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# **Governance Hot Topics Fall 2025**

# Agenda – Division III Updates

- 2026 Convention.
- 2026 Convention Proposals.
- Sports Wagering.
- Analysis of Division III.
- Athletic Communications Working Group.
- Regional Rules Seminar Attendance.
- NCAA ID Numbers.
- Sportsmanship.
- Championships Updates.
- Championships Live Streaming.
- W. Lacrosse Playing Rules.
- Branding and Promotions.
- Mental Health First Aid.



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# Agenda – Association-Wide Updates

- Sport Science Institute Updates.
- Purchasing Cooperative.
- Congressional Engagement.
- Post-Eligibility Injury Insurance.



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# Division III Updates



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# 2026 Convention

- NCAA Convention: Jan. 13-16, National Harbor Gaylord, Maryland.
- Key in-person programming.
  - **Tuesday, Jan. 13** – Association-wide education sessions and ADR programming.
  - **Wednesday, Jan. 14** - Association-wide and DIII education sessions, Special Olympics activity, State of College Sports, NCAA Honors, Welcome Reception, DIII LGBTQ of the Year Award Celebration.



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# 2026 Convention

- Key in-person programming.
  - **Thursday, Jan. 15** - Division III Issues Forum and conference meetings.
  - **Friday, Jan. 16** – Division III Business Session.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following Convention proposals:
  - Requiring the use of the Transfer Portal.
  - Eliminate distance and location restrictions for expenses provided for practice.
  - Remove dollar amounts for awards.
  - Permit actual and necessary expenses for one all-star contest.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following Convention proposals:
  - Team entertainment – professional sports tickets.
  - Add women's flag football as an emerging sport.
  - Create a national collegiate championship for acrobatics and tumbling.
  - Create a national collegiate championship for stunt.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals

- The following membership proposals have been submitted for the 2026 Convention:
  - Establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Championship.
  - Defining the use of a season of eligibility.
  - Resolution - Name, Image and Likeness.
  - Amend the in-region competition requirement.
  - Multiple automatic qualifier model for championships.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals

- The following membership proposals have been submitted for the 2026 Convention:
  - Championship automatic qualifier required conference participation.
  - Reduce championship automatic qualifier waiting period.
  - Adding a mandatory winter break.
  - Meal on an unofficial visit.



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# Sports Wagering

- The Division III Management Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to remove the prohibition of wagering on professional sports.
- The proposal becomes effective November 22, 2025, if adopted by Division I.
- The Division III membership will ratify at the 2026 Business Session during the NCAA Convention.



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# Division III Analysis

- With input from the Management Council and the Presidents Advisory Group, the Presidents Council endorsed a focused analysis of the key issues facing the division.
- Initially identified areas of analysis include championship access, eligibility standards, and membership criteria.
- This analysis will build off the recent reviews conducted by Deloitte, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- The Presidents Council is encouraging presidents and chancellors to attend the Presidents and Chancellors Forum held during the 2026 Convention (Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m. Eastern) to discuss this analysis.



# Strategic Communications Working Group

- The working group has recently published the revised version of the:

[Guide to Strategic Athletics Communications on Campus](#)

- The working group forwarded a recommendation to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to establish an athletics communication grant for FY27 and FY28.



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# Regional Rules Seminar Attendance

- The Membership Committee changed its policy to permit the viewing of the live stream of the Division III sessions from the 2026 Regional Rules Seminar (RRS) to fulfill the membership attendance requirement.
- This change will apply to any Division III RRS live streamed in future years.
- Funding to live stream Division III sessions from the RRS beyond 2026 will be considered with the next budget cycle (FY27/FY28).



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# NCAA Identification Number

- The Division III Management Council approved a change to its policies for the reporting of Division III graduation rate information beginning in 2032.
- Student-athletes initially enrolling in a Division III institution beginning fall 2026 will need an NCAA ID number.
- NCAA ID numbers can be obtained from the NCAA Eligibility Center.



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# Sportsmanship

- Division III recently developed a new online de-escalation module to support the Division III membership's efforts to promote sportsmanship and improve the game day environment.
- The online module can be accessed through the NCAA Learning Portal.



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# Championship Updates

- The Championship Committee increased the bench size for Division III team championships beginning in fall 2025.
- The bench size is now either all rostered student-athletes or the number recommended by the sport committee.
- The committee did not change the size of the travel party or the squad size for any sport.



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# Championships Live Streaming

- For 2025-26, all rounds of Division III team championships will be live streamed for free.
- Hudl will assist hosts with placing the live streams on NCAA.com to provide a central location to access.
- All Division III championships will be promoted via the NCAA Fan Database (approx. 19 million).
- Using live streams for championships markets the division to a broader audience, strengthening its brand.



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# Women's Lacrosse Playing Rule

- The Division III Management Council approved a request to exempt Division III from a playing rule in women's lacrosse that would have required officials to wear headsets beginning with the 2027 season.
- The use of headsets is permissive, but not mandatory for Division III.
- The membership must ratify the council's decision at the 2026 Convention.



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# Branding and Promotion

- Special Olympics partnership.
- Social media.
- Athletics Communicators Emerging Elite Program.
  - December 7-9, 2025, in Indianapolis.
- D3SIDA recognition award.
  - Three awards each year (\$1,500).
- Division III Week – April 6-12, 2026.



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# Mental Health First Aid

- Division III has engaged the National Council for Mental Wellbeing to provide fully funded mental health training to all Division III institutions with a focus on head coaches and athletics trainers.
- Provides a three-year certification.
- Training is available now through Aug. 1, 2027.
- To date, 25% of the division has scheduled or received the training.
- More information about the training and requesting the training can be found on [ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org).



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# Association-wide Updates



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# Sports Science Institute Updates

- **Athletic Trainer Stakeholder Meeting.** SSI continues to engage with athletic trainer stakeholders to develop strategies to improve workforce concerns in intercollegiate athletics.
- **Sports Betting – Harm Reduction Strategies.** SSI has published additional resources to assist the membership.
- **Performance Technology.** A summit, held in May 2025, resulted in the development of non-binding guidance for the membership, which is being reviewed by CSMAS.
- **Mental Health.** SSI is providing the membership with Mental Health First Aid training. The next opportunity is at the 2026 Convention.



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# NCAA/E&I Cooperative Purchasing Pilot

- The NCAA has created a NCAA membership sourcing cooperative with E&I Cooperative Services.
- 95% of NCAA member institutions are enrolled in E&I.
- Initial feedback indicates that participating schools realized an average cost savings of 34% for athletic equipment purchases (e.g., weight plates, treadmills) and a 12% savings for athletic training supplies (e.g., athletic tape).



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# Congressional Engagement

- With the current federal administration, the goal continues to be to proactively shape possible future federal legislation that:
  - Codifies student-athletes' non-employment status.
  - Governs defined aspects of college sports (e.g., NIL) and preempts state laws.
  - Provides a safe harbor from future lawsuits.
- The SCORE Act captures the NCAA's identified needs.
- Membership engagement of federal legislators – email, call, meet and/or invite to campus – is making an impact.



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# Post-Eligibility Injury Insurance

- The NCAA Board of Governors approved a post-eligibility insurance program that became effective Aug. 1, 2024. It is available to all Division I, II and III student-athletes.
- The coverage will be for two years after student-athletes complete their collegiate athletics experience and will cover injuries that occur while playing for the schools.
- The premium for this coverage will be paid by the NCAA.
- Additional information concerning this program can be found on [NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org).



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# Questions?



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