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# **Governance Hot Topics**

## **Summer 2025**

# Agenda – Division III Updates

- 2025-26 Budget Enhancements.
- Playing Rules Structure.
- 2026 Convention Legislation.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee Policies.
- Championships Updates.
- Coaches Connect Program.
- NCAA ID Numbers.
- Eligibility Discussion.
- Sports Betting.
- Live Streaming.
- Accreditation Referral.
- PC Futures Subcommittee.
- Athletics Communication.
- 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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# 2025-26 Budget Enhancements

- The Presidents and Management Councils approved the following budget enhancements beginning with the 2025-26 budget:
  - Increase in championships per diem to \$150. (traveling team) and \$60 (hosts) for 2025-26 and 2026-27.
  - Provide funding to live stream the DIII sessions at the 2026 Regional Rules Seminar.
    - > This will not satisfy the existing membership requirement to attend the seminar in person once every three years.
    - > This is for the 2026 RRS only.



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# Playing Rules Committee Structure

- The Management Council approved noncontroversial legislation to establish a new playing rules governance structure for Division III, effective Sept 1, 2025.
- The new structure will include a Division III and II Playing Rules Oversight Panel, comprised of 12 members (6 from DIII and 6 from DII).
- It will include sport playing rules committees, comprised of 9 members (4 from DIII, 4 from DII and one secretary rules editor).
- Division III will maintain the ability to federate playing rules.
- Staff created an [FAQ](#) resource to outline the changes and address questions.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals

The Management Council sponsored the following proposals for the 2026 convention:

- **Dollar amounts for awards.** The proposal would remove the exact dollar amount and references to the value of the award.
- **All-Star contest expenses.** Permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses to participate in one collegiate all-star contest.
- **Team entertainment.** To permit an institution to provide entertainment during the playing season that may include professional sports tickets.



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# 2026 Convention Legislation, cont.

Additional convention proposals the Management Council sponsored at its July meeting:

- **Transfer portal.** Require the mandatory use of the transfer portal for Division III.
- **Acrobatics and Tumbling.** To add acrobatics and tumbling as a National Collegiate Championship and create a sport committee.
- **Stunt.** To add stunt as a National Collegiate Championship and create a sport committee.



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# 2026 Convention Proposals, cont.

During its April meeting, the Management Council sponsored the following proposals for the 2026 Convention:

- **Expenses provided for practice.** The proposal would permit an institution to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.
- **Flag Football.** The proposal will add flag football as an emerging sport for women. This proposal has an immediate effective date.



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# Noncontroversial Legislation

Management Council approved the following noncontroversial legislation:

- To establish a separate men's and women's fencing championship.
- To add a negotiated resolution process and an option to resolve an infractions case through more than one resolution process.
- To incorporate the existing Mental Health Hardship waiver pilot criteria into Division III legislation.



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# Strategic Planning and Finance

- The councils approved the implementation plan for the second year of the [division's strategic plan](#).
- The councils reviewed and approved the division's budget guidelines and principles.
- The council reviewed the committee's new budget policy to manage the creation of a divisional championship from an existing National Collegiate Championship.



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# Championships Updates

- The Management Council approved a waiver to permit alcohol sales at the 2026 Division III Men's Basketball Championship game in Indianapolis as part of the joint Championship with Divisions II and I.
- The committee is reviewing bench size limits and officiating fees.



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# Coaches Connect Program

- The Coaches Connect Program is intended to enhance the education and engagement of Division III coaches in the work of governance and championships.
- Beginning Fall 2025, representatives from conferences that sponsor the sport, NCAA staff, the sport committee chair and a coaches association representative will meet periodically to discuss current issues in the governance structure.
- The program will start football, women's ice hockey and men's and women's tennis.



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# NCAA ID Numbers

- During the August meeting with the leadership of the DIIIICA and NADIIIIAA, the group discussed the pros and cons of requiring NCAA Identification Numbers starting with the 2026-27 academic year.
- Several pros were noted: Ease and no cost to get an NCAA ID number, increased ease to use the Academic Portal that is transitioning to Compliance Assistant 2.0 this year, reduction in burden of using the NCAA online compliance forms and the Transfer Portal, and future participation in the NCAA Graduation Passport.
- The Management Council will discuss during its Oct. meeting.



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# Eligibility Discussion

- The Management Council engaged in a discussion of several elements of the division's eligibility legislation. The leadership bodies of the DIIICA and NADIIIAA had a similar discussion.
- The topics included the current eligibility standards regarding the use of a season for Division III student-athletes and those transferring into Division III from other divisions and associations.
- The council took no formal action nor made any recommendations. It will continue to discuss these issues as it observes the current legal environment, higher education landscape and any actions taken by another division. The membership will discuss at the 2026 Issues Forum.



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# Sports Betting

- During its July meeting, the Management Council did not review the noncontroversial legislation it approved in concept in April that eliminates the prohibition for Division III student-athletes and administrators to bet on professional athletics.
- The council is expected to review the proposal in October. Divisions I and II are expected to consider similar legislation at this time.
- Since this is common legislation, all divisions must pass similar legislation.
- Until all three divisions adopt legislation, the current sports betting prohibition on professional sports remains in effect.





# Sports Betting

- Based on the recommendation of the Management Council, the DIII Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement is developing potential concepts to help implement a harm reduction strategy for student-athletes that gamble on collegiate athletics.
- Concepts could include creating a safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties.
- The council continues to prioritize harm reduction and education as the means to create an environment for a student-athlete to get help for problem gambling.



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# Live Streaming

- Similar to last year, Division III will live stream every round of its fall, winter and spring team championships in 2025-26.
- Hudl will work with hosts to ensure that live stream links are posted on NCAA.com.
- All championships will be promoted via the NCAA Fan Database.
- The following championship rounds will be streamed on ESPN+:
  - Every round of football.
  - Quarterfinals, semifinals and championship of women's volleyball.
  - Semifinals and championship of men's and women's basketball.



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# Accreditation Referral

- The Management Council asked the Membership Committee to examine the current requirement that a member institution must have regional accreditation.
- The committee recommended that no action be taken at this time because of the uncertainty of the status of the U.S. Department of Education. The entity responsible for higher education accreditation.
- Additionally, the committee noted that the current requirement has no disparate impact on current member institutions.



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# Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee

- The Presidents Council created the subcommittee to be a thought leadership body that reviews and provides insights on external issues with potential long-range impact on Division III.
- The subcommittee serves on behalf of the Presidents Council and in conjunction with the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.
- The subcommittee's current priorities are future financial planning, congressional engagement, membership stability, branding and reducing athletics department operational costs.



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# Athletics Communications Working Group

- The working group has updated the [Division III Guide to Strategic Athletics Communication on Campus](#).
- The guide provides Division III institutions with guidance and actionable recommendations to best support their athletics communication personnel.
- The electronic version of the guide was released in August 2025. Printed copies will be distributed at events and programs in 2025-26.



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# Mental Health Partnership

- 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.
- Provides a pathway for new staff to receive the training.
- Training is available now through Aug. 1, 2027.
- More information about the training and requesting the training can be found on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).



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# Association-Wide Updates



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# Sport Science Institute

- SSI has published the [“Harm Reduction Considerations for Gambling and Sports Betting in Collegiate Sports”](#).
- The NCAA Sport Science Institute conduct two meetings this summer.
  - Athletic Trainer Stakeholder meeting with representatives from the National Athletic Trainers Association and its accrediting bodies to discuss the credentialing process for athletic trainers.
  - Performance Technology Summit to discuss the current use of performance technologies in intercollegiate athletics.



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# NCAA/E&I Cooperative Purchasing Pilot

- The NCAA has created a NCAA membership sourcing cooperative with E&I Cooperative 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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