

# 2023-24 Division II Priorities



## DIVISION II 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A yearlong commemorative marketing campaign, which launched in August, includes 50th anniversary lapel pins, a \$200 signage credit, logos and social media editable graphics, a communications toolkit, a promotional video, and jersey patches. In addition, the division will honor one individual who identifies as male and one individual who identifies as female with a 50th Anniversary Gold Award for making a positive impact in Division II. The division also will provide a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity for student-athletes from active member schools who exhibit the core values of Division II and have not yet exhausted their athletics eligibility.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Starting Feb. 1, 2024, the Division II governance structure will implement the following changes adopted at the 2023 Convention to better support the Division II governance structure:

- The Presidents Council will transition to a nimbler Executive Board, which incorporates independent voices and focuses more on strategic discussions.
- The Management Council will take on more responsibilities and decision-making for the day-to-day operations of the division while adding new and diverse positions and voices around the table.
- The Planning and Finance Committee will transition to the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, which will be a stand-alone committee focused on overseeing Division II financial affairs and the division's strategic plan and strategic priorities.



## IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE REFERRALS

The Division II Implementation Committee, which was established to review the division's bylaws and policies to align with the new NCAA Constitution, developed more than two dozen initiatives and enhancements that were adopted but also referred several concepts to existing bodies within the Division II governance structure for further review, including:

- Decide whether changes to the current rules related to progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfers could be made without jeopardizing the academic success of student-athletes. [*Division II Academic Requirements Committee*]
- Determine the appropriate minimum sponsorship requirement necessary to create/maintain a Division II championship in a given sport; determine the appropriate range of access ratios that in turn determine bracket/field size by sport; and solidify automatic qualification as a defined benchmark rather than a sport committee's recommendation. [*Division II Championships Committee and relevant sport committees*]
- Decide which athletics eligibility, recruiting and benefits restrictions, if any, are unnecessary and should be eliminated. [*Division II Legislation Committee*]

## NEW DII UNIVERSITY MODULES

DIIU will add modules this year focused on:

- Training for the Make Game Day Yours initiative to help Division II members enhance their game day experience and customer service to fans.
- Educational outreach to help faculty athletics representatives support student-athletes.
- Messaging about Division II's unique characteristics and attributes.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS PRIORITIES

**Spring 2024 Festival.** The first spring National Championships Festival in eight years will take place May 19-25 in Orlando, Florida featuring men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, softball, and men's and women's tennis.

**Triennial Budget Process.** The Championships Committee will finalize recommendations as part of the 2024-27 triennial budget cycle in September 2023.

**Championship Site Selection.** The process for 2026-28 championships sites will launch in September 2023 and conclude in February 2024. The Championships Committee and relevant sport committees will review bids and announce sites in October 2024.



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## MEDIA RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS

The broadcasting agreements with ESPN, CBS and CBS Sports Network involving the Division II football semifinals and championship game and the Division II men's and women's basketball semifinals and finals conclude in 2024. Future broadcasting arrangements will focus on elevating the championship experience further, not only for the student-athletes participating but also for Division II members and their fans.

## MAKE IT YOURS BRAND ENHANCEMENT

Division II is undertaking a three-phase engagement that seeks to further understand the perception of Division II among prospective student-athletes and those who influence where they choose to attend college. It also aims to determine where and how they engage with college sports. The data gathered through consumer research will help determine an activation plan that will launch in 2024.

## STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The division will continue developing its next six-year strategic plan that will launch in January 2026 by asking committees and affiliate groups to draft goals and priorities for the membership's review and feedback.

## DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

The Division II SAAC will focus on the three E's – empower student-athletes with resources, empathize with their concerns, and enhance their voice and experience. As part of the empower theme, SAAC members will concentrate on congressional engagement and Life After the Game (preparing student-athletes for life after athletics). For the empathize theme, they will focus on mental health and diversity, equity and inclusion. For the enhance theme, they will use the new Division II SAAC Instagram to share resources and information, will finalize a campus SAAC guide and will refresh a conference SAAC guide to share best practices on a variety of topics.

## NCAA SURVEY RESULTS

**Wagering and Social Environments Survey.** This national survey of college student-athletes is scheduled to occur during 2023-24 in collaboration with campus faculty athletics representatives. The study will ask questions about the social environments of student-athletes, as well as assess opinions toward gambling and sports wagering among current student-athletes.

**Student-Athlete Health and Wellness Survey.** Division II will benefit from data obtained through the 2022-23 national survey of college student-athletes that examined topics including student-athlete mental health concerns and peer support, sleep behaviors, attitudes toward weight and body image, nutrition, competition and injury history, and substance use experiences.

## DII SAAC SUPER REGION CONVENTION

The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will conduct its sixth super region convention Nov. 17-19 in Atlanta for the South Region (Conference Carolinas, Gulf South Conference, Peach Belt Conference, South Atlantic Conference, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Sunshine State Conference and independents). The super region convention effectively increases student-athlete engagement within Division II governance and decision making.







## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP

### **Women Leaders in College Sports Governance Academy**

*September 2023*

Women Leaders in College Sports and Division II have partnered on this initiative since 2012 to provide educational and networking opportunities for female administrators in Division II.

### **FAR Fellows Institute**

*September 2023*

Educational programming for faculty athletics representatives to help them effectively perform their roles and support student-athletes.

### **APPLE Training Institute**

*February 2024*

In partnership with the Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the division will host the fifth Division II-specific APPLE Training Institute in Orlando, Florida. The event provides funding for administrator and student-athlete teams

from more than 30 Division II schools to attend and create action plans to implement on campus.

### **Athletic Trainers**

*June 2024*

Three from each Division II conference and one representing independent institutions will participate in three days of professional development.

### **Minority Opportunities Athletic Association Governance Academy**

*June 2024*

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

### **Compliance Administrators**

*June 2024*

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**

*2023-24*

In partnership with the Division II Athletics Directors Association, the division provides a unique opportunity for women and minorities interested in a career as a Division II director of athletics.

### **New AD Orientation**

*2023-24*

In partnership with the D2ADA, the division provides programming for new athletics directors in Division II, including an orientation session with a discussion of championships, identity initiatives and financial information.



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