2022-23 Division II Priorities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Division II FAR Advanced Leadership Institute
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022, in Indianapolis.
• Fifth Advanced Leadership Institute for faculty athletics representatives and 14th overall.
• Sixteen Division II FARs will attend to enhance their skills and help produce the first FAR-focused educational module for the Division II University platform.

SAAC Super Region Convention
April 14-16, 2023, in Pittsburgh.
• Fifth overall convention.
• About 150 student-athletes and administrators from conferences in the East Region (CACC, CIAA, ECC, MEC, NE10 and PSAC) will attend.

2023 Inclusion Forum
April 21-23, 2023, in Indianapolis.
• The Inclusion Forum annually assembles higher education and intercollegiate athletics leaders and student-athletes who are passionate about improving the educational and professional environment for student-athletes, coaches, administrators and staff.
• Division II will cover expenses for up to 26 teams from Division II schools to attend the Inclusion Forum. In addition, the schools will be required to develop action plans to be implemented on campus following their attendance at the Inclusion Forum.

Division II Identity Workshop for Athletic Trainers
June 6-8, 2023, in Indianapolis.
• Second workshop for athletic trainers.
• Three head athletic trainers from each conference will benefit from this professional development opportunity that briefs participants about Division II strategic positioning initiatives and prepares them to return to their schools and share these tools and resources with their constituents.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division II will continue providing a memorable student-athlete experience at all 25 national championships through several key initiatives:
• The first Division II National Championships Festival in four years will take place in Seattle Nov. 29-Dec. 3, and for the first time, will feature enhancements recommended by the Festival Working Group.
• A joint women’s basketball championship with Divisions I and III in Dallas March 31-April 2 will serve as the Association’s culminating event celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX.
• For the first time, a joint men’s and women’s tennis championship with Divisions I and III will occur at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida. The Division II championships are May 11-16.
• The Division II Championships Committee and Division II sport committees will discuss recommendations as part of the 2024-27 triennial budget cycle with final recommendations submitted in September 2023.
GAME DAY EXPERIENCES

In partnership with the Disney Institute, the Make Game Day Yours initiative promotes a positive game day environment across Division II. Regional training sessions in 2022 and 2023 will enable those involved in the Division II game day experience to offer enhanced customer service to fans. In conjunction with the 2023 NCAA Convention, Division II will launch Make Game Day Yours modules on Division II University for game day staff.

MAKE IT YOURS – TELLING OUR STORY

The Make It Yours brand and Life in the Balance philosophy are essential components of the well-rounded experience provided to Division II student-athletes. Promotional materials will be shared to emphasize the division’s unique characteristics and illustrate how student-athletes benefit. Other divisional efforts, including celebrating Title IX at 50, #D2Day annually on Feb. 22 and the division’s 50th anniversary, will also be emphasized.

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

- Following the adoption of the new NCAA Constitution, the Division II Presidents Council charged the Division II Implementation Committee with reviewing the division’s rules and policies and recommending changes that strengthen the division in accordance with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution.
- In 2021-22, the Implementation Committee made numerous recommendations to fulfill its charge. Several concepts/issues have been referred to the Division II governance structure for review and discussion.
- In 2022-23, Division II general committees will work with Implementation Committee members to address these items, among others:
  - Continue seeking to elevate the student-athlete voice within the governance structure. [Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; Division II general committees]
  - Determine the appropriate minimum sponsorship requirement necessary to create/maintain a Division II championship in a given sport and the appropriate range of access ratios that in turn determine bracket/field size by sport. [Division II Championships Committee and relevant sport committees]
  - Decide which amateurism and recruiting restrictions, if any, are unnecessary and should be eliminated. [Division II Legislation Committee]
  - Explore whether changes are necessary within the current provisional membership process and discuss requirements for active schools and conferences. [Division II Membership Committee]
  - Review the legislation for institutional control and institutional responsibilities for monitoring athletics to determine whether the expectations are fair, accurate and reasonable. [NCAA enforcement staff; Division II Committee on Infractions; and Division II Infractions Appeals Committee]
- Finally, the division will continue tracking the work of Divisions I and III and the Association-wide items to assess the impact on Division II.

INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Following the work of the NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force, in collaboration with the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee, Division II will consider legislation at the 2023 Convention to eliminate the standardized test score requirement (SAT or ACT) for initial-eligibility requirements. If adopted, the proposal establishes the following standards for initial eligibility: (1) Qualifier status requires high school graduation, 16 core courses and a 2.2 grade-point average; and (2) Early academic qualifier status requires 14 core courses and a 2.5 grade-point average. The Division II Academic Requirements Committee will continue reviewing other areas of the legislation that may be impacted by this change.

SAAC PRIORITIES

As part of the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee’s Total Package Student-Athlete initiative, the importance of mental health and breaking the stigma remains a top priority. The committee also focuses on enhancing inclusive practices through diversity and inclusion and helping prepare student-athletes for life after athletics through their Life After the Game goal.