NCAA 2027 Convention Legislative Proposal Chart

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Source	Intent	Rationale
2027-1	PLAYING SEASONS -- FOOTBALL -- SPRING PERIOD PRACTICE MODIFICATIONS	Immediate	Alma College, Carnegie Mellon University, Central College (Iowa), Cornell College, Hampden-Sydney College, Illinois College, Kenyon College, Lake Forest College, Luther College, Maryville College (Tennessee), Millsaps College, Muhlenberg College, North Central College, Randolph-Macon College, Rhodes College, Shenandoah University, Trinity University (Texas), Wartburg College, Berry College, Hendrix College, Pacific Lutheran University.	To amend the spring football practice period as follows: (1) Establish four of the 16 days as "walk-through" days with no pads or helmets; (2) For the remaining 12 days, permit four days of student-athletes wearing helmets only, four days of shoulder pads and helmets, and four days of wearing full pads. (3) Establish a three-day transition period where two days are helmet only and the third day may be shoulder pads and helmets; (4) Define permissible activities based on the protective equipment worn; and (5) Limit full padded practices to no more than 75 minutes of full-contact drills.	This proposal reduces the number of practices with equipment or pads but allows for full 11-on-11 football during the non-traditional season. This aligns football with all other fall and spring sports with non-traditional seasons, allowing them to play their sport as they do on game day. The proposal maintains the limit of four practices per defined week but expands the use of protective equipment. Additionally, it uses established definitions of instructional tempo that already exist within the NCAA By-laws as well as a specified transition period, to reduce inconsistent interpretation of permissible contact. The proposal also permits multi-participant and full-team (11v.11) settings. This supports safer skill development and preparation for the traditional season. With clear definitions of activities, this proposal promotes consistent application and understanding throughout Division III football. It introduces a more flexible and structured model to improve consistency, safety, and student-athlete experience, including structured contact within both individual and team instructional settings. The proposal has an immediate effective date so that programs can implement the new structure this spring.
2027-2	DIVISION III PRESIDENTS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL -- TERM OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES	Immediate	Little East Conference and United East Conference.	To change the length of the unexpired term which requires a vacancy to be filled from at least two years to at least one year for the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and Management Council to avoid lengthy periods in which an active multi-sport conference is not represented on either Presidents or Management Council.	Current legislation notes a vacancy on either Presidents or Management Council can only be filled if at least two years remain on a term. Leaving a conference without representation on either council for 50% of a term without any structured process to ensure conferences have a voice and remain informed is contradictory to the legislation requiring representation of each active multi-sport conference on either council.
2027-3	ELIGIBILITY -- FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY -- AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY MODEL	Immediate. Applicable to all student-athletes who initially enroll full-time in any collegiate institution during the 2027-28 academic year and thereafter. The age-based model may also be applied to student-athletes: (1) who would have	American Rivers Conference and Ohio Athletic Conference.	To transition from a season-based eligibility and waiver-driven framework to a continuous, five year age-based eligibility model that mirrors the framework adopted by Division I. The period of eligibility will be triggered by	This proposal initiates a necessary legislative debate within Division III following Division I's landmark shift toward a continuous, age-based eligibility framework. Introducing this proposal ensures our division can evaluate how this model aligns with or challenges our distinct divisional philosophy before risking long-term

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		eligibility remaining (seasons and term(s) of full-time enrollment) following the 2026-27 academic year; and (2) who would have exhausted seasons but have term(s) of full-time enrollment remaining following the 2026-27 academic year. Previous rules may be applied to student-athletes who enroll full-time in any regular term before the 2027-28 academic year; however, no waivers will be available for the 2027-28 academic year and thereafter. Additionally, the legislated exceptions to the previous season of participation rules do not apply to participation that occurs during the 2027-28 academic year through the exhaustion of the student-athlete's Division III eligibility.		either a student-athlete's initial full-time collegiate enrollment or the start of the regular academic year following their 19th birthday (whichever occurs earlier), operating continuously for five years with limited, clear exceptions (e.g., pregnancy, military service, and religious missions). Furthermore, this proposal intends to establish an equitable implementation timeline providing current student-athletes with eligibility remaining after the 2025-26 academic year the benefit of whichever model is most advantageous, while exploring avenues to protect student-athletes finishing their eligibility during the 2026-27 academic year.	misalignment. Proponents highlight significant operational benefits. A standardized, time-bound framework would drastically reduce administrative burdens on compliance staff by eliminating the tracking of athletic redshirts, delayed enrollment, and complex competition variables. It replaces unpredictable, case-by-case waiver pipelines, such as medical hardships and extensions, with clear, predefined rules that offer upfront transparency for student-athletes. However, a shift of this magnitude introduces challenges that run counter to traditional Division III values. Moving away from a flexible, enrollment-driven framework provides less flexibility for student-athletes who pause their participation to focus on rigorous academics, study abroad opportunities, or financial constraints. Consequently, a continuous "clock" could negatively impact non-traditional, older, or transfer student-athletes whose journeys do not follow a rigid timeline. Given our membership's diverse institutional missions, proactive engagement is essential. This proposal utilizes the legislative comment and amendment periods to provide a structured platform to thoroughly evaluate this model's intersection with the student-athlete experience and the core values of Division III.
2027-3-1	ELIGIBILITY -- AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY MODEL -- REMOVAL OF 19TH BIRTHDAY	Immediate	Empire 8, Landmark Conference and Little East Conference.	To amend Proposal No. 2027-3 to provide student-athletes five continuous years of eligibility, up to five years of participation, while using only the current Division III standard of initial collegiate enrollment as the trigger for participation.	Removing age restrictions provides inclusive participation opportunities through five years to play up to five seasons, beginning with initial full-time collegiate enrollment. This approach ties eligibility to the collegiate experience, reduces waiver requests and administrative burdens, and provides flexibility, certainty, equity and consistency for student-athletes, institutions, administrators and NCAA staff.
2027-4	AMATEURISM -- BEFORE INITIAL,	Immediate, applicable to student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate	NCAA Division III Management Council	To permit individuals to enter into an agreement with an agent for the purpose	Currently, Division III permits individuals to try out and participate (practice and compete) with a

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	FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- PERMIT USE OF AGENTS	institution on or after 8/1/27	(Interpretations and Legislation Committee)	of identifying or securing playing opportunities and receive benefits prior to their initial, full-time collegiate enrollment.	professional team, as well as sign a contract with that team prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment. However, individuals are prohibited from using an agent to help market their ability or reputation to secure that opportunity as a professional athlete, making Division III the most restrictive division in regard to agents and agent activities. This restriction disadvantages individuals wanting to attend Division III institutions by restricting the avenue to achieve professional participation that is most common. Permitting agent representation prior to full-time collegiate enrollment promotes the opportunities for individuals to make informed decisions about participation with a professional team and promotes alignment with current opportunities for agent representation related to name, image and likeness activities. Finally, it is appropriate to have an immediate effective date as this only applies to individuals prior to full-time collegiate enrollment and would positively impact those individuals enrolling in a Division III institution for the 2027-28 academic year.
2027-5	NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL	Immediate	NCAA Division III Management Council (NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact).	In women's flag football, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's flag football committee.	Flag football has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since January 2026. Data indicated 66 NCAA member institutions sponsored flag football, with 40 member institutions meeting minimum sports-sponsorship requirements. Additionally, more than 120 member institutions have indicated their intent to sponsor flag football during the 2026-27 academic year, with more than 130 member institutions expected to sponsor flag football in the 2027-28 academic year, demonstrating continued growth. Sponsorship of flag football as an NCAA championship is expected to further accelerate interest and participation. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), youth and K-12 participation have grown significantly, with girls' high school flag

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					football experiencing a 60% year-over-year growth. NFHS also reported that in states where girls flag football is sanctioned, there were approximately 69,000 reported high school participants in 2024-25. Flag football attracts a varied recruiting pool of student-athletes and has relatively low barriers to entry, particularly at the youth and high school levels. Flag football will be an Olympic sport in 2028, and a professional league is expected to begin operations soon. The immediate effective date allows for the committee to be established and prepare for a Spring 2028 championship.