Governance Hot Topics
Spring 2023
Agenda – Division III Updates

• Philosophy Statement review.
• Championship updates.
• Athletic Trainer Working Group.
• Evaluation of Enrichment Fund.
• Financial and Risk Management.
• International student-athlete eligibility.
• Federated playing rules.

• FT enrollment blanket waiver.
• Mental health hardship waiver.
• Name Image and Likeness
• Legislative updates.
• LGBTQ working group.
• Developing inclusive leaders.
• Division III branding & promotion.
Agenda – Association-wide

Association updates.

• Board of Governors Congressional Engagement.

• Transgender student-athlete participation policy.

• Sport Science Institute updates.
Philosophy Statement Review

• Presidents Council tasked Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) to review the division's philosophy statement. (Aug. 2022)

• SPFC created a working group that created a draft based on membership feedback. (March 2023)
Philosophy Statement Review

- The councils have provided input and approved the following timeline to finalize any recommendation by their summer meetings:
  - May – draft statement sent to the membership for feedback.
  - June – SPFC will review the working group’s final recommendation.
  - July/August – councils will review the recommended statement for potential legislation for the 2024 Convention.
Championships Updates

• A survey was sent to determine the membership’s priority of the possible enhancements the Championships Committee is considering.

• The committee continues to review the use of a selection criteria database to help with the selection championship brackets.
  o The committee is considering implementing the database for the 2024-25 academic year.
Athletic Trainer Working Group

- The council approved the creation of a working group to identify the factors impacting Division III’s effort to hire and retain athletic trainers and create recommendations.

- The group will be comprised of Division III athletic trainers, athletic directors, a member of Management Council and a Division III president/chancellor.

- SSI also is coordinating a stakeholder meeting in June with representatives from Divisions I, II and III and leaders from athletic trainer strategic partner organizations.
Evaluation of Enrichment Fund

• The councils approved the process (scope, schedule and desired outcomes) and estimated cost ($200,000) for an outside evaluation of the Division III Enrichment Fund.

• The evaluation will be used to help inform future programming and budget allocation to programs funded by the Enrichment Fund.
Financial and Risk Management Working Group

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group comprised of members of the Division III Administrative Committee and membership. Other experts will contribute, as needed.

- The working group will periodically review the division’s financial standing within the current landscape of intercollegiate athletics and examine threats, risks, and opportunities to enhance the division. The working group will report to the Presidents Council and work with Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. The working group's first meeting is in mid-May.
International Student-Athlete Eligibility

• During the 2022 Convention, the membership adopted a proposal that requires all international prospective student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division III institution on or after August 1, 2023, to have a final amateurism decision by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

• First-year students, students transferring to Division III institution for the first time, male practice players and exchange students are all included.

• ILC reviewed and determined questions of facts related to certification.

• The Eligibility Center has created a newsletter and a series of webinars to assist institutions.
Federated Playing Rules

• The Division III Management Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the legislative requirement that playing rules must be common.

• The council reviewed and provided feedback on an initial Division III specific playing rule process. The proposed process operates within the current structure but adds more Division III perspectives.
Blanket Waiver – Full-Time Enrollment

• The council extended the current blanket waiver which permits student-athletes to participate while enrolled part-time, provided the student-athlete meets noted criteria.

• Only student-athletes who earned a season-of-participation under pandemic relief during the 2020 spring term and/or 2020-21 academic year and who have not previously used any pandemic-related enrollment relief may use the extended relief during the 2023-24 or 2024-25 academic year.
Mental Health Hardship Waiver

- The council reviewed initial elements of a process for a hardship waiver for a student-athlete unable to compete due to a mental hardship.

- The council is expected to review a final recommendation at its summer meeting.
Name, Image and Likeness

• The Management Council approved an educational resource to guide institutions in their involvement in a student-athlete’s Name, Image and Likeness activities. (April 2023)

• Additional resources include:
  
  o Interim educational resources and videos and interim NIL policy. located on ncaa.org.
  
  o ILC developed a resource to provide guidance on booster, collectives and institutional involvement with NIL.
2024 Convention Legislation – Governance

- The Division III Management Council agreed to sponsor Convention legislation to add stunt as an emerging sport for women.

- The council referred a Convention proposal to amend the minimum number to participants in the sport of tennis from six to four to the Membership Committee for further review. Anticipate the council finalizing the legislative proposal during its summer meeting.
LGBTQ Working Group

• LGBTQ OneTeam Program.
  o 40 trained facilitators to oversee an LGBTQ OneTeam Program on campuses and conference offices.
  o There have been over 5,000 participants that have gone through the training, with an increase of 500 participants since June 2022.
  o Developing a resource for athletics communication and sports information directors. (Sept. 2023)
Developing Inclusive Leaders

• Management Council approved a request from the Division III Diversity and Inclusion Working Group to create a train-the-trainer program.

• In collaboration with the working group, a third-party expert in diversity and inclusion will create a program to assist coaches and athletics administrators in the recruiting and retention of students who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color.

• Anticipate the first trainings to occur in summer 2023 and be available to the membership during the 2023-24 academic year.
Branding and Promotion

• Special Olympics partnership.

• Social media.

• D3SIDA recognition award.
  o Three awards each year ($1,500).

• Purchasing website. (2023-24)
Division III 50th Anniversary

• Division III will launch its campaign to commemorate and celebrate its 50th anniversary.

• The NCAA has created an anniversary logo that was unveiled April 17. [DIII unveils 50th anniversary logo and celebration - NCAA.org](DIII%20unveils%2050th%20anniversary%20logo%20and%20celebration%20-%20NCAA.org)

• The campaign will launch August 6 and run through the 2023-24 academic year.
Congressional Engagement

- The NCAA, including Division III institutions and conferences, faces significant challenges:
  - Litigation seeking to classify student-athletes as employees of their institutions.
  - Patchwork of state laws (e.g., NIL).
  - Repetitive and consistent lawsuits.
Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation.
  - NIL protections for student-athletes.
  - Special status of student-athletes: affirm the current and unique relationship between universities and student-athletes, rather than student-athletes as employees of an institution.
  - Safe harbor from select liability complaints.
  - Codify that federal law preempts state law in certain areas, such as name, image and likeness.
Congressional Engagement

- Division III Congressional Advocates have been meeting to assist the Division III Board of Governors representative and to engage the membership and seek feedback on ways to approach Congress.

- Advocates have conducted multiple listening and feedback sessions with the Division III membership.

- Feedback from the sessions was shared with the advocates, councils and the Division III representative to Board of Governors.

- Anticipate a toolkit being sent to presidents and chancellors in May.
Transgender Student-Athlete Participation Policy

• Board of Governors approved a recommendation to extend phase two of the [NCAA transgender student-athlete participation policy](http://example.com) through the 2023-24 academic year.

• Phase three will begin with the 2024-25 academic year.

• Currently 21 states have signed bills banning transgender student-athlete participation and another 30 have introduced legislation.
The Mental Health Advisory Group recently met to discuss updates to the mental health best practices document. Updates will be reviewed by CSMAS in June.

Tramadol will be added to list of banned drugs on January 1, 2024. This drug will be added to WADA’s list on the same day.
Questions?