

NCAA 2026 Convention Legislative Proposal Chart

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
2026-1	CHAMPIONSHIPS -- ESTABLISH A DIVISION III WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP	08/01/2026	American Rivers Conference, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Middle Atlantic Conferences.	To establish a Division III women's wrestling championship starting in 2027-28 academic year and a Division III Women's Wrestling Committee as specified.	Currently, there are 55 Division III institutions that sponsor the sport of women's wrestling. Division III accounts for more than half of all NCAA institutions sponsoring women's wrestling, Establishment of a Division III championship would eliminate the inequities of competing against Division I opponents for the national title. A separate Division III championship would provide an avenue for Division III student-athletes to compete against similarly situated programs consistent with the Division III philosophy. An 8/1/26 effective date for the creation of the committee would provide the committee adequate time to gather information and prepare adequately. The championship would be established during the 2027-28 academic year,
2026-2	ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION -- ONLY COMPETITION TRIGGERING USE OF A SEASON	08/01/2026	Atlantic East Conference, Empire 8 and Little East Conference.	To specify that a student-athlete would be charged with a season of eligibility if the student-athlete competes at any point during the traditional season.	This proposal empowers student-athletes to control their collegiate athletic experience by offering flexibility in participation seasons. Transitioning to college is challenging academically and mentally, and this policy supports well-being at a personalized pace. It allows struggling students to acclimate without the pressure of using a season of eligibility while still being engaged with their team which is also important for retention efforts in this challenging time in higher education. This proposal greatly enhances their opportunity to successfully navigate their challenges rather than be compelled to make a decision between the appropriate experience for their needs and leaving the team to save eligibility. The current policy, adopted in 2004, is outdated and doesn't reflect the modern college student or the evolution of higher education. Many students now need more than four years to complete their degree, and graduate programs are more common. This proposal does NOT grant student-athletes five years of competition. They still have four years to compete but the flexibility to determine those years based on their unique circumstances. Student-athletes should have the same opportunity as non-athletes to maximize their collegiate experience, including athletics. It's time for our division to evolve and give student-athletes more control over their experience.
2026-3	RESOLUTION -- NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS		Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.		
2026-4	CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AMEND IN-REGION COMPETITION REQUIREMENT	Immediate	Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference; Collegiate Conference of the South; and Southern Athletic	To reduce the required minimum percentage of in-region competition for championships eligibility from 70% to 50% for all sports except golf, which would stay at 25%, and tennis, which would maintain its 50% requirement; Further, to expand the official break	Modern Evaluation Metrics: The NCAA Power Index (NPI) uses national-level data to assess teams, rendering outdated the need for arbitrary geographic benchmarks. Teams are fairly evaluated regardless of regional frequency. • Geographic Equity: This amendment offers relief to institutions in remote or low-density regions, which face logistical challenges in meeting high in-region thresholds. • Improved Official Break Fairness: The amended exemption ensures institutions hosting matches during vacation periods are not penalized due to unmatched academic calendars.

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
			Association	exception to apply to any official institutional break and allow institutions hosting contests during another institution's break to also exempt the out-of-region contest even if that hosting institution is not in an institutional vacation period.	This encourages inter-regional play without disadvantage and ensures host institutions in geographically isolated or warm-weather regions are not penalized for providing competitive opportunities. • Scheduling Flexibility & Sustainability: Lowering the threshold allows schools to better adapt to scheduling issues like institutional closures and strengthens autonomy without imposing additional travel. Conclusion: This proposal modernizes Bylaw 31.3.2 by aligning it with current evaluation tools, improving equity across diverse geographies, and facilitating competitive, fair scheduling. These changes account for national evaluation metrics and geographic disparities across Division III institutions. Adjusting the minimum in-region threshold and refining the vacation period exemption creates a more balanced and inclusive Division III environment. An immediate effective date would positively impact institutional programs that will need a waiver for the 2025-26 season.
2026-5	CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- MULTIPLE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER MODEL	08/01/2026	Presidents' Athletic Conference and United East Conference.	To develop a formula to provide multiple automatic qualifiers to multisport conferences that have 12 or more core members that sponsor a sport. Specifically: (1) Once a conference reaches 12 or more core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately receive a second automatic qualifier in that sport; (2) If a conference falls below 12 core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately lose their second automatic qualifier in the sport; and (3) The method by which the conference determines its conference representatives is the responsibility of the conference and shall be declared and outlined at the time of the automatic-qualifier declaration.	With many institutions having to make strategic decisions about the long-term viability and sustainability of their institution, those aligning in larger athletic conferences to mitigate the landscape's instability see a significant decrease in access opportunities for automatic qualifiers. In today's formula, if 12 institutions function in two separate conferences of six, they are permitted access to two automatic qualifiers. If those same 12 schools combine their business operations to provide operational stability, they are only permitted access to one automatic qualifier. This is causing institutions to make decisions for the betterment of their institution, while at the same time creating a negative impact on recruitment, retention, and student-athlete experience. By creating a model that awards automatic qualifiers based on sport sponsorship numbers, student-athletes in all conferences will have more equitable access to championships. Additionally, in this model conferences will not be awarded multiple automatic qualifiers in all sports. Only in those sports in which their sponsorship is 12 core members or greater will receive the benefit.
2026-6	CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- REQUIRED PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CORE MEMBERS.	08/01/2026	Landmark Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference and Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.	To require an institution that is a core member of a conference to participate in the conference's automatic qualification (AQ) process for the sport(s) in which the institution sponsors. Failure to participate in the conference's defined AQ process (including declining participation in the conference's postseason tournament) in a particular	The Division III philosophy emphasizes a strong commitment to conference membership and prioritizes in-region competition. Institutions should not be permitted to serve as core members of a conference while opting out of league competition in certain sports. This practice not only impacts which teams receive the conference's automatic qualifier (AQ) but also affects the number of at-large bids available to the rest of Division III. With the limited access ratio to NCAA selections, it is essential to prevent institutions and conferences from manipulating structures in pursuit of additional access. Allowing core members to bypass their conference's AQ process undermines the integrity of both conference championships and the NCAA

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
				sport will render that institution ineligible for NCAA championship selection (i.e. at-large selection).	selection process, and is unfairly disadvantageous to schools that fully engage with their leagues. Furthermore, when core members choose to compete independently in select sports, it weakens the conference's overall competitive reputation and AQ strength. This proposal reinforces conference stability by requiring full participation, which in turn enhances the league's standing and credibility within NCAA processes. Ultimately, this change safeguards the fairness and equity of championship access by ensuring that NCAA selections-both automatic and at-large-are earned through a transparent and consistent pathway.
2026-7	CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- WAITING PERIOD -- MULTISPORT CONFERENCE -- ADJUST FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE.	08/01/2026	Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference, Conference of New England and Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	To reduce the wait time for a multisport conference to receive an automatic qualification from two years to one year.	Reduces the burden on student-athletes losing half their career access to the NCAA automatic qualifier to one year to allow for NCAA championship administrative adjustments. Assists multi-sport conferences on servicing their evolving membership sport sponsorship needs which are out of the student-athlete's control. Assists with decreasing enrollment and recruiting challenges as many times this causes unforeseen drops on team rosters. Will increase retention as student-athletes will be less likely to leave due to two year wait burden. Assists member institutions to stay with core member conferences. Allows time for the Championship Committee to adjust the bracket, etc. Assists conferences/schools to broaden sport sponsorship therefore enrollment.
2026-8	PLAYING SEASONS -- ADD A MANDATORY WINTER BREAK	08/01/2028	Collegiate Conference of the South and Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	To establish a seven-consecutive-calendar-day-period between December 15th and December 28th, in which student-athletes may not participate in any athletically related activities.	The proposed legislation establishing a mandatory seven-day winter break over a period typically included as an official period vacation for most institutions is designed to prioritize the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Division III student-athletes, coaches and support staff in alignment with the core values of the division. This supports a healthier and more sustainable environment within athletic departments. By creating a predictable and uninterrupted break period, this proposal ensures that student-athletes are afforded meaningful time away from the demands of intercollegiate athletics to rest, recover, and spend time with family and friends during the institutional break. A legislated break reflects the Division III values by protecting time for non-athletic pursuits and personal reflection. Removing all athletically related activities ensures a true mental and physical pause from athletic responsibilities. This proposal permits an institution to select the same break across the athletics department. The flexible adjustment mechanism preserves the intent of the legislation while accommodating practical scheduling concerns. This proposal supports the continued health and sustainability of Division III athletics by embedding a reasonable and equitable rest period into the annual calendar, promoting long-term well-being and reinforcing the educational mission of Division III institutions.
2026-9	RECRUITING - CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS - FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE	08/01/2026	NCAA Division III Management Council	To (1) replace the current "permission to contact" legislation related to NCAA four-year college transfer student-athletes	While the current legislation requires Division III institutions to secure permission to contact another NCAA institution's student-athlete before recruitment, institutional policy dictates how that permission is gained. Optional use of the NCAA Transfer

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
	PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES - REQUIRE USE OF THE NCAA TRANSFER PORTAL		(Interpretations and Legislation Committee)	with a "notification of transfer" model; (2) specify that an institution must place a student-athlete's written request for transfer into the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven-consecutive calendar days; (3) specify that a student-athlete must successfully complete an educational module before they are entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal; and (4) maintain the existing processes for the Division III self-release, for student-athletes interested in transferring to another Division III institution.	Portal and differences in institutional transfer tracer forms is overly burdensome and can be difficult for administrators to accurately track. This proposal will streamline the transfer certification process for Division III institutions and establish a system to allow for better tracking and information sharing. Additionally, maintaining the self-release processes will continue to permit Division III student-athletes to continue to pursue transfer opportunities without fear of repercussion from their original institutions.
2026-10	RECRUITING -- UNOFFICIAL VISIT -- MEALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR GUESTS	08/01/2026	College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Little East Conference.	Amend the current legislation to allow institutions to provide meals in an on-campus dining facility for a prospective student-athlete and those individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete.	As recruiting budgets are getting pinched, the unofficial visit is often the only opportunity for the prospective student-athlete and their guests to visit an institution's campus. The current rule can be confusing since some institutions are able to use the exception in bylaw 13.7.3 and provide meals to the guests of prospective student-athletes through their admissions offices but not others. This puts many institutions in an awkward position. This proposal seeks to provide consistency across all institutions. When on an unofficial visit, sharing a meal with a coach or current student-athletes in a more relaxed setting such as the dining hall provides an opportunity for a prospective student-athlete and their guests to learn more about the institution and what their experience might look like should they enroll. As many campuses are finding ways to cut budgets, some institutional admission offices are eliminating on-campus meals for prospective students in general, thus a valuable opportunity is no longer available to those coaches. This would allow athletic departments to provide these meals. The proposal seeks to only provide on-campus meals to the guests of prospective student-athletes. Bylaw 13.7.2.1.2 remains unchanged.
2026-11	AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE -- ELIMINATE DISTANCE AND LOCATION RESTRICTIONS	08/01/2026	NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)	To permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.	Currently, an institution may pay for expenses for a practice trip anywhere within the state or if outside the state then no more than 100 miles. This has vastly different applications depending on the state and where within the state, a Division III institution is located. Removing the location and mileage restrictions will acknowledge these differences and permit institutions to provide practice expenses absent an arbitrary limitation. Further, the condition that class time may not be missed for practice activities maintains the philosophical tenet of Division III athletics existing as part of the academic experience.
2026-12	AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TYPES OF AWARDS,	08/01/2026	NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and	To remove the exact dollar amounts and references to the value of awards from the awards legislation.	Current legislation limits awards to a specific dollar amount and restricts the manner these awards may be purchased. The specific dollar amounts have not been adjusted in nearly 15 years and have not been regularly monitored. Due to the rising costs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase the same or similar types of awards from

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
	AWARDING AGENCIES, MAXIMUM VALUE AND NUMBERS OF AWARDS -- REMOVE EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND REFERENCES TO AWARD VALUES		Legislation Committee)		year to year. Removing the exact dollar amounts would eliminate the need to monitor and modify award limitations moving forward. This awards legislation remains permissive legislation; thus, it is left to the institution and/or conference policies to determine the amount which can be spent on awards to student-athletes and provides flexibility in spending on awards.
2026-13	AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- PERMIT ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ONE ALL-STAR CONTEST OR OTHER POST-ELIGIBILITY EVENT	08/01/2026	NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)	To permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses for student-athletes to participate in one collegiate all-star contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.	Current legislation prohibits an institution from providing expenses for a student-athlete to participate in a collegiate all-star contest or similar competitive event. An institution may, however, provide a student-athlete with a one-time award for their participation, which could be used towards an expense costing \$400 or less, but could not be contributed toward an expense costing more than \$400. This proposal would eliminate the confusion and permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to participate in one all-start contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.
2026-14	AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TEAM ENTERTAINMENT -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TICKETS	08/01/2026	NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)	To clarify that institutions may provide reasonable entertainment during the playing season; further that reasonable entertainment could include providing professional sports tickets.	While current legislation permits an institution to provide reasonable entertainment to student-athletes in conjunction with practice or competition, there is a specific prohibition against providing professional sports tickets as such entertainment, unless it is in conjunction with an away from home contest. Regulating certain types of entertainment expenses is overly burdensome and institutions should have discretion to determine when to provide entertainment expenses to student-athletes during the team's declared playing season. This proposal would provide flexibility for entertainment while also maintaining the prohibition of providing cash for such entertainment.
2026-15	DIVISION MEMBERSHIP, PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL	Immediate	NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).	To add women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and establish legislation related to playing and practice seasons and membership.	The continued growth in high school girl's flag football and the number of collegiate institutions sponsoring the sport demonstrate the rapid growth of the sport and its potential to reach NCAA championship status at the collegiate level. Enough women's flag football teams met the prescribed guidelines of the Emerging Sports for Women Program application to demonstrate significant interest and sustainability within college. Additionally, the sport is relatively inexpensive to sponsor and attracts additional demographics of potential student-athletes. In addition, there is a shared commitment at the collegiate level to increase participation opportunities from institutions and conferences, as well as funding and resources from national governing bodies to further support the sport's growth. Finally, the immediate effective date will allow schools that sponsor the sport in the 2026 spring championship season to count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a national collegiate championship in a women's sport.
2026-16	NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING	Immediate	NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's	In women's acrobatics and tumbling, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's acrobatics and tumbling	Acrobatics and tumbling has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since 2020. In spring 2025, based on unofficial data, 44 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
			Athletics).	committee.	championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport. The sport has continued to grow in the collegiate space and has received continued interest in the youth/K-12 level from related sports. Acrobatics and tumbling has a diverse recruiting pool of student-athletes competing in gymnastics, cheerleading, diving, dance and weightlifting, among other sports. The sport attracts a wide variety of athletes from socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. This pool has created more participation opportunities for women with over 1,100 student-athletes competing in 2023-24 across all three divisions. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches and officials. This proposal would be effective immediately to allow the women's acrobatics and tumbling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.
2026-17	NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- STUNT	Immediate	NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).	In women's stunt, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's stunt committee.	Stunt has been an emerging sport in Divisions I and II since August 2023, and Division III since August 2024. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data, 41 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport. As the newest emerging sport, stunt has grown rapidly both in the collegiate space and in the youth/K-12 level with increased stunt competition opportunities around the country. Stunt has a high number of student-athletes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities competing on teams at NCAA schools, which has created more participation opportunities for women within the NCAA. In 2023-24, a total of 704 student-athletes competed in stunt in Divisions I and II. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches and officials. This proposal would be effective immediately to allow the women's acrobatics and tumbling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.