



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Governance Hot Topics

Winter 2024

Agenda – Division III Updates

- Division III Membership Assessment.
- Media Rights Agreement.
- Men's Ice Hockey Bracket.
- Championships Updates.
- Athletic Trainer Working Group.
- Financial and Risk Management Working Group.
- Evaluation of the Enrichment Fund.
- Cannabinoids.
- 2024 legislative proposals.
- LGBTQIA+ Working Group.
- Inclusive Leaders Program.
- Officiating and Sportsmanship.
- Name, Image, and Likeness.
- Review of Transfer Legislation
- Division III branding & promotion.
- 50th Anniversary.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Agenda – Association-wide Updates

Association-wide Updates.

- Women's Wrestling.
- Congressional Engagement.
- Sport Wagering.
- Post-Eligibility Insurance.
- Sport Science Institute Updates.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Division III Membership Assessment

- The councils approved a two-year pause of the Division III membership assessment for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.
- The assessment of \$1,100 for institutions and \$450 for Division III conferences will resume for the 2026-27 academic year.
- The two-year pause will help spend down the excess above the mandated reserve and provide some financial relief for Division III institutions and conferences.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

ESPN – Media Rights Agreement

- The councils ratified the expenditure of annual production costs of \$270,000 to \$495,000 to produce the Division III women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball semifinals and championship games on ESPN+.
- This additional coverage is part of the new broadcast rights agreement with ESPN.
- The agreement continues to include the Division III football semifinals on ESPN+ and the championship on ESPN University.
- The ESPN contract is in addition to the CBS/Warner Brothers contract.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Men's Ice Hockey

- The council's approved the allocation of \$38,000 to \$73,0000 annually to expand the men's ice hockey bracket from 12 to 13 teams.
- This expansion is effective beginning with the 2024 championship.
- The sport surpassed the threshold needed to expand the bracket with 84 teams sponsoring the sport in 2022-23.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Championships Updates

Based on recent survey results, the committee reached consensus on the following items to guide its February conversation regarding possible enhancements to Division III championships:

- Increasing per diems remain the highest priority.
- Continue to consider expanding the football bracket.
- Combine Pools B and C.
- Maintain capping team sport championships bracket at 64 and the length of the championships to three weeks, except football.
- Consider alternatives to establishing championship brackets.
- Providing additional flights to separate higher regionally ranked teams.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Championship Updates

- The committee continues to review the use of a selection criteria database (e.g., Pairwise) to help with the selection of teams that are not automatic qualifiers.
 - The committee has received positive feedback from championship managers and sport committees.
 - The committee will continue to engage membership stakeholders.
 - The committee has released an FAQ and educational video to provide education to the membership.
- Proposed implementation date is 2024-25 academic year.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Athletic Trainer Working Group

- A working group has been studying factors impacting Division III's efforts to hire and retain athletic trainers. It will provide final recommendations by summer 2024.
- After reviewing the findings from its membership survey, the working group identified three areas of focus:
 - Workload for athletic trainers (health care delivery models/expectations based on number of student-athlete, teams and venues).
 - Work-life balance (work schedule, team travel, training room hours).
 - Athletics department culture (communication/collaboration, value, compensation).



Financial and Risk Management Working Group

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group. (Jan. 2023)
- The working group will work with a third-party vendor (Deloitte) to identify ways to strengthen financial performance, improve revenue growth, identify financial priorities, threats and recommendations to reduce risk. The timing for the review is:
 - February – Data collection, stakeholder interviews and focus groups and develop a SWOT analysis.
 - March – Develop potential opportunities and roadmap for implementation, executive summary presented to SPFC.
 - April - Executive summary provided to the councils.



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.
- The evaluation is underway and expected to be completed by summer 2024.
- The review will evaluate whether the grants are achieving their intended results and alignment with the division's strategic plan.



Cannabinoids

- The Management Council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to remove cannabinoids from the list of NCAA banned-drug classes.
- The noncontroversial proposal will be finalized in April and become effective immediately at that time. It will apply retroactively for the 2023-24 academic year.
- In addition to the legislative proposal, the council stressed the need for educational materials for institutions.



2024 NCAA Convention Legislation

Proposal Number	Proposal	Result	Vote
2024-1-1	Philosophy Stmt. – Undergraduate Experience	Adopted	287-174-5
2024-1-2	Philosophy Stmt. – Financial Aid	Adopted	461-7-1
2024-1 (as amended)	Amend Philosophy Statement	Adopted	412-45-6
2024-2	Amendment-to Amendment period	Adopted	460-3-1
2024-3	Sport Sponsorship - Tennis	Adopted	353-97-15
2024-4	Stunt	Adopted	377-56-34



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

LGBTQIA+ Working Group

- The 2023 Division III LGBTQ of the Year award recipients:
 - Oberlin College – Conference/Athletics Department.
 - Danielle O’Leary, William Pace Univ. – Admin./Coach/Staff.
 - Anna Slominski, Illinois Institute of Technology – Student-Athlete.
- The 2024 nomination period opens on Feb. 1 and closes on June 1.
- The 2024 recipients will be recognized at the 2025 NCAA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Inclusive Leaders Program

- Division III Inclusive Leaders Program conducted its inaugural facilitator training the 2024 NCAA Convention with 28 individuals from Division III institutions/conferences.
- 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.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Officiating and Sportsmanship

- The councils continue to discuss the officiating crisis and the impact of poor sportsmanship on officiating (e.g., 55% of officials indicated they are leaving the profession due to verbal abuse by coaches and spectators).
- The councils have reviewed resources recently released by the NCAA and discussed strategies to promote Gameday the DIII Way.
- The membership discussed these issues during the Issues Forum at the 2024 NCAA Convention.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Name, Image and Likeness

- The Management Council continues to consider the top NIL issues facing Division III student-athletes and institutions.
- The council discussed potential student-athlete protections including a voluntary registry of NIL service providers, disclosure of NIL deals, development of a standardized NIL contract and financial literacy education for student-athletes.
- The governance structure will continue to discuss concepts that should be considered for any potential Division III NIL legislation.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Review Transfer Legislation

- The Division III governance structure will begin an internal review of the division's transfer legislation.
- Governance committees will initiate the review in February 2024 and report to the councils in April 2024.
- Any recommendations/actions are expected to be presented to the councils at their summer 2024 meetings.



Branding and Promotion

- Division III Week (April 1-7).
- 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. (2023-24)



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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.
- Throughout the year, the division will celebrate its milestones.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Women's Wrestling

- The Committee on Women's Athletics advised the Management Council that the number of institutions that sponsored the sport of women's wrestling has exceeded the threshold for a national collegiate championship.
- At its February 2024 meeting, the committee will discuss a potential request for the three divisions to consider 2025 Convention legislation to conduct the championship in the 2025-26 academic year.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation that:
 - Governs defined aspects of college sports (e.g., NIL) and preempts state laws.
 - Codifies student-athletes' non-employment status.
 - Provides a safe harbor from future lawsuits.
- Project DI connection.
- Encourage membership to engage federal legislators – email, call, meet and/or invite to campus.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Sports Wagering

- NCAA recently conducted a survey of college-age students. Results indicated that more than 60% were gambling.
- Prevalence of gambling, legal in 38 states, coupled with extensive social media use is leading to mental health issues.
- The NCAA recently launched a [sports wagering e-learning module](#) for current and prospective student-athletes.
- Resources regarding sports wagering can be found on [NCAA.org](#).



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

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](https://www.ncaa.org).



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Sport Science Institute

- The Board of Governors approved the second edition of the mental health best practices document proposed by the Mental Health Advisory Group. The document will be published in February with an August 2024 effective date.
- CSMAS is developing a Performance and Training Advisory Group. The working group will begin its work during the 2023-24 academic year and is expected to conduct a Performance Technology Summit before the end 2024.
- CSMAS recommended to the Board of Governors that Phase Two of the current transgender student-athlete participation policy be extended through the 2024-25 academic year.



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Questions?



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE