

2026 NCAA Convention Division III Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide Approved November 19, 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 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.

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

- 1. <u>How to read the NCAA Division III legislative proposals</u>. When reviewing legislative proposals, it is important to note that:
 - The letters and words that appear in italics and strikethrough are letters and words
 in the current NCAA Division III rule that would be deleted with the adoption of
 the proposal;
 - The letters and words that appear in **bold face and underlined** are letters and words that would be added with the adoption of the proposal; and
 - The letters and words that appear in normal text are letters and words in the current Division III rule that would remain unchanged with the adoption of the proposal.
- 2. What appears in the white pages of the NCAA Division III Official Notice?

The white pages of the NCAA Division III Official Notice contain the legislative proposals that will be voted on individually at the NCAA Division III business session. Anticipated questions and answers related to the proposals appearing in the white pages are contained in this question-and-answer guide.

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

The NCAA Division III Presidents Council has determined that it will focus primarily on those national issues in Division III athletics that prompt widespread concern among Division III chancellors or presidents.

The Presidents Council has identified five proposals and one resolution, that it believes is of particular interest to Division III chancellors or presidents and has included those proposals in the Presidents Council grouping. There are 11 proposals included in the general grouping for the 2026 convention. All proposals have been identified by the Presidents Council for a roll-call vote.

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

The blue pages of the Official Notice contain four types of legislative proposals. The proposals appearing in the blue pages have already been adopted by the authority of the

NCAA Division III Management Council or Presidents Council. These proposals have an immediate effective date from the time of adoption. These groups of proposals will be ratified by the NCAA Division III membership during the Division III business session. If a delegate objects to the incorporation of any one of these legislative proposals, that objection should be raised prior to the ratification of the package of proposals. (It is preferred that any delegate intending to raise an objection also inform a member of the NCAA governance and member services staff of that intent before the Division III business session.) The Division III membership would then vote on the proposal in question via separate action.

The questions and answers document does not address proposals that are included in the blue pages. The blue pages, however, include an "additional information" section with each proposal that provides additional clarification regarding the proposal.

The four types of legislation contained within the blue pages are listed below:

- Emergency legislation adopted by Division III Presidents Council. The Presidents Council by at least three-fourths majority of its members present and voting may adopt emergency legislation that shall be effective immediately in the following situations: (a) When the NCAA must respond to or comply with a court, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or government order; (b) When the Presidents Council deems it appropriate to limit or avoid NCAA liability as a result of litigation, ADR or governmental proceedings; or (c) When significant values or harm are at stake and the use of the regular legislative cycle is likely to cause undue hardship to the Association or the Division III membership because of the delay in its effective date. There are no emergency legislative proposals to be approved this year.
- <u>Interpretations to be incorporated in the Division III Manual</u>. These interpretations have already been accepted by the membership and the only issue that is before the membership is whether they should be set forth in the Division III Manual. There is one interpretation to be incorporated to be approved this year.
- Noncontroversial legislation adopted by the Division III Management Council. These proposals constitute all noncontroversial legislative changes the Management Council or Presidents Council have adopted during the past year. The Councils are permitted to adopt such legislation, if it is necessary, to promote the normal and orderly administration of the Association's legislation.

• <u>Modifications of wording</u>. These proposals are modifications to current legislation that have been shown to be consistent with the intent of the membership in adopting the current legislation. To approve such a change, the Management Council has determined that sufficient documentation and testimony exist to establish clearly that the original wording of the legislation requires modification to better reflect the original intent. There is one modification of wording to be approved this year.

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NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-1

Title: CHAMPIONSHIPS -- ESTABLISH A DIVISION III WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: American Rivers Conference, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Middle Atlantic Conferences.

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current women's wrestling championship opportunity?

Answer: There is currently a national collegiate women's wrestling championship.

All Division I, II and III women's wrestling programs meeting institutional

eligibility requirements can be eligible for NCAA selections.

Question No. 2: If adopted, what would this proposal do?

Answer: This proposal would create a Division III women's wrestling championship.

Only Division III women's wrestling programs meeting institutional eligibility requirements would be eligible for NCAA selections. It would also

create a Division III specific women's wrestling committee.

Question No. 3: If this proposal is adopted, what would happen with women's wrestling for

Divisions I and II?

Answer: Division I and II women's wrestling programs would be eligible for the

national collegiate championship. They would not be eligible for the

Division III women's wrestling championship.

Question No. 4: How many programs are required for a Division III championship to be

considered?

Answer: There must be a minimum of 40 programs. For the 2025-26 academic year,

there are 66 Division III women's wrestling programs.

Question No. 5: If this proposal passes and Division III women's wrestling programs decrease

to less than 40 programs, would the Division III championship be

eliminated?

Answer: No. NCAA Division III Bylaw 18.2.10.1 (Exception -- Olympic or Paralympic

Sports) would apply to exempt the sport from the minimum sponsorship requirements. However, the membership may adopt specific legislation to discontinue the championship in an Olympic sport if it falls below the

minimum sponsorship requirements.

Question No. 6: How will the championship be funded?

Answer: The funding for the Division III championship will come from the Division

III budget. The current estimate is between \$700,000 and \$800,000.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-2

Title: ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION -- ONLY COMPETITION TRIGGERING USE OF A SEASON

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: Atlantic East Conference, Empire 8 and Little East Conference.

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding how Division III determines when a

student-athlete uses a season of eligibility?

Answer: In Division III, a student-athlete is charged with one of their four permissible

seasons of eligibility in a sport if the student-athlete practices or competes during or after the first contest in the traditional segment of the playing

season after the student-athlete begins participating.

Question No. 2: If this proposal is adopted, how will the legislation change?

Answer: A student-athlete will only be charged with one of their four permissible

seasons of eligibility in a sport when the student-athlete competes in

intercollegiate competition. If a student-athlete only practices with a team and does not compete against outside competition, that student-athlete would not use a season of eligibility. All existing exceptions, including preseason competition, competition in the non-traditional segment, etc., would continue to apply.

Question No. 3: If adopted, would the number of seasons of eligibility change?

Answer: No. A student-athlete will still be limited to four seasons per sport.

Question No. 4: If adopted, would the number of semesters/quarters change?

Answer: No. This proposal will not change the maximum number of full-time

semesters (10) or quarters (15) in which a student-athlete must complete

their seasons of eligibility.

Question No. 5: If adopted, will student-athletes be able to retroactively apply this rule to

preserve previously used seasons of eligibility?

Answer: No. The effective date of this proposal is August 1, 2026. It applies to

activities that occur at any time on or after August 1, 2026. There is no retroactive application of this proposal to student-athletes who used seasons of eligibility for practicing at a Division III institution in the traditional

segment before August 1, 2026.

Question No. 6: If adopted, would a student-athlete who was injured during the 2025-26

season and never competed need a medical hardship waiver?

Answer: Yes. If adopted, the proposal would not be effective until August 1, 2026,

so the medical hardship waiver would be necessary to get the 2025-26

season back.

Question No. 7: If adopted, does the proposal only apply to a student-athlete's first year at

the institution?

Answer: No. A student-athlete would not use a season of competition during any

season in which they do not compete during the traditional segment.

Question No. 8: Is it possible that a student-athlete practices but never plays for multiple

years and is not charged any seasons?

Answer: Yes. A season would only be used for competition. The student-athlete

would still be charged semesters or quarters for all full-time terms.

Question No. 9: What constitutes competition for purposes of this proposal?

Answer: Competition includes any intercollegiate competition that occurs during the

traditional segment or for period sports, competition that occurs during

either period. This would not include preseason scrimmages.

Question No. 10: If adopted, does competing in preseason scrimmages or preseason

exhibitions constitute use of a season?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: If adopted, will a student-athlete use a season if they compete in a junior

varsity level intercollegiate competition?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 12: Does this proposal change how an institution counts seasons when the

student-athlete participates and competes on an institutional club team?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-3

Title: RESOLUTION -- NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS

Effective Date: Immediate.

Source: North Coast Athletic Conference and Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is a resolution?

Answer: A resolution may be used to enact temporary legislative change (Bylaw

9.4.2) or used when a formal expression of opinion or action is needed

(Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12th edition).

Question No. 2: What does this resolution do?

Answer: If approved, it directs action of the governance structure. Specifically, the

resolution directs the Presidents Council to identify NIL as a significant issue that needs to be better understood and then charge the governance

structure with reviewing and monitoring NIL developments.

Question No. 3: Is there a timeline for completion of the review?

Answer: If the resolution is adopted, there is no deadline for completion of the

review.

Question No. 4: Does the resolution require Presidents Council to sponsor future legislative

change?

Answer: No. While future sponsorship of legislation could be an outcome of the

review, that is not a required outcome. Outcomes are dependent upon any

findings from this review.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-4

Title: CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AMEND IN-REGION COMPETITION REQUIREMENT

Effective Date: Immediate.

Source: Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference; Collegiate Conference of the South; and Southern

Athletic Association.

Intent: 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 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What are the current in-region opponent competition requirements?

Answer:

To be eligible for selection to a Division III championship (AQ or at-large selection), in team sports other than golf and tennis, the minimum in-region competition requirement is 70 percent. For tennis, it is a 50 percent requirement. For golf, it is a 25 percent requirement.

Question No. 2:

If adopted, how would this proposal change the in-region opponent competition requirements?

Answer:

The proposal would reduce the team sports other than golf and tennis to match the current tennis requirement of 50 percent. Golf would stay at the 25 percent requirement.

Question No. 3:

How does the current exception work?

Answer:

Currently, an institution can exempt out-of-region contests conducted during one institutional vacation period for sports with a spring NCAA championship. Only the institution(s) competing during their vacation period can exempt the contests.

Question No. 4:

If adopted, how would this proposal change the exception?

Answer:

This proposal would allow both the institution traveling during the official vacation period and the institution hosting the contest to exempt the out-of-region contest. There is no limit to the number of times an institution may use the exception. Additionally, any sport team can apply the exception, instead of just sports with a spring NCAA championship.

Question No. 5:

If adopted, how does this proposal change how an institution's in-region percentage is calculated?

Answer:

The number of exempted contests may increase, but the process of taking in region contests divided by total scheduled (minus exemptions) will remain the same.

Question No. 6:

If adopted, what is the impact of the immediate effective date?

Answer:

The new in-region percentage requirements would apply to the winter sports that are in-season as well as all sports with a spring 2026 championship.

Question No. 7: If adopted, can institutions not meeting the new percentage requirement

still apply for a waiver?

Answer: Yes. A waiver can be submitted to the Division III Championships

Committee (see Bylaw 31.3.2.1).

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-5

Title: CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- MULTIPLE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER MODEL

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: Presidents' Athletic Conference and United East Conference.

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding automatic qualifications to NCAA

championships?

Answer: Per Bylaw 31.3.1.2, no conference shall receive more than one automatic

qualification per sport. A conference is required to maintain six conference members sponsoring a sport to be eligible for an automatic qualification.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rule?

Answer: If adopted, any multisport conference with a minimum of 12 core members

sponsoring a sport may automatically declare a second automatic

qualification to NCAA championships.

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Question No. 3: If adopted, would single sport conferences be eligible for multiple automatic

qualifications?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If adopted, would a multisport conference with a minimum of 12 core

members receive an additional automatic qualification in every sport it

sponsors?

Answer: No. The additional automatic qualification would be sport-specific and only

be awarded in the sports in which the conference has a minimum of 12 core

members sponsoring the sport.

Question No. 5: If adopted, would a multisport conference be permitted to use affiliate

members to meet the minimum of 12 required institutions?

Answer: No. The minimum standard of 12 members must be core members.

Conferences are not precluded from having affiliate members eligible for

the AQ, but they must be in excess of the 12 core members.

Question No. 6: If adopted, would this impact on the bracket size for any sport?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: If adopted, would a multisport conference be limited to only one additional

automatic qualification, even if its core membership is in other multiples of

six (e.g., 18, 24)?

Answer: Yes. Regardless of a multisport conference's core membership size, it would

be limited to two automatic qualifications.

Question No. 8: If adopted, what would happen if a multisport conference who received an

additional automatic qualification had one of its 12 core members not meet

sports sponsorship in the given sport?

Answer: The additional automatic qualification would immediately be forfeited if the

conference fell below 12 core members sponsoring the sport. The two-year

grace period would not apply to a conference's second AQ in a given sport.

Question No. 9: If adopted, would anything change about the NCAA Power Index (NPI)

process?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: If adopted, when would the conferences have to inform the sport

committees that they qualify for an additional automatic qualification?

Answer: The current deadline will remain. Consequently, conferences would have to

submit their declaration no later than February 1, 2026, for the 2026-27

academic year.

Question No. 11: If adopted, what would happen to a conference that misses the deadline for

submitting its declaration?

Answer: The conference would request a waiver of the deadline.

Question No. 12: If adopted, how would conferences award the additional automatic

qualification?

Answer: Currently, conferences have the responsibility of determining the method to

select which team or individual earns its automatic qualification each year. This will remain unchanged if a conference receives an additional automatic

qualification in a sport.

Question No. 13: What is the current core member size of each multisport conference in

Division III?

Answer: The list below reflects the anticipated overall (i.e., not sport-specific) core

membership for each Division III multisport conference in the 2026-27

academic year.

• Three conferences have six core members.

• Two conferences have seven core members.

Seven conferences have eight core members.

Ten conferences have nine core members.

Seven conferences have 10 core members.

Four conferences have 11 core members.

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- Six conferences have 12 core members.
- One conference has 13 core members.
- Three conferences have 14 core members.
- Two independent members are not members of a conference.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-6

Title: CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- REQUIRED PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CORE MEMBERS

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: Landmark Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference and Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.

Intent: If an institution is a core member of a conference and that conference has an AQ in a sport that institution must participate in the conference's fully established AQ process in that sport to have access to the NCAA Championships. This access is either winning the conference AQ or through the at-large selection process. The conference has authority to define its AQ process regular season champion, tournament champion, etc. If the institution decides to not participate in their conference's defined AQ process (including declining participation in the conference's postseason tournament) the institution is not eligible for NCAA selections, including at-large selections.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current participation requirement for an institution's team to be

eligible for an NCAA championship?

Answer: Institutions must satisfy institutional eligibility requirements set forth in

Bylaw 31.2.1, including in-region opponent competition requirement and

meeting sports sponsorship requirements.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would this proposal change the current rule?

Answer: Institutions must participate in their conference's fully established AQ

process if the conference has an AQ in that sport. If institutions do not

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participate, they are not eligible for NCAA selections, including at-large selections. If the AQ process established by the conference at the time of the AQ declaration includes regular season competition and a conference tournament, then the institutions must participate in both per the process. An institution may not elect to forgo either part of the established process.

Question No. 3: If adopted, would this proposal change how a conference may determine its

AQ?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: If adopted, would this proposal require a conference to conduct in-season

conference competition?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If adopted, can a core member of the conference compete as an independent

and remain eligible for the NCAA championship?

Answer: If the conference has an AQ in the sport and the institution does not

participate in the AQ process, that institution will not be eligible for an

NCAA championship.

Question No. 6: If a multisport conference is in their waiting period for an AQ for a sport,

will an institution be eligible for the NCAA championship in that sport if they participate as an affiliate conference member in another sport or

participate as an independent?

Answer: The institution would still be eligible for the NCAA championship. If a

conference is in the waiting period and does not have an AQ for a sport, an institution can compete as an affiliate or as an independent and still be eligible for an NCAA championship. However, the institution could not also count as one of the members necessary to satisfy the waiting period

conditions.

Question No. 7: If adopted, can a core member of the conference choose not to participate

in the AQ for their conference and participate as an affiliate member of

another conference?

Answer: The institution must participate in that conference's established AQ process

for that sport to be eligible for an NCAA championship. Participation in the

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affiliate conference's process would mean the institution is not eligible for NCAA selections, even if they were to win the affiliate conference's AQ.

Question No. 8: If a core member of a conference declines to participate in the conference's

AQ process, what happens to the conference's automatic qualifier?

Answer: The ineligibility applies only to the institution that declines participation.

Other member institutions remain eligible for the NCAA championship through the conference AQ or at-large selection, assuming they comply with the established process. [Note: Other AQ conditions apply, See answer to

question No. 9 below.]

Question No. 9: Could a conference lose its AQ if one or more members do not participate?

Answer: Maybe. If there are not at least four core institutions, the conference will

lose its AQ. Additionally, if the conference was in the grace period for two consecutive academic years and still falls below six members in year 3, the

conference will lose its AQ.

Question No. 10: Can a conference modify its AQ process mid-season?

Answer: No. Per Bylaw 31.3.3.1-(b), the method by which a conference determines

its conference representative shall be declared at the time of the automatic-

qualification declaration and shall be objectively outlined.

Question No. 11: If adopted, does this proposal apply to all NCAA sports sponsored by the

conference?

Answer: No. This proposal would only apply to sports in which the conference has

an established AQ.

Question No. 12: If adopted, is the requirement sport specific or will an institution lose

championship access for all sports?

Answer: The requirement is sport specific.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-7

Title: CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- WAITING PERIOD -- MULTISPORT CONFERENCE -- ADJUST FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference, Conference of New England and Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Intent: To reduce the waiting period for a multisport conference to receive an automatic qualification from two years to one year.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding the waiting period for an automatic qualification to NCAA Championships?

Answer: Currently a multisport conference must undergo a waiting period during which, for two consecutive years, it:

- It is a member conference of the Association;
- Conducts competition in the sport in question; and
- Maintains six consistent conference members that sponsored the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis, provided:
 - o Each of the six conference members are active Division III institutions or institutions in year three of the NCAA Division III provisional or reclassifying membership process;
 - o At least four of the six members are core institutions; and
 - o All active Division III institutions within the six members are eligible for the NCAA Division III championship.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rule?

Answer: If adopted, the process would shorten from two years to one. Nothing else about the current waiting period criteria would change.

Question No. 3: If adopted, would anything change about the process for single-sport

conferences to receive an automatic qualification?

Answer: No. Only multisport conferences would be affected by this change.

Question No. 4: If adopted, would a multisport conference who is currently in the waiting

period for an automatic qualification benefit from the proposal?

Answer: Yes. A multisport conference that is currently in year one of the waiting

period process, would be eligible for an automatic qualification for the 2026-27 academic year. This would not impact any conference automatic

qualifications for the 2025-26 year.

Question No. 5: If adopted, would anything change about the two-year "grace period"

outlined in Bylaw 31.3.3.1.3 for multisport conferences whose core

membership falls below six institutions?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: If this proposal and Proposal 2026-5 are adopted, how would this proposal

work in conjunction with the multiple automatic qualification model

proposal?

Answer: This proposal would have no effect on the multiple automatic qualification

model proposal, as this proposal is specific to a multisport conference's *initial* automatic qualification to the NCAA championship. The multiple automatic qualification model proposal is specific to an *additional* automatic

qualification.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-8

Title: PLAYING SEASONS -- ADD A MANDATORY WINTER BREAK

Effective Date: August 1, 2028.

Source: Collegiate Conference of the South and Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1 What is a "winter break" as established by the proposal?

Answer: It is a seven consecutive day period in which no athletically related activity

(mandatory or voluntary with a sport coach) may occur.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would this proposal change the playing and practice

season?

Answer: Between December 15 and December 28, an institution must select a

consecutive seven-day period as its winter break?

Question No. 3: If adopted, if an institution closes before December 15 and/or after

December 28, can those dates be used toward the winter break seven-day

period?

Answer: No. The institution is required to have the seven-consecutive-day winter

break between December 15 and December 28. If the institution wants to take additional days off, those additional dates do not replace the seven-day

winter break.

Question No. 4: If adopted, can each team have different winter breaks?

Answer: No. The winter break would apply for all varsity sponsored sports at the

institution.

Question No. 5: If adopted, can a team go on a training trip during the winter break?

Answer: No, training trips are considered athletically related activity, which cannot

occur during the winter break.

Question No. 6: If adopted, can a student-athlete be a demonstrator at an institutional camp

or clinic with their sport coach during the winter break?

Answer: No. Activities that are not permitted to occur outside the playing season

(like being a demonstrator) would also not be permissible during the winter

break.

Question No. 7: If adopted, can an institutional foreign tour occur during the winter break?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: If adopted, can a sport coach observe voluntary individual workouts for

safety?

Answer: Yes, provided the conditions of Bylaw 17.02.1.1.1.4(b) are satisfied.

Question No. 9: If adopted, can students access athletic facilities?

Answer: A student-athlete may work out at an on-campus facility during the

institution's winter break only if that facility is open to the general student

body.

Question No. 10: If adopted, is it permissible for a student-athlete who remains on campus

during the winter break to receive an occasional meal from institutional staff members or a representative of the institution's athletics interests?

Answer: Yes, however, the conditions set forth in Bylaw 16.11.1.5 (occasional meal)

must be satisfied.

Question No. 11: If adopted, how will this proposal impact the institutions that participate in

the Division III Football Championship (Stagg Bowl)?

Answer: This issue will be addressed before the effective date.

Question No. 12: If adopted, when does the proposal become effective?

Answer: The first required winter break would occur in December 2028.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-9

Title: RECRUITING -- CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS -- FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE

STUDENT-ATHLETES -- REQUIRE USE OF THE NCAA TRANSFER PORTAL

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee).

Intent: To (1) replace the current "permission to contact" legislation related to NCAA four-year college transfer student-athletes with a "notification of transfer" model; (2) specify that an

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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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding use of the NCAA Transfer Portal in

Division III?

Answer: Division III institution may, but is not required to, put a Division III student-

athlete into the transfer portal if the student is considering transferring.

Question No. 2: What is the current rule regarding permission to contact in Division III?

Answer: Currently, a Division III institution is not permitted to engage in recruiting

conversation with an NCAA student-athlete considering transferring until the Division III institution has received permission to contact from the student's current institution. The Division III self-release form and the NCAA Transfer Portal can be used as permission to contact. No permission to

contact is required from non-NCAA institutions.

Question No. 3: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rules?

Answer: If adopted, notification of transfer through the use of the NCAA Transfer

Portal will replace the current permission to contact process. [Note: a student-athlete may still use the Self-Release to have contact with other Division III institutions, see questions 4 through 6] The notification of transfer process requires that the student-athlete interested in transferring to another institution must complete an educational module. Once the institution receives notification the educational module has been completed, they have seven days to add the student into the transfer portal. New institutions may then engage in recruiting conversations with students

active in the transfer portal.

Question No. 4: If adopted, will Division III student-athletes be permitted to use the Division

III Self-Release process?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: If adopted, how will the Division III Self-Release process work?

Answer: If a current Division III student-athlete is interested in contacting another

Division III institution for purposes of recruitment, they may use the self-release form to authorize 30 days of contact with the new institution. At the expiration of the 30-day period, if the student-athlete and new institution would like to continue to engage in recruiting conversations, the student-athlete must begin the notification of transfer process and be entered in the NCAA Transfer Portal. If the student-athlete does not wish to continue recruiting conversations, the student-athlete would not need the NCAA

Transfer Portal.

Question No. 6: If adopted, can a student-athlete have self-release with different schools

over the same 30-day time period?

Answer: Yes. Because self-releases are institution-specific, a student-athlete can

complete multiple self-releases to talk with multiple specific institutions at

the same time.

Question No. 7: If adopted, would there be Division III windows of time (e.g., recruiting

windows) during which a student-athlete in a specific sport must be

entered?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: If adopted, does a student-athlete who is currently enrolled at Division III

institution as an undergraduate but will be attending their new institution

as a graduate still need to be entered in the Transfer Portal?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: If adopted, can a student-athlete wanting to participate as a graduate

student use the self-release if the student will be attending a Division III

graduate program?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: If adopted, how would the student-athlete access the required educational

module?

Answer: The student-athlete would access the educational module by visiting the

Want to Transfer? page of ncaa.org.

Question No. 11: If adopted, how would the institution confirm that the educational module

has been completed?

Answer: Upon completion of the educational module, the student-athlete is required

to enter the email address for their institution's compliance officer. When the module is completed, the system will automatically notify the

compliance officer by email.

Question No. 12: If adopted, how long would the institution have to add a student to the

Transfer Portal?

Answer: After receiving notification the educational module has been completed, the

institution would have seven calendar days to enter the student into the Transfer Portal. The seven calendar days start upon confirmation of the

completed educational module.

Question No. 13: If adopted, does a student that has officially withdrawn from their previous

NCAA school need to be added into the transfer portal?

Answer: No.

Question No. 14: If adopted, would a student-athlete who expresses during the 2026 spring

term that they are interested in transferring for the 2026 fall term be

required to go into the NCAA Transfer Portal?

Answer: No. Only student-athletes who express interest in transferring on or after

August 1, 2026, must be entered in the NCAA Transfer Portal.

Question No. 15: How does this proposal compare with the current process?

Answer: The chart below summarizes the current and proposed legislation for

transfers:

Current legislation: Permission to Contact	Proposed legislation: Notification of Transfer
1. A student-athlete requests permission to	1. A student-athlete completes the
contact another institution.	educational module.
2. Current institutions may grant or deny	2. Notification is sent to the current
permission to contact within seven	institution once the educational module
business days.	has been completed.
3. Permission to contact is provided in writing. It may be specific to one institution	3. The institution has seven days to add the student into the transfer portal.
or generalized. It may be granted via the	4. Recruiting conversations can occur after
Transfer Portal.	the student is active in the transfer portal.
A student-athlete wanting to transfer to another Division III institution may use the self-release. That self-release is permission to	A student-athlete wanting to transfer to another Division III institution may use the self-release. That self-release is notification of
contact.	transfer.

Question No. 16: Will educational resources be available about how to use the NCAA Transfer

Portal?

Answer: Yes. If adopted, staff will update the current resources.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-10

Title: RECRUITING -- UNOFFICIAL VISIT -- MEALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR GUESTS

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Little East Conference.

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: Currently, what meals may an institution provide to prospective student-

athletes on an unofficial visit?

Answer: An institution may provide a meal in an on-campus dining facility for the

prospective student-athlete but may not provide meals for those

accompanying the prospective student-athlete, unless that is the institution's practice for all prospective students visiting the institution.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: An institution may also provide a meal for the individuals accompanying

the prospective student-athlete, without requiring the same benefit for all

prospective students visiting the institution.

Questions No. 3: If adopted, can the allowable meal for those accompanying the prospective

student-athlete occur at a different time than the PSA's meal? (e.g., parents

receive breakfast, but PSA receives lunch)?

Answer: The meal must be in conjunction with the meal provided to the prospective

student-athlete.

Question No. 4: If adopted, could an institution provide the meal in addition to an

admissions meal (e.g., admissions handle lunch, athletics handles dinner)?

Answer: Yes. The proposal would not change the application of Bylaw 13.7.3 which

permits a prospective student-athlete to receive the programming and/or benefits (entertainment, meals) provided to all prospective students by the

institution's admissions office.

Question No. 5: Does this change anything else about the application of the unofficial meal's

bylaw?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-11

Title: AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE -- ELIMINATE DISTANCE AND LOCATION RESTRICTIONS

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee).

Intent: To permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding practice expenses?

Answer: Currently, expenses may be paid for practice sessions only if: (1) They are

associated with an away-from-home contest; (2) Conducted at a site located within the member institution's state or, if outside that state, not more than

100 miles from the institution's campus.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rule?

Answer: If adopted, the distance and location restrictions for provision of practice

expenses would be removed. Division III institutions would be permitted to provide practice expenses at any location, provided student-athletes are

eligible for practice and no class is missed.

Question No. 3: If adopted, would the current Bylaw 16.8.1.1.5 exception for golf and

swimming & diving remain?

Answer: No. The current Bylaw 16.8.1.1.5 exception would become moot. Like all

other sports, golf and swimming & diving teams would be permitted to provide practices expenses at any time, not just an official vacation period,

provided class is not missed.

Question No. 4: Are there any situations in which a student-athlete *can* miss class for

practice activities?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 17.1.4.2.1 outlines the exceptions. Specifically, a student-athlete

may miss class for practice when either: (1) Their team is traveling to an away-from-home contest and the practice is in conjunction with the contest; or (2) Their institution is hosting an NCAA championship that their team is

participating in.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-12

Title: AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TYPES OF AWARDS, AWARDING AGENCIES, MAXIMUM VALUE AND NUMBERS OF AWARDS -- REMOVE EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND REFERENCES TO AWARD VALUES

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee).

Intent: To remove the exact dollar amounts and references to the value of awards from the awards legislation.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation governing awards for Division III athletics

participation?

Answer: Institutions are limited to the type of award they may provide, in the dollar

value of that award and who may provide or contribute toward that award.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would this proposal change the current legislation?

Answer: This proposal would eliminate the current value restrictions.

Question No. 3: If this proposal is adopted, how would the value of award limitations be

established?

Answer: The permissible awarding agency per its policies would establish the value

limits of the awards.

Question No. 4: Would this proposal change anything else about the awards legislation?

Answer: No. Type of awards (participation awards, awards for winning

championships and special achievement awards), how many times an award may be received, and the permissible awarding agencies would

remain the same.

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NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-13

Title: AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- PERMIT ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ONE ALL-STAR CONTEST OR OTHER POST-ELIGIBILITY EVENT

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee).

Intent: 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.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding all-star or other similar post-eligibility

event expenses in Division III?

Answer: 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.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rule?

Answer: This proposal would permit institutions to provide up to actual and

necessary expenses for a student-athlete to participate in one all-start

contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

Question No. 3: What are considered actual and necessary expenses?

Answer: Actual and necessary expenses are defined on April 22, 2002, official

interpretation. These expenses include meals directly tied to competition, lodging directly tied to competition, apparel, equipment and/or supplies, coach and/or instruction, health/medical insurance, transportation (i.e.,

expenses to and from practice and competition), medical treatment and/or

physical therapy, facility usage and entry fees).

Question No. 4: If adopted, would an institution be required to provide expenses for the all-

star contest or other post-eligibility event?

Answer: No. The legislation is permissive.

Question No. 5: If adopted, could an institution provide actual and necessary expenses for a

student-athlete's participation in more than one post-eligibility all-star

contest or similar event?

Answer: No. An institution may only provide actual and necessary expenses for a

student-athlete to participate in one post-eligibility all-star contest or similar event, per sport. However, an institution may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to participate in multiple post-eligibility all-

star contests or similar events if they are in different sports.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-14

Title: AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TEAM ENTERTAINMENT -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TICKETS

Effective Date: August 1, 2026.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee).

Intent: To clarify that institutions may provide reasonable entertainment during the playing season; further that reasonable entertainment could include providing professional sports tickets.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the current rule regarding entertainment and professional sports

tickets in Division III?

Answer: Current legislation permits an institution to provide reasonable

entertainment to student-athletes in conjunction with practice or competition. Additionally, there is a specific prohibition against providing Page No. 31

professional sports tickets as such entertainment, unless it is in conjunction with an away from home contest.

Question No. 2: If adopted, how would the proposal change the current rule?

Answer: This proposal would clarify that institutions are permitted to provide

reasonable entertainment during the playing season; further that reasonable entertainment could include providing professional sports

tickets.

Question No. 3: Does engaging in reasonable entertainment constitute the use of a day?

Answer: Yes. Entertainment would constitute team bonding, which is athletically

related activity and counts as a day used for purposes of bylaw 17 playing

and practice seasons.

Question No. 4: If adopted, can the reasonable entertainment occur outside of the playing

season?

Answer: No. It must occur during the playing season as it would count as a day of

athletically related activity.

Question No. 5: What is reasonable entertainment?

Answer: It would be up to institutions to determine what constitutes reasonable

entertainment.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-15

Title: DIVISION MEMBERSHIP, PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

Effective Date: Immediate.

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

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

General Application.

Question No. 1: What is the NCAA Emerging Sport Program?

Answer: The NCAA Emerging Sports Program is intended to grow meaning

participation for female student-athletes in intercollegiate athletics. The goal of the program is to help women's sports in the program reach the minimum number of varsity teams required to achieve NCAA championship status. Additional information about the NCAA Emerging Sport Program, including the policies and procedures, can be found at ncaa.org/emerging-

sports-for-women.

Question No. 2: How long will a sport remain an emerging sport?

Answer: NCAA bylaws require that emerging sports must gain championship status

within 10 years or demonstrate steady growth towards that goal to remain

on the list.

Question No. 3: What are the requirements to establish women's flag football as a National

Collegiate Championship sport?

Answer: Per NCAA Division III Bylaw 18.2.4.2, a National Collegiate Championship

may be established if 40 institutions across all three divisions sponsor the

sport.

Question No. 4: If adopted, when would women's flag football be considered an emerging

sport?

Answer: Immediately, with the 2026 spring traditional segment.

Question No. 5: If an institution sponsors women's flag football during the 2026 spring

championship season, will that count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a National Collegiate Championship in a women's

sport?

Answer: Yes, provided that school's program meets the minimum contest and

participant requirements.

Question No. 6: May an emerging sport be used to satisfy sport sponsorship requirements?

Answer: Yes. A Division III institution may use emerging sports to help meet the

NCAA membership minimum sports sponsorship requirements provided

minimum contest requirements for the sport are met.

Question No. 7: How will contests played during the 2025 fall term count towards the

maximum limitation and sport sponsorship requirements for women's flag

football?

Answer: The maximum limitation will not apply until this proposal is adopted. For

example, if an institution participates in ten contests during the 2025 fall term, they may still participate in 24 contests during the 2026 spring championship season. Additionally, the contests played during the 2025 fall term may not count towards the minimum for sport sponsorship

requirements.

Question No. 8: If the proposal is adopted, will Division III institutions be required to

sponsor women's flag football?

Answer: No. Institutions maintain autonomy regarding the sports sponsored at the

varsity level.

Question No. 9: If the institution has a varsity women's flag football team, will that team

need to apply Division III legislation?

Answer: Yes. If women's flag football becomes an emerging sport and the institution

identifies its team as a varsity team, the institution must apply the constitution, bylaws, interpretations and other legislation of the Association

to the institution's varsity women's flag football team.

Question No. 10: If an institution has a women's flag football club team, will that team need

to apply Division III legislation?

Answer: No. The club team is not required to adhere to Division III legislation until

the institution recognizes the team as a varsity team.

Question No. 11: What is the proposed championship segment for women's flag football?

Answer: Spring.

Question No. 12: Have the playing rules for women's flag football been developed?

Answer: RCX Sports Foundation and USA Football as the sport leaders submitted

playing rules in the original application. The leaders continue to review and update the playing rules that are appropriate to use for collegiate women's flag football. The NCAA does not create or administer the playing rules for an emerging sport until there is an established National Collegiate

Championship.

Question No. 13: What would be the length of the playing and practice season for women's

flag football?

Answer: The length of the playing and practice season will be in accordance with the

segment limitations in Bylaw 17.1.2.3 (sports with spring NCAA

championship).

Question No. 14: What is the maximum number of contests for the team and individual

student-athletes?

Answer: A member institution must limit its total playing schedule with outside

competition in women's flag football to 24 contests.

Question No. 15: What would be the minimum number of contests required for an institution

to use women's flag sport for sport sponsorship?

Answer: An institution must complete at least 12 contests against varsity programs

from four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions. However, an institution may count up to three contests per year against collegiate club

teams toward meeting minimum contest requirements.

Question No. 16: If an institution sponsors both a club team and a varsity team, can a student-

athlete transition from the club team to the varsity team?

Answer: Yes, but the student-athlete would have to be certified in the same manner

as any other student-athlete.

Question No. 17: Are all three divisions considering proposals to add women's flag football to

the emerging sport list for women?

Answer: Yes. All three divisions will vote on proposals to add women's flag football

in January.

Question No. 18: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor women's flag football

during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: According to sports sponsorship numbers reported to the NCAA by member

institutions, there are 40 projected programs across all three divisions in

2025-26. Two in Division I, 15 in Division II and 23 in Division III.

Per information provided by RCX Sports Foundation, there are 50 projected varsity programs across all three divisions in 2025-26. Four in Division I, 18 in Division II and 28 in Division III. This exceeds the reported number from NCAA schools in the 2025-26 projected Sports Sponsorship Data. In some cases, member institutions may choose not to report sports sponsorship if

the sport is not an emerging sport.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-16

Title: NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

Effective Date: Immediate.

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

Intent: In women's acrobatics and tumbling, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's acrobatics and tumbling committee.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What are the current requirements to establish a National Collegiate

Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division III Bylaw 18.2.4.2 (women's sports) a National

Collegiate Championship may be established in a women's sport if at least

40 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 2: Do all three divisions need to adopt this proposal to establish a National

Collegiate Championship for women's acrobatics and tumbling?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: If adopted, when would the first NCAA Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling

National Championship be conducted?

Answer: The women's acrobatics and tumbling committee would begin its work in

January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in

spring 2027.

Question No. 4: If women's acrobatics and tumbling is adopted as a National Collegiate

Championship, is the division precluded from establishing a Division III

Championship in the future?

Answer: No. A Division III championship may be established if 40 Division III

institutions sponsor the sport at the varsity level and legislation is adopted

by the membership.

Question No. 5: If this proposal is not adopted in all three divisions, can Division III adopt a

divisional championship?

Answer: No. If there is only one championship offered, it must be a National

Collegiate Championship.

Question No. 6: How are National Collegiate Championships funded?

Answer: National Collegiate Championships are included in the Division I

championships budget and do not impact the Division III championships budget. The NCAA Board of Governors approved a budget for the Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling National Collegiate Championship in August 2025 using Association-wide funds that will be allocated to the Division I

championship budget.

Question No. 7: How will the six members of the NCAA Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling

Committee be selected?

Answer: Consistent with Division III Bylaw 21.4.1.1 (Method of Selection), each

Division's governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the committee. Only institutions that sponsor the sport of women's acrobatics and tumbling shall be represented on the committee. Per Bylaw 21.4.1.6 (Term of Office), committee members shall be appointed to four-year terms. A former member may be appointed to an additional term after a three-year time period has elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on the

committee may not serve further on the committee.

Question No. 8: How many NCAA institutions sponsored women's acrobatics and tumbling

during the 2024-25 academic year?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, 47 schools sponsored women's

acrobatics and tumbling across all three divisions. Ten Division III institutions sponsored the sport with nine meeting sports sponsorship

minimum requirements.

Question No. 9: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor women's acrobatics

and tumbling during the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: There are 48 projected programs across all three divisions in 2025-26:

Eleven in Division I, 28 in Division II and nine in Division III.

NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2026-17

Title: NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- STUNT

Effective Date: Immediate.

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

Intent: In women's stunt, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's stunt committee.

General Application.

Question No. 1: What are the current requirements to establish a National Collegiate

Championship?

Answer: Per NCAA Division III Bylaw 18.2.4.2 (women's sports) a National

Collegiate Championship may be established in a women's sport if at least

40 institutions sponsor the sport.

Question No. 2: Do all three divisions need to adopt this proposal to establish a National

Collegiate Championship for women's stunt?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: If adopted, when would the first NCAA Women's Stunt National

Championship be conducted?

Answer: The women's stunt committee would begin its work in January 2026 to

prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.

Question No. 4: If women's stunt is adopted as a National Collegiate Championship, is the

division precluded from establishing a Division III Championship in the

future?

Answer: No. A Division III championship may be established if 40 Division III

institutions sponsor the sport at the varsity level and legislation is adopted

by the membership.

Question No. 5: If this proposal is not adopted in all three divisions, can Division III adopt a

divisional championship?

Answer: No. If there is only one championship offered, it must be a National

Collegiate Championship.

Question No. 6: How are National Collegiate Championships funded?

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Answer: National Collegiate Championships are included in the Division I

championships budget and do not impact the Division III championships budget. The NCAA Board of Governors approved a budget for the Women's Stunt National Collegiate Championship in August 2025 using Association-wide funds that will be allocated to the Division I championship budget.

Question No. 7: How will the six members of the NCAA Women's Stunt Committee be

selected?

Answer: Consistent with Division III Bylaw 21.4.1.1 (Method of Selection), each

Division's governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the committee. Only institutions that sponsor the sport of women's stunt shall be represented on the committee. Per Bylaw 21.4.1.6 (Term of Office), committee members shall be appointed to four-year terms. A former member may be appointed to an additional term after a three-year time period has elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on the

committee may not serve further on the committee.

Question No. 8: How many NCAA institutions sponsored women's stunt during the 2024-25

academic year?

Answer: During the 2024-25 academic year, 45 schools sponsored women's stunt

across all three divisions. Fourteen Division III institutions sponsored the

sport with 11 meeting sports sponsorship minimum requirements.

Question No. 9: How many NCAA institutions are projected to sponsor women's stunt during

the 2025-26 academic year?

Answer: There are 54 projected programs across all three divisions in 2025-26:

Seven in Division I, 30 in Division II and 17 in Division III.