



2026 DIVISION III OFFICIAL NOTICE

120th Annual Convention

January 13-16, 2026

National Harbor, Maryland

DIVISION III

LEGISLATION



THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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November 2025

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Official Notice

120th Annual Convention

On behalf of the NCAA Board of Governors, the Division I Board of Directors, the Division II Executive Board, Division III Presidents Council, the Division I Cabinet and the Divisions II and III Management Council, we extend a cordial invitation to each NCAA member to be represented at the Association's 120th Annual Convention scheduled January 13 through 16, 2026.

It is our pleasure to issue this Official Notice of the 2026 NCAA Convention. This publication is provided to the chancellor or president, director of athletics, senior compliance administrator, faculty athletics representative and senior woman administrator at each active NCAA Division III member institution, as well as to the officers of member conferences and provisional member institutions.

This Official Notice contains legislation for consideration at the Division III business session of the Convention. It also contains the necessary information concerning the accreditation of delegates, voting procedures and other Convention policies. We encourage each member to review the information related to the activities in which you will be involved before attending the Convention. **It is particularly important that each Division III delegate have access to the Official Notice during the Convention. The Official Notice will be the only publication containing all Association-wide and Division III Convention legislation.**

In addition to the consideration of legislation, Division III delegates also may participate in educational and discussion sessions about topics of concern within the division and the Association.

We hope you will join delegates from all divisions at the NCAA State of College Sports Wednesday afternoon.

We hope that each member of the Association will be in attendance at the 2026 NCAA Convention. We look forward to seeing you.

James Phillips, Commissioner
Atlantic Coast Conference
Chair, NCAA Board of Governors

Timothy Sands, President
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Chair, Division I Board of Directors

Colleen Perry Keith, President
Goldey-Beacom College
Chair, Division II Executive Board

Jim Troha, President
Juniata College
Chair, Division III Presidents Council

November 15, 2025

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Accrediting of Delegates

Association policy provides that the appointment of accredited and visiting delegates is the responsibility of the chancellor or president of each member institution or organization. **A link to the appointment of delegate website was emailed to the chancellor or president of all member institutions and organizations.**

It is important that the voting delegate be properly accredited. Appointing officers are urged to submit the required information to the NCAA national office at their earliest convenience.

Please note that the governance structure of each division urges member institutions to include individuals who identify as female in their NCAA Convention delegations.

An institution's or organization's chancellor or president shall appoint the voting and alternate delegates by completing the online delegate appointment form. The transfer of voting rights among the delegates is a matter of institutional discretion.

If an institution's or organization's chancellor or president fails to submit the online delegate appointment form, that institution's representatives will be registered as visitors until the chancellor or president certifies in writing the voting and alternate delegates. No other institutional representatives are permitted to complete a delegate appointment form.

Once the online delegate appointment form has been verified by the chancellor or president, no one may be added as a voting or alternate delegate without written instructions from that chancellor or president. Thus, no individual appointed as a visitor may become a voter or alternate without written authorization from the chancellor or president.

Visiting delegates, except in certain situations, do not have speaking privileges at the Convention.

At the Convention, each individual representing a member institution or conference who registers will receive an orange Convention badge designating the individual as a delegate. In addition, each president and chancellor will receive a badge with a purple color designation signifying their professional title. Speakers and presenters for education sessions will receive badges with a lime color designation. Convention vendors will receive badges with a teal color designation. Media will receive badges with a red color designation. Individuals attending the Convention as a visitor will receive a badge with a goldenrod color designation.

Voting delegates receive red lanyards and alternate delegates receive blue lanyards. Other delegates with speaking rights receive green lanyards. Delegates without speaking rights and other observers receive white lanyards.

The Convention registration fee for NCAA members was \$325 for all delegates who registered on or before Friday, October 10, and \$450 for all delegates who register before Friday, November 28. Member registration fees on or after November 29 are \$600.

The registration fee includes all NCAA Convention programming in addition to one ticket for the welcome reception and delegates breakfasts.

Meetings and Reservations

A listing of Convention meetings of the NCAA and its affiliated organizations was made available to the membership in mid-October 2025. An online registration process was also made available for event registration and hotel reservations. If there is anything further the NCAA can do to facilitate your attendance at the Association's 2026 Convention, please call upon us.

Please note that the Convention schedule of events is available on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org/convention). In addition, the Convention program (available through the Convention app) contains the most up-to-date schedule of meetings held in conjunction with the Convention.

The Convention officially begins at the State of College Sports and Honors when it convenes Wednesday, January 14 at 5 p.m., Eastern time. Adjournment of the Convention has been scheduled for Friday, January 16.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments to be considered at the 120th Annual Convention begin on Page No. 1. All amendments, if adopted, become effective as indicated in each proposal.

It is important that each Division III delegate have access to the Official Notice to the Convention, inasmuch as the Official Notice will be the only publication containing all Convention legislation for the 2026 Convention.

In accordance with the provisions of NCAA Division III Bylaw 9.3, an amendment to the Association's legislation may be proposed by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, the Division III Management Council, 20 or more active Division III member institutions eligible to vote on the matter or two member conferences. The source is indicated in each proposal. When the Management Council or Presidents Council proposes an amendment originally recommended by a committee, the committee is indicated as well.

Please note that the Management and Presidents Councils are authorized to provide during division or general business sessions information detailing positions on key legislative proposals.

Amendments-to-Amendments

In Division III, all amendments submitted by the membership and the Division III Management and Presidents Councils in accordance with the September 15 deadline were published in the Publication of Proposed Legislation, which was provided to the membership via the NCAA website by the October 1 deadline.

The Division III Management and Presidents Councils, any 20 active Division III member institutions eligible to vote on a given issue or two member conferences had until November 1 to submit amendments to the original proposals, provided the amendment to the amendment did not increase the modification proposed by to the original amendment. As a result of that deadline, all amendments-to-amendments are included in this Official Notice with the proposals they are intended to amend. Resolutions also were handled in accordance with those same deadlines and are included in this publication. No additional amendments-to-amendments or resolutions are permitted for the 2026 Convention unless they are sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council and distributed before or during the business session.

Withdrawal of Proposal

Sponsors who intend to withdraw a proposal are urged to notify the NCAA governance and member services staff as soon as possible before the business session of the Convention at which the proposal is scheduled to be considered.

Review of Interpretations

The Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee issues interpretations as to the scope, meaning or effect of the constitution and bylaws applicable to Division III. These rulings are subject to review by the Division III membership upon the request of any member in accordance with Bylaw 9.4.1.4. Any Division III member to which an interpretation applies may request a review of the interpretation by making such a request in writing to the governance and member services staff via electronic mail to Corey Berg, cberg@ncaa.org and/or Jeff Myers, jmyers@ncaa.org before 1 p.m. on the day before the Division III business session of the Convention.

Emergency Amendments Adopted by the 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 situations when the NCAA must respond to or comply with a court, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or government order or when the Presidents Council deems it appropriate to limit or avoid NCAA liability as a result of litigation, ADR or governmental proceedings or 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. Emergency legislation must be ratified by the

Division III membership at the next regularly scheduled NCAA Convention. The emergency legislation adopted by the Presidents Council in 2025 appears in Appendix A.

Interpretations to be Included in the NCAA Division III Manual

The Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee is authorized to recommend interpretations to be incorporated in the Division III Manual. Such incorporations are approved by the Division III Management Council and are printed in Appendix B.

Noncontroversial Amendments Adopted by the Presidents and Management Councils

The Management Council and Presidents Council are authorized to adopt, in the interim between annual Conventions, noncontroversial legislative amendments that are necessary to promote the normal and orderly administration of the Association's legislation, per Bylaws 21.10.2-(d), 21.11.3-(d) and 9.3.1.1.1. That authorization requires a three-fourths majority vote of the council. The council then submits to the next annual Division III business session the amendments that have been adopted under its authorization. The noncontroversial amendments adopted by the Management Council or Presidents Council in 2025 appear in Appendix C. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these amendments.

Modifications of Wording Adopted by the Management Council

The Management Council is authorized to adopt, in the interim between annual Conventions, proposals that are consistent with the intent of the membership in adopting the original legislation when sufficient documentation and testimony exist to establish clearly that the original wording of the legislation was inconsistent with that intent, per Bylaw 9.4.1.1.1. That authorization requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Management Council. The Management Council then submits to the next annual Division III business session the amendments that have been adopted under this authorization. The modifications adopted by the Management Council in 2025 appear in Appendix D. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these actions.

Order of Business

The NCAA Convention Welcome and Awards Presentation of the 120th annual Convention will begin at 5 p.m., Eastern time, Wednesday, January 14. The State of College Sports remarks by the NCAA president will be presented orally during that general session.

At the Division III business session, the various proposals will be taken up in their numerical order, unless that order is changed at the Convention. All proposals are designated for a roll call vote. The provisions of Bylaw 9.1.1.8 specify that federated legislation pertaining to a single division or more than a single division of the Association may be acted upon by the appropriate divisions during the separate division business sessions.

Amendments for the annual Convention will be presented as indicated on page x. For convenience of reference, an index (Appendix F) lists the proposals in the order in which they would appear in the constitution and bylaws in the Division III Manual.

In each grouping of related items (either amendments or amendments-to-amendments), the Association's established procedure will be followed. The membership will consider first the proposal that contemplates the greatest modification of the present circumstance, followed by other proposals in the order of decreasing modification. In some instances, when a proposal in such a grouping is adopted, those that follow in that grouping become moot.

Voting Procedures

Methods of voting shall be in accordance with Bylaw 9.1.1.9.3. Each voting delegate, when registering, receives a "voting paddle" for use in indicating the institution's vote when the chair calls for a "paddle" vote. Voting delegates receive paddles of different colors to indicate their division status.

The Association uses an electronic voting system for roll call and general votes. Upon registering for the Convention, each voting delegate receives a voting unit identification card that has been coded for that member institution or conference. The voting delegate must show the voting unit identification card contained in the registration envelope to obtain an electronic voting unit during the business session. The delegate will insert the voting unit identification card into the voting unit. The voting unit becomes active when the voting unit identification card is inserted. Voting unit identification cards are specifically coded for each member institution or conference; therefore, it is important to confirm you are using the correct voting unit identification card.

To place a vote, the delegate will press (1) to support, (2) to oppose or (3) to abstain. The number the delegate chooses will appear on the screen of the voting unit until the vote is received by the system. The delegate may change their vote prior to the vote closing by pressing a second number. The voting results will be displayed on the screens following each vote.

The voting unit identification card and the voting unit should be left at the delegate's chair at the conclusion of the business session or promptly returned to the Convention registration desk.

Amendments to federated provisions are voted on by divisions, with a majority vote required for approval. In such instances (federated provisions), each division is committed to the result of its counted vote.

Delegates are urged to register and receive their voting materials before the NCAA State of College Sports which begins at 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 14. In addition, all voting in the division business sessions shall be by show of paddles or by electronic roll call votes, rather than by voice or hand.

Memorial Resolutions

At the time of the annual Convention, members of the Association honor by memorial resolution those persons closely associated with intercollegiate athletics who we have lost in the last year. Your assistance is needed to create a complete and accurate memorial list of current and former staff members or current student-athletes who passed away in 2025. Click [here](#) to enter the names of any individuals from your conference or institution you would like **to honor in this manner**. The deadline for submitting names is Friday, December 19. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Lawrence at mlawrence@ncaa.org

Administrative Structure

Rosters of the NCAA Board of Governors and Division III Presidents Council and Management Council are listed in Appendix H.

Request for Interpretations

Division III member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Official Notice in advance of the Convention.

All such requests must be received in the national office not later than Friday, November 21, 2025. Requests will be considered by the Interpretations and Legislation Committee and the decisions will be reviewed by the Division III Management Council in its pre-Convention meeting. The resulting interpretations will be distributed to the conferences before the beginning of the business session.

**TOPICAL GROUPINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS 120th ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

Topical Groupings

<i>Proposal Number</i>	<i>General Topic</i>
1 through 6	Presidents Council Grouping
7 through 17	General Grouping

120th Annual Convention

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

Note: In the following proposals:

- Those letters and words that appear in *italics-and-strikethrough* are to be deleted;
- Those letters and words that appear in **boldface and underlined** are to be added; and
- Those letters and words that appear in normal text are unchanged from the current Division III legislation.

DIVISION III LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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

Such legislative proposals developed by the Division III Management Council or by Division III committees reporting to it must be submitted to the Division III Presidents Council for review. They cannot be placed on the agenda for consideration at the Convention unless the Presidents Council agrees to sponsor them. Legislative proposals of an operational nature may be sponsored by the Management Council and placed on the agenda for consideration at the Convention.

The Division III Presidents Council has identified five proposals and one resolution that it believes are of particular interest to Division III chancellors or presidents and has included it in the Presidents Council grouping.

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.

Bylaws: Amend 18.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers 92 national championships. Thirteen are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (13).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (7)
Fencing	Rifle	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Skiing	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Fencing
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo
		Wrestling (<u>DI and DII eff. 8/1/27</u>)

18.3.2 Division III Championships.

Men (14)	Women (154)
Baseball	Basketball
Basketball	Cross Country
Cross Country	Field Hockey
Football	Golf
Golf	Ice Hockey
Ice Hockey	Lacrosse
Lacrosse	Rowing
Soccer	Soccer
Swimming and Diving	Softball
Tennis	Swimming and Diving
Indoor Track and Field	Tennis
Outdoor Track and Field	Indoor Track and Field
Volleyball	Outdoor Track and Field
Wrestling	Volleyball
	<u>Wrestling (eff. 8/1/27)</u>

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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,

Budget Impact: TBD

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* The Presidents Council supports this proposal. This proposal recognizes the growth of the sport at the Division III level and provides Division III student-athletes with an opportunity to compete for a divisional national championship.

No. 2026-2 (2-3) **ELIGIBILITY – CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY – MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION – ONLY COMPETITION TRIGGERING USE OF A SEASON**

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.

Bylaws: Amend 14, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14 Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements.

[14.01 through 14.1 unchanged.]

14.2 Seasons of ~~Participation~~**Competition**: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** in any one sport (see Bylaw 14.2.4.1).

[14.2.1 unchanged.]

14.2.2 Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall complete their seasons of ~~participation~~**competition** during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution. For an institution that conducts registration other than on a traditional semester or quarter basis, the Management Council shall determine an equivalent enrollment period.

[14.2.2.1 unchanged.]

14.2.2.2 Fraction of 10 Semesters/15 Quarters Remaining. A student-athlete whose combination of semesters and quarters of previous enrollment leaves them with any fraction of the 10th semester or 15th quarter of eligibility at the beginning of their final semester or quarter may remain eligible for the entire semester or quarter.

[14.2.2.3 through 14.2.2.4 unchanged.]

[14.2.3 unchanged.]

14.2.4 Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility.

14.2.4.1 Minimum Amount of ~~Participation~~**Competition**. A season of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** shall be counted in the student-athlete's sport when a student-athlete ~~participates (practices or competes)~~ during ~~or after the first contest in the traditional segment following the student-athlete's initial participation of that academic year at that institution~~ or when the student-athlete engages in intercollegiate competition during the nontraditional segment in that sport. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics ~~participation (practice or competition)~~ conducted by a Division III collegiate institution at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team level. (See Bylaw 14.1.11, for student-athletes participating in a recognized foreign exchange/study abroad program).

14.2.4.1.1 Exceptions. A season of ~~participation~~**competition** shall not be counted:

[14.2.4.1.1-(a) through 14.2.4.1.1-(b) unchanged.]

(c) In baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, when a student-athlete ~~participates (practices or competes)~~ during the nontraditional segment.

(d) ~~During the traditional segment when an international student (see Bylaw 12.1.1.1) practices during the temporary certification period per Bylaw 12.1.1.4.1, even if such practice occurs during or after the first contest in the traditional segment.~~

~~14.2.4.1.2 Exception – Pending Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Waiver. A student-athlete who is eligible for practice may practice, but not compete, after the first contest or date of competition without using a season of participation while a Subcommittee for Legislative Relief waiver is pending. To be eligible for this exception, the institution must have received official notification that the national office has received the institution's~~

~~completed waiver application and all relevant supporting documentation. If the waiver request is denied, the student-athlete must cease practicing immediately on notification to the institution of the decision or the student-athlete shall be charged with the use of a season of participation. If the institution chooses to appeal a waiver denial, the student-athlete shall not resume practice until the institution receives official notification that any information required for appeal has been received. If the subcommittee denies the appeal, the student-athlete must cease practicing immediately upon notification to the institution of the decision or the student-athlete shall be charged with the use of a season of participation.~~

14.2.4.1.32 Student Managers and Student Coaches. ~~A season of participation shall be counted when a student manager or student coach participates as a team member in practice or other physical activities during the time frame set forth in Bylaw 14.2.4.1.~~ A student coach or student manager's role should be limited to performing traditional coaching or managerial duties. **If these individuals practice and/or compete they will be subject to the same eligibility regulations as student-athletes.**

14.2.4.1.43 Transfer from a Non-Division III Institution.

The season of participationcompetition standard does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's previous participation at a non-Division III institution. A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation that applied to the previous institution during the term(s) of participation.

14.2.4.2 Track and Field and Cross Country. For the purposes of determining a season of intercollegiate participationcompetition, cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field shall be considered separate sports.

14.2.4.2.1 Participation on Triathlon Team. Participation in triathlon shall not use a season of participationcompetition in cross country, swimming or track and field.

14.2.4.3 Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. For the purposes of determining a season of *intercollegiate* participationcompetition, volleyball and beach volleyball shall be considered separate sports.

[14.2.4.4 unchanged.]

14.2.4.5 Intercollegiate ParticipationCompetition. A student-athlete is considered to have engaged in a season of intercollegiate participationcompetition when they compete in an athletics event involving any one of the conditions characterizing intercollegiate participationcompetition (per Bylaws 14.02.6 and 14.2.4.1).

14.2.4.6 International Competition/Summers. Competition by a student-athlete representing an institution in international competition during the summer-vacation period shall not affect the student-athlete's seasons of participationcompetition, provided the competition has been certified by the institution per Bylaw 17.32.1 or sanctioned by the Management Council, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, and the request for Management Council sanction has been made by the institution at least 30 days before the competition.

14.2.4.7 Foreign-Tour Competition. A student-athlete who did not participatecompete during the institution's season just completed and who represents the institution in a certified foreign tour after that intercollegiate season and before the start of the next academic year shall not be charged with a season of participationcompetition for the preceding season.

~~14.2.4.8 Male Practice Player. A male student who practices with a women's team in a sport that is also sponsored as a men's sport by the NCAA or is considered the same sport under amateurism regulations, is charged with a season of participation in the men's sport. If a male student practices with a women's team in a sport that has no equivalent men's sponsored sport, the male student is charged with a season of participation in the women's sport.~~

14.2.5 Hardship Waiver. A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of participationcompetition (per Bylaw 14.2.4) by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from a season-ending injury or illness (including a mental health condition) that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

[14.2.5-(a) through 14.2.5-(b) unchanged.]

[14.2.5.1 through 14.2.5.4 unchanged.]

14.2.6 Season-of-ParticipationCompetition Waiver – Participation While Ineligible. In conjunction with a request for restoration of eligibility and any conditions imposed thereon per Bylaw 14.12, a student-athlete may be granted an additional season of participationcompetition by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when they engaged in a limited amount of participationcompetition as a result of a good-faith, erroneous formal declaration of

eligibility by the institution's appropriate certifying authority or a student-athlete's good-faith, erroneous reliance on a coaching staff member's decision to put the student-athlete into ~~participation~~**competition** before the coaching staff member receiving a formal declaration of the student-athlete's eligibility from the institution's appropriate certifying authority. The participation must have occurred under all of the following conditions:

- (a) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred while the student-athlete was representing an NCAA member institution;
- (b) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred within 60 days of the date the student-athlete first reported for athletics participation;

[14.2.6-(c) unchanged.]

- (d) The student-athlete was involved innocently and inadvertently in the erroneous determination or declaration of eligibility, which permitted the student-athlete to ~~participate~~**compete** while ineligible; and
- (e) In the case of a coaching staff member's erroneous decision, the student-athlete had reason to believe they would be eligible to participate and the student-athlete did not contribute to the coaching staff member's erroneous decision to allow the student-athlete to ~~participate~~**compete**.

[14.2.6.1 through 14.2.6.2 unchanged.]

14.2.7 Season-of-~~Participation~~**Competition** Waiver -- Participation While Eligible. A student-athlete may be granted an additional season of ~~participation~~**competition** by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when, due to extenuating circumstances (per Bylaw 14.2.7.1.2), the student-athlete, while eligible, engaged in a limited amount of ~~participation~~**competition**. The ~~participation~~**competition** must have occurred under all of the following conditions:

- (a) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred within the first half of the traditional segment; and

[14.2.7-(b) unchanged.]

14.2.7.1 Administrative Criteria. The following criteria shall be employed in the administration of this season-of-~~participation~~**competition** waiver:

[14.2.7.1.1 through 14.2.7.1.3 unchanged.]

[14.2.7.2 unchanged.]

[14.4 through 14.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact:

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council opposes this proposal as it is contrary to the philosophical tenet that Division III should primarily focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year undergraduate experience.

No. 2026-3

RESOLUTION -- NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS

Resolution:

[Roll Call]

Whereas, the Division III membership affirmed in its philosophy statement that financial aid shall not be awarded on the basis of athletics ability;

Whereas, student-athletes should be able to benefit financially from their name, image and likeness ("NIL");

Whereas, these benefits may not be a substitute for pay-for-play, or be a de facto athletic scholarship;

Whereas, differentiating between a valid NIL opportunity and pay-for-play may be challenging;

Whereas, it is essential that the evolving NIL landscape, must not erode the unique quality of Division III as reflected in its philosophy statement;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Division III Presidents Council recognize the importance of this concern and charge the governance structure with monitoring the changing landscape around Division I NIL and its impact on Division III.

Therefore, let it further be resolved, 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.

Source: Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council supports this resolution as it recognizes the challenges surrounding permissible uses of Name, Image and Likeness and warrants the governance structure review.

No. 2026-4 (2-15) CHAMPIONSHIPS – AMEND IN-REGION COMPETITION REQUIREMENT

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 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.

Administrative: Amend 31, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31 Executive Regulations.

[31.01 through 31.3 unchanged.]

31.3.2 In-Region Opponent Competition Requirements. To be eligible for selection to Division III team championships, a minimum percentage [as defined in Bylaw 31.3.2-(a)-(e**b**)] of an institution's scheduled regular-season contests shall be against in-region opponents. End-of-season conference tournaments and postseason competitions are not included in the in-region calculation, except for the sport of golf which shall include conference tournaments. The following are the minimum in-region requirements:

(a) In team sports other than golf ~~and tennis~~ 75 percent.

[31.3.2-(b) unchanged.]

~~(c) Tennis — 50 percent requirement. For multi-team tournaments, only those teams within a tournament or contest in which the team directly competes against shall be included in the 50 percent calculation.~~

31.3.2.1 Waiver. Institutions that fail to satisfy the in-region opponent requirement may appeal to the Championships Committee for a waiver. The waiver shall be approved on a sport-by-sport basis for a period of one year, and the request shall be received not later than March 1 for fall sports, May 1 for winter sports and July 1 for spring sports. If the Championships Committee grants the appeal, the institution may be considered for selection to Division III team championships.

31.3.2.2 Countable In-Region Competition. For selection purposes in team sports, golf and tennis that select at-large championship participants, competition is countable as in region when the institutions (active, provisional or reclassifying Division III) are located in the same established sport region or geographical area (see Bylaw 21.12.1.1), within a 500-mile radius of each other (based on the NCAA Championship Travel Expense System calculation) or are members of the same conference.

31.3.2.3 Exception. ~~For sports with a spring NCAA championship, a~~An institution may exempt out-of-region contests conducted during ~~one~~ institutional vacation periods (e.g., spring break) **from the in-region percentage calculation, provided at least one participating institution is on an official institutional vacation period.**

[31.3.3 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

[31.4 through 31.9 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: 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. 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.

Budget Impact: None

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council supports this proposal, as it addresses challenges incurred by geographically isolated institutions to satisfy the in-region standard for championships eligibility while maintaining the emphasis on regional competition as established in the Philosophy Statement.

No. 2026-5 (2-14) CHAMPIONSHIPS – AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION – MULTIPLE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER MODEL

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.

Administrative: Amend 31.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31.3 Selection of Teams and Individuals for Championships Participation. A list of the active institutions eligible for championships consideration shall be supplied by the NCAA president to the chair of each governing sports committee and to the athletics director of the host institution. This list should be observed carefully to ensure that no entries are accepted from or invitations extended to ineligible institutions.

[31.3.1 unchanged.]

31.3.1.2 Bracket Composition Brackets shall consist of automatic qualifiers and at-large participants. The number of at-large participants is determined by subtracting the number of automatic qualifiers from the total bracket size. There shall be a minimum of two at-large berths:

- (a) Automatic Qualifiers – Institutions that earn their conference’s automatic-qualification. The conference must satisfy the automatic qualification requirements per Bylaw 31.3.3 ~~and no conference shall receive more than to receive~~ one automatic berth per sport **and conferences with 12 or more members sponsoring a sport shall receive two automatic berths (see Bylaw 31.3.3.1.1.2);** and

[31.3.1.2-(b) unchanged.]

[31.3.2 through 31.3.3 unchanged.]

31.3.3.1 Requirements – Division Championship. To be eligible for automatic qualification in a division championship, a member conference shall meet the following general requirements:

[31.3.3.1-(a) unchanged.]

- (b) The conference shall have the responsibility of determining which team(s) or individual shall represent the conference in NCAA competition. Any competition to determine such, shall not be considered NCAA championship competition. The method by which a conference determines its conference representative(s) shall be declared at the time of the automatic-qualification declaration and shall be objectively outlined.

[31.3.3.1-(c) through 31.3.3.1-(h) unchanged.]

[31.3.3.1.1 unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.1.2 Second Automatic Qualifier. A multisport conference may immediately receive a second automatic qualification to a Division III championship, provided:

(a) The conference currently has an automatic qualification in the given sport; and

(b) The conference has 12 or more core members that sponsor the sport.

If, at any time, the conference has fewer than 12 core members in the sport, it shall immediately forfeit the additional automatic berth.

[31.3.3.1.2 through 31.3.3.1.5 unchanged.]

[31.3.3.2 through 31.3.3.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.4 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

Source: Presidents' Athletic Conference and United East Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact:

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council opposes this proposal as the current access through automatic qualification is sufficient and additional opportunities are better established through the NCAA Power Index (NPI) rather than increasing automatic qualification access.

No. 2026-6 (2-13) CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- REQUIRED PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CORE MEMBERS.

Intent: 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 sport will render that institution ineligible for NCAA championship selection (i.e. at-large selection).

Administrative: Amend 31, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31 Executive Regulations.

[31.01 through 31.2 unchanged.]

31.2.1 Institutional Eligibility. To be eligible to enter a team or an individual in NCAA championship competition, an institution shall recognize the sport involved as a varsity intercollegiate sport (see Bylaw 17.02.13) and shall:

[31.2.1-(a) through 31.2.1-(h) unchanged.]

(i) An institution that is a core member of a conference that receives an automatic qualification in a sport must fully participate in the conference's process required to earn that automatic qualification.

[31.2.1.1 through 31.2.1.10 unchanged.]

[31.2.2 through 31.2.3 unchanged.]

[31.3 unchanged.]

31.3.4 Selection of Balance of Championship Field (At-Large Berth). Once the official representative(s) of each qualifying conference is determined, the governing sports committee responsible for selection of the balance of the championship field shall complete the championship field in accordance with the minimum requirements and selection criteria approved for the particular championship as approved by the Championships Committee. There shall be no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region.

[31.3.4.1 unchanged.]

31.3.4.1.2 Institutional Eligibility. Institutions must satisfy institutional eligibility requirements set forth in Bylaw 31.2.1 (including the in-region opponent competition requirement). **Additionally, an institution that is a core member of a conference that has an automatic qualification in the sport, must fully participate in that automatic qualification process to be eligible for at-large selection.**

[31.3.4.1.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.4.2 through 31.3.4.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.5 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

[31.4 through 31.9 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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 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.

Budget Impact: NA

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council supports this proposal to reinforce the integrity of the NCAA automatic qualification and championships selection process.

Additional Information:

10/24/2025: 31.2.1(i) was editorially added to reflect the sponsors' intent and reduce confusion.

No. 2026-7 (2-16) CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- WAITING PERIOD -- MULTISPORT CONFERENCE -- ADJUST FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE.

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

Administrative: Amend 31.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31.3.3.1.1 Additional Requirements -- Multisport Conference. A member conference that conducts competition in more than one sport shall also satisfy the following to be eligible for automatic qualification: (Adopted: 4/13/10)

- (a) Complete a ~~one~~**two**-year waiting period, which requires for ~~the two consecutive~~ academic years before being eligible for the automatic-qualification privilege, the following: (Adopted: 1/12/04, Revised: 10/20/06)

[31.3.3.1.1-(a)-(1) through 31.3.3.1.1-(a)-(3) unchanged.]

- (b) After completion of the ~~two-year~~ waiting period, either:

[31.3.3.1.1-(b)-(1) through 31.3.3.1.1-(b)-(2) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.1.1 Exception. A member conference that has been a member conference of the Association for two years but has not satisfied the conditions set forth in Bylaw 31.3.3.1.1(a)-(2) or (3) may be immediately eligible for automatic qualification if:

[31.3.3.1.1.1-(a) unchanged.]

- (b) Those six conference members have been core conference members for at least ~~one~~**two** academic years; and

[31.3.3.1.1.1-(c) unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: \$0

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council:* Management Council opposes this proposal, as a waiver process already exists for a conference with compelling rationale to reduce the waiting period.

No. 2026-8 (2-8) PLAYING SEASONS -- ADD A MANDATORY WINTER BREAK

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.

Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.02 unchanged.]

17.02.1.1.1.4 Strength and Conditioning Activities as follows:

[17.02.1.1.1.4-(a) unchanged.]

- (b) Voluntary individual workouts monitored for safety purposes by a strength and conditioning coach (certified or noncertified). If the coach is also a staff member for one of the institution's intercollegiate teams the monitoring may occur only if the coach performs monitoring duties for all student-athletes using the facility at that time. **The winter break prohibition (see Bylaw 17.1.1.1.1) does not apply to this bylaw.**

[17.02.1.1.1.4.1 unchanged.]

[17.02.1.1.1.5 unchanged.]

[17.02.2 through 17.02.14 unchanged.]

[17.1 unchanged.]

17.1.1.1 Declaration of Playing Season. Each member institution shall determine the playing season for each of the sports referenced under Bylaw 17.02.13. Declaration of the institution's playing season in each such sport shall be on file in writing in the department of athletics before the beginning of the institution's playing season for that sport. Changes in the declaration for a particular sport are permissible and also shall be filed in writing in the office of the institution's director of athletics.

17.1.1.1.1 Winter Break. Each Division III member institution must declare a seven-consecutive-calendar-day winter break between December 15 and December 28 as part of the declaration of the playing season. The declared winter break shall be consistent for all institutionally sponsored NCAA Division III varsity sports. During the winter break, a student-athlete may not participate in any athletically related activities, including voluntary athletically related activities with a sport coach unless otherwise noted.

[17.1.1.2 through 17.1.1.5 unchanged.]

[17.1.2 through 17.1.6 unchanged.]

[17.2 through 17.31 unchanged.]

17.32 Foreign Tours.

[17.32.1 unchanged.]

17.32.1.4 Timing of Tour. The tour shall be scheduled during the summer-vacation period between the institution's spring and fall terms or during any other vacation period published in the institution's official catalog. **If an official vacation period overlaps with the institution's declared winter break, the tour may be conducted during that break.** All travel to and from the foreign country must take place during such a vacation period. However, if the team crosses the international date line during the tour, the change of date will be disregarded and the equivalent time as measured in the United States will be used to determine the institution's vacation period.

[17.32.1.5 through 17.32.1.6 unchanged.]

17.32.1.7 Practice Limitation. Not more than 10 days of practice are permitted before departure. The 10 days of practice are not required to occur on consecutive days, provided extenuating circumstances exist (e.g., final exams, convocation, summer class schedules, summer employment, **winter break**, etc.) that affect the institution's ability to conduct 10 days of practice in the 10 days immediately before departure and all practice days are conducted during the 20 calendar days immediately before the foreign tour departure date. Only student-athletes who will accompany the team on the foreign tour are permitted to participate in the 10 practice days (see Bylaw 17.1.5.1).

[17.32.1.8 through 17.32.1.10 unchanged.]

[17.32.2 unchanged.]

[17.33 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2028

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: None

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council:* Management Council opposes this proposal, as it is overly prescriptive as institutions should have autonomy to determine appropriate breaks consistent with their mission and academic calendars. It may also have unintended negative consequences for student-athletes (limited access to on-campus facilities and need to find and pay for alternative accommodations).

No. 2026-9 (2-2) RECRUITING - CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS - FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES - REQUIRE USE OF THE NCAA TRANSFER PORTAL

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 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.

A. Bylaws: Amend 13, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.1.1.2 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact in any manner (e.g., in-person contact, telephone calls, electronic communication, written correspondence) with the student-athlete of another NCAA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining **authorization through the notification of transfer process or the self-release process**. ~~written permission to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer. If permission is granted, all applicable NCAA recruiting rules apply. If an institution receives a written request from a student-athlete to permit another institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall grant or deny the request within seven business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the request. If the institution fails to respond to the student-athlete's written request within seven business days, permission shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete. Written permission may be granted by:~~ [D]

(a) ~~The first institution's athletics director (or an athletics administrator designated by the athletics director); or~~

(b) ~~The student-athlete, if the student-athlete attends a Division III institution (see Bylaw 13.1.1.2.1).~~

13.1.1.2.1 Notification of Transfer. **A student-athlete may initiate the notification of transfer process by providing their Division III institution with a written notification of transfer at any time. The student-athlete must complete an educational module related to transferring before the institution may enter the student-athlete's information into the national transfer database (i.e. Transfer Portal). The student-athlete's institution shall enter their information into the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven-consecutive calendar days of receipt of confirmation of the student-athlete's completion of the educational module.**

13.1.1.2.1.2 Self-Release. Using a form made available by the NCAA national office, a student-athlete who attends a Division III institution may issue, on their own behalf, ~~permission~~ **authorization** for another Division III institution to contact the student-athlete about a potential transfer. The student-athlete shall forward this form to the director of athletics at the **Division III** institution of interest. Contact between the student-athlete and institution may occur during the 30-day period beginning with the date the ~~self-release permission to contact~~ form is signed by the student-athlete. **Following the expiration of the 30-day period, the student-athlete must initiate the notification of transfer process** ~~An additional form must be issued for contact to occur or continue beyond the initial 30-day period.~~ [D]

13.1.1.2.1.2.1 Privacy and Disclosure Requirements. During the initial 30-day period, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current **Division III** institution of the contact. ~~At the completion of the initial 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides to transfer to the institution in receipt of~~

the form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within a seven-day period of the form's expiration date that the self-release was issued. At the completion of the initial 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides not to pursue the transfer, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current institution of the contact at any time. If the student-athlete is undecided at the end of the 30-day period, the initial contact must remain private unless and until the student-athlete issues a second permission to contact form. Upon receipt of the second permission to contact form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within seven days that a second release was issued. [D]

13.1.1.2.2 Hearing Opportunity. If the institution decides to deny a student-athlete's request to permit any other institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall inform the student-athlete in writing that they, on request, shall be provided a hearing conducted by an institutional entity or committee outside of the athletics department (e.g., the office of student affairs; office of the dean of students; or a committee composed of the faculty athletics representative, student-athletes and nonathletics faculty/staff members). The student-athlete shall be informed of this hearing opportunity within seven business days of the request for permission to contact. Within 15 business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the student-athlete's written request for a hearing, the institution shall conduct and provide written results of the hearing to the student-athlete. The student-athlete shall be provided the opportunity to actively participate (e.g., in-person, via telephone) in the hearing. If the institution fails to conduct the hearing or provide the written results to the student-athlete within 15 business days, permission to contact the student-athlete shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete. [D]

13.1.1.2.3 Student-Athlete Withdrawn from Four-Year College. A member institution may contact a student-athlete who has withdrawn officially from a four-year collegiate institution without obtaining **authorization permission** from the first institution. [D]

13.1.1.2.4 Transfer from Institution on Probation. It is not necessary for an institution to obtain **authorization through the notification of transfer process permission in writing** to recruit a student-athlete at an institution that has been placed on probation with sanctions that preclude it from competing in postseason competition during the remaining seasons of the student-athlete's eligibility. However, the student-athlete's institution must be notified of the recruitment and may establish reasonable restrictions related to the contact (e.g., no visits during class time), provided such restrictions do not preclude the opportunity for the student-athlete to discuss transfer possibilities with the other institution [see Bylaw 14.13.1.2-(c)]. [D]

13.1.1.2.5 Transfer While Ineligible Due to Positive Drug Test. If a student-athlete who is declared ineligible due to a positive drug test administered by the NCAA transfers to another NCAA institution, the institution from which the student-athlete transferred must notify the new institution of the student-athlete's ineligibility (see Bylaw 18.4.1.5.4). [D]

B. Bylaws: Amend 13.6, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.6.1.2.1 Transfer Student. If a student-athlete attending a four-year institution desires to transfer and that institution provides the **authorization permission** required (per Bylaw 13.1.1.2), it is permissible for a second institution to provide the student-athlete one official visit to that institution's campus.

C. Bylaws: Amend 14.5.5, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14.5.5 Four-Year College Transfers. See Bylaw 13.1.1.2 for prohibition against contacting student-athletes of another four-year collegiate institution without **first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer or self-release process permission**.

[14.5.5.1 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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 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.

Budget Impact: None.

No. 2026-10 (2-1) RECRUITING -- UNOFFICIAL VISIT -- MEALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR GUESTS

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.

Bylaws: Amend 13, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.7.2.1.1 Meals. An institution may provide a prospective student-athlete **and the individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete** with a meal in the institution's on-campus dining facility during an unofficial visit. An institution may provide a meal in an off-campus dining facility when all on-campus dining facilities are closed, provided the institution can certify that it is the institution's normal policy to provide such a meal under similar circumstances to all prospective students (including nonathletes) visiting the campus. [R]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: Varies

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council:* Management Council supports this proposal, as it believes that institutional policy as opposed to a national standard is more appropriate in these circumstances.

No. 2026-11 (2-7) AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE -- ELIMINATE DISTANCE AND LOCATION RESTRICTIONS

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

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.8.1 Permissible. The permissible expenses for practice and competition that an institution may provide a student-athlete are defined in the following subsections (see Bylaw 16.10 for expenses that may be provided by individuals or organizations other than the institution).

16.8.1.1 Practice. Expenses may be paid for practice sessions **at any location provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed**~~only if they are associated with an away-from-home contest or 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.~~ [D]

~~16.8.1.1.1 Practice Sites on Road Trips. Any practice on an extended road trip shall take place either at the competition site, on a direct route between the institution's campus and the first competition site or on a direct route between two consecutive competition sites.~~ [D]

~~16.8.1.1.2 Skiing—Weather Exception. In men's and women's skiing, a member institution may transport a team to a practice site beyond the mileage limitations of Bylaw 16.8.1.1 if necessitated by weather conditions. [D]~~

~~16.8.1.1.3 Women's Rowing—Weather Exception. In women's rowing, a member institution may transport a team to a practice site beyond the mileage limitations of Bylaw 16.8.1.1 if necessitated by weather conditions. If practice activities are conducted during an institution's academic term, the practice activities shall occur only at a site located within the member institution's state or, if outside the state, not more than 200 miles from the institution's campus. All practice activities must be within the institution's declared playing and practice season in women's rowing. [D]~~

~~16.8.1.1.4 On- or Off-Campus Practice Sites. An institution may transport student-athletes from a central on-campus site (e.g., the locker room) to an on- or off-campus practice site.~~

~~16.8.1.1.5 Exception—Golf and Swimming and Diving. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) for golf and swimming and diving student-athletes at any location during an official vacation period, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed. [R]~~

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) for a student-athlete to represent the institution in competition, provided the student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate competition. [D]

[16.8.1.2.1 through 16.8.1.2.6 unchanged.]

16.8.1.2.7 Location of Practice on Extended Competition Road Trips. An institution may not conduct practice as part of an extended road trip associated with competition at a location that results in additional missed class time.

[16.8.1.3 through 16.8.1.5 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional interest in offering alternative practice sites.

No. 2026-12 (2-4) 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

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

A. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.1.3 Nonpermissible Awards. The following awards are prohibited unless received per Bylaw 16.1.1.2, except that receipt of a cash award is not permitted under any circumstance. [R]

16.1.3.1 Cash or Equivalent. An individual may not receive a cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash-equivalent award (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or trade or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletics participation. [R]

16.1.3.2 Gift Certificates or Gift Cards Redeemable for Cash. Gift certificates or gift cards that are redeemable for cash shall be prohibited. [R]

16.1.3.3 Country Club or Sports-Club Memberships. An award of a country club or sports-club membership is strictly prohibited, ~~even if the cost of the membership is below the maximum award value permitted by NCAA legislation.~~ [R]

16.1.3.4 Transfer of Nonpermissible Award. Cash or any other award that an individual could not receive under NCAA legislation may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different individual or agency (e.g., a collegiate institution). [R]

B. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.4, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.1.4 Types of Awards, Awarding Agencies, ~~Maximum Value~~ and Numbers of Awards. Athletics awards given to individual student-athletes shall be limited to those approved or administered by an institution, its conference or an approved agency as specified in the following subsections and shall be limited to **the normal retail value and** number as specified in this section. Each of the following subsections is independent of the others so that it is permissible for an individual student-athlete to receive the awards described in all subsections. ~~The value of an award may not exceed specified value limits and a student-athlete may not contribute to its purchase in order to meet those limits.~~ [R]

16.1.4.1 Participation Awards. Awards for participation in intercollegiate athletics may be presented each year, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-1. Awards for participation in special events may be provided only to student-athletes eligible to participate in the competition. [R]

16.1.4.2 Awards for Winning Conference and National Championships. Awards for winning an individual or team conference or national championship may be presented each year, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-2. Awards for winning a conference or national championship in a team sport may be provided only to student-athletes who were eligible to participate in the championship event. ~~The total value of any single award received for a conference or national championship may not exceed the value in Figure 16-2, and each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.~~ Each permissible awarding agency may provide only a single award for each championship to each student-athlete. Separate awards may be presented to both the regular-season conference champion and the postseason conference champion ~~(with a separate limitation), even but~~ if the same institution wins both the regular-season and postseason conference championship, ~~the combined value of both awards shall not exceed the value in Figure 16-2.~~ [R]

16.1.4.3 Special Achievement Awards. Awards may be provided each year to individual student-athletes and teams to recognize special achievements, honors and distinctions, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-3. [R]

16.1.4.3.1 Conference Postgraduate Scholarship Award. A student-athlete may receive a conference postgraduate scholarship award, provided the following conditions are met:

[16.1.4.3.1-(a) through 16.1.4.3.1-(h) unchanged.]

16.1.4.4 Local Civic Organization and Booster Clubs. A local civic organization (e.g., Rotary Club, Touchdown Club) and booster clubs may provide awards to an individual student-athlete or member institution's team(s). The following regulations shall apply to such an event: [R]

[16.1.4.4-(a) through 16.1.4.4-(c) unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.5, as follows:

[Roll Call]

~~16.1.5 Purchase Restrictions.~~

~~16.1.5.1 Assignment of Normal Retail Value. Normal retail value shall be assigned as the value of an award when determining whether an award meets specified value limits, even when a member institution receives institutional awards from an athletics representative or organization free of charge or at a special reduced rate. Normal retail value is the cost to the institution that is based solely on volume and is available to all purchasers of a similar volume and that does not involve an obligation to make additional purchases to enable the supplier to recover the costs for the original purchase.~~

~~16.1.5.2 Supplementary Purchase Arrangement. An institution may not enter into a supplementary purchase arrangement with an awards supplier whereby the supplier agrees to sell an award (e.g., a watch or ring) at a price below the maximum amount specified by NCAA legislation with the understanding that the institution will make additional purchases of other unrelated items to enable the supplier to recover the costs for the original purchase. Such an arrangement would exceed the specific value limitations placed on permissible awards.~~ [R]

~~16.1.5.3 Combining Values. An institution may not combine the value limits of awards given in a sport during the same season, or given to student-athletes who participate in more than one sport, to provide an award more expensive than permissible under separate application to some or all of its participating student-athletes. [R]~~

~~16.1.5.4 Student-Athlete Contribution to Purchase. The value of an award may not exceed specified value limits, and a student-athlete may not contribute to its purchase in order to meet those limits. [R]~~

[16.1.6 through 16.1.7 renumbered as 16.1.5 through 16.1.6, unchanged.]

D. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-1, as follows:

Figure 16.1 Participation Awards

FIGURE 16-1
Participation Awards

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
Annual Participation — Underclassmen	\$225	Once per year per sport	Institution	1
Annual Participation — Senior	\$425	Once per year per sport	Institution	1
Special Event Participation				
• Participation in postseason conference championship contest or tournament	\$375 ¹	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event (may include conference office)	2
• Participation in postseason NCAA championship contest or tournament	Institution — \$375 NCAA — No limit	Once per event	• Institution • NCAA	2
• Participation in all-star game	\$400 ²	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event	2
• Participation in other established meets, tournaments and featured individual competition	\$400 ²	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event	2

¹The combined value of all awards received for participation in this type of event from the institution and the management of the event may not exceed the maximum value in this figure.
²Each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.

E. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-2, as follows:

Figure 16.2 Championship Awards

FIGURE 16-2
Championship Awards

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
National Championship conducted by NCAA	\$415 ^c	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
National Championship not conducted by NCAA***	\$415 ^c	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
Conference Championship – regular season	\$325 ^{c,#}	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
Conference Championship – postseason contest or tournament	\$325 ^{c,#}	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2

^c Each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.

** Award may be provided by another organization recognized by the institution or conference to act in its place.

*** Applies only to sports or classification division in which the NCAA does not conduct championships. Teams must be designated as a "national champion" by a national wire-service poll or the national coaches association in that sport.

[#] The combined value of both awards shall not exceed the maximum value in this figure if same institution wins conference regular season and postseason championships.

F. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-3, as follows:

Figure 16.3 Special Achievement Awards

**FIGURE 16-3
Special Achievement Awards**

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
Special attainments or contribution to team's season (e.g., scholar-athlete, most improved player, most minutes played, most valuable player)	\$175	Once per category of award per year	▪ Institution ▪ Conference	2
Conference student-athlete of the year award	\$350	Once per year for one student-athlete in a male sport and one student-athlete in a female sport	▪ Conference	1
Conference scholar-athlete of the year award	\$350	Once per year for one student-athlete in a male sport and one student-athlete in a female sport	▪ Conference	1
Most valuable player — special event*	\$325**	Once per event	▪ Institution ▪ Conference ▪ Organization approved by institution or conference	Unlimited
Most valuable player — bowl game or all-star contest	\$350	Once per event	▪ Sponsoring entity of all-star contest	1
Established regional/national recognition awards (e.g., Jostens Trophy, Gagliardi Trophy)	no limit	Once per year per award	▪ Management of award program	1
Specialized performance in single contest or during limited time-period (e.g., player of the game, player of the week)	\$80 (certificate, medal, or plaque only)	Unlimited	▪ <u>Institution</u> ▪ Conference ▪ Outside organization (e.g., local business)	Unlimited
Hometown award	\$80	Unlimited	▪ Group (other than institution's booster club) located in the student-athletes' hometown.	Unlimited

* The award recipient must be selected by a recognized organization approved by a member institution or conference.

** Each permissible awarding agency is subject to separate limit per award. Each awarding agency may provide only a single award for each event to each student athlete.

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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 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.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional interest in providing awards.

No. 2026-13 (2-5) AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- PERMIT ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ONE ALL-STAR CONTEST OR OTHER POST-ELIGIBILITY EVENT

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.

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16 Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.

[16.01 through 16.1 unchanged.]

16.1.7 Expenses to Receive Noninstitutional Awards. A conference, an institution, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, a national governing body (or the international equivalents) or the awarding agency may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to receive a noninstitutional award or recognition for athletics or academic accomplishments. Actual and necessary expenses may be provided for the student-athlete's parents (or legal guardians), spouse or other relatives or individuals of a comparable relationship to attend the recognition event or awards presentation. [R]

16.1.7.1 All-Star Contest. **After a student-athlete exhausts eligibility in the sport, A**an institution may ~~not~~ provide **actual and necessary** expenses ~~to a student-athlete to participate~~ **for participation** in ~~an~~ **one collegiate A**all-Sstar contest or similar **post-eligibility** competitive event. [R]

[16.2 through 16.12 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institution's interest in providing expenses for student-athletes who qualify for a collegiate all-star event or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

No. 2026-14 (2-6) AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TEAM ENTERTAINMENT -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TICKETS

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

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16 Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.

[16.01 through 16.2 unchanged.]

16.2.2 Nonpermissible Procedures.

[16.2.2.1 through 16.2.2.4 unchanged.]

~~16.2.2.5 Professional Sports Tickets. An institution or any representative of its athletics interests may not purchase or otherwise obtain tickets to a professional sports contest and make these tickets available to student-athletes enrolled in an NCAA member institution. Such a gift of tickets would represent an unacceptable extra benefit (see Bylaw 16.7.1.1 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets as team entertainment related to an away-from-home contest and Bylaw 16.10.1.5 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets for recognition by a professional sports organization).~~ [R]

[16.3 through 16.6 unchanged.]

16.7 Team Entertainment.

16.7.1 Entertainment in Conjunction With Practice and Competition. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide reasonable entertainment (but may not provide cash for such entertainment) to student-athletes **during the playing season, consistent with existing institutional policy**~~in conjunction with practice or competition.~~ [R]

~~16.7.1.1 Professional Sports Tickets. Complimentary tickets to professional sports contests shall not be provided to student-athletes, unless the tickets are provided by the institution (or by a representative of athletics interests through the institution) for entertainment purposes to student-athletes involved in an away-from-home contest. (See Bylaw 16.10.1.5 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets for recognition by a professional sports organization).~~ [R]

~~16.7.2 Practice Sites on Road Trips. Any practice on an extended road trip shall take place either at the competition site, on a direct route between the institution's campus and the first competition site or on a direct route between two consecutive competition sites. It is not permissible for an institution to schedule practice sessions at other locations to provide entertainment opportunities for team members.~~ [D]

[16.8 through 16.12 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: May vary depending on the institution's interest in providing entertainment expenses.

No. 2026-15 (2-12) DIVISION MEMBERSHIP, PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

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

A. Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.8.1.3 Other Competition. During an academic year in which a student-athlete is eligible to represent an institution in athletics competition (or in the next summer), an institution may provide actual and necessary expenses related to participation in the following activities: [R]

[16.8.1.3-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Specific competition (e.g., Olympic Trials) from which participants may directly qualify for the **Continental Championships**, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World Youth Championships, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships or the junior-level equivalent competition (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, Junior World Championships, U19 World University Games); and

- (c) National team tryout competition events, including events from which participants are selected for another tier of tryout competition or events from which final selections are made for the national team that will participate in the **Continental Championships**, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World Youth Championships, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships or the junior-level equivalent competition.

[16.8.1.3.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.02 unchanged.]

17.02.13.1 Team Sports. The following are classified as team sports for purposes of this bylaw:

Acrobatics and Tumbling	Lacrosse
Beach Volleyball, Women's	Rugby, Women's
Baseball	Rowing, Women's
Basketball	Soccer
Field Hockey	Softball
<u>Flag Football, Women's</u>	Stunt
Football	Volleyball
Ice Hockey	Water Polo

[17.02.13.2 unchanged.]

[17.02.14 unchanged.]

[17.1 unchanged.]

17.1.4.4 Nontraditional Segment Competition Limitations for Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, **Women's Flag Football** and Volleyball. The nontraditional segment shall be subject to the following limitations:

[17.1.4.4-(a) unchanged.]

[17.1.4.4-(a)-(1) through 17.1.4.4-(a)-(5) unchanged.]

(6) Women's Flag Football. Three regulation contests or 144 minutes of competition activity.

[17.1.4.4-(a)-(6) renumbered as 17.1.4.4-(a)-(7), unchanged.]

[17.1.4.5 unchanged.]

[17.1.5 through 17.1.6 unchanged.]

[17.2 through 17.10 unchanged.]

17.11 Flag Football, Women's. Regulations for computing the flag football playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1, General Playing-Season Regulations. (See Figure 17-1)

17.11.1 Length of Playing Season. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3 for spring NCAA Championship sports)

17.11.2 Preseason Practice. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.3 First Date of Competition. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.4 End of Playing Season. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.5 Number of Contests.

17.11.5.1 Maximum Limitations -- Institutional. A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule against outside competition during the institution's flag football playing season in any one year to a maximum of 24 contests during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment, except for those contests excluded under Bylaw 17.11.5.3. During the traditional segment, countable contest

limitations apply separately to multiple teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman). During the nontraditional segment, all teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman) shall be treated as one team for purpose of the countable contest limitations. For in-season foreign competition, see Bylaw 17.1.4.3.

17.11.5.2 Maximum Limitations -- Student-Athlete. A student-athlete may participate in each academic year in a maximum of 24 flag football contests during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment. This limitation includes those contests in which the student represents the institution, including competition as a member of the varsity, subvarsity or freshman team of the institution in accordance with Bylaws 17.02.4 and 17.02.9.

17.11.5.3 Exemptions. (See Standard Exemptions set forth in Bylaw 17.1.4.5.)

17.11.6 Out-of-Season Athletically Related Activities. (See Bylaw 17.1.5)

[17.11 through 17.33 renumbered as 17.12 through 17.34, unchanged.]

C. **Bylaws:** Amend 20, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20 Division Membership.

[20.01 through 20.02 unchanged.]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. Acrobatics and tumbling, **flag football**, rugby and stunt; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

[20.02.7 unchanged.]

[20.1 through 20.11 unchanged.]

20.11.4.8 Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship. In each sport, the institution's team shall engage in at least a minimum number of intercollegiate contests (against the varsity programs of four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions) each year. In the individual sports, the institution's team shall include a minimum number of participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contests requirement. The following minimums are applicable:

Team Sports	Minimum Contests	Minimum Participants	Individual Sports	Minimum Contests	Minimum Participants
Acrobatics and Tumbling	6	18	Bowling	8	5
Beach Volleyball	8		Cross Country	5	5
Baseball	25		Fencing	8	5
Basketball	18		Golf	6	4
Field Hockey	12		Men's Gymnastics	6	6
<u>Women's Flag Football</u>	<u>12</u>		Women's Gymnastics	6	5
Football	7		Rifle	6	4
Ice Hockey	18		Skiing	5	5
Lacrosse	10		Swimming and Diving	8	8
Women's Rowing	8		Tennis	10	4
Women's Rugby	8		Track and Field, Indoor	5	10
Soccer	13		Track and Field, Outdoor	6	12

Softball	24		Women's Triathlon	4	3
Stunt	6	16	Wrestling, Men's	7	6
Volleyball	17		Wrestling, Women's	7	6
Water Polo	13				

(Note: The minimum-contest requirements set forth in Bylaw 20.11.4.8 apply only to the provisions of this section and do not apply to minimum-contest requirements in Bylaw 14 and Bylaw 17.)

[20.11.4.8.1 through 20.11.4.8.8 unchanged.]

20.11.4.8.8.1 Exception -- Women's Flag Football. In women's flag football, an institution may count up to three contests per year against collegiate club teams toward meeting minimum-contest requirements.

[20.11.4.8.8.1 renumbered as 20.11.4.8.8.2, unchanged.]

[20.11.4.8.9 through 20.11.4.8.11 unchanged.]

[20.11.4.9 through 20.11.4.10 unchanged.]

[20.11.5 unchanged.]

[20.12 through 20.15 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: Will vary based on institutional decisions related to sponsorship.

No. 2026-16 (2-10) NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

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

A. Bylaws: Amend 18, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

18 Championships.

[18.01 through 18.2 unchanged.]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~923~~ national championships. ~~Thirteen~~**Fourteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (~~13~~**4**).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (78)
Fencing	Rifle	<u>Acrobatics and Tumbling</u>
Gymnastics	Skiing	Beach Volleyball

Volleyball (Divisions I
and II)
Water Polo

Bowling
Fencing
Gymnastics
Ice Hockey (Divisions I
and II)
Water Polo
Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 20.02, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. ~~Acrobatics and tumbling, r~~Rugby and stunt; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

D. Bylaws: Amend 20.12, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

20.12 Eligibility for National Collegiate and Division Championships.

20.12.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's acrobatics and tumbling

Women's beach volleyball
Women's bowling
Men's fencing
Women's fencing
Men's gymnastics
Women's gymnastics

Women's ice hockey (Divisions I and II)
Men's and women's skiing
Men's volleyball (Divisions I and II)
Men's water polo
Women's water polo
Women's wrestling

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

20.12.2 Options When No Division III Championship Is Conducted. An active member institution that holds membership in Division III is eligible to compete in the Division II championships in those sports for which no championship is conducted in Division III. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of Division III that govern the sport in question.

20.12.2.1 Exception for Maximum Number of Contests or Dates of Competition. A Division III member institution that is eligible for a championship in another division because there is no championship in that sport in its membership division shall apply the maximum number of contests or dates of competition in the sport involved that applies to the division in which it declares its intention to compete.

E. Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.4 Common Committees -- Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities.

[21.4.1 unchanged.]

21.4.2 Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee, Women's. The Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee shall consist of six members. The committee shall include at least one representative from each division.

[21.4.2 through 21.4.8 renumbered as 21.4.3 through 21.4.9, unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: 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 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.

Budget Impact: \$2 million recurring annually for establishing a championship and committee (also includes broadcast production cost).

No. 2026-17 (2-11) NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- STUNT

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

A. Bylaws: Amend 18, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

18 Championships.

[18.01 through 18.2 unchanged.]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~923~~ **14** national championships. ~~Thirteen~~ **Fourteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (~~13~~**4**).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (7 8)
Fencing	Rifle	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Skiing	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Fencing
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Stunt
		Water Polo
		Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 20.02, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. Acrobatics and tumbling, and ~~rugby and stunt~~; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 20.12, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

20.12.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's beach volleyball

Women's bowling

Men's fencing

Women's fencing

Men's gymnastics

Women's gymnastics

Women's ice hockey (Divisions I and II)

Men's and women's skiing

Women's stunt

Men's volleyball (Divisions I and II)

Men's water polo

Women's water polo

Women's wrestling

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

D. Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.4 Common Committees – Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities.

[21.4.1 through 21.4.5 unchanged.]

21.4.6 Stunt Committee, Women's. The Women's Stunt Committee shall consist of six members. The committee shall include at least one representative from each division.

[21.4.6 through 21.4.8 renumbered as 21.4.7 through 21.4.9, unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: 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.

Budget Impact: \$1.9 million recurring annually for establishing a championship and committee (also includes broadcast production cost).

Emergency Legislation Adopted by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 9.3.1.1.2, the NCAA Division III Presidents Council is permitted to adopt emergency legislative amendments if it must respond to, or comply with, a court, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or government order or when the Presidents Council deems it appropriate to limit or avoid NCAA liability as a result of litigation, ADR or governmental proceedings. This action will be referenced in the report of this Official Convention Notice during the 2026 NCAA Division III business session, and acceptance of the report will constitute approval of this action and incorporation in the 2026-27 NCAA Division III manual. If a delegate objects to the incorporation of the amendment, that objection should be raised at the time of the report of the Official Notice. (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.) Division III membership then will decide by majority vote of the eligible voters whether to incorporate that amendment.

There are no emergency legislative amendments submitted for approval during the 2026 NCAA Convention.

Interpretations to be Included in the 2026-27 NCAA Division III Manual

In accordance with its authority to recommend incorporation of interpretations in the next printing of the NCAA Division III Manual, the NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee has recommended, and the NCAA Division III Management Council has approved inclusion of the following in the Division III Manual. This will be referenced in the report of this Official Convention Notice during the 2026 Division III business session. Approval of this Official Notice will constitute the incorporation of these interpretations. If a delegate objects to incorporation of a particular interpretation, that objection should be raised at the time of the report of the Official Notice. (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 then will decide by majority vote of the eligible voters whether to incorporate the interpretation.

It should be noted that these interpretations already have been accepted by the membership, and the only issue concerning these interpretations that is before the membership is whether they should be set forth in the 2026-27 Division III Manual and subsequent Division III Manuals. If the membership votes not to incorporate a particular interpretation into the Manual, the interpretation will still be binding on the membership; it simply will not be included in the 2026-27 Division III Manual.

For each of these interpretations approved by the Management Council, the provisions of Bylaw 9.4.1.4 also would apply (i.e., any Division III member to which the interpretation applies may request a review of that interpretation at the Division III business session by making such a request in writing to the NCAA governance and member services staff or the Association's Convention office prior to 1 p.m. on the day preceding the Division III business session of the Convention). If an interpretation is not challenged per Bylaw 9.4.1.4 and the incorporation of the interpretation into the 2025-26 Division III Manual also is not challenged, it will appear in the 2026-27 Division III Manual as noted.

There are no incorporations of interpretations submitted for approval during the 2026 NCAA Convention.

Noncontroversial Legislation Adopted by the NCAA Division III Management Council or Presidents Council

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaws 21.10.2-(d), 21.11.3-(d) and 9.3.1.1.1, the NCAA Division III Management Council or Presidents Council has adopted the following noncontroversial legislative amendments during the past year. The Management Council and Presidents Council are permitted to adopt such legislation if it is necessary to promote the normal and orderly administration of the Association's legislation. These actions will be referenced in the report of this Official Convention Notice during the 2026 NCAA Division III business session. Approval of the Official Notice will constitute ratification of these actions and incorporation in the 2026-27 NCAA Division III Manual. If a delegate objects to ratification of a particular amendment, that objection should be raised at the time of the report of the Official Notice. (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 NCAA Division III membership then will decide by majority vote of the eligible voters whether to ratify that amendment.

NO. NC-2026-1 COMMITTEES -- ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES -- GENERAL COMMITTEES -- COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

Intent: To transition the Committee on Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee into one comprehensive committee that shall focus on Association-wide issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Bylaws: Amend 21.2, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.2 Association-Wide Committees -- General Committees.

[21.2.1 through 21.2.2 unchanged.]

21.2.3 Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

21.2.3.1 Composition. The Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging shall consist of 25 members, including positions allocated for individuals who serve as athletics administrators, coaches, chief diversity officers, faculty, higher education DEIB practitioners/researchers/experts, student-athletes and Title IX coordinators. The committee shall include a minimum of eight members who identify as an ethnic minority, eight members who identify as women and eight members who identify as men. In addition to the division-specific positions, the committee shall include a minimum of three members from each division, including one from each subdivision of Division I. The membership of the committee shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) One student-athlete from each divisional Student-Athlete Advisory Committee;**
- (b) One chancellor or president from each division;**
- (c) One athletics diversity and inclusion designee from each division (two must be from within athletics and one may be from outside athletics);**
- (d) One representative from the Division I governance structure;**
- (e) One representative from the Division II Management Council;**
- (f) One representative from the Division III Management Council;**
- (g) One director of athletics;**
- (h) One conference commissioner;**
- (i) Two institutional or conference senior woman administrators;**
- (j) One faculty athletics representative (preference to be from the FARA DEI Committee);**
- (k) One chief diversity officer; and**

(I) Seven members who serve in one or more of the following positions at a member institution or conference:

- (1) DEIB practitioner/researcher (preference for two);**
- (2) Campus and/or athletics student services professional (preference for one);**
- (3) Coach (preference for one);**
- (4) Higher education and/or athletics legal, policy, or governance expert (preference for one); and**
- (5) Title IX coordinator (preference for one).**

21.2.3.2 Duties. The committee shall:

- (a) Advise on DEIB educational resources, programming, and awards for the Association;**
- (b) Cultivate equitable experiences and treatment and inclusive environments for student-athletes at NCAA championships and events as well as across intercollegiate athletics;**
- (c) Provide guidance for the office NCAA Inclusion, Education, and Community Engagement's strategic initiatives and engagements;**
- (d) Support increased student-athlete participation opportunities, particularly for those from marginalized communities;**
- (e) Review and make recommendations on DEIB-related policy, legislation, and other Association matters; and**
- (f) Support diverse leadership across intercollegiate athletics that reflects the increasingly diverse student-athlete community.**

21.2.34 Honors Committee.

21.2.34.1 Composition. The Honors Committee shall consist of nine members, including one current or former chancellor or president from a member institution, one member from each division and subdivision of Division I and three nationally distinguished citizens, one of whom must be a former NCAA honors recipient. Division II and Division III will be represented each by a member of the Management Council. Two positions shall be allocated for those who identify as male, two allocated for those who identify as female and five unallocated.

21.2.34.2 Term of Office. A member's term of service shall commence on the day following adjournment of the NCAA Convention following the member's appointment.

21.2.34.3 Duties. The committee shall receive nominations for the Theodore Roosevelt Award, the Silver Anniversary Awards, the Today's Top 10 Awards, the Award of Valor, the Gerald R. Ford Award, the Pat Summitt Award and the Inspiration Award and shall select the recipients of those awards.

21.2.4 Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

~~**21.2.4.1 Composition.** The Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee shall consist of 18 members, including one current chancellor or president from each division. There shall be six members from Division I, six members from Division II and six members from Division III. One student-athlete from each division (who shall have one vote each) shall serve as a member of the committee. Each student-athlete may serve on the committee up to one year after completion of their intercollegiate athletics eligibility. Committee membership shall include a minimum of eight ethnic minorities, including at least four who identify as male and four who identify as female.~~

~~**21.2.4.2 Duties.** The committee shall:~~

- ~~**(a) Review issues related to the interests and advocacy of student-athletes, coaches and administrators who are ethnic minorities, LGBTQ or who have disabilities; and**~~
- ~~**(b) Review and advocate for NCAA programs and policies that affect and include, but are not limited to, ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities and the LGBTQ community.**~~

[21.2.5 through 21.2.6 unchanged.]

21.2.7 Women's Athletics Committee on:

~~**21.2.7.1 Composition.** The Committee on Women's Athletics shall consist of 18 members, including one current chancellor or president from each division. There shall be six members from Division I, six members from Division II and six members from Division III. Six positions shall be allocated for those who identify as male, six allocated for those who identify as female and six unallocated. One student-athlete from each division (who shall have one vote~~

~~each) shall serve as a member of the committee. Each student-athlete may serve on the committee up to one year after completion of their intercollegiate athletics eligibility.~~

~~21.2.7.2 Duties. The committee shall:~~

- ~~(a) Study and make policy recommendations concerning opportunities for women in athletics at the institutional, conference and national levels;~~
- ~~(b) Study and make policy recommendations concerning other issues directly affecting women's athletics; and~~
- ~~(c) Appoint and oversee the Woman of the Year Selection Committee and the process.~~

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council.

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

Budget Impact: Cost savings from transitioning multiple groups into one committee.

Additional Information:

Following the adoption of a new NCAA Constitution in January 2022, the Board of Governors began a review of Association-wide committees to determine the relevance of those committees and whether potential changes could occur to better align the committees' work with the requirements outlined in the new Constitution. The DEI Committees Review Working Group was established to carry out the review of the Committee on Women's Athletics, the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and the Gender Equity Task Force. The working group collaborated with governance and membership groups to determine how best to advance DEIB principles and initiatives through the Association. One centralized DEIB committee will be: (1) More effective and efficient with a unified, focused effort to lead on core dimensions of diversity and their intersections; (2) More recognizable and reputable across the Association for its leadership on DEIB matters and its alignment with the NCAA Constitution principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Gender Equity as well as the Board of Governors approved inclusion statement.

NO. NC-2026-2 AMATEURISM -- TRYOUT WITH PROFESSIONAL TEAM -- ELIMINATE 48-HOUR LIMIT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES TO RECEIVE EXPENSES WHILE TRYING OUT WITH A PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Intent: To permit a student-athlete to accept actual and necessary expenses from a professional athletics team to participate in a tryout with that team beyond the current 48-hour limit.

Bylaws: Amend 12.2.1.1, as follows:

12.2.1.1 Tryout With Professional Team. Following initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may try out with a professional athletics team in a sport or permit a professional athletics team to conduct medical examinations at any time outside the institution's playing and practice season. The **professional athletics team may also provide the individual** ~~may receive~~ actual and necessary expenses related to the tryout ~~as long as the tryout does not exceed 48 hours~~.

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Current Division III legislation permits a student-athlete to accept actual and necessary expenses from a professional team for 48-hours to participate in a tryout with that team. If the tryout extends beyond the 48-hours, the student-athlete may still participate in the tryout but must finance any additional expenses, including the expense for transportation home. Eliminating the time limit during which a student-athlete may receive actual and necessary expenses from the professional team supports student-athlete pursuing the professional opportunity in the same manner as general students who pursue job opportunities.

NO. NC-2026-3 ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS -- REDEFINING INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION

Intent: To clarify the definition and application of intercollegiate competition in Bylaw 14 and Bylaw 17.

A. Bylaws: Amend 14.02, as follows:

14.02 Definitions and Applications.

[14.02.1 through 14.02.5 unchanged.]

14.02.6 Intercollegiate Competition. Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does ~~any~~either of the following:

- (a) Competes while representing the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies; or
- ~~(b) Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) or equipment received from the institution that includes institutional identification (see Bylaw 16.11.1.9 for regulations governing the use of equipment during the summer); or~~
- ~~(c) Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, housing, or entry fees~~ or uniforms, apparel or equipment purchased and still in use by the institution) from the institution for the competition (see Bylaw 16.11.1.9 for regulations governing the use of equipment during the summer).

[14.02.6.1 through 14.02.6.2 unchanged.]

[14.02.7 through 14.02.12 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 17.02, as follows:

17.02 Definitions and Applications.

[17.02.1 through 17.02.8 unchanged.]

17.02.9 Intercollegiate Competition. Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does ~~any~~either of the following:

- (a) Competes while representing the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies; or
- ~~(b) Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) or equipment received from the institution that includes institutional identification (see Bylaw 16.11.1.9 for regulations governing the use of equipment during the summer); or~~
- ~~(c) Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, housing, or entry fees~~ or uniforms, apparel or equipment purchased and still in use by the institution) from the institution for the competition (see Bylaw 16.11.1.9 for regulations governing the use of equipment during the summer).

[17.02.9.1 unchanged.]

[17.02.10 through 17.02.14 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

This change clarifies when a student-athlete has engaged in intercollegiate competition, which may only permissibly occur during the playing and practice season. It confirms that intercollegiate competition has occurred when a student-athlete represents the institution in any competition or when the institution provides any expenses for the competition, including expenses in the form of uniforms, apparel or equipment paid for and still in use by the institution, while recognizing the exception for summer use of equipment. As a result, institutions will be able to more fully advise student-athletes on their options for participation outside of the collegiate season and student-athletes are permitted to use any equipment, apparel or uniforms they have purchased themselves while participating in outside competition.

Further, because the proposed change would apply to both Bylaw 14.02.6 and Bylaw 17.02.9, there will be consistency in definitions in both the eligibility bylaw and playing and practice season bylaw.

NO. NC-2026-4 COMMITTEES -- DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- TERM OF OFFICE -- AMEND THE LENGTH OF PRESIDENTIAL TERMS ON DIVISION III COMMITTEES FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS

Intent: To amend the existing legislation to require that all terms on Division III committees will be four-year terms, including presidents and chancellors.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9, as follows:

21.9 Division III Committees.

[21.9.1 unchanged.]

21.9.2 Term of Office.

21.9.2.1 Length of Term. ~~Division III presidents or chancellors serving on all Division III general committees (per Bylaw 21.9.5) are limited to a two-year term of service. Presidents or chancellors may be reappointed or re-elected to one additional term, resulting in four years of service.~~ Unless otherwise specified, all ~~other~~ Division III members of general committees (per Bylaw 21.9.5), including Division III presidents or chancellors, shall be appointed or elected for one four-year term. Unless otherwise specified, the terms of service of general committee members (per Bylaw 21.9.5) shall commence in January following the adjournment of the annual NCAA Convention following the member's election or appointment. The terms of service of all other committee members shall commence on the first day of September following the member's election or appointment.

[21.9.2.2 through 21.9.2.5 unchanged.]

[21.9.3 through 21.9.6 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Nominating Committee).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Current Division III legislation limits a president or chancellor's term on a Division III committee to a two-year term of service and can be renewed for another two-year term. All other administrators who serve on a Division III committee typically serve a term of four years. Additionally, presidents or chancellors are assigned to a four-year, nonrenewable term on either the Division III Presidents or Management Council. Amending this legislation will create greater consistency between all members of the general committees.

NO. NC-2026-5 COMMITTEES – COMMITTEE ON COMPETITIVE SAFEGUARDS AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS – COMPOSITION – PHYSICIAN WITH ENDOCRINOLOGY EXPERTISE

Intent: To specify that the CSMAS position designated for a physician with expertise in endocrinology may be filled by an individual who is either "on the staff" at a member institution or a member of the "general public".

Bylaws: Amend 21.2.2, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.2.2.1 Composition. The Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports shall consist of 25 members, including seven positions allocated those who identify as male, seven allocated those who identify as female and 11 unallocated. The membership of the committee shall be constituted as follows:

[21.2.2.1-(a) through 21.2.2.1-(c) unchanged.]

(d) Five members from the field of medicine, of whom at least two shall identify as female. One shall be a primary-care physician, who is board certified in family practice, internal medicine or emergency medicine, and shall have a current Certificate of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine. One shall be a board certified orthopedic surgeon. One shall be a physician with expertise in endocrinology (who may be a member of the general public). One shall be a physician with expertise in drug-testing. One shall be a physician who is a member of the general public;

[21.2.2.1-(e) through 21.2.2.1-(p) unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

One of CSMAS' legislated responsibilities is to provide the membership with its health and safety perspective on relevant legislation and policy. To fulfill this charge, its composition reflects the need for committee members with specific medical expertise, including a physician with expertise in endocrinology. It is atypical for physicians with expertise in endocrinology to be on staff at NCAA member schools. This was highlighted by the small pool of candidates who have been nominated to fill the position. As such, CSMAS recommends expanding the pool of candidates for the position of physician with expertise in endocrinology by accepting nominees who are "on the staff" or a member of the "general public." If the position designated for an endocrinologist on the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports is filled by a member the general public, this individual should not be considered the one physician who is a member of the general public as also required by the legislation.

NO. NC-2026-6 INFRINGEMENTS PROGRAM -- TYPES OF VIOLATIONS -- APPLICATION OF VIOLATION STRUCTURE AND APPLICATION EXCEPTION FOR LIMITED SPORTS WAGERING VIOLATIONS

Intent: To (1) codify within Bylaw 19 of the long-standing application of case classification for institutions and individuals; and (2) amend the Bylaw 19 processing requirements to separate the individual culpability of an involved individual from that of an institution in select cases involving sports wagering (Bylaw 10.3).

Bylaws: Amend 19, as follows:

19 Infractions Program.

[19.01 through 19.02 unchanged.]

19.02.2 Types of Violations.

19.02.2.1 Application of Violation Structure. The classification of a violation attaches to the conduct, not to the individual. Therefore, an institution shall be held responsible for violations committed by staff members at the same classification. Further, if violations from multiple classifications are identified, the case shall be processed pursuant to procedures applicable to the most serious violation(s) alleged.

19.02.2.1.1 Exception for Limited Sports Wagering Violations. Violations of Bylaw 10.3 involving behaviors that compromise or are intended to compromise the integrity of collegiate contests and/or lack of institutional oversight shall be processed at the same classification for the involved individual and the institution. In all other instances, violations of Bylaw 10.3 may be processed at different classification for the involved individual and institution.

19.02.2.12 Violation, Secondary. A secondary violation is a violation that is isolated or inadvertent in nature, provides or is intended to provide only a minimal recruiting or competitive or other advantage and does not include any significant impermissible benefits, including but not limited to, extra benefits, recruiting inducements, preferential treatment or financial aid. Multiple secondary violations by a member institution collectively may be considered as a major violation.

19.02.2.23 Violation, Major. All violations other than secondary violations are major violations, specifically including those that provide an extensive recruiting or competitive advantage.

[19.02.3 unchanged.]

[19.1 through 19.7 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Infractions).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

In all three divisions, NCAA constitution and bylaws hold institutions responsible for the conduct of their employees. (See NCAA Constitution 1-E and Division III Bylaws 20.15.2 and 20.15.3.) Additionally, Bylaw 19.01.4 establishes that the infractions program shall hold institutional staff members individually accountable for violations of NCAA legislation. The Bylaw 19 structure does not, however, contemplate assigning different classifications to parties based on the same conduct. Rather, violation classification is based on the nature and severity of the conduct – which either meets the definition of a major or secondary violation – and not the identity of the actor. Therefore, the same underlying conduct cannot be major for one party and secondary for another. Consistent with this structure, the Committee on Infractions holds the institution and institutional staff member responsible for the violation at the same

classification and differentiates culpability through the application of penalties. Therefore, the proposed change to Bylaw 19.02.2 regarding the application of the violation structure is merely a codification of the long-standing application of case classification for institutions and individuals.

Additionally, after a review to ensure the resources of the infractions process stay focused most heavily on the types of sports wagering cases that impact the integrity of intercollegiate athletics, such as point shaving or sharing of insider information, this proposal provides a limited exception to the violation structure that seeks to balance accountability, efficient resolution and infractions-related resources. The recommended processing change to Bylaw 19 does not impact or supersede the ongoing membership review of the scope of NCAA sports wagering legislation and would apply to the current rules or any amended framework that is ultimately adopted. The processing changes would, however, immediately benefit institutions currently involved in select sports wagering infractions cases by allowing an institution's portion of a sports wagering case to be processed at a lower level than an individual, provided certain factors are met.

NO. NC-2026-7 COMMITTEES -- ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE -- COMPOSITION.

Intent: To align current practice with the existing bylaw and clarify the compositional requirements of the committee.

Bylaws: Amend 21.13, as follows:

21.13.1 Composition. The Administrative Committee shall consist of five members, including the chair of the Presidents Council, the vice chair of the Presidents Council, ~~and~~ the chair of the Management **Council and the vice chair of the Management Council**. If the chair **or vice chair** of the Management Council is a chancellor or president, the committee also shall include ~~an two~~ athletics **director administrators** who ~~is a~~ **are** senior members of the Management Council. If the chair **or vice chair** of the Management Council is not a chancellor or president, the committee also shall include **the most tenured** a chancellor or president serving on the Management Council ~~and a senior member of the Management Council~~.

Source: NCAA Division III Presidents Council

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

In addition to the legislative requirements, there has been a Management Council practice that the vice-chair of Management Council serve as one of the three Management Council members on the Administrative Committee. There has been great value in having both elected Management Council leadership positions on the committee, especially with succession possibilities from vice-chair to chair. Furthermore, this model guarantees presidents/chancellors maintain a voting majority and would codify that the vice chair of Management Council is on the Administrative Committee.

NO. NC-2026-8 ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED COMPETITION BEFORE INITIAL COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- ELIMINATION OF MAJOR JUNIOR ICE HOCKEY CONDITIONS

Intent: To confirm that Major Junior ice hockey participation is subject to the same standards as all other pre-enrollment participation.

Bylaws: Amend 14, as follows:

14 Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements.

[14.01 through 14.2 unchanged.]

14.2.4 Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility.

[14.2.4.1 through 14.2.4.3 unchanged.]

14.2.4.4 Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment. An individual who does not enroll in a collegiate institution as a full-time student by October 1 or March 1 (whichever occurs earlier) immediately after one calendar year has elapsed following their high school graduation date (or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility) shall use a season of intercollegiate participation for each consecutive 12-month period after October 1 or March 1 and before the initial collegiate enrollment in which the individual participates in activities that meet the criteria set forth in Bylaw 14.2.4.4.2.

[14.2.4.4.1 through 14.2.4.4.2 unchanged.]

~~14.2.4.4.3 Major Junior Ice Hockey. An individual who participates on a Major Junior ice hockey team shall use a season of intercollegiate participation for each calendar year or sport season in which the individual participates, regardless of when such participation occurs (including participation during high school enrollment). The individual must also fulfill an academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.02.10) before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition in the sport of ice hockey.~~

[14.2.4.4.4 renumbered as 14.2.4.4.3, unchanged.]

[14.2.4.5 through 14.2.4.8 unchanged.]

[14.2.5 through 14.2.7 unchanged.]

[14.4 through 14.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: For student-athletes enrolling in Division III on or after August 1, 2025.

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Currently, under the pre-enrollment organized competition legislation, an ice hockey prospective student-athlete who participates on a Major Junior ice hockey team is automatically charged a season of participation for each consecutive 12-month period that they participate on the team and must serve an academic year of residence before competing for a Division III institution. Major Junior participation is the only participation that is subject to this separate analysis for Division III. For all other ice hockey participation and for all other sports, an individual does not incur similar consequences for participation until a year after they graduate high school and only if they compete with individuals that receive above actual and necessary expenses. Eliminating the extra conditions tied to Major Junior ice hockey participation creates consistency in the application of the organized-competition legislation in ice hockey for the Division III membership. Additionally, this proposal would ensure that student-athletes who have participated in Major Junior ice hockey prior to full-time enrollment will be treated similarly to student-athletes in all other sports upon their enrollment at Division III institutions.

NO. NC-2026-9 AWARDS -- TYPES OF AWARDS, AWARDING AGENCIES, MAXIMUM VALUE AND NUMBERS OF AWARDS -- RECOGNITION BANQUETS

Intent: To clarify that student-athletes may receive expenses to attend a recognition banquet and may receive an award at that banquet.

A. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.4, as follows:

16.1.4.4 Local Civic Organization **and Booster Clubs**. A local civic organization (e.g., Rotary Club, Touchdown Club) **and booster clubs** may provide awards to an individual student-athlete or member institution's team(s). The following regulations shall apply to such an event: [R]

(a) All awards must be approved by the institution and must be counted in the institution's limit for institutional awards; ~~and~~

(b) The organization may not recognize or provide awards to prospective student-athletes at the banquet; **and**

(c) Student-athletes may receive actual and necessary expenses to attend the event.

B. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.6, as follows:

~~16.1.6.1 Booster Club Recognition Banquet. One time per year, an institution's athletics booster club may finance an intercollegiate team's transportation expenses to a recognition banquet, provided all expenses are paid through the institution's athletics department and no tangible award is provided to members of the team. [R]~~

C. Bylaws: Amend 16.10, as follows:

16.10.1.4 Luncheon Meeting Expenses. A student-athlete may accept transportation and meal expenses in conjunction with participation in a luncheon meeting of a booster club or civic organization, ~~provided no tangible award is provided to the student-athlete.~~ **(See Bylaw 16.1.4.4 if an award is to be provided to a student-athlete).** [R]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional interest in offering expenses for student-athletes to attend recognition banquets.

Additional Information:

Currently, there are multiple bylaws that address whether student-athletes receive expenses for attending a banquet and receive an award. Those bylaws are confusing and can be applied inconsistently. This proposal would clarify that booster clubs and local civic organizations may provide student-athletes with an award and pay expenses for the student-athletes to attend the awards banquet.

NO. NC-2026-10 HOUSING AND FOOD - EXCEPTIONS - VACATION PERIOD EXPENSES - MISSED MEALS – OCCASIONAL MEALS

Intent: To permit an institution to provide meals to student-athletes not on a meal plan in the same manner as those on a meal plan when meals are missed for practice activities, or during a vacation period. Additionally, to permit a student-athlete or team to receive an occasional meal, at any location, from an institutional staff member, a relative of a student-athlete or booster, consistent with institutional policy.

A. Bylaws: Amend 16.5, as follows:

16.5.1 Exceptions.

[16.5.1-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Vacation-Period Expenses. The institution may provide the cost of housing and food including an additional meal (or cash in an amount equal to the cost of an additional meal) to student-athletes to meet nutritional needs during the institution's official vacation periods in the following circumstances: [R]

- (1) Student-athletes who are required to ~~remain on the institution's campus for~~ **attend** organized practice sessions or competition during the institution's official vacation period during the regular academic year. ~~If the student-athlete lives at home during the vacation period, the cost of housing and food may not be provided by the institution, other than to permit the student-athlete to participate in team meals incidental to practice sessions.~~ If an institution does not provide a meal to its student-athletes, a cash allowance may be provided, not to exceed the amount provided by the institution to institutional staff members on away-from-campus trips.
- (2) Student-athletes who return to campus during the institution's official vacation period occurring during a regular academic term (e.g., not including vacation periods between terms) from competition as outlined in Bylaw 16.8.1.2. Under such circumstances, housing and food expenses may be provided beginning with the student-athlete's arrival on campus until the institution's regular dormitories and dining facilities reopen. ~~If the student-athlete lives at home during the vacation period, the cost of housing and food may not be provided by the institution.~~
- (3) Student-athletes who return to campus during the institution's official vacation period between regular academic terms (e.g., summer vacation period) from competition as outlined in Bylaw 16.8.1.2. Under such circumstances, housing and food expenses may be provided for no more than a 48-hour period, beginning with the student-athlete's return to campus. ~~If the student-athlete lives at home during the vacation period, the cost of housing and food may not be provided by the institution.~~

[16.5.1-(c) unchanged.]

(d) Meals Missed Due to Practice Activities. An institution may provide a student-athlete with a meal when one is missed due to practice activities. ~~The meal must be one that a student-athlete has previously paid for through food allowance and an institution must certify that institutional dining facilities are unavailable.~~

[16.5.1-(e) unchanged.]

[16.5.1.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 16.11.1, as follows:

16.11.1 Permissible.

[16.11.1.1 through 16.11.1.4 unchanged.]

16.11.1.5 Occasional Meals. A student-athlete or the entire team in a sport may receive an occasional meal, at any location, from an institutional staff member, a relative of a student-athlete or representative of the institution's athletics interests, consistent with institutional policy. *under the following conditions:* [R]

(a) The occasional meal may be provided at any location in the locale of the institution;

(b) Meals must be restricted to infrequent and special occasions; and

(c) Institutional staff members and representatives of the institution's athletics interests may provide transportation to student-athletes to attend such meals.

16.11.1.5.1 Meal Provided by Representative of Athletics Interests -- Outside Locale of Institution. A representative of the institution's athletics interests may pay for or provide a meal to a student-athlete or team outside of the locale of the institution as long as the meal is in conjunction with, or en route to or from, an away-from-home contest. [R]

16.11.1.6 Occasional Meals Provided by the Relative of a Student-Athlete. A student-athlete or a team may receive an occasional meal provided by the relative of a student-athlete at any location.

[16.11.1.7 through 16.11.1.15 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional policies and interest in providing meals.

Additional Information:

Under current legislation, during a vacation period, or when meals are missed due to practice activities, an institution is only permitted to provide meals to student-athletes who are on the institutional meal plan. Student-athletes who live off-campus, commute or are otherwise not on institutional meal plans may not receive the same benefit. This proposal eliminates this restriction and defers to institutional policy in these situations. It would also eliminate the administrative burden of tracking where student-athletes live and who receives meals and when.

Furthermore, current legislation differentiates who (i.e., institution, family members, representative of athletics interests) may provide student-athletes or teams an occasional meal. and where (i.e., in or outside the locale of the institutions) those meals may be provided. By consolidating multiple existing bylaws, this proposal would maintain that such meals may still only be provided on an occasional basis, but permit an institutional staff member, a relative of a student-athlete or booster to pay or provide the meal at any location. Additionally, the meal would need to be provided consistent with institutional policy.

NO. NC-2026-11 BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES -- NONATHLETIC APPAREL AND ATHLETICS APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT

Intent: To permit institutions to issue non-athletics apparel and allow student-athletes to retain their athletics apparel and equipment, consistent with institutional policy.

Bylaws: Amend 16.11, as follows:

16.11.1 Permissible.

[16.11.1.1 through 16.11.1.6 unchanged.]

16.11.1.7 Nonathletics Apparel Provided by the Institution. An institution may provide a student-athlete with nonathletics apparel one shirt (e.g., polo or oxford style) bearing the institution's logo each academic year, consistent with institutional policy. ~~The apparel to be used for team travel or other events at which the student-athlete is representing the institution. The shirt~~ may bear the manufacturer's or distributor's normal trademark or logo not to exceed 2 1/4 square inches in area, including any additional material surrounding the normal trademark or logo. ~~Further, an institution may issue other nonathletics apparel to student-athletes for team travel or other events in which they represent the institution on an issuance and retrieval basis.~~ [R]

16.11.1.8 ~~Retention of~~ Athletics Apparel and Equipment. A student-athlete may retain athletics apparel items and used equipment at the end of the playing season, consistent with institutional policy ~~individual's collegiate participation.~~ [R]

[16.11.1.9 through 16.11.1.15 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Current legislation allows an institution to provide student-athletes with one shirt, annually, which may be kept by the student-athlete. While additional non-athletics apparel may be provided, it must be provided on an issue and retrieval basis and may only be given to the student-athlete to keep if it considered not reusable, per institutional policy. Similarly, student-athletes may keep athletics apparel and equipment at the end of their college career, or earlier, if the apparel or equipment is considered to be not reusable, per institutional policy. Because an institution could permissibly provide the apparel and equipment to the student-athletes and deem it not reusable, updating this bylaw to defer to institutional policy removes this additional step.

NO. NC-2026-12 AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- ACADEMIC AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Intent: To consolidate the existing bylaws addressing academic, career and other support services and to clarify that institutional policy is the standard to determine the permissibility of such programming.

A. Bylaws: Amend 16.3, as follows:

16.3 Academic and Other Support Services.

16.3.1 **General** Academic-Based Programming and Services. An institution may finance and provide general academic and support-based programming and services for student-athletes, **consistent with institutional policy (see Bylaw 16.4.1 for information on mental health resources and services)**. ~~provided similar services are provided or are generally available to the institution's students or to any particular segment of the student body determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.~~ **Examples of such programming and support services include, but are not limited to:** [R]

(a) Academic advising;

(b) Career counseling and career-related programming;

(c) Leadership programming;

(d) Life skills programming;

(e) Coaching, officiating and athletics administration career educational programs;

(f) Priority registration; or

(g) Programming and services designed to protect and enhance the physical and educational well-being of student-athletes (e.g., cultural diversity programming, time management programming) [see Article 1-D].

~~16.3.2 Support Services and Other Programming. An institution may finance and provide support services and other programming for student-athletes, provided similar programming is provided or is generally available to the institution's students or to any particular segment of the student body determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. Examples of such programming and support services include, but are not limited to: [R]~~

~~(a) Leadership programming;~~

~~(b) Career counseling and career-related programming; or~~

~~(c) Programming and services designed to protect and enhance the physical and educational well-being of student-athletes (e.g., cultural diversity programming, time management programming) [see Article 1-D].~~

~~16.3.2.1 Exception -- In-Season Athletically Related Activities. Support services and other programming involving sports-related information and having an athletics purpose (e.g., team motivational speakers, leadership-related programming with an athletics nexus) (see Bylaw 17.02.1.1) may be offered exclusively for student-athletes, provided the activity occurs during the declared playing season.~~

16.3.2 Athletics-Based Programming and Services. Any support services and other programming involving sports-related information and having an athletics purpose (e.g., team motivational speakers, leadership-related programming with an athletics nexus) must occur during the playing and practice season unless otherwise noted in Article 17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

16.3.3 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Meetings. An institution or conference may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to attend conference, regional or national student-athlete advisory committee meetings. Actual and necessary expenses for institutional-based student-athlete advisory committee programming may be provided consistent with institutional policy. ~~must be generally available to the institution's students or must be provided pursuant to Bylaws 16.3.1 or 16.3.2 in order for an institution to offer such programming to student-athletes or provide actual and necessary expenses.~~ [R]

~~16.3.4 Life Skills Programming. An institution may provide programming to student-athletes through life skills programs, provided the programming is generally available to the institution's students or is provided pursuant to Bylaws 16.3.1, 16.3.2 or 16.4. [R]~~

B. Bylaws: Amend 16.11.1.15, as follows:

~~16.11.1.15 Coaching and Athletics Administration Career Educational Program. An institution or conference may provide a student-athlete actual and necessary expenses to attend coaching and athletics administration career educational programs (e.g., Women's Basketball Coaches Association -- So You Want to Be A Coach, Black Women in Sports Foundation -- Next Step Program, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee -- Minority/Women in Coaching Leadership, Division III Coaching Symposiums). [R]~~

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional policies and interest in offering programming.

Additional Information:

Currently, institutions may provide academic, career readiness and other support programming and services only when similar programming and services are available to the general student body or to a segment of the student body determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. Bylaws also allow institutions to provide expenses for student-athletes to attend identified career programming, regardless of if such opportunities are available to students generally. Academic and career support should be a matter left to the discretion of the institution, consistent with institutional policy. The proposal would consolidate all permissible programming under one bylaw and confirm that such programming should be subject only to institutional policy.

NO. NC-2026-13 AMATEURISM -- FINANCIAL DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS -- RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD PARTIES

Intent: To deregulate the current limitations on financial donations and sponsorships from outside organizations and allow for institutions and conferences to pursue partnerships and sponsorships with third parties, including professional sport organizations.

Bylaws: Amend 12, as follows:

12 Amateurism.

[12.01 through 12.5 unchanged.]

12.6 Financial Donations From Outside Organizations.

12.6.1 Professional Sports Organizations (Including Professional Sports Organizations). An institution and conference may accept donations from any organizations and engage in sponsorship agreements, including reciprocal marketing agreements, with those organizations, limited only by the following:

~~12.6.1.1 To Noncollegiate Amateur Team. A noncollegiate amateur team or playing league shall not be considered a professional team or league, even if it receives financial support from a national amateur sports administrative organization or its equivalent that in turn receives developmental funds from a professional team or professional sports organization.~~

~~12.6.1.2 To Intercollegiate Event. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and may be publicly identified as such. [D]~~

~~12.6.1.3 Developmental Funds to NCAA. A professional sports organization may provide funds for intercollegiate athletics developmental purposes in a particular sport (e.g., officiating expenses, research and educational projects,~~

~~the conduct of summer leagues, purchase of equipment). However, such funds shall be provided in an unrestricted manner and administered through the Association's national office.~~

~~12.6.1.4 To Institution, Permissible.~~

~~(a) Funds. A member institution may receive funds from a professional sports organization, provided:~~

- ~~(1) The money is placed in the institution's general fund and used for purposes other than athletics;~~
- ~~(2) The money is placed in the institution's general scholarship fund and commingled with funds for the assistance of all students generally; or~~
- ~~(3) The money is received by the institution as a result of the professional sports organization's financial sponsorship of a specific intercollegiate competition event and is placed in the institution's budget for the specific event, including ancillary activities and promotions.~~

~~(b) Professional Sports Memorabilia. An institution may receive sports memorabilia from a professional sports organization to be used in institutional (or departmental) fundraising activities.~~

~~12.6.1.5 To Conference, Permissible. A member conference may receive funds from a professional sports organization, provided the money is received by the conference as a result of the professional sports organization's financial sponsorship of a specific intercollegiate competition event and is placed in the conference's budget for the specific event, including ancillary activities and promotions.~~

~~12.6.1.6 Revenues Derived from Pro-Am Events. The distribution of revenues from an event involving an intercollegiate athletics team and a professional sports team (e.g., a baseball game in which a member institution's team plays against a professional baseball team) or pro-am event (e.g., golf, tennis) that results in a member institution's receiving a share of receipts from such a contest is permitted, provided the institution has a formal agreement with the professional sports team regarding the institution's guarantee or share of receipts, and the contractual terms are consistent with agreements made by the professional team or individuals for similar intercollegiate or nonprofessional competition.~~

~~12.6.1.7 Promotion of Professional Athletics Contests. A member institution may host and promote an athletics contest between two professional teams from recognized professional sports leagues as a fundraising activity for the institution.~~

~~12.6.2 Organizations (Nonprofessional Sports Organizations).~~

~~12.6.2.1 Individual Athletics Performance. A member institution shall not accept funds donated from an nonprofessional sports organization based on the place finish of a student-athlete or the number of student-athletes representing the institution in an event. However, the organization may donate an equal amount of funds to every institution with an athlete or team participating in a particular event. **(See Bylaw 12.5, for promotions involving student-athletes)**~~

~~12.6.2.2 Team Rankings. A member institution may accept funds donated to its athletics program from a nonprofessional sports organization based on the team's national or regional ranking.~~

~~12.6.2.3 Academic Performance. A member institution may accept funds donated to its athletics program from a nonprofessional sports organization based on an individual's or a team's academic performance (e.g., the number of academic All-American award recipients).~~

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Institutions and conferences currently are restricted from publicizing sponsorships with certain third parties, including professional sports leagues. Additionally, there are restrictions on how the funds gained from these relationships may be used. This proposal would remove these restrictions and give institutions and conferences the opportunity to generate revenue consistent with their priorities and leverage their network and relationships to enhance their student-athletes' experiences. It would also permit reciprocal marketing agreements, allowing for the promotion of the sponsorship agreements by both the third party and the institution or conference. These changes would not supersede Division III championships policies and procedures.

NO. NC-2026-14 COMMITTEES -- ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES -- GENERAL COMMITTEES -- HONORS COMMITTEE -- AMEND NAME, COMPOSITION AND DUTIES

Intent: To rename, increase the composition of, and expand the duties of the Honors Committee, as specified.

Bylaws: Amend 21.2, as follows:

21.2 Association-Wide Committees -- General Committees.

[21.2.1 through 21.2.2 unchanged.]

21.2.3 ~~Honors~~**Awards** Committee.

21.2.3.1 Composition. The ~~Honors~~**Awards** Committee shall consist of ~~nine~~**10** members, including **one former student-athlete who was a Woman of the Year nominee**, one ~~current or former chancellor or president~~**senior-level administrator** from a member institution **or conference**, one member from each division and subdivision of Division I and three nationally distinguished citizens, one of whom must be a former NCAA ~~honors~~**awards** recipient. Division II and Division III will be represented each by a member of the Management Council. Two positions shall be allocated for those who identify as male, two allocated for those who identify as female and ~~five~~**six** unallocated.

[21.2.3.2 unchanged.]

21.2.3.3 Duties. The committee shall receive nominations for the Theodore Roosevelt Award, the Silver Anniversary Awards, the Today's Top 10 Awards, the Award of Valor, the Gerald R. Ford Award, the Pat Summitt Award, **the Woman of the Year Award** and the Inspiration Award and shall select the recipients of those awards.

[21.2.4 through 21.2.7 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Honors Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Budget Impact: Costs associated with one additional committee member to attend the awards presentation at the NCAA Convention.

Additional Information:

In January 2025, the three divisions consolidated the four diversity, equity and inclusion committees into one comprehensive committee. The new committee does not oversee the Woman of the Year Award; the Honors Committee will manage it for consistency with other awards like the NCAA Gerald R. Ford Award. Adding a former Woman of the Year nominee and a senior-level athletics administrator to the committee will provide valuable insights. The Honors Committee will be renamed to the Awards Committee to reflect its work. Because this proposal addresses common legislation, it requires adoption by all three divisions.

NO. NC-2026-15 ETHICAL CONDUCT -- SPORTS WAGERING ACTIVITIES -- ELIMINATION OF PROHIBITION ON WAGERING ON PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Intent: To eliminate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports.

Bylaws: Amend 10, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

10 Ethical Conduct.

[10.01 unchanged.]

10.02 Definitions and Applications.

10.02.1 Sports Wagering. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, ~~or amateur or professional~~ team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

[10.02.2 unchanged.]

[10.1 through 10.2 unchanged.]

10.3 Sports Wagering Activities. The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, ~~or amateur or professional~~ athletics competition:

[10.3-(a) through 10.3-(d) unchanged.]

10.3.1 Scope of Application. The prohibition against sports wagering applies to any institutional practice or any intercollegiate or amateur competition (~~intercollegiate, amateur or professional~~) in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

[10.3.1.1 unchanged.]

[10.3.2 unchanged.]

[10.4 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council.

Effective Date: November 22, 2025 (Common provision, date reflects the earliest date in which it is effective in all three divisions).

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

This proposal no longer prohibits Division III student-athletes and staff from betting on professional athletics contests. Research indicates that prohibitions are not as effective as harm reduction strategies when dealing with problem gambling behaviors. The historical intent of NCAA sports wagering legislation is to protect the integrity of the game. By removing prohibitions that do not impact the integrity of an intercollegiate contest may, for a student-athlete with a gambling problem, remove a barrier to seeking help. This proposal amends a common provision and is not effective until all three divisions have adopted the proposed change. Divisions II and III have adopted with a November 1, 2025, effective date, while Division I has adopted the change with a November 22, 2025, effective date. Consequently, it will not be effective until November 22, 2025.

NO. NC-2026-16 ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION - CRITERIA FOR ADMINISTRATION OF HARDSHIP WAIVER -- MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

Intent: In the administration of a hardship waiver, to permit the use of contemporaneous or noncontemporaneous medical documentation from a physician, or any licensed practitioner qualified to provide mental health services when the assertion is the student-athlete's mental health condition.

Bylaws: Amend 14.2.5, as follows:

14.2.5 Hardship Waiver. A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of participation (per Bylaw 14.2.4) by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from a season-ending injury or illness (including a mental health condition) that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

[14.2.5-(a) through 14.2.5-(b) unchanged.]

[14.2.5.1 through 14.2.5.2 unchanged.]

14.2.5.2.2 Medical Documentation. Contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation from a physician (i.e., a medical doctor), who administered care at the time of the injury or illness, that establishes the student-athlete's inability to compete for the remainder of the traditional playing season as a result of that injury or illness shall be submitted with any hardship-waiver request. Chiropractic records do not constitute medical documentation for purposes of administering a hardship-waiver request. ~~In cases involving a psychological or mental illness, such documentation may be provided by an individual who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist).~~

14.2.5.2.2.1 Exception for Mental Health Condition. Where the assertion for the hardship waiver is based on a mental health condition, the information submitted may be contemporaneous or noncontemporaneous medical documentation provided by an individual who is licensed to diagnose the mental health condition (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist).

[14.2.5.2.3 through 14.2.5.2.7 unchanged.]

[14.2.5.3 through 14.2.5.4 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

A student-athlete's mental health condition is not always documented the same way as physical injuries and this noncontroversial proposal appropriately address the challenges institutions and student-athletes face, specific to meeting the documentation standard when the assertion is a mental health condition. Further, the recommendation is being made following a year-long pilot program using the flexible administration criteria for assertions of a student-athlete's mental health condition. After its review of the pilot program's data and outcomes, Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement determined that a legislative change is appropriate.

NO. NC-2026-17 CHAMPIONSHIPS -- NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS -- SEPARATE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Intent: In men's and women's fencing, to establish separate national collegiate championships.

A. Bylaws: Amend 18.3, as follows:

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~97~~**92** national championships. ~~Twelve~~ **Thirteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (~~12~~**13**).

Men (34)	Men and Women (32) Women (67)	
<u>Fencing</u>	<i>Fencing</i>	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Rifle	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)	Skiing	<u>Fencing</u>
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo
		Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 20.12, as follows:

20.12 Eligibility for National Collegiate and Division Championships.

20.12.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's beach volleyball	Men's and women's skiing
Women's bowling	Men's volleyball (Divisions I and II)
Men's and women's fencing	Men's water polo
<u>Women's fencing</u>	Women's water polo
Men's gymnastics	Women's wrestling
Women's gymnastics	
Women's ice hockey (Divisions I and II)	

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is

required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

[20.12.2 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Championships Committee).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: Costs associated with an increase in the operational budget for four additional sets of team awards (estimated at \$7,200). The operational budget is supported by association wide funding for national collegiate championships and will not impact Division III specific funding.

Additional Information:

Under the current scoring format, institutions that sponsor only women's fencing face a statistical impossibility to win a national championship. The separation of the two championships would allow for a more equitable championship experience and a realistic pathway for all teams to compete for a national championship. Establishing a women's fencing championship will support the growth, development and recognition of women's championships. This proposal is the result of collaborative work of the USOPC/NCAA collegiate fencing sport management pilot. As a national collegiate championship, this proposal requires adoption by all three divisions.

NO. NC-2026-18 INFRACTIONS PROGRAM -- COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS -- NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION.

Intent: Establish a structured resolution process that enables institutions and involved individuals to address infraction cases collaboratively with NCAA enforcement staff. Parties work together to agree on relevant facts, identified violations, violation levels, and proposed penalties. These agreements are then submitted for review and approval by the Committee on Infractions (COI), which applies to a highly deferential standard-agreements are only rejected if the penalties are found to be "manifestly unreasonable" or if the agreement does not serve the best interests of the Association.

Bylaws: Amend 19.1, as follows:

19.1 Committee on Infractions. The Management Council shall appoint a Committee on Infractions, which shall be responsible for administration of the NCAA infractions program.

[19.1.1 through 19.1.2 unchanged.]

19.1.3 Duties of Committee. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

[19.1.3-(a) through 19.1.3-(d) unchanged.]

(e) Upon concluding that one or more violations occurred, prescribe an appropriate penalty or show-cause requirement on a member found to be involved in a major violation (or, on appeal, on a member found to be involved in a secondary violation), or recommend to the Management Council suspension or termination of membership; ~~and~~

(f) Review negotiated resolutions (See Bylaw 32.8); and

[19.1.3-(f) relettered as 19.1.3-(g), unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Infractions).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Currently, there is no established process enabling enforcement staff to resolve Division III infractions matters via settlements with institutions or individuals involved. While staff have discretion in alleging violations, they do not engage in negotiations, enter agreements regarding allegations, or suggest penalties. This restriction can lead member institutions to seek alternative methods for resolving issues more efficiently through negotiation. Additionally, the lack of a formal resolution process places further demands on infractions system resources and does not take advantage of information provided by cooperative institutions or individuals.

Divisions I and II have effectively utilized the negotiated resolution process for several years, with Division I implementing it in 2018 following a recommendation from the Commission on College Basketball, and Division II adopting the approach in 2022. The membership has responded positively to this process, which has substantially

expedited the handling of infractions cases within both divisions. Since adoption, approximately 85 to 90 percent of Division I cases and over 90 percent of Division II cases have been resolved via negotiated resolution.

NO. NC-2026-19 ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -- MULTIPLE RESOLUTION METHODS

Intent: To allow a single infraction case to be resolved by multiple methods, such as negotiated resolution, summary judgment, or hearing.

Administrative: Amend 32, as follows:

32 Enforcement Policies and Procedures.

[32.1 through 32.5 unchanged.]

32.6 Resolution Methods (Major Cases).

32.6.1 Methods of Resolution (Major Cases). Cases involving allegations of major violations will be presented to and resolved by the Committee on Infractions. The Committee on Infractions shall resolve major allegations through a hearing pursuant to Bylaw 32.10, summary disposition pursuant to Bylaw 32.8 and/or negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 32.9.

32.6.2 Impact of Multiple Resolution Methods. When different resolutions methods are appropriate for different parties in a single case, the enforcement staff shall notify the parties of the possibility for differing outcomes. Parties will submit written confirmation of understanding of the potential for differing outcomes with the submission of the case. Outcomes that differ across resolution methods in a single case do not support an argument on appeal that the Committee on Infractions erred.

[32.6 renumbered as 32.7, unchanged.]

32.7 Summary Disposition and Expedited Hearing.

32.7.1 Summary Disposition ~~*Election.*~~ In major infractions cases ~~*where*~~, institutions, involved individuals and/or the enforcement staff ~~*may elect*~~ **reach agreement on the facts and violations but cannot reach agreement on the penalties, the participating parties may submit** ~~*to process the case for resolution via through the summary disposition procedures specified below. The enforcement staff, involved individuals, if participating, and the institution must agree to use the summary disposition process. The institution, involved individuals or the enforcement staff may require, as a condition of agreement, that the parties jointly submit the proposed findings to the chair of the Committee of Infractions or their designee for a preliminary assessment of the appropriateness of the use of the summary disposition process.*~~

[32.7.1.1 renumbered as 32.8.1.1, unchanged.]

32.7.1.2 Written Report. The ~~*institution, involved individuals and the enforcement staff*~~ **participating parties** shall submit a written report setting forth:

[32.7.1.2-(a) through 32.7.1.2-(e) renumbered as 32.8.1.2-(a) through 32.8.1.2-(e) unchanged.]

[32.7.1.3 through 32.7.1.4 renumbered as 32.8.1.3 through 32.8.1.4, unchanged.]

32.9 Negotiated Resolution.

32.9.1 Scope. At any time from the beginning of the enforcement staff investigation until the Committee on Infractions' review of a summary disposition report pursuant to Bylaw 32.8 or an infractions hearing held pursuant to Bylaw 32.10, the enforcement staff may negotiate a resolution with an institution or involved individual about alleged violations and proposed penalties. The negotiated resolution is subject to approval by the Committee on Infractions and must resolve all known violations for which the party or parties included in the negotiated resolution may be subject to penalty pursuant to Bylaw 19.5.

32.9.2 Involvement of Parties in a Negotiated Resolution.

32.9.2.1 All Participating Parties Agree on Resolution. If all parties participating in the case agree on a resolution of the case, they shall submit the written agreement of negotiated resolution to the chair for Committee on Infractions review and approval. The enforcement staff shall include the violations by and penalties related to any party not participating in the case in the written agreement. The Committee on Infractions shall review the negotiated resolution if the parties submit the written agreement prior to issuance of the summary disposition report or notice of allegations.

32.9.2.2 Not All Participating Parties Agree on Resolution. If some, but not all, parties participating in the case agree on resolution of the case, the enforcement staff shall include the written agreement of negotiated resolution in the summary disposition report or notice of allegations submitted in connection with parties who are not included in the negotiated resolution, or amended summary disposition report or notice of allegations if the agreement is reached after issuance of the summary disposition report or notice of allegations.

32.9.3 Written Agreement. Any negotiated resolution shall contain the following:

- (a) A brief description of the case, including the involvement of the parties included in the negotiated resolution;
- (b) The agreed-upon violation(s);
- (c) Other violations the enforcement staff considered and agreed or opted not to allege;
- (d) The agreed-upon type of agreed-upon violation(s) (major or secondary);
- (e) The agreed-upon penalties;
- (f) The nature of any participation or cooperation provided by a party pursuant to the negotiated resolution, and consequences for a party's failure or refusal to strictly adhere to the agreed-upon participation and cooperation conditions;
- (g) Waiver of appellate opportunities; and
- (h) Other material terms of the agreement.

32.9.4 Scope of Review. The Committee on Infractions shall only reject a negotiated resolution if it is not in the best interests of the Association or the agreed-upon penalties are manifestly unreasonable pursuant to Bylaw 19.5.

32.9.5 Preliminary Assessment of Penalties. Prior to submission of a written agreement of negotiated resolution, parties included in the negotiated resolution may request the Committee on Infractions to preliminarily assess whether the agreed-upon penalties are manifestly unreasonable pursuant to Bylaw 19.5. The preliminary assessment is not binding.

32.9.5.1 Approval in Conjunction with Preliminary Assessment. If all parties participating in the case request a preliminary assessment of penalties in accordance with Bylaw 32.9.5 and the parties submit all required elements of an agreement of negotiated resolution set forth in Bylaw 32.9.3, the Committee on Infractions may approve the negotiated resolution in conjunction with its preliminary assessment unless the parties instruct otherwise in their request for preliminary assessment.

32.9.6 Negotiated Resolution Approved. If the Committee on Infractions approves the negotiated resolution, the committee shall forward the approval to the enforcement staff and the other parties and publicly announce the resolution of the case. The approval shall be final and have no precedential value.

32.9.6.1 Approval When Not All Participating Parties Agree on Resolution. If some, but not all parties participating in the case agree on resolution of the case, the Committee on Infractions may approve the negotiated resolution and release a decision in accordance with Bylaw 32.11.

32.9.7 Negotiated Resolution Not Approved. If the Committee on Infractions does not approve the negotiated resolution, the committee may return the negotiated resolution to the parties included in the negotiated resolution for additional information or clarification or to respond to issues identified by the committee that preclude approval of the negotiated resolution, and request that the parties submit an amended written agreement of negotiated resolution in response. In the alternative, the committee may reject the negotiated resolution and issue instructions for processing of the case pursuant to Bylaw 32.8 or Bylaw 32.10.

32.810 Committee on Infractions Hearings.

32.810.1 Committee Authority. The Committee on Infractions shall hold a hearing to determine the existence of the alleged violation of NCAA legislation and to prescribe any appropriate penalties.

32.810.2 Determination of Hearing Date. The Committee on Infractions shall set the dates and times for all hearings before the committee. The committee shall notify all relevant parties of the hearing date and site.

32.810.3 Limitations on Presentation of Staff Factual Information. In major cases requiring an institutional hearing before the committee or when processing a case through means of a summary disposition, specific information and factual information developed by the staff related to alleged violations of NCAA legislation shall not be presented to the committee before the institution's appearance, except as provided in these procedures.

32.810.4 Obligation to Provide Full Information. At any appearance before the Committee on Infractions, the involved member institution, involved individuals and the enforcement staff, to the extent reasonably possible, have the obligation to ensure that the committee has benefit of full information concerning each allegation, whether such information corroborates or refutes an allegation.

32.810.5 Notification of Hearing Procedures. An institution and involved individuals shall be advised in writing before an appearance before the committee of the general procedures to be followed during the hearing. Such notification shall contain a specific reference to Bylaw 32.8 and shall indicate that, as a general rule, the discussion during the hearing will follow the numbering of the allegations in the notice of allegations.

32.810.6 Appearance of Individuals at Hearings.

32.810.6.1 Request for Specific Individuals. Institutional officials, staff members or enrolled student-athletes who are specifically requested to appear before the committee at a hearing are normally expected to appear in person and may be accompanied by personal legal counsel. The committee also may request that former institutional staff members appear at a hearing. Such individuals also are normally expected to appear in person and may be accompanied by personal legal counsel. In cases that involve a small number of contested issues or cases in which the contested issues are relatively uncomplicated, the institution and/or the involved individual may make a written request to appear before the committee by videoconference or other mode of distance communication as the Committee on Infractions may deem appropriate. The decision regarding the use of videoconferencing (or another mode of communication) rests with the Committee on Infractions. Failure to appear before the committee may result in a violation of this bylaw and a show-cause action by the committee.

32.810.6.2 Attendance at Hearings. At the time the institution appears before the committee, its representatives should include the institution's president or chancellor, the head coach of the sport in question, the institution's director of athletics, legal counsel, enrolled student-athletes whose eligibility could be affected by information presented at the hearing and any other representatives whose attendance has been requested by the committee. Additional individuals may be included among the institution's party only if specifically approved to be present by the committee. An individual who appears before the committee may appear with personal legal counsel.

32.810.6.3 Exclusion of Individuals from Hearings.

32.810.6.3.1 Exclusions Requested by the Institution. At the request of the institution, the committee may exclude an individual from certain portions of the hearing when matters to be discussed are not those in which the individual is at risk. When an individual is excluded from the hearing room for a period of time, it shall be with the understanding that matters discussed in the hearing during that time will not relate to that individual.

32.810.6.3.2 Limited Attendance of Student-Athletes. Any student-athlete (and personal legal counsel) included among the institution's representatives may attend the hearing only during the discussion of the allegations in which the student-athlete is involved.

32.810.6.4 Representation of Member Conference. The executive officer or other representative of a conference's executive office may attend a hearing involving a conference member.

32.810.6.5 Prohibited Attendee. A member of the Committee on Infractions or the Infractions Appeals Committee who is prohibited under the provisions of Bylaw 32.1.2 from participating in any NCAA proceedings may not attend a Committee on Infractions hearing involving the committee member's institution unless specifically requested by the committee to be present as a witness.

32.810.6.6 Designation of Presentation Coordinators. The chair shall request each institution appearing before the committee to select one person to coordinate institutional responses during the hearing. In addition, one individual from the enforcement staff will be responsible for coordinating the presentation of the enforcement staff.

32.810.7 Hearing Procedures. The exact procedure to be followed in the conduct of the hearing will be determined by the Committee on Infractions.

32.810.7.1 Opening and Closing Statements. At the outset of the hearing, a representative of the institution shall make an opening statement, followed by an opening statement from any involved individual and by a representative of the enforcement staff. The contents of such a statement should not relate to the substance of the specific items contained in the notice of allegations. Statements concerning the nature or theory of the case are encouraged. An institutional representative and involved individuals also may make a closing statement at the conclusion of the hearing, followed by a closing statement by a representative of the enforcement staff.

32.810.7.2 Staff Presentation. During the hearing, the enforcement staff first shall present the information that its investigation developed.

32.810.7.3 Institutional or Involved Individuals Presentation. The member institution and involved individual then will present their explanation of the alleged violations and any other arguments or information deemed appropriate in the committee's consideration of the case.

32.810.7.4 Type of Information. Any oral or documentary information may be received, but the committee may exclude information that it determines to be irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious.

32.810.7.4.1 Information from Confidential Sources. In presenting information for consideration by the committee during a hearing, the enforcement staff shall present only information that can be attributed to individuals who are willing to be identified. Information obtained from individuals not wishing to be identified shall not be relied on by the committee in making conclusions of violations. Such confidential sources shall not be identified to either the Committee on Infractions or the institution.

32.810.7.4.2 Information Concerning Mitigating Factors. Institutional, conference and enforcement staff representatives and any involved individuals are encouraged to present all relevant information concerning mitigating or other factors that should be considered in arriving at appropriate penalties.

32.810.7.5 Scope of Inquiry. If an institution appears before the committee to discuss its response to the notice of allegations, the hearing shall be directed toward the allegations set forth in the notice of allegations but shall not preclude the committee from concluding that a violation occurred resulting from information developed or discussed during the hearing.

32.810.7.6 Committee Questioning. The committee, at the discretion of any of its members, shall question representatives of the member institution or the enforcement staff, as well as any involved individuals or other persons appearing before it, in order to determine the facts of the case.

32.810.7.7 Recording of Proceedings. The proceedings of hearings shall be recorded by a court reporter (unless otherwise agreed) and shall be recorded by the committee. No additional verbatim recording of these proceedings will be permitted by the Committee on Infractions. The Committee on Infractions shall maintain custody of the recordings and any transcriptions. In the event of an appeal, a transcript of the hearing proceedings shall be reproduced and submitted to the Infractions Appeals Committee and made available for review at the NCAA national office or through the secure website. (Note: Involved individuals will receive only those portions of the hearing transcriptions in which they were in attendance at the hearing.)

32.810.8 Posthearing Committee Deliberations. After all presentations have been made and the hearing has been concluded, the committee shall excuse all others from the hearing and deliberate in private.

32.810.8.1 Request for New Information. In arriving at its decision, the committee may request additional information from any source, including the institution, the enforcement staff or an involved individual. In the event that new information is requested from the institution, the enforcement staff or an involved individual to assist the committee, all parties will be afforded an opportunity to respond at the time such information is provided to the committee.

32.810.8.2 Request for Interpretation. The Committee on Infractions may request that the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff provide an interpretation of applicable legislation based on facts submitted by the committee. If an interpretation is requested, the institution, involved individuals and the enforcement staff will be notified in writing of the interpretation request and the response. The institution may appeal the interpretation in accordance with Bylaw 9.4.1.2.

32.810.8.3 Basis of Decision. The committee shall base its decision on information presented to it that it determines to be credible, persuasive and of a kind on which reasonably prudent persons rely in the conduct of serious affairs.

32.810.8.4 Calculation of Penalty. If the committee concludes that there has been a violation, it shall prescribe an appropriate penalty (see Bylaw 19.5); or it may recommend to the Management Council suspension or termination of membership in an appropriate case. Failure to fully implement the adopted and/or prescribed penalty may subject the institution, and/or an involved individual under a show-cause order, to further disciplinary action by the Committee on Infractions.

32.810.8.5 Voting Requirements. The conclusion of a violation or the prescription of a penalty or recommended action shall be by majority vote of the members of the committee present and voting. If fewer than five members are present, any committee action requires a favorable vote of at least three committee members.

32.911 Notification of Committee Action.

32.911.1 Infractions Decision. The Committee on Infractions, without prior public announcement, shall be obligated to submit promptly an infractions decision to the president or chancellor of the institution (with copies to those individuals receiving copies of the notice of allegations) and to all involved individuals, as defined in Bylaw 32.1.4. The following procedures shall apply to the infractions decision:

[32.9.1-(a) through 32.9.1-(c) renumbered as 32.11.1-(a) through 32.11.1-(c) unchanged.]

32.911.2 Release to Media. Once the infractions decision has been received by the institution and involved individuals, the decision, with names of individuals deleted, shall be made available to the national wire services and other media outlets.

32.911.2.1 Public Comment Before Release. The committee's public announcement related to an infractions case shall be made available to the national wire services and other media outlets. In this regard, the involved institution and/or any involved individual shall be advised of the text of the announcement before its release and shall be requested not to comment publicly concerning the case before the time the NCAA public announcement is released.

32.911.2.2 Public Announcement and Comment at Release. The chair or a member of the Committee on Infractions shall make the committee's public announcement related to major infractions when the committee determines that an announcement is warranted in addition to distribution of the infractions decision.

32.911.3 Infractions Decision to Infractions Appeals Committee. The Committee on Infractions shall forward a copy of the infractions decision, with names of individuals deleted, to the Infractions Appeals Committee at the time of the public announcement.

[32.10 through 32.11 renumbered as 32.12 through 32.13, unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Infractions).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None

Additional Information:

Currently, all parties in an infractions case must agree on a single resolution method. If some reach agreement for summary disposition but others want a hearing, the entire case defaults to a hearing. This delays faster resolutions for willing parties. Introducing negotiated resolution as another option, the COI suggests amending Bylaw 19 to allow multiple resolution methods within one case. This change would speed up agreements for some parties while still allowing hearings for those contesting violations.

NO. NC-2026-20 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND COMMITTEES – PLAYING RULES OVERSIGHT PANEL AND RULES COMMITTEES WITHOUT CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES – ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PLAYING RULES STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

Intent: Establish a new playing rules structure and process for Division III as specified.

A. : Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

[To remove Division I from the common application of Bylaws 21.1 and 21.3]

B. Bylaws: Amend 21.1, as follows:

[Common provision, Divisions II and III only, divided vote]

21.1 Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

21.1.1 Composition. The panel shall consist of 12 members, including six members ~~from Division I and three representatives~~ each from Divisions II and III. A single conference may not have more than one representative on the panel. **Individuals with only coaching responsibilities and no administrative responsibilities are not eligible to serve. The appointments of the panel shall be as followed:**

(a) One appointed by the Division II Championships Committee;

(b) One appointed by the Division III Championships Committee;

(c) One appointed by the Division II Management Council;

(d) One appointed by the Division III Management Council;

(e) One appointed by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association;

(f) One reserved for a Division III Conference Commissioner appointed by the Division III Nominating Committee; and

(g) The remaining three representatives from Division II and three representatives from Division III will be appointed at-large through the division's nominating committee process.

~~21.1.2 Method of Selection. Three of the six Division I representatives shall be appointed by the Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet (these members must be current members of the Championships/Competition Cabinet) and one of those members must have experience working with playing rules. The remaining three shall be appointed by the Division I Collegiate Commissioners Association. Two of those three shall have experience working with playing rules. One of the three Division II and III representatives shall be appointed by the divisions' Championships Committees (these members must be current members of the divisions' Championship Committee). The remaining two representatives in Divisions II and III will be appointed at large and one of the two per each division shall have experience working with playing rules.~~

~~21.1.2.1 Definition of "Working with Playing Rules." The following experience will be considered to be the equivalent of "working with playing rules:" officiating experience, previous service on a rules committee, previous service on a committee with responsibility for playing rules administration or coaching.~~

~~21.1.32~~ Term of Office. ~~At-large m~~Members of the panel will serve four-year terms. **Management Council or Championships/Sports Management Cabinet and Championships Committee members will serve for the duration of their cabinet council's or committee term.**

~~21.1.43~~ Duties. The panel shall:

(a) Oversee all NCAA **Division II and Division III** playing rules committees. This includes approval of playing rules recommendations and oversight of other issues pertaining to playing rules;

[21.1.4-(b) through 21.1.4-(e) renumbered as 21.1.3-(b) through 21.1.3-(e) unchanged.]

(f) Oversee **Provide input on** the selection process for secretary-rules editors, ~~approve the selections of secretary-rules editors and review waiver requests for secretary-rules editor term limits.~~

~~21.1.54~~ Meetings. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel shall meet three times annually (e.g., March, June, August) after the playing rules committees meetings for each season are complete.

~~21.1.65~~ Special Operating Rules.

~~21.1.65.1~~ Review Process. A recommendation from any rules committee shall be considered valid unless the Playing Rules Oversight Panel determines that the recommendation harms the image of the sport, creates an unsafe environment for student-athletes or places an unreasonable financial burden on the membership.

~~21.1.65.1.1~~ Rules Committee Involvement. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel may request that the playing rules committee chairs and/or secretary-rules editors present their case to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel when proposed changes are controversial or unusually complicated.

C. Bylaws: Amend 21.3, as follows:

[Common provision, Divisions II and III only, divided vote]

21.3 ~~Association-Wide~~**Common** Committees – Rules Committees Without Championships Administration Responsibilities.

21.3.1 Selection, Composition, Duties, Term of Office and Operation.

21.3.1.1 Method of Selection. ~~Each division's~~ **The Division II and Division III** governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the rules committees without championships administration responsibilities. The **Division II and Division III** Playing Rules Oversight Panel shall **oversee provide input on** the selection process for secretary-rules editors ~~and approve selections for those positions.~~ The secretary-rules editor ~~may be reappointed but is limited to a term not to exceed eight years in length and~~ shall be a nonvoting member of the committee. The

membership of each committee shall include representatives from ~~each of the Association's membership divisions~~**Division II and Division III.**

~~21.3.1.1.1 Waiver -- Secretary-Rules Editor Term Limit. Due to extenuating circumstances, the Playing Rules Oversight Panel may waive the secretary-rules editor's eight-year term limit; however, the term shall not be extended by more than four additional years.~~

21.3.1.2 Composition Requirements. At least 25 percent of the positions on each rules committee shall be filled by athletics directors, associate or assistant athletics directors, senior woman athletics administrators, individuals who are employed full time as administrators by member conferences or individuals who are employed both part time as administrators by member conferences and full time by member institutions. Further, at least 50 percent of the total positions on each rules committee shall be filled by coaching staff members. ~~In order for a district to be represented, at least five of its active members shall sponsor the sport involved on an intercollegiate basis.~~**A conference may not have more than one representative on a rules committee, unless there are two or fewer conferences sponsoring the sport.**

21.3.1.3 Duties. Subject to the final authority of the **Division II and Division III** Playing Rules Oversight Panel, each rules committee shall establish and maintain rules of play in its sport consistent with the sound traditions of the sport and of such character as to ensure good sportsmanship and safe participation by the competitors. Playing rules committees shall have the authority to permit rules experimentation in the nontraditional/nonchampionship season without the **Division II and Division III** Playing Rules Oversight Panel approval. Experimentation in the regular season shall be subject to the **Division II and Division III** Playing Rules Oversight Panel review.

21.3.1.4 Term of Office. Unless otherwise specified, a member of the committees listed in this bylaw shall be appointed for one four-year term. A former member may be appointed to an additional term after three years have elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on a committee may not serve further on that committee. A member's term of service shall commence on the first day of September following the member's election or appointment.

21.3.1.5 Cooperation with Other Organizations. A rules committee may cooperate with other national organizations in the development of common playing rules.

~~21.3.1.6 Operation. The Board of Governors shall ratify policies regarding the length, location and expenses of Association-wide committee meetings.~~

21.3.2 Baseball Rules Committee. The Baseball Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) Four members ~~shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.2-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.3 Basketball Rules Committee, Men's. The Men's Basketball Rules Committee shall consist of ~~13~~ **nine** members and shall be constituted as follows:

- ~~(a) There shall be at least two representatives from each of the following four geographical areas: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8;~~

- ~~(b)~~ **a) Six** **Four** members shall be ~~from Division I, three members shall be~~ from Division II **(one representative from each of the four championship super regions)**, ~~three~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.3-(c) relettered as 21.3.3-(b), unchanged.]

21.3.4 Basketball Rules Committee, Women's. The Women's Basketball Rules Committee shall consist of ~~13~~ **9** members and shall be constituted as follows:

- ~~(a) There shall be at least two representatives from each of the following four geographical areas: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8;~~

- ~~(b)~~ **a) Six** **Four** members shall be ~~from Division I, three members shall be~~ from Division II **(one representative from each of the four championship super regions)**, ~~three~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.4-(c) relettered as 21.3.4-(b), unchanged.]

21.3.5 Football Rules Committee. The Football Rules Committee shall consist of ~~13~~ nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) There shall be at least two representatives from each of the following four geographical areas: Districts 1 and 2; District 3; Districts 4 and 5; and Districts 6, 7 and 8;~~

~~(b) a~~ Six **Four** members shall be from Division I, ~~three~~ members shall be from Division II (**one representative from each of the four championship super regions**), ~~three~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.5-(c) relettered as 21.3.5-(b), unchanged.]

21.3.6 Ice Hockey Rules Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee shall consist of ~~13~~ nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Six members shall be from Division I, one~~ **Two** members shall be from a Division II institution that sponsors Division I, II or III **II** men's or women's ice hockey, ~~four~~**six** members shall be from Division III, ~~one member shall be from Division II or III~~ and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor;

~~(b) Within Divisions II and III, one-half of the members shall represent men's ice hockey interests and one-half of the members shall represent women's ice hockey interests; and~~

[21.3.6-(c) unchanged.]

21.3.7 Lacrosse Rules Committee, Men's. The Men's Lacrosse Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Four members shall be from Division I, one~~ **Three** members shall be from Division II and ~~three~~ **five** members shall be from Division III. One additional member shall serve as a nonvoting secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.7-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.8 Lacrosse Rules Committee, Women's. The Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Four members shall be from Division I, one~~ **Three** members shall be from Division II and ~~three~~ **five** members shall be from Division III. One additional member shall serve as a nonvoting secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.8-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.9 Soccer Rules Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Four members shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor;

~~(b) Within each division~~ **Division II and III**, one-half of the members shall represent men's soccer interests, and one-half of the members shall represent women's soccer interests; and

[21.3.9-(c) unchanged.]

21.3.10 Softball Rules Committee, Women's. The Women's Softball Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Four members shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.10-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.11 Swimming and Diving Rules Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

~~(a) Four members shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be a secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.11-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.12 Track and Field Rules Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) Four members ~~shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be a secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.12-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.13 Volleyball Rules Committee, Women's. The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) Four members ~~shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and one additional member shall serve as a nonvoting secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.13-(b) unchanged.]

21.3.14 Wrestling Rules Committee, Men's. The Men's Wrestling Rules Committee shall consist of nine members and shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) Four members ~~shall be from Division I, two members~~ shall be from Division II, ~~two~~ **four** members shall be from Division III and an additional member shall be a secretary-rules editor; and

[21.3.14-(b) unchanged.]

D. Bylaws: Amend 21.4, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.4 Common Committees -- Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities.

21.4.1 Selection, Composition, Duties, Term of Office and Operation.

21.4.1.1 Method of Selection. Each division's governance structure shall appoint members to serve on the committees with playing rules and championships administration responsibilities. The **Division II and Division III** Playing Rules Oversight Panel shall ~~oversee~~ **provide input on** the selection process of secretary-rules editors ~~and approve the selections for those positions~~. The secretary-rules editor ~~may be reappointed but is limited to a term not to exceed eight years in length and~~ shall be a nonvoting member of the committee. The membership of each committee shall include representatives from each of the Association's membership divisions.

~~21.4.1.1.1 Waiver -- Secretary-Rules Editor Term Limit. Due to extenuating circumstances, the Playing Rules Oversight Panel may waive the secretary-rules editor's eight-year term limit; however, the term shall not be extended by more than four additional years.~~

[21.4.1.2 through 21.4.1.4 unchanged.]

21.4.1.5 Duties.

21.4.1.5.1 Rules of Play. ~~Subject to the final authority of the Playing Rules Oversight Panel, e~~Each committee shall establish and maintain rules of play in its sport consistent with the sound traditions of the sport and of such character as to ensure good sportsmanship and safe participation by the competitors. **In Division II and Division III, each committee's actions shall be subject to the final authority of the Division II and Division III Playing Rules Oversight Panel.** Each committee shall have the authority to permit rules experimentation in the nontraditional/nonchampionship season ~~without the Playing Rules Oversight Panel approval~~. **For Division II and Division III, E**xperimentation in the regular season shall be subject to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel review.

[21.4.1.5.2 through 21.4.1.5.4 unchanged.]

[21.4.1.6 unchanged.]

[21.4.2 through 21.4.8 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Championships Committee).

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

Budget Impact: TBD pending approval of the committee structure and meeting cadence/format.

Additional Information:

Given that Division I is revising its governance structure, including how playing rules will be administered, Divisions II and III are required to establish their own playing rules structures. Playing rules currently are managed Association-

wide through the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) that includes representatives from all three divisions and provides instances in which playing rules can be federated if desired. The structure in the Attachment outlines a Playing Rules Oversight Panel for Divisions II and III as well as rules committees by sport for both divisions, including composition requirements and duties. The new structure maintains the ability for the divisions to federate a playing rule and the current role of the Division III Management Council in the playing rules process.

Modifications of Wording Adopted by the NCAA Division III Management Council

Pursuant to NCAA Division III Bylaw 9.4.1.1.1, the NCAA Division III Management Council, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, has determined that the following proposals are consistent with the intent of the membership in adopting the original legislation and that sufficient documentation and testimony exists to establish clearly that the original wording of the legislation was inconsistent with that intent. These actions will be referenced in the report of this Official Convention Notice during the 2026 Division III business session. Approval of this Official Notice will constitute ratification of these actions and incorporation in the 2026-27 NCAA Division III Manual. If a delegate objects to ratification of a particular amendment, that objection should be raised at the time of the report. (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 then will decide by majority vote of the eligible voters whether to ratify that amendment.

There are no modifications of wording submitted for approval during the 2026 NCAA Convention.

Playing Rules Exemptions

Per Bylaw 17.33 Division III member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules. However, Division III member institutions may be exempt from applying playing rules if the Division III Management Council determines the rule(s) places an unreasonable financial burden on Division III institutions or is otherwise incompatible with Division III philosophical principles. Management Council may not exempt institutions from following a rule if such would create an unsafe environment for student-athletes.

If Management Council exercises its authority per Bylaw 17.33 that exemption is subject to ratification by the Division III membership per Bylaw 21.11.3(k)(3).

On October 21, 2025, Management Council approved the exemption of the following playing rule:

Management Council exempted the Division III membership from following NCAA Women's Lacrosse Playing Rule 3-7, which requires that all officials utilize headsets during games to facilitate improved communication and game management.

Effective 2027 season

Approval of the exemption results in the playing rule being permissive. (i.e. Women's lacrosse officials will be permitted to use headsets but it will not be mandatory.)

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Convention Voting Procedures

The following terms and procedures involved in voting at NCAA Conventions have been reviewed by the Association's parliamentarian.

Significant Terms

1. **Vote Announcement** - After a paddle, roll call or secret ballot vote, the chair announces the vote and states whether the motion passed or failed.
2. **Retake a Vote** - A retake occurs when a paddle vote is taken again or when a paddle vote is counted. A retake may occur before the statement of the next question. After the statement of the next question, a motion to reconsider must be used to retake a vote. During a retake, voters may change their votes and new eligible voters may participate. A retake motion would be considered dilatory and, therefore, denied after a roll call vote and out of order after a secret-ballot vote unless it is clear that the question was misunderstood or that fraud had occurred.
3. **Change a Vote** - In a paddle vote, a vote may be changed if a retake occurs or by rising for that purpose before the result is announced by the chair. After the announcement of the vote, but before the next question is stated, a change may be made only by permission of the assembly by a majority vote after a nondebatable motion. In a roll call vote, a change may occur before closing the polls or the polls may be reopened to change a vote before the statement of the next question. In a secret-ballot vote, no change may be made once the ballot is cast. After the statement of the next question following a roll call vote and after a vote is cast in a secret ballot, a vote change can occur only through a successful motion to reconsider.
4. **Recount a Vote** - This applies only to a secret-ballot vote. The ballots simply are counted again as cast and can be ordered only by a majority vote of the assembly.
5. **Closing the Polls** - For roll call and secret-ballot votes, the polls are opened when the chair calls for the vote. When the chair has ascertained that all who so desire have voted or have changed their votes, the chair will state that the polls are closed. If there is disagreement on closing the polls, they may be closed by a two-thirds vote on a nondebatable motion to do so. Once the polls are closed, the polls may be reopened before the statement of the next question by majority vote on a nondebatable motion to do so. Once the polls are closed, however, the chair will move to the next item on the agenda.
6. **Statement of Next Question** - When a new motion is made and seconded, the chair will announce that "The motion before you is ... Is there any discussion?" This is the statement of the next question and ends the opportunity to retake a vote or reopen the polls in regard to the preceding question.

Voting Procedures

1. **Paddle Voting**
 - a. The chair calls for a vote by paddles and determines the result by sound or sight from the dais.
 - b. The chair may retake the vote if there is doubt.
 - c. The chair must have the vote counted if requested by a voting delegate. The chair also may choose to retake a paddle vote and have it counted by hand or by the wireless voting system.
 - d. During a retake, new voters may participate, or votes may be changed. Vote changes also may occur before the result is announced by the chair.
 - e. A retake will not be permitted after the next question has been stated. A request to retake a counted vote will be regarded as dilatory by the chair and will not be allowed.
2. **Roll Call Voting (by Wireless or Online Voting System)**
 - a. A roll call vote may be designated by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council or ordered by a majority of the voters, following a nondebatable motion to vote in that manner. If both a secret-ballot and a roll-call vote are moved, the assembly votes first on whether or not to vote by roll call. A motion to conduct a secret ballot on an issue designated for roll call by the Presidents Councils will be considered out of order.
 - b. Once ordered, the chair shall call for a roll call vote by use of wireless voting system.
 - c. The chair shall determine if everyone who wishes to have voted, or if anyone wishes to change a vote. When it appears that all ballots have been cast, the chair shall state that polls are closed.

- d. The chair will move to the next available item on the agenda while votes are being tallied. No new voters, changes or corrections to the prior question are permitted unless the polls are reopened, and such a motion will be out of order after the next question is stated by the chair. Once the new question is stated by the chair, the only way to return to any foregoing question is by reconsideration, and only one motion for reconsideration of a given item is permitted.
 - e. Abstentions will not be counted in the determination of a majority.
- 3. Ordinary Voting (by Wireless or Online Voting System)**
- a. An electronic vote may be designated by the Presidents Council or ordered by a majority of the voters, after a nondebatable motion to vote in that manner.
 - b. Once ordered, the chair shall call for an electronic vote by use of the wireless voting system.
 - c. The chair shall determine if everyone who wishes to have voted, or if anyone wishes to change a vote. When it appears that all ballots have been cast, the chair shall state that the polls are closed.
 - d. The chair will move to the next available item on the agenda while votes are being tallied. No new voters, changes or corrections to the prior question are permitted unless the polls are reopened, and such a motion will be out of order after the next question is stated by the chair. Once the new question is stated by the chair, the only way to return to any foregoing question is by reconsideration, and only one motion for reconsideration of a given item is permitted.
 - e. Abstentions will not be counted in the total for determination of a majority.
- 4. Ballot Voting (Secret Ballot)**
- a. A secret ballot may be ordered by the assembly before, during or after any ordinary vote (but before the next question is stated) by a majority vote on a nondebatable motion to do so.
 - b. Once ordered, the chair shall ask for the vote by wireless voting system. Votes will be tallied electronically, but only a summary printout of results will be reported.
 - c. After the chair determines that all who wish to vote have voted, the polls shall be closed. A vote change shall not be permitted once the vote is cast.
 - d. The chair will move to the next available item on the agenda while votes are being tallied. Once the next question is stated by the chair, the polls may not be reopened for a new vote on the prior issue.
 - e. Abstentions will not be counted in the total for determination of a majority.

NCAA Governance Structure

Board of Governors

Chair - James Phillips

Div.	Name, Institution	Conference	Term Exp.
FBS	Glenn Boyce, University of Mississippi	Southeastern Conference	August 2026
FBS	Ted Carter, The Ohio State University	Big Ten Conference	August 2027
FBS	Doug Girod, University of Kansas	Big 12 Conference	August 2027
FBS	James Phillips, Atlantic Coast Conference	Atlantic Coast Conference	August 2026
FBS	Josh Whitman, University of Illinois-Urbana*	Big Ten Conference	January 2026
FCS	Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University*	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	January 2026
DI	Morgyn Wynne^*		August 2026
DII	Davaris Cheeks^		August 2026
DII	Colleen Perry Keith, Goldey-Beacom College	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference	January 2026
DII	Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania*	Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference	January 2026
DIII	Greg Ricketts^*		August 2026
DIII	Jim Troha, Juniata College	Landmark Conference	January 2027
DIII	Jason Verdugo, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*	Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	January 2026
independent	Allison Feaster, VP of Team Operations, Boston Celtics		August 2025
Independent	Nadja West, Retired Lt. General		January 2026
Independent	Charlie Baker*		

^ *Former student-athlete*

* *Ex Officio*

NCAA Staff Liaisons:

Terri Gronau, Vice President of Division II Governance and Member Services
 Stephanie Quigg, Managing Director of Governance and Member Services

Division III Presidents Council

Chair - Jim Troha

Name, Institution	Term Exp.
Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University	January 2027
Dale Caldwell, Centenary University	January 2028
Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College	January 2027
Alberto Cardelle, SUNY Oneonta	January 2029
Lillian Case, Juniata College^	January 2026
Hiram Chodosh, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripts Colleges	January 2027
Bryan Coker, Maryville College	January 2027
Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University	January 2027
Suzanne Davis, Greenville University	January 2028
Julia Jasken, McDaniel College	January 2028
Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University	January 2028
Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College^	January 2026
Lake Lambert, Hanover College	January 2029
Doug Lee, Waynesburg University	January 2026
Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury College	January 2028
Steven Mauro, Alfred State College	August 2026
Milton Moreland, Centre College	January 2028
Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle	January 2028
Jim Troha, Juniata College	January 2026
Renee Wachter, University of Wisconsin Superior	January 2027
John Walz, Milwaukee School of Engineering	January 2026
Adam Weinberg, Denison University	January 2028

^ Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

NCAA Staff Liaisons:

Louise McCleary, Vice President of Division III Governance and Member Services

Jeff Myers, Director of Division III Governance and Member Services

Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III Governance and Member Services

Division III Management Council

Chair - Jason Verdugo

Name, Institution	Term Exp.
Luana Batista Soares, University Massachusetts-Boston^	January 2028
Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University	January 2029
Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University	January 2028
Tony Berich, Stockton University	January 2028
Peter Bothner, Nazareth University	January 2027
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	January 2028
Donald Brooks, Macalester College	January 2027
Michael Cohen, King's College (Pennsylvania)^	January 2027
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University	January 2028
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland	January 2028
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University	January 2027
Rob Larson, Luther College	January 2027
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College	January 2028
Myranda Nash, Brevard College	January 2027
Keiko Price, Emory University	January 2026
Meghan Roman, Illinois College	January 2028
Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology	January 2028
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference	January 2029
Anthony Scola, North Park University	January 2029
Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference	January 2028
Jason Verdugo, Wisconsin-Eau Claire	January 2026
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University	January 2026

^ Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

NCAA Staff Liaisons:

Eric Hartung, Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Jeff Myers, Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Ali Spungen, Associate Director of Division III Governance and Member Services

Request for Interpretations

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Official Notice not later than Friday, November 21, 2025. Interpretations related to the proposed legislation in this Official Notice may be requested via electronic mail from Corey Berg at cberg@ncaa.org or Jeff Myers at jmyers@ncaa.org. When submitting such a request, please include the proposal number in question, your institution's name and your title. All resulting interpretations will be distributed to the delegates in time for the conference meetings held in conjunction with the 2026 NCAA Convention.