NCAA Division III
Positioning Statement

Follow your passions and discover your potential. The college experience is a time of learning and growth – a chance to follow passions and develop potential. For student-athletes in Division III, this happens most importantly in the classroom through earning an academic degree. The Division III experience provides for passionate participation in a competitive athletic environment, where student-athletes push themselves to excellence and build on their academic success with new challenges and life skills. And student-athletes are encouraged to pursue the full spectrum of opportunities available during their time in college. In this way, Division III provides an integrated environment for student-athletes to take responsibility for their own paths, follow their passions and find their potential through a comprehensive educational experience.

NCAA Division III
Membership Requirements

Institutions with 1,000 or more students must sponsor six sports for all male/mixed teams and six sports for all female teams. This must include at least three team sports per gender.

Institutions with enrollment of less than 1,000 students must sponsor five sports per gender, including at least three team sports.

Active member institutions must be represented by a voting delegate at the NCAA Convention business session each year and by at least one institutional staff member at NCAA Regional Rules Seminars every three years.

Active member institutions are responsible for completing the NCAA Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG) at least once every five years. Additionally, all head coaches and athletics administrators with compliance responsibilities must complete the NCAA Division III Rules Test annually.

The NCAA Division III Membership Committee is responsible for performing audits of membership requirements.

Distribution of NCAA Division III Institutions

Louise McCleary
Vice President of Division III
317-917-6637
lmccleary@ncaa.org

Eric Hartung
Associate Director of Division III
317-917-6306
ehartung@ncaa.org

Ali Spungen
Associate Director of Division III
317-917-6711
aspungen@ncaa.org

Adam Skaggs
Assistant Director of Division III Communications
317-917-6206
askaggs@ncaa.org

700 W. Washington Street • P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Ph: 317/917-6222 • NCAA.org
**NCAA Division III Legislative Cycle**

Amendments to the NCAA Division III bylaws require presidential sponsorship. This is done in one of three ways: (1) Through the governance structure ( Presidents Council); (2) By sponsorship by 20 or more member institutions; or (3) By sponsorship by two or more conferences.

- **July 15**  
  Membership sponsored proposals due
- **August 15**  
  Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation (IPOPL) - Membership Sponsored Proposals
- **August 15 - September 15**  
  Sponsor Modification Period
- **September 23**  
  Second Publication of Proposed Legislation (SPOPL) - Membership and Presidents Council Sponsored Proposals
- **September 23 - November 1**  
  Amendment-to-Amendment Period
- **November 15**  
  Official Notice
- **Third Week of January**  
  NCAA Convention

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**Division III Facts and Figures**

- Institutions:
  - 483 Active members; 44 Multisport conferences;
  - 20% Public institutions; 80% Private Institutions;
- Median Institution Enrollment:
  - 2,601
- Average Number of Sports Sponsored Per Institution:
  - 19
- Average Number of Participants Per Institution:
  - 448
- Average Total Operating Expenses:
  - With Football: $4,100,000
  - Without Football: Total: $2,300,000

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**Suggested Talking Points for the President/Chancellor & Athletics Director**

**BUDGET ISSUES**

Request a copy and overview of the most recent budget. Is the budget comparable to other conference institutions? Are student-athletes responsible for any fundraising? If so, how much? Does athletics work with the development office on fundraising?

**STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**

Request/review samples of practice & athletic training schedules. Is the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) active and effective? What is the relationship between athletics and residence life? Are student-athletes' needs being met? What are the meal plan options and dining hall hours? Are the student-athletes' needs being met? Are student-athletes included in conversations about legislation? Are there personnel issues within athletics that I should be aware of? Do we send student-athletes to NCAA leadership conferences?

**PERSONNEL**

How effective is our faculty athletics representative (FAR)? How is the relationship like between the FAR and coaches? Between the FAR and student-athletes? How effective is our senior woman administrator (SWA)? What is the relationship like between the SWA and coaches? Between the SWA and student-athletes? How effective is our athletic training? Are there health or safety concerns? Who on campus serves on NCAA or conference committees? Do we have any part-time coaches?

**CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

How does our conference function? Who in the conference serves on NCAA committees? Do we take advantage of conference grant funding? Who chairs the conference presidential oversight group? Who in the conference is on the Division III Presidents’ Advisory Group?

**OTHER**

What is our institution doing to meet compliance obligations? Have we reported any violations? What is the relationship between athletics and the admissions office? What are the policies of the admissions office related to athletics? How do athletics have any “special admissions”? What is the relationship between athletics and the financial aid office? When did we last complete the Institutional Self Study Guide (ISSG)? Request a copy of the most recent ISSG. What is the president's role in the ISSG? What percentage of students are student-athletes? What is the male to female ratio of students? Do we have a booster club? Have we ever received an NCAA Division III women and ethnic minority internship or matching grant?