



DIVISION III

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

CONVENTION

2026

Division III Issues Forum

Thursday, January 15, 2026



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2026 NCAA Convention Proposals & Additional Updates



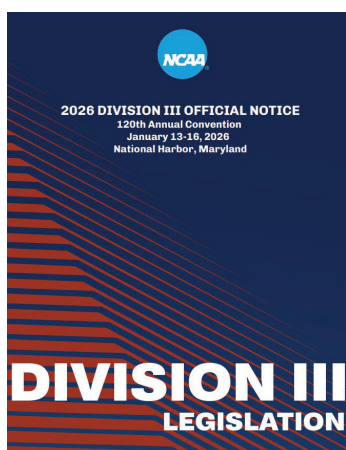
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Convention Resources.



[Legislative Actions and Issues](#)

2026 NCAA Convention Division III Legislative Proposals
Questions and Answers Guide
Approved November 16, 2025, by the
Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee

Please note this is the first edition of the 2026 NCAA Convention Division III Legislative Proposals Questions and Answers 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 grey.

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Presidents Council Grouping



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2026-1: Women's Wrestling

Sponsored by: CCIW, American Rivers & MAC.

- To establish a **Division III** women's wrestling championship starting in 2027-28 academic year; and
- To establish a Division III Women's Wrestling Committee.



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2026-2: Use of a Season

Sponsored by: Empire 8, Atlantic East & Little East.

- To specify that a student-athlete would be charged with a season *only* if the student-athlete *competes* at any point during the traditional season.



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2026-3: NIL Resolution

Sponsored by: SCIAC & NCAC.

- To ask that Presidents Council charge the governance structure with monitoring the *changing landscape* around Division I NIL and its impact on Division III.
- To ask that the governance structure *develop strategies, policies and if warranted, propose legislative changes* that would protect valid NIL opportunities consistent with the Division III philosophy.



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2026-4: In-Region Competition

Sponsored by: SAA, Coast-To-Coast & CCS.

- To **reduce** the required minimum percentage of in-region competition for championships eligibility to **50%** for all sports except golf.
- To **expand** the spring break exception to 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.



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2026-5: Multiple AQ Model

Sponsored by: United East & Presidents Athletic Conference.

- Provide **multiple automatic qualifiers** to multi-sport conferences that have 12 or more members that sponsor a sport.
 - Once a conference reaches 12 or more core members sponsoring a sport, the conference would immediately **receive** a second automatic qualifier.
 - If a conference falls below 12 core members sponsoring a sport, the conference would immediately **lose** their second automatic qualifier.



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2026-6: Required Participation for AQ

Sponsored by: SCIAC, Landmark & NCAC.

- Require core members of a conference to **participate in the conference's established AQ process** in that sport to have access to the NCAA Championships.
- If the institution decides to not participate in their conference's AQ process (including declining participation in the conference's postseason tournament) the institution **is not eligible** for NCAA selections, including at-large selections.



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General Grouping



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2026-7: AQ Waiting Period

Sponsored by: MASCAC, Coast-To-Coast & Conf. of New England.

- To **reduce the waiting period** from two years to one.



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2026-8: Mandatory Winter Break

Sponsored by: NACC and CCS.

- Establish a **seven-consecutive-calendar-day-period break** over the winter break.
 - Athletically related activities may **not** occur;
 - Student-athletes may only use facilities open to the general student body;
 - Entire athletics department must agree to same break period; and
 - First required break period would occur in **2028**.



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2026-9: NCAA Transfer Portal

Sponsored by: Management Council (ILC).

- **Require use of the NCAA Transfer Portal**, beginning with any student-athletes who request to be entered on or after August 1, 2026.
 - The self-release option would remain **intact**. After the expiration of the self-release, the student-athlete's original institution would be required to enter them into the Portal for recruiting conversations to continue.
 - Require that student-athletes be entered by their original institutions within **seven calendar days** of the request being made.
 - Require that all student-athletes watch an educational module **before** entry.



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2026-10: Unofficial Visit Meals

Sponsored by: CCIW & Little East.

- To permit institutions to provide meals in an on-campus dining facility for a prospective student-athlete **and** those individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete.



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2026-11: Practice Expenses

Sponsored by: Management Council (ILC).

- Permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions **at any location**, provided:
 - The student-athlete is eligible; and
 - No class is missed.



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2026-12: Award Values

Sponsored by: Management Council (ILC).

- Maintain the current limitations on who may give awards to student-athletes and how often awards may be given but **remove the exact \$ amounts** and references to **the value of awards** in the legislation.



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2026-13: Post-Eligibility Event Expenses

Sponsored by: Management Council (ILC).

- Permit institutions to provide **actual and necessary expenses** for a student-athlete to participate in one collegiate **all-star contest** or similar post-eligibility event.



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2026-14: Professional Sports Tickets

Sponsored by: Management Council (ILC).

- During a team's declared playing season, permit an institution, to provide **professional sports tickets** as reasonable entertainment.
- Maintain the **prohibition** of providing cash for any entertainment.



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2026-15: Flag Football for Women

Sponsored by: Management Council (CWA).

- To add women's flag football as an **emerging sport** for women and establish legislation related to playing and practice seasons and membership.



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2026-16: Acrobatics & Tumbling

Sponsored by: Management Council (CWA).

- Establish a **National Collegiate Championship** and to establish a women's acrobatics and tumbling committee.



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2026-17: Stunt

Sponsored by: Management Council (CWA).

- Establish a [National Collegiate Championship](#) and to establish a women's stunt committee.



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Additional Updates



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NC-2026-15: Sports Wagering

- NC-2026-15 was adopted by the Division III Management Council in October.
- Division I rescinded its adoption on November 21, meaning **the rules remain unchanged for everyone**.
- Because the sports wagering rules are **common** across all three divisions, any changes must be adopted by **ALL** divisions.



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Playing Rule Exemption

- Management Council has acted to **exempt** Division III from a new playing rule adopted by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).
- Beginning with the 2027 season, Women's Lacrosse officials will be **permitted** to use headsets, but the use will **not** be mandatory.
- See Appendix E in the **Official Notice**.



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