

# 2025-26 Division II Priorities

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Triennial Budget Process.** The Division II Championships Committee and Division II sport committees will discuss recommendations as part of the 2027-30 triennial budget cycle, with final recommendations submitted in September 2026.

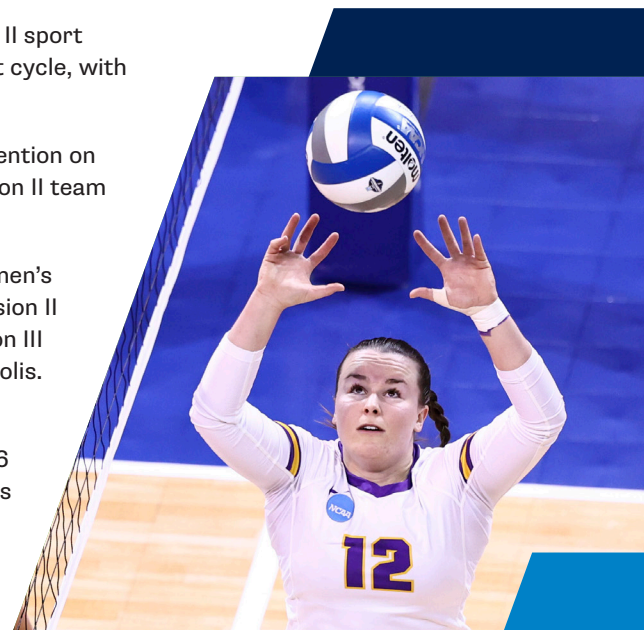
**Selection Criteria.** The membership will vote in January at the 2026 NCAA Convention on whether to establish the NCAA Power Index as the sole selection metric for Division II team championships effective with the 2026-27 academic year.

**Joint Championships.** For the first time since 2018, the Division II Men's and Women's Elite Eights will be held jointly in Pittsburgh on March 24-28. Additionally, the Division II Men's Basketball Championship game will be played in conjunction with the Division III Men's Basketball Championship game at the Division I Men's Final Four in Indianapolis. This marks the first joint men's basketball championships since 2012.

**Potential New Championships.** The membership will vote in January at the 2026 Convention on adding National Collegiate Championships in stunt and in acrobatics and tumbling. Members will also vote on adding women's bowling as the 26th Division II championship.

## OPERATING PLAN

Division II is in the final stages of developing a six-year operating plan, which will be launched at the 2026 Convention and extend through 2032 in alignment with the remainder of the NCAA's current broadcast agreements. The new plan outlines five broad focus areas – Academics, Athletics, Health and Wellness, Governance, and Operations and Positioning – designed to enhance not only the student-athlete experience but also the experience of institutional personnel as members of a division that understands the balanced approach to athletics as part of the educational mission. The Division II Executive Board and the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee have worked to ensure the plan is fiscally responsible to support the initiatives necessary to carry out goals and benefit Division II members.



## SAAC PRIORITIES

This fall, the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will prioritize enhancing community engagement and strengthening communication across conferences and schools. SAAC aims to spotlight existing community engagement efforts and Division II's partnerships with Make-A-Wish and Team IMPACT, while sharing ideas and best practices to inspire community engagement. The committee also strives to maintain consistent communication with campus and conference SAACs to disseminate updates and resources and to receive feedback from peers on important issues.

In the spring, pending all three divisions removing the prohibition on betting on professional sports, SAAC will shift focus to sports betting education and harm reduction. This would include promoting NCAA Sport Science Institute resources, highlighting the NCAA partnership with EPIC Risk Management, and emphasizing student-athlete well-being, particularly the risks of problem gambling.



## GOALS SURVEY RESULTS

The 2024-25 Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College Study provides data on the experiences and well-being of current student-athletes. Topics examined in the nationally representative GOALS survey include college academic, athletics and social experiences; coach-athlete relationships; recruitment and college choice; time commitments; on-campus support; and finances. Division II committees and affiliate groups will review the GOALS results to determine whether policy or legislative changes are needed and whether to allocate resources to enhance the student-athlete experience.

## DIVISION II ELIGIBILITY REVIEW WORKING GROUP – 2026 CONVENTION PROPOSAL

Following the work of the NCAA Division II Eligibility Review Working Group, Division II will consider legislation at the 2026 Convention to amend the seasons of competition legislation. If adopted, a Division II student-athlete would have five seasons to participate in intercollegiate competition and would have to complete the five seasons during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters of full-time enrollment.

## MAKE IT YOURS BRAND

Following a successful marketing campaign that leveraged public service announcements and paid social media ads in spring 2025, Division II will launch a marketing campaign this fall to continue influencing the perception and understanding of the division among prospective student-athletes and their parents.

## CONNECTION PROGRAM

The NCAA Division II Connection Program has expanded beyond coaches to include athletic trainers and faculty athletics representatives, strengthening engagement with key campus leaders who support the student-athlete experience.

The Athletic Trainers Connection enhances the role of athletic trainers as advocates for student-athlete health, safety and well-being. With representatives from each conference and support from a designated Connector, the program fosters communication among athletic trainers, commissioners and NCAA staff. Monthly calls, resource sharing and engagement with the NCAA Sport Science Institute and national organizations like the National Athletic Trainers' Association and College Athletic Trainers' Society will occur to ensure athletic trainers have a consistent voice in Division II priorities and policies.

The FAR Connection reinforces the critical role FARs play in supporting academic integrity and student-athlete success. Through monthly conference calls, collaboration with NCAA staff and engagement with the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, FARs gain deeper insight into legislative and governance processes. The program promotes FAR involvement in NCAA committee service and facilitates communication across conferences to support informed, student-centered decision-making.



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## PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP

### Women Leaders in Sports Governance Academy

**September and October**

Women Leaders in Sports and Division II will partner to provide educational and networking opportunities for female administrators in Division II.

### APPLE Training Institute

**September**

For the sixth time since 2015, Division II and the University of Virginia's Gordie Center will partner to host a Division II-specific APPLE Training Institute.

Athletics administrators and student-athletes from 33 schools committed to promoting student-athlete wellness and substance misuse prevention on their campuses will have an opportunity to participate. The NCAA Division II APPLE Training Institute will be Sept. 19-21 in Denver.

### FAR Fellows Institute

**September**

The division will host its 15th FAR Fellows Institute and 20th institute overall Sept. 26-28 in Indianapolis. The institute provides educational programming for faculty athletics representatives to help them effectively perform their roles and support student-athletes. A special celebration will be conducted at the 2026 NCAA Convention in January to celebrate the 20th overall institute.

### Impact Forum

**November**

The division will support an enhanced institutional participation at the NCAA Impact Forum. This program covers expenses for teams from up to 26 Division II institutions to attend the 2025 Forum from Nov. 10-12 in Indianapolis. Participating teams – composed of student-athletes, coaches, athletics administrators and campus partners – will develop and implement action plans to advance initiatives on their campuses.

### SAAC Super Region Convention

**November**

The Division II SAAC will host its eighth Super Region Convention from Nov. 21-23 in Denver for the South Central and West Regions (California Collegiate Athletic Association, Great Northwest Athletic Conference, Lone Star Conference, Pacific West Conference and Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference). Participants will engage in several important topics, including the student-athlete voice, mental health, life after athletics and creating a culture of belonging.

## 2025-26 DIVISION II MENTOR PROGRAM



## 2024 DIVISION II FAR FELLOWS INSTITUTE



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## DIVISION II SAAC APRIL 2025 SUPER REGION CONVENTION

### Professional Development Workshop for Athletics Communicators

#### June

Athletics communications professionals from each of the Division II conferences and independent institutions will be invited to participate in professional development June 2-4 in Indianapolis. This will be the first of four years in which athletics communications professionals will be the focus of this workshop.

### Minority Opportunities Athletic Association Governance Academy

#### June

MOAA and Division II have partnered since 2009 to provide educational and networking opportunities for minority administrators in Division II.

### Division II Professional Development Workshop for Compliance Administrators

#### June

The division is partnering with the National Association for Athletics Compliance to provide programming for Division II compliance administrators. Topics include regulatory issues, governance issues, strategic initiatives and committee service, and professional and personal development.

### Mentor Program

#### 2025-26

The NCAA and the Division II Athletics Directors Association have partnered to create a mentoring program that provides a unique opportunity for individuals interested in a career as a Division II director of athletics. This experience partners each successful candidate with a current Division II director of athletics for enhancing career development. Mentors provide yearlong guidance and role modeling that encourages a commitment to a long-range career goal of serving as a Division II director of athletics.

### New AD Orientation

#### 2025-26

The division is partnering again with the D2 ADA to provide programming for new directors of athletics in Division II. The participants will be invited to join other active Division II athletics directors and national office staff for an orientation session to discuss topics including championships, identity initiatives and financial information. The program also includes the opportunity for orientation at the NCAA and National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics conventions.



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