing the number of institutions that voluntarily participate in the program to build data that help inform injury prevention policies and practices.

Mental Health Resources. Monitor concerns and develop resources to help student-athletes and other campus stakeholders address unique challenges that have impacted them, including those related to COVID-19.

Division II Brand

As the Division II membership embraces the Make It Yours brand and the Life in the Balance philosophy to help student-athletes make the Division II experience their own through academics, athletics, community engagement and more, explore unique ways to continue promoting both for the membership and prospective student-athletes.