NCAA DIVISION III

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Division III Hot Topics

Fall 2026

Division III Updates.

- 2027 Convention & Proposals.
- Championships.
- Division III Analysis.
- Division III Annual Report and Facts & Figures.
- Eligibility Center Profile Accounts.
- Mental Health First Aid.
- NIL Working Group.
- Nominating Committee.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- Regional Rules Seminar.
- SAAC Updates.

Association-Wide Updates.

- Congressional Engagement.
- Sports Science Institute.
- Transfer Portal Dashboard.

Division III Updates.

2027 NCAA Convention.

January 12-15, Anaheim, California.

- **Tuesday, Jan. 12** – Council and SAAC meetings, ADR programming.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 13 –** Joint and DIII education sessions, Special Olympics activity, Welcome and Keynote Address, Welcome Reception, DIII LGBTQ of the Year Award Celebration.
- **Thursday, Jan. 14** – Division III Issues Forum and conference meetings.
- **Friday, Jan. 15** – Division III Business Session.

2027 Convention Proposals.

The grouping and order of proposals for Convention in January.

Presidents Grouping.

- 2027-1: Football Spring Period
- 2027-2: Council Vacancies
- 2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model
  - 2027-3-1: Removal of 19th Birthday

General Grouping.

- 2027-4: Pre-Enrollment Use of Agents
- 2027-5: Flag Football National Collegiate Championship

2027 Convention Proposals.

Governance position on membership-sponsored proposals:

Football Spring Period:	***Oppose.***
Council Vacancies:	***Support.***
Age-Based Eligibility Model:	***No Position & Recommendation of Referral.***

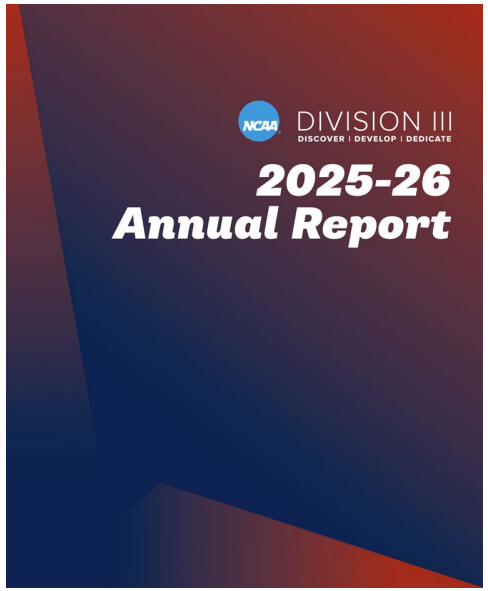
Championships Updates.

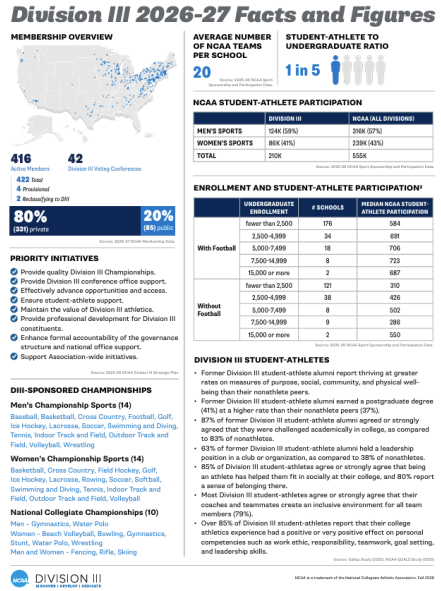
- The Championships Committee will continue to **explore the concept** of alcohol sales and to inform its decision, it will seek feedback via the 2027 membership survey.
- In 2027 and 2028, there will be a **joint championship** with Divisions I and II for women's lacrosse.
- The Championships Committee finalized the **NPI dial changes**, effective with the 2027-28 seasons.
- NPI educational materials have been created and are now available to the membership.

Division III Analysis.

- The working group forwarded options to various groups to **review** and **propose next steps**.
  - 12 options to various Division III committees.
  - Nine options back to the working group.
  - Five options to the membership.
  - The working group has created a chart to track the progress of each option.
- With its nine options, the working group has prioritized **playing and practice seasons** and **financial resources**.
- The working group has released a **case study** regarding eligibility and forwarded a case study to the NIL Working Group.
- During the 2027 Issues Forum, it will provide an update on its work.

Division III Annual Report and Facts & Figures.




Division III 2026-27 Facts and Figures

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

AVERAGE NUMBER OF NCAA TEAMS PER SCHOOL
20

STUDENT-ATHLETE TO UNDERGRADUATE RATIO
1 in 5

NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

	DIVISION III	NCAA (ALL DIVISIONS)
MEN'S SPORTS	124K (59%)	316K (57%)
WOMEN'S SPORTS	86K (41%)	239K (43%)
TOTAL	210K	555K

416 Active Members
42 Division III Voting Conferences
422 Total
4 Provisional
2 Reclassifying to DIII

80% (321) private
20% (85) public

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION[3]

	UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT	# SCHOOLS	MEDIAN NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION
With Football	fewer than 2,500	176	584
	2,500-4,999	34	691
	5,000-7,499	18	706
	7,500-14,999	8	723
	15,000 or more	2	687
Without Football	fewer than 2,500	121	310
	2,500-4,999	38	426
	5,000-7,499	8	502
	7,500-14,999	9	286
	15,000 or more	2	550

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

- Provide quality Division III Championships.
- Provide Division III conference office support.
- Effectively advance opportunities and access.
- Ensure student-athlete support.
- Maintain the value of Division III athletics.
- Provide professional development for Division III constituents.
- Enhance formal accountability of the governance structure and national office support.
- Support Association-wide initiatives.

DIII-SPONSORED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Championship Sports (14)
Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

Women's Championship Sports (14)
Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field, Volleyball

National Collegiate Championships (10)
Men - Gymnastics, Water Polo
Women - Beach Volleyball, Bowling, Gymnastics, Stunt, Water Polo, Wrestling
Men and Women - Fencing, Rifle, Skiing

DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Former Division III student-athlete alumni report thriving at greater rates on measures of purpose, social, community, and physical well-being than their nonathlete peers.
- Former Division III student-athlete alumni earned a postgraduate degree (41%) at a higher rate than their nonathlete peers (37%).
- 87% of former Division III student-athlete alumni agreed or strongly agreed that they were challenged academically in college, as compared to 83% of nonathletes.
- 63% of former Division III student-athlete alumni held a leadership position in a club or organization, as compared to 38% of nonathletes.
- 85% of Division III student-athletes agree or strongly agree that being an athlete has helped them fit in socially at their college, and 80% report a sense of belonging there.
- Most Division III student-athletes agree or strongly agree that their coaches and teammates create an inclusive environment for all team members (79%).
- Over 85% of Division III student-athletes report that their college athletics experience had a positive or very positive effect on personal competencies such as work ethic, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting, and leadership skills.

DIVISION III
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Eligibility Center Profile Accounts.

- Last year, the Management Council updated its policies to require that every Division III student-athlete have an NCAA ID Number starting with 2026-27 **first-time enrollees**.

- The NCAA Profile Account creates the NCAA ID Number. Currently, there is no fee.

- Effective early in 2027, it will cost **$5**, plus a small processing fee.

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, **52%** of the division has scheduled or received the training.
- More information about the training and requesting the training can be found on ncaa.org.

NIL Working Group.

- In September, there were over **3,000 responses** to a survey sent to the membership to gauge the current state of NIL in Division III.
- The working group is developing **NIL guardrails** to guide its work moving into 2027.
- The working group will **report-out** and seek feedback during the 2027 Division III Issues Forum.

Nominating Committee.

- Seven **new members** have been nominated to each council.
- The membership will now electronically approve the nominees.
  - Athletics directors and commissioners will approve the Management Council slate.
  - Presidents and chancellors will approve the Presidents Council slate.
- The new council members will **begin** their term with the conclusion of the 2027 NCAA Convention.

Noncontroversial Legislation.

The following were approved in final format and are now **effective**:

- National Collegiate Sport Committee Composition.
- Practice While Waiver is Pending – Hardship Waiver Appeals.
- Prize Money Prior to Initial Collegiate Enrollment.
- Ability for Presidents Council to Create a Consent Agenda.
- Conference Vacancies on the Same Division III Committee.
- Remove Acrobatics & Tumbling Participant Requirement for Sports Sponsorship.
- Sunset the NCAA Awards Committee.

Regional Rules Seminar.

- **When:** May 11-13 in Indianapolis.
- At least once every **three years**, a school must be represented at the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar. Here are the 2027 Division III required schools.
  - Schools can meet the requirement by attending in person or via the NCAA-provided livestream.
- For questions about attendance, contact Eric Hartung.

SAAC Updates.

- Subcommittees **established** for the 2026-27 academic year.
  - SAAC 101
  - DIII Downloads
- New Division III former student-athlete rep on the **Board of Governors**.
- Official **legislative positions** will be established at November meeting.

Association-Wide Updates.

Congressional Engagement.

- The **Protect College Sports Act** (PCSA) has passed out of the Senate with a majority bipartisan vote and will be taken up in the House after the November mid-term elections.

- The PCSA restores stability and fairness to college athletics by creating a single national framework.

- Division III membership is encouraged to engage House representatives and may contact staff for resources to do so.

Key Publications

Sports Science Institute.

+ 2026-27 Health and Safety

Guidance & CSMAS Advisory Groups

- Prevention & Harm Reduction. Consensus process underway; expect final recommendations to update Substance Misuse Prevention Toolkit by April 2027.
- Cardiac Care. Charter approved; charged with updating Cardiac Care Best Practices. Work to begin summer 2027.
- Concussion Safety. Expected to meet in summer 2027.

Data Collection

- Injury Surveillance Program.
  - Continue modernization to improve data value; create meaningful outputs; add flexible reporting options.
  - Implement sub-study on REDs.

Education

- AHCA. Resources to Elevate, Empower & Educate AHCAs.
- AT Workforce. Finalize resource on recruitment and retention.
- Mental Health. Continue Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training.
- Continue Campus Engagement.

Transfer Portal Dashboard.

- The NCAA has created a new dashboard to provide statistical information about what happens to student-athletes that enter the transfer portal.
- Anticipate the dashboard to go live in late November.
- Initially, the dashboard will include information on football and basketball.

Questions?