Governance Hot Topics
Spring 2024
Agenda – Division III Updates

- Conference Council Rotation.
- 2024 Regional Rules Seminar.
- Championships Enhancements.
- Athletic Trainer Working Group.
- Evaluation of Division's Finances.
- Evaluation of Enrichment Fund.
- Federated Playing Rules.
- 2025 Convention Legislation.
- Cannabinoids.
- Name, Image, and Likeness.
- Review of Transfer Legislation.
- Review of DIII Legislative Process.
- Review of the Membership Process.
- Inclusive Leaders Program.
- Branding and Promotions.
- 50th Anniversary.
Agenda – Association-wide Updates

Association-wide Updates.

• Congressional Engagement.
• Sport Wagering.
• Post-Eligibility Insurance.
• Sport Science Institute Updates.
Conference Rotation on Councils

- Legislation adopted at the 2023 Convention requires every multi-sport conference is represented on either the Management or Presidents Council as of August 1, 2024
- The councils approved the rotation for conference representation beginning August 1, 2024
- The councils also approved a Q&A document to address questions about the implementation and application of the legislation.
2024 Regional Rules Seminar

- The councils ratified a one-time request for funds to provide live streaming of all Division III sessions at the 2024 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.
- The live stream option will not fulfill the in-person attendance requirement in Bylaw 20.8.4.15.
- The 2024 Regional Rules Seminar will take place in Las Vegas on June 12-14.
Championships Enhancements

• The Management Council approved, in concept, the following administrative regulations to enhance the Division III Championships:
  o Increase the maximum bracket size for football from 32 to 40.
  o Combine pools B and C into one group of teams eligible for at-large selection team for sport champions.
  o Establish an assess ratio of 1:6 to determine the size of brackets for team sports.

• The Championships Committee is continuing to solicit feedback from sport championship managers regarding championship brackets and impacts on highly ranked regional teams.
Championships Enhancements

- The councils approved, in concept, an administrative regulation to adopt the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the metric for selecting non-automatic qualifiers for team sports.
- Implementation is for the 2024-25 academic year.
- The team sport committees are currently working to finalize the selection criteria.
- Additional educational resources, educational webinars and outreach to the membership (including coaches) will occur over the next several months.
Championships Enhancements

- The Management Council endorsed several additional championships enhancements.
  - Increase per diem to $135 in 2024-25 and $140 in 2025-26.
  - Men’s basketball joint championship in 2026.
  - Officiating fee increases.
- All enhancements have been endorsed by the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, and final actions will be taken during its June meeting. Final recommendations will be presented to the councils this summer.
Athletic Trainers Working Group

• The working group presented a set of recommendations to the councils that addressed the following concerns identified by Division III Athletic Trainers and the Division III membership:
  
  o Workload for athletic trainers (healthcare delivery models/expectations based on number of student-athlete, teams and venues).
  
  o Work-life balance (work schedule, team travel, training room hours).

  o Athletics department culture (communication/collaboration, value, compensation).

• The working group will provide the councils with revised recommendations this summer.
Evaluation of Division III Finances

• The Presidents Council hired Deloitte to identify ways to strengthen the financial performance, improve revenue growth, identify financial priorities and threats, and recommendations to reduce risk for the division.

• SPFC and the councils received an update of the review that included:
  o An overview of the division’s financial strengths
  o Financial opportunities and threats facing the division
  o Implementation roadmap

• Executive readout opportunities with Deloitte will be provided to the councils and membership throughout May.
Evaluation of Enrichment Fund

• An outside vendor, Lewis Rice, was retained to conduct an evaluation of the Division III Enrichment Fund.

• The evaluation will be conducted in three phases. Phase One – Programs, Phase Two – Grants, and Phase Three – Conference Grants.

• Phases one and two have been completed and phase three is underway. The final report is expected to be completed by summer 2024.

• The review is evaluating whether the programs and grants are achieving their intended results and alignment with the division’s strategic plan.
Federated Playing Rules Process

• Summer 2023, Division III adopted a process to consider and adopt playing rules. That process had three points of emphasis.
  o Include more Division III input into the process.
  o Encourage common playing rules.
  o Work within the current process.

• The Management Council directed national office staff to review the process, and specifically, implementation of the process, autonomy within the process, and evaluate if any modifications are needed.

• An initial report is expected summer 2024.
2025 Convention Legislation

• The Management Council approved, in concept, a legislative proposal for the 2025 NCAA Convention to add women’s wrestling as a NCAA National Collegiate Championship.

• If adopted, the women’s wrestling committee would begin its work after the Convention to prepare for the first championship in winter 2026.
Cannabinoids

• The Management Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to remove cannabinoids from the list of NCAA banned-drug classes.

• The council also received an update from the Sport Science Institute about an education plan approved by the Committee on Competitive Safeguard and Medical Aspects of Sport to assist the membership with education.
Name, Image and Likeness

• The Management Council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation establishing resources for student-athletes engaging in name, image, and likeness activities that include:
  
  o Voluntary registry of NIL service providers.
  
  o Educational programming that will include contract best practices and standardized term, taxes and brand management.

• The governance structure will continue to discuss NIL to determine if additional changes are needed.
Review Transfer Legislation

• The Division III governance structure has initiated a review of the division’s transfer year-in-residence requirement.

• All groups have noted their support to eliminate year-in-residence as the default position for transfer student-athlete eligibility provided there are appropriate guardrails.

• Any recommendations/actions are expected to be presented to the councils at their summer 2024 meetings.
Review of Legislative Process

• The Management Council provided feedback on potential changes to the division’s legislative process being considered by the Interpretations and Legislation Committee.

• Areas being considered for change include sponsorship deadlines, creating a comment period, the deadline to meet full sponsorship, the elimination of the Initial Publication of Proposals, and scope of amendments.

• The committee will continue to seek feedback as it considers a recommendation for 2025 Convention legislation.
Review of Membership Process

• The Management Council discussed a concept from the Division III Membership Committee for institutions reclassifying to Division III.

• Under this concept, the institution would submit a waiver requesting to shorten the three-year process to a two-year process, provided it met certain requirements.

• The committee will continue to seek feedback as it considers a recommendation for 2025 Convention legislation.
Inclusive Leaders Program

• Division III Inclusive Leaders Program conducted its inaugural facilitator training at the 2024 NCAA Convention with 28 individuals from Division III institutions/conferences. A second training will occur in June.

• The two-hour program assists coaches and athletics administrators in identifying strategies and best practices to enhance their recruitment and retention of students of color.

• The facilitators are available to conduct the program at no cost to institutions.
Branding and Promotion

- Special Olympics partnership.
- Social media.
- D3SIDA recognition award.
  - Three awards each year ($1,500).
- Purchasing website - $350 credit available for all institutions and conference offices until Aug. 15, 2024.
Division III 50th Anniversary

• On Aug. 6, Division III launched its campaign to commemorate and celebrate its 50th anniversary. The campaign will run through the 2023-24 academic year.

• The NCAA has created an anniversary logo. A branding kit was sent to all member institutions and conferences.

• During the week of service (Nov. 27-Dec. 3) more than 6,000 student-athletes and administrators participated in 60,000 plus hours of community service.
Congressional Engagement

• The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation that:
  o Governs defined aspects of college sports (e.g., NIL) and preempts state laws.
  o Codifies student-athletes’ non-employment status.
  o Provides a safe harbor from future lawsuits.

• Encourage membership to engage federal legislators – email, call, meet and/or invite to campus.
Sports Wagering

• The council received an update of the Association’s review of its sports wagering legislation.

• Several topics were discussed including whether the legislation should remain common for all divisions and the appropriate scope of the review.

• The councils will receive an update at their summer meetings.

• Resources regarding sports wagering can be found on NCAA.org.
Post-Eligibility Injury Insurance

- The NCAA Board of Governors approved a post-eligibility insurance program that, effective Aug. 1, 2024, will be available to all student-athletes at all member schools in Divisions I, II and III.

- The coverage will be for two years after student-athletes complete their college 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.
Sport Science Institute

• CSMAS approved an educational plan to assist the membership with educating about cannabinoid use.

• The second edition of the mental health best practices document and Q&A are now available. Education has included a session at Convention, SSI Spotlight session and the development of an educational module, available in the NCAA Learning Portal.

• The Performance and Training Advisory Group’s first meeting was May 2. The advisory group will advise CSMAS on matters involving physical, mental and cognitive readiness, performance technologies, sleep, nutrition and overuse/periodization issues.
Questions?