



**DIVISION III**  
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# **Governance Hot Topics**

## **Spring 2026**

# Agenda – Division III Updates

- Division III Analysis.
- Budget Planning.
- Championships Updates.
  - Live Streaming.
- Division III Graduation Rates.
- Joint DIII and DII Presidential meeting.
- Name, Image, and Likeness.
- Non-Controversial Legislation.
- Eligibility Waiver Program.



# Agenda – Association-Wide Updates

- Membership-wide Survey.
- Sports Science Institute Updates.
- Congressional Engagement.

## Reminders

- Mental Health Training.
- NCAA Identification Number.
- Sportsmanship Module.
- Post-Eligibility Injury Insurance.



# Division III Updates



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# Division III Analysis

- In October, the Presidents Council endorsed a focused analysis of the key issues facing the division. This analysis will build off the recent reviews conducted by Deloitte, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- Delegates identified existing tensions at the 2026 NCAA Convention.
- Presidents Council endorsed the creation of a 19-member working group and hired a consultant to assist with the analysis.
- There have been stakeholder engagement sessions, and a membership-wide survey was sent to ADs and commissioners to collect feedback.



# Division III Analysis

- The working group has reviewed stakeholder engagement feedback and data/research regarding the six identified core tensions (not in priority order).
  - Tension 1: Championship Selection Criteria.
  - Tension 2: Playing Seasons & Resources.
  - Tension 3: Eligibility Evolution.
  - Tension 4: Economic Implications.
  - Tension 5: Membership Standards.
  - Tension 6: Governance Oversight & Presidential Engagement.
- The working group is charged with developing initial solutions to present to the Presidents Council during its August meeting.



# Budget Planning

- Division III is planning its budget for the 2026-27 (FY27) and 2027-28 (FY28) academic years.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) will review requests from the governance structure, the Championships Committee, and affiliate groups (e.g., NADIII AA, D3CA, D3SIDA) at its June meeting.
- SPFC will present final budget recommendations to the councils (final approving bodies) for their summer meetings.
- New budget begins September 1.



# Championships Updates

- The committee is reviewing championship ticket prices for team preliminary rounds and anticipates acting to standardize prices beginning 2026-27.
- During the committee's June meeting, it will review NPI dial recommendations from fall and winter sports. It will review the spring sport dial recommendations during its August meeting. Any changes will become effective in 2027-28.
- The committee is creating an educational webinar regarding NPI.



# Live Streaming

- Live streaming of fall and winter team championships.
  - In the fall, streamed 211 events and had 33 million minutes of live content versus 19 million minutes in 2024 (73% increase). [NCAA.com and ESPN+]
  - In the winter, streamed 172 events and had 14 million minutes of live content versus 12.4 million minutes last year (13% increase). [NCAA.com and Hudl]
  - All championships promoted via NCAA Fan Database.
  - No paywall to access the live streams on NCAA.com.
- Live streaming is positively impacting the division's visibility.



# Division III Graduation Rates

- Current Division III Graduation and Academic Success Rates continue to remain steady and the rates for student-athletes continue to be higher than the student body.

## [Academic Information](#)

- The Management Council did note that in some populations of student-athletes, the academic data is not as strong
- The council recently created a working group to examine the division's graduation rate data and understand the factors that influence these rates



# Joint Division III and II Presidential Meeting

- The Presidents Council approved Division III's participation in a joint in-person meeting with the Division II Executive Board in October 2026.
- The Division III Presidents Council and Presidents Advisory Group will join the Division II presidents to examine and discuss the current state of higher education and how that is impacting college athletics.



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- At the 2026 Convention, the delegates approved a resolution that charged the Presidents Council and governance structure with monitoring the changing NIL landscape and developing strategies, policies and possibly legislation that would protect valid NIL opportunities consistent with the division's philosophy.
- Presidents Council approved a framework that provides the goals, structure, and timeline for completing the review.
- A working group will be created to oversee the review process.
- The DIII Analysis will help inform the efforts of the working group.



# Key Noncontroversial Legislation

The Management Council approved the following noncontroversial proposals in concept during its April meeting.

- Clarified preseason practice and first date of competition for men's water polo.
- Increased the size of the manufacturer's logo on uniforms to 4 square inches.
- Allowed individuals who take over a departing member's term on a committee who are from the same conference to be eligible for reappointment if they have served for less than two years.



# Eligibility Waiver Program

- The Subcommittee for Legislative Relief recommended, and the Management Council approved, the continuation of the eligibility waiver program through the 2026-27 academic year.
- The program permits Division III student-athletes to continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate competition while enrolled at another institution that does not sponsor varsity athletics and has a formal academic agreement with the Division III institution and meets other specified criteria.
- In 2025-26, SLR processed five waiver requests.



# Association-Wide Updates



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# Membership-wide Survey

- Prioritization survey was sent to all institutions (top five individuals), conference commissioners and divisional national SAAC members. (Feb. 3-13)
- The survey is seeking feedback on Association-wide spending priorities.
- In the spring, the councils reviewed the feedback and forwarded recommendations to the NCAA Board of Governors.
- The goal is to identify Association-wide programs and services that may be reduced or eliminated to save costs.



# Sport Science Institute Updates

- The NCAA's chief medical officer's current vision includes developing and supporting membership education, utilizing the SSI spotlights to inform the membership on key topics (e.g., sleep, mental health and social media), and campus-level engagement.
- SSI is regularly collaborating with athletic trainer organizations. The goal is to develop resources to support the recruitment and retention of athletic trainers.
- SSI created an advisory group to recommend guidance on harm reduction and prevention strategies for substance-related and addictive behaviors (e.g., gambling).



# Congressional Engagement

- With the current federal administration, the goal is 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.
- Membership engagement of federal legislators via email, phone call, meeting and/or invitation to campus, is making an impact.



# Reminders



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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 athletic trainers.
- Provides a three-year certification.
- Training is available now through Aug. 1, 2027.
- To date, 40% 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://www.ncaa.org).



# 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.



# 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.



# 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 Divisions I, II and III student-athletes.
- 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](https://www.ncaa.org).



# Questions?



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