



DIVISION III

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CONVENTION



Division III Issues Forum

Thursday, January 16, 2025



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2025 NCAA Convention Proposals

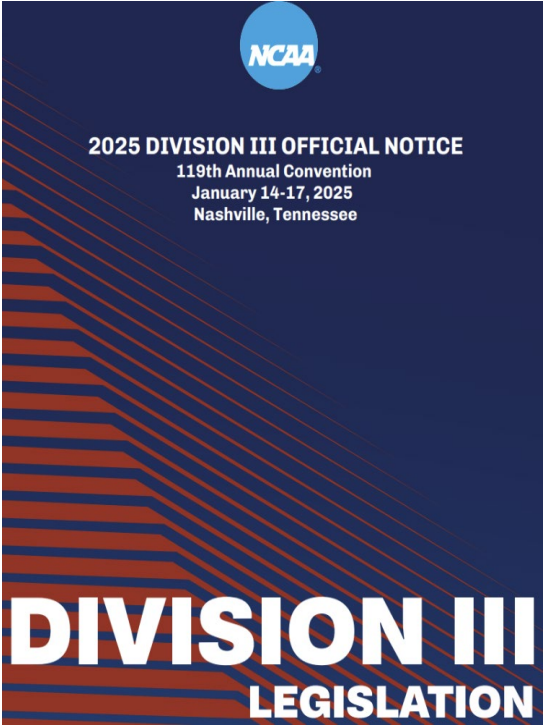


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Convention Resources.



[Legislative Actions and Issues](#)



2025 NCAA Convention Division III Legislative Proposals
Question and Answer Guide
Approved **November 18**, 2024, by the
Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee

Please note this is the first edition of the 2025 NCAA Convention Division III Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide. Future editions may be developed as questions are presented to the NCAA staff or the NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee. On release of subsequent editions of this guide, newly approved questions and answers will be shaded in gray.

Table of Contents

Understanding How to Read the 2025 NCAA Convention Division III Official Notice. 2

1. How to read the NCAA Division III legislative proposals. 2

2. What appears in the white pages of the NCAA Division III Official Notice? 2

3. What is the difference between the Presidents Council grouping and the General grouping of proposals? 2

4. What appears in the blue pages of the Official Notice? 2

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-1 Division III Committees – Eligibility of Membership – Student-Athlete Advisory Committee – Change in Composition..... 5

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-2 Multisport Conference Membership Size Minimum Requirement 6

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-3 (2-2) Legislative Authority and Process – Amend the Legislative Process..... 8

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-4 Federated Playing Rules Exemptions 13

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-5 Division Membership – Change of Division Membership Three-Year Provision – Establish a Waiver 18

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2025-6 National Collegiate Championship – Women's Wrestling..... 20

[Convention Resources](#)

Presidential Grouping



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**20
25**

2025-1 National SAAC Composition

Current.

- All multisport conferences and the group of independent institutions have a **partner**.
- Partner pairings alternate three-year terms on National SAAC as the **primary member**.
- Primary members attend all SAAC meetings, **associate members** attend January and July meetings.



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2025-1 National SAAC Composition

Proposed by: American Rivers Conference & Great Northeast Athletic Conference.

- Allow each multisport conference and the group of independents to have a **primary representative** on National SAAC.
- Using current numbers, this proposal would increase the committee from **21** to **42** student-athletes.



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2025-2: Multisport Conference Size

Current.

- To establish, or maintain, active Division III status, a multisport conference must have a minimum of **seven** institutions.



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25**

2025-2: Multisport Conference Size

Proposed by: Upper Midwest Athletic Conference, Coast-to-Coast & North Coast Athletic Conference.

- Decrease the minimum number to **six** institutions.
- Align requirements with those for a **single sport conference** and **AQ** status for Division III Championships.



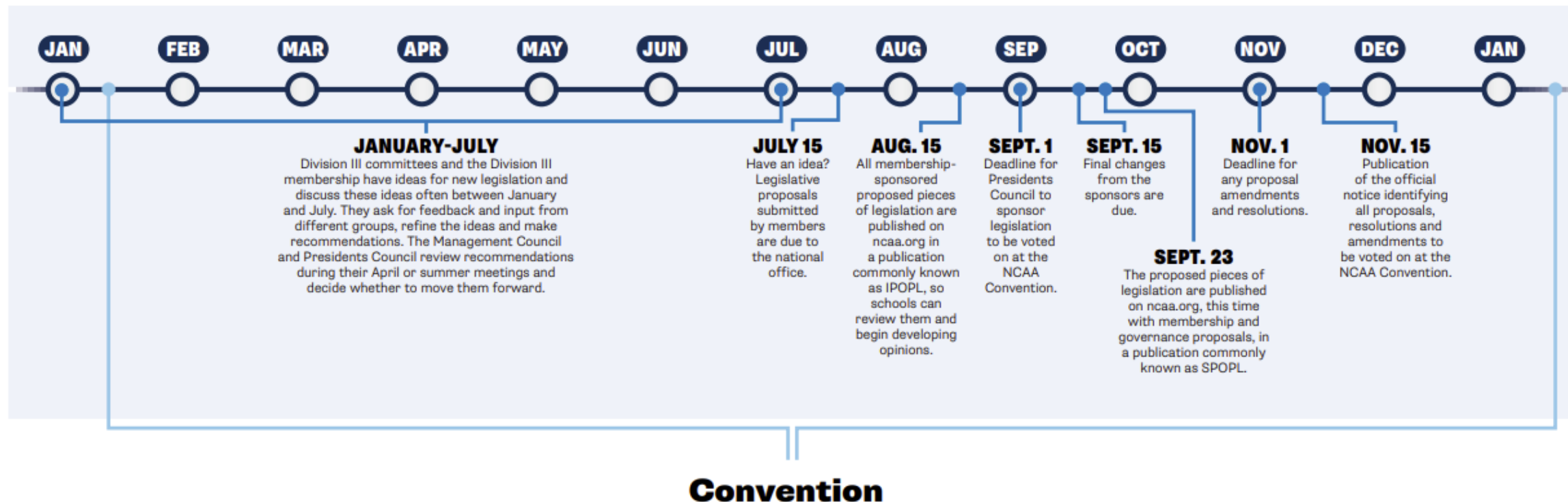
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2025-3: DIII Legislative Process

Current.




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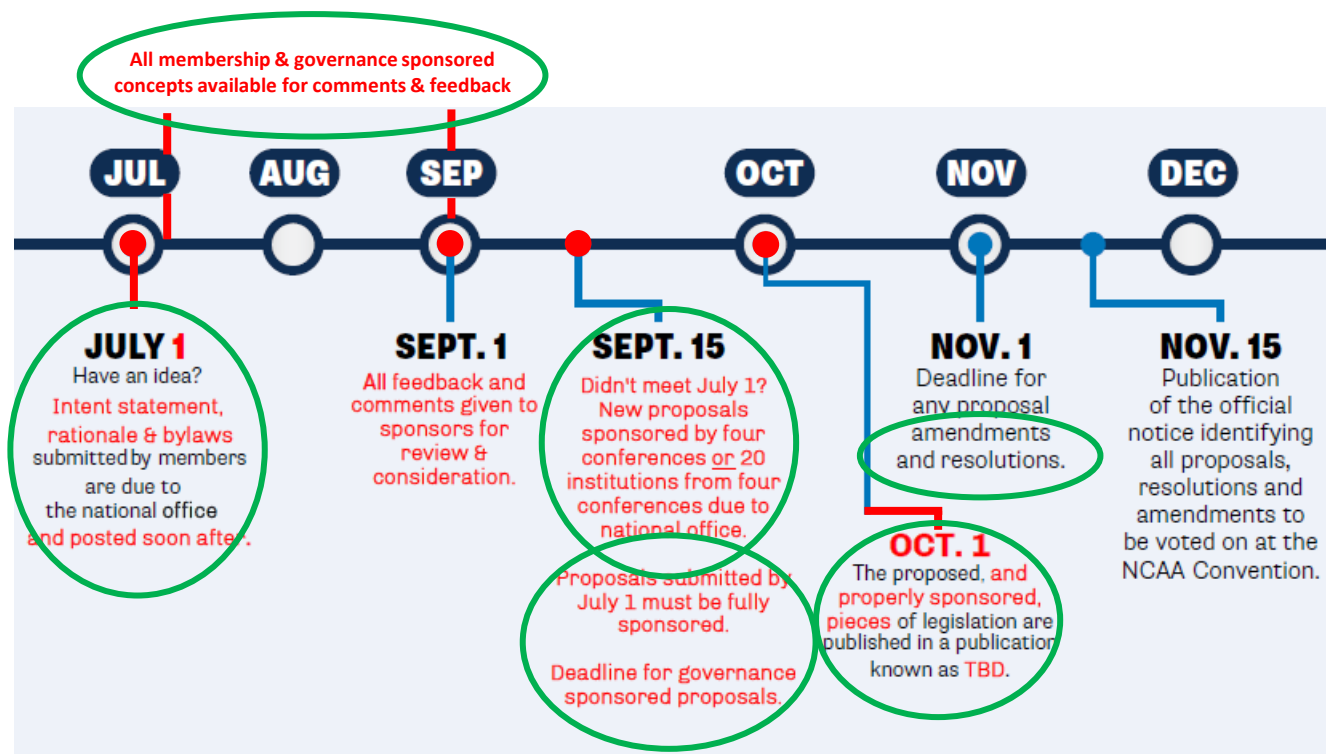
2025-3: DIII Legislative Process


Proposed by: NCAA Division III Presidents Council [Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)]

 New initial submission date & requirements


 Establish a comment period

 New alternate submission date



 Consistent submission date for all proposals

 Tidy up the POPLs

 Increasing amendments to proposals

Can increase modification:

- Sponsors of original proposal;
- Four member conferences;
- 20 institutions from at least four conferences; or
- Management or Presidents Council (by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote)



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General Grouping



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2025-4: Federated Playing Rules

Current.

PLAYING RULES & DIVISION III

November 2024

What is a playing rule?

Playing rules are what happens on the field, court, pool, pitch, mat, rink, lane, track or slope when an opponent and officials are present. Playing rules are not what hap-pens during recruiting or practicing, or while working on compliance issues or NCAA championship policies.

What is the difference between a common rule and a federated rule?

A **common** rule is consistent across all three divisions, while a **federated** rule allows for differences by division.

What is the common rule making process and who is involved?

Every two years, each sport undergoes a Playing Rules Cycle.

Info Gathering	Rules Committee members solicit feedback from stakeholders.
Rules Committee Annual Meeting	Rules Committee meets to discuss feedback and vote on which rule proposals to move through the process.
Comment Period	A two-week period where head coaches, commissioners & ADs can offer feedback on the proposals moving through the process.
Rules Committee Reviews Comments	Rules Committee reviews comment period feedback and decides which proposals to elevate to PROP for final consideration.
PROP Reviews & Adopts	PROP reviews all proposals for financial implications, safety concerns and harm to image of the game.
Two-Year Rule Book Published	Proposals approved by PROP are published in the next rule book and sent to head coaches and commissioners.

Stakeholders.

Members of Division III, including coaches, commissioners and athletic administrators.

Rules Committee.

An Association-wide committee that meets to determine which rule changes are elevated to PROP and if proposals are common or federated. DIII is represented on each committee by 2 to 4 members, depending on the sport. For sports using non-NCAA playing rules*, a subcommittee of the DIII Sport Championship Committee serves in this role.

Sport Championship Committee.

A DIII sport-specific committee comprised of coaches and administrators who are experts in their sport, govern each sport and are responsible for administering their respective championships, including establishing brackets and selecting teams to fill them.

PROP.

The Playing Rules Oversight Panel. An Association-wide committee that reviews playing rules proposals and playing rules issues, including implementation of playing rules proposed by rules committees. DIII representation is 3 members.

*sports using non-NCAA playing rules: fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, rifle, rowing, skiing, tennis and men's volleyball.

PLAYING RULES & DIVISION III

November 2024

How does the Division III federated rules process fit in the existing playing rules process?

Info Gathering	Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee to discuss potential rule changes. Division III-specific proposals can be submitted to the Rules Committee during the "Call for Proposals" period.
Rules Committee Annual Meeting	Division III members of the Rules Committee may send a Division III-specific rule for comment and members may identify proposals of interest for Division III.
Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There may be Division III-specific rules where only Division III head coaches, commissioners and ADs provide comments.The membership will be notified when potential rules carry a financial and/or philosophical impact to encourage participation during the comment period.
Rules Committee Reviews Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Division III members of the Rules Committee meet with the Division III Sport-Specific Championship Committee in an advisory capacity to review the Division III-specific feedback.During the Association-wide meeting, Division III members may:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve/alter/reject/delay a rule only for Division III.Reject/alter/delay an adopted common rule as it applies for Division III.
PROP Reviews & Adopts	Division III members of PROP vote on DIII-specific issues
Two-Year Rule Book Published	Proposals approved by PROP are published in the next rule book and sent to head coaches and commissioners.

Are there other ways for Division III members of playing rules committees to get feedback?

Yes. In October 2024 Management Council created a subcommittee to further inform and advise the Division III members of playing rules committees and PROP regarding potential impact of rules proposals on Division III.

Can any playing rule be federated?

While PROP has suggested that some rules areas are integral to competition and should remain common for all divisions, it has also acknowledged that there could be exceptions based on compelling reasons to federate a particular rule. Only the DIII members of PROP determine if a proposed rule that addresses one of the areas, below, has compelling reasons to be federated.

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas should be *common*:

- Rules with a health and safety impact
- Field dimensions, court markings, permissible logos on the field/court
- Scoring and timing rules, including rules surrounding overtime
- Conduct/unsporting rules
- Rules addressing penalty enforcement
- Uniform rules
- Equipment rules (ball/stick specifications, player equipment)
- Technical rules (individual team sports)

PROP has suggested that the following rules areas could be *federated* or *permissive*:

- Halftime/intermission length
- Allowable substitutions
- Technology rules (instant replay, challenge review, technology on bench/sideline, etc.)
- Rules identified as administrative that can be altered by mutual consent of the institutions involved in the contest



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2025-4: Federated Playing Rules

Proposed by: North Coast Athletic Conference, Allegheny Mountain Conference, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Little East Conference, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference & President's Athletic Conference.

- Establish an **additional process** by which Division III may consider exempting itself from sport-specific playing rules that have either a **financial** or **philosophical** impact for institutions.
- Decision to exempt would be made by **Management Council** and **ratified** by the full membership at Convention.



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2025-5: Reclassifying Process Waiver

Current.

- Reclassifying institutions are coming to Division III from either **Division I** or **Division II**.
- The Division III Membership Committee oversees the reclassifying membership process, which currently takes **three years** to complete.



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2025-5: Reclassifying Process Waiver

Proposed by: NCAA Division III Management Council (Membership Committee).

- Provide an opportunity for a reclassifying member to request a waiver of **Year Three** and become active after **Year Two**.
- No membership requirements would change, but the reclassifying member would need to satisfy all requirements **earlier** in the process.
- The **Division III Membership Committee** would decide the waiver.



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2025-6: Women's Wrestling

Current.

- The sport of women's wrestling has been recognized on the **Emerging Sports for Women** list in Division III since **2023**.
- Emerging sports must follow the **Division III playing seasons rules** and they may be used for sports sponsorship purposes.
- During 2023-24 **76 NCAA institutions** sponsored the sport and, for 2024-25, **93 institutions** intend to sponsor.



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2025-6: Women's Wrestling.

Proposed by: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).

- Establish a **National Collegiate Championship** in women's wrestling, as well as a women's wrestling **sport committee**.
- If adopted by **all three divisions**, the proposal would be **immediately effective** with a planned first championship in 2026.



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Questions?



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