



DIVISION III
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Governance Hot Topics

Winter 2026

Agenda – Division III Updates

- 2026 Convention Legislation.
- Division III Analysis.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- Membership Dues Assessment.
- Championships Updates.
- Live Streaming.
- Division III Graduation Rates.
- Mental Health Training.
- Joint DIII and DII Presidential meeting.
- Budget Planning.



Agenda – Association-Wide Updates

- Membership-wide Survey.
- Sports Science Institute Updates.
- Congressional Engagement.
- Post-Eligibility Injury Insurance.

Reminders

- Regional Rules Seminar Attendance.
- NCAA Identification Number.
- Sportsmanship Module.



Division III Legislation



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2026 NCAA Convention Legislative Proposals

Proposal Number	Proposal	Results	Vote
NC-2026-15	Eliminate Prohibition to Wager on Professional Athletics	Referred	389-54-13
2026-1	Establish DIII Women's Wrestling Championship	Adopted	451-1-6
2026-2	Eligibility – Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season	Defeated	187-237-6
2026-3	Resolution – Name, Image and Likeness	Adopted	455-6-2
2026-4	Amending In-Region Competition Requirement	Adopted	423-35-3
2026-5	Establishing a Multiple Automatic Qualifier Model	Defeated	83-377-1



2026 NCAA Convention Legislative Proposals

Proposal Number	Proposal	Results	Vote
2026-6	Required Participation by Conference Core Members	Adopted	432-23-2
2026-7	Reducing the Automatic Qualification Waiting Period	Defeated	310-147-4
2026-8	Adding a Mandatory Winter Break	No Moved	
2026-9	Require the use of the Transfer Portal	Adopted	414-45-0
2026-10	Unofficial Visit Meals	Adopted	452-5-0
2026-11	Eliminate Practice Distance and Location Restrictions	Adopted	428-17-2



2026 NCAA Convention Legislative Proposals

Proposal Number	Proposal	Results	Vote
2026-12	Remove Award Dollar Amounts	Adopted	415-33-3
2026-13	Actual and Necessary Expenses for Post-Eligibility All-Star Contests	Defeated	437-17-2
2026-14	Entertainment and Professional Sports Tickets	No Moved	443-15-0
2026-15	Flag Football as an Emerging Sport	Adopted	447-1-0
2026-16	National Collegiate Championship – Acrobatics and Tumbling	Adopted	420-9-21
2026-17	National Collegiate Championship – Stunt	Adopted	427-11-19



Key Noncontroversial Legislation

Management Council approved the following in final form and are effective immediately:

- Reduce the number of Division II representatives on the Division II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one.
- Clarify that an appointed position on a Division III committee does not count for determining area or multisport conference representation; and that for the at-large members of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, there must be at least one representative from each Division III geographic area.



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. Initially identified areas of analysis include championship access, eligibility standards and membership criteria.
- This analysis will build off the recent reviews conducted by Deloitte, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- Delegates identified existing tension points at the 2026 NCAA Convention.
- Presidents Council endorsed the creation of a working group and will explore hiring a third-party contractor to assist with the analysis.



Division III Membership Dues Assessment

- The councils approved a pause of the Division III dues assessment (\$1,100 for institutions/\$550 for conferences) for FY27. The invoices for membership dues, set by the NCAA Board of Governors, will be sent this spring (\$900 for institutions/\$450 for conferences).
- The Strategic Planning and Finance Committee recommended the pause based on the current reserve balance and the budget issues many Division III institutions are experiencing.
- The councils will continue to evaluate the dues assessment for FY28 at a future meeting.



Championships Updates

- The Championships Committee continued the discussion of its decision to increase the bench limit for NCAA championships.
- Topics being considered by the committee at future meetings include a review of NPI and the bracketing flexibility pilot, bracket expansion, per diem, creation of regional events for the golf championships, pricing for Division III championship tickets and current fees paid to officials.



Live Streaming

- Live streaming of Fall team championships.
 - 33 million minutes of live content versus 19 million minutes in 2024 (73% increase). [NCAA.com and ESPN+]
 - All fall championships promoted via NCAA Fan Database.
 - Women's volleyball championship on ESPN+ had 21,252 viewers, up 29% from last year.
 - Football championship on ESPN had 324,000 viewers, up 46% from last year.



Division III Graduation Rates

- Current Division III Graduation and Academic Success Rates are now available.

[Academic Information](#)

- The council noted that the rates have remained steady and the rates for student-athletes have generally continued to be higher than the student body.
- The Management Council will continue to review the rates over the next year.



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.



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).
- SPFC will present final budget recommendations to the councils (final approving bodies) for their summer meetings.
- New budget begins September 1.



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 athletics 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).



Association-Wide Updates



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Membership-wide Survey

- Prioritization survey will be 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 results will be reviewed by the divisional leadership bodies (i.e., Presidents Council) and recommendations forwarded to the NCAA Board of Governors.
- The goal is to identify services that may be reduced or eliminated to save costs.



Sports Science Institute Updates

- Athletic Trainers
 - SSI is regularly collaborating with athletic trainer organizations.
 - Attempting to develop mentoring pipelines, team physician advocacy programs and resources outlining alternative health care delivery models.
- Wearable Performance Technology
 - CSMAS approved nonbinding consensus statements to provide the membership with guidance on the responsible use of wearable technologies.
 - The statement will be available to the membership in early 2026.



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.



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).



Reminders



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Regional Rules Seminar Attendance

- The Membership Committee changed its policy to permit the viewing of the live stream of the Division III sessions from the 2026 Regional Rules Seminar (RRS) to fulfill the membership attendance requirement.
- This change will apply to any Division III RRS live streamed in future years.
- Funding to live stream Division III sessions from the RRS beyond 2026 will be considered with the next budget cycle (FY27/FY28).



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.



Questions?



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