2027 DIVISION III OFFICIAL NOTICE

121st Annual Convention
January 13-15, 2027
Anaheim, California

DIVISION III LEGISLATION



THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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November 2026

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Official Notice

121st Annual Convention

On behalf of the NCAA Board of Governors, Division II Executive Board, Division III Presidents Council, the Divisions II and III Management Council, we extend a cordial invitation to each NCAA member to be represented at the Association's 121th Annual Convention scheduled January 13 through 15, 2027.

It is our pleasure to issue this Official Notice of the 2027 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 Convention Welcome and Keynote Session Wednesday afternoon.

We hope that each member of the Association will be in attendance at the 2027 NCAA Convention. We look forward to seeing you.

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

Sandra Woodley, President
The University of Texas Permian Basin
Chair, NCAA Division II Executive Board

Marc M. Camille, President
Albertus Magnus College
Chair, NCAA Division III Presidents Council

November 15, 2026

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** For roll-call vote.*

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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.

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. Convention sponsors will receive badges with the gray 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 9, and $450 for all delegates who register before Friday, November 27. Member registration fees on or after November 28 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 2026. 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 2027 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 app will be available a few days prior to the event.

The Convention officially begins at the NCAA Convention Welcome and Keynote Session when it convenes Wednesday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m., Eastern time. Adjournment of the Convention has been scheduled for Friday, January 15.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments to be considered at the 121st 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 2027 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 was germane 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 2027 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 2026 appears in Appendix A. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these amendments.

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. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these amendments.

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 2026 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 2026 appear in Appendix D. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these actions.

Playing Rules Exemptions

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 2026 appear in Appendix E. 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 Keynote Session of the 121st annual Convention will begin at 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, Wednesday, January 13. The opening 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.

The Management Council is authorized to exempt the division from common playing rules that have either a financial or philosophical impact for Division III institutions, per Bylaw 17.32 and Bylaw 21.11.3. The Management Council then submits to the next annual Division III business session the rules that have been exempted under this authorization. The exemptions adopted by the Management Council in 2026 appear in Appendix E. Approval of the Official Convention Notice during the Division III business session constitutes ratification of these actions.

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 Convention Welcome and Keynote Session which begins at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 13. 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 2026. 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 18. 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 20, 2026. 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 121st ANNUAL CONVENTION

Topical Groupings

Proposal Number	*General Topic*
1 through 3	Presidents Council Grouping
4 through 5	General Grouping

121st 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 three proposals that it believes are of particular interest to Division III chancellors or presidents and has included it in the Presidents Council grouping.

Presidents Council Grouping

No. 2027-1 (1-3) PLAYING SEASONS -- FOOTBALL -- SPRING PERIOD PRACTICE MODIFICATIONS

Intent: To amend the spring football practice period as follows: (1) Establish four of the 16 days as "walk-through" days with no pads or helmets; (2) For the remaining 12 days, permit four days of student-athletes wearing helmets only, four days of shoulder pads and helmets, and four days of wearing full pads. (3) Establish a three-day transition period where two days are helmet only and the third day may be shoulder pads and helmets; (4) Define permissible activities based on the protective equipment worn; and (5) Limit full padded practices to no more than 75 minutes of full-contact drills.

Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.11 unchanged.]

17.12 Football.

[17.12.1 through 17.12.6 unchanged.]

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

17.12.7.1 Exception. An institution is permitted to conduct **athletically related activity**~~*conditioning and strength training sessions and limited skill instruction*~~ during a consecutive five-week period outside the playing season as follows:

(a) During this five-week period, the institution may conduct athletically related activity on a maximum of 16 days**,** with not more than four days of athletically related activity in any one week;

(b) Any athletically related activity (per Bylaw 17.02.1.1) shall constitute the use of a day**. Weight training activities, conditioning, speed, strength or agility tests may occur on any of the 16 days**;

(c) ~~*Helmets may be worn on all 16 days. After the fourth practice day, an institution may conduct four of its remaining twelve days in helmets and shoulder pads*~~**Four of the 16 days are limited to walk-through sessions (see Bylaw 17.12.1.2) and may occur on any of the 16 days**;

(d) Three-Day Transition Period. Spring on-field period practice shall begin with a three-day transition period for both first-time participants (e.g., freshmen and transfers) and continuing student-athletes. All student-athletes, including those who join after the first day of practice, are required to undergo a three-day transition period. The three-day transition period shall be conducted as follows:

(1) Institutions may conduct walk-through sessions before the start of the three-day transition period.

(2) During the first two days of the acclimatization period, helmets are the only piece of protective equipment student-athletes may wear during the on-field practice sessions.

(3) During the third day of the acclimatization period, helmets and shoulder pads may be the only piece of protective equipment student-athletes may wear during the on-field practice sessions.

(e) Spring Period Activities After Three-Day Transition Period. The remaining nine days may be conducted as follows:

(1) No more than four days where student-athletes may practice in full pads;

(2) Three additional days where helmets and shoulder pads shall be the only piece of protective equipment student-athletes may wear during the on-field practice sessions; and

(3) Two additional days when helmets are the only piece of protective equipment student-athletes may wear during the on-field practice sessions.

(4) An institution is not required to conduct the maximum number of practice days in any equipment category and may conduct a practice in less equipment in place of a practice otherwise permitted (e.g., helmet only practice for a full padded practice).

(*d* **f**) *During helmet only days, skill instruction shall be limited to passing, catching and kicking-related drills. Such instruction may include offensive and defensive alignments but may not involve contact. The use of footballs and hand shields are permitted. The use of hand shields shall be limited to one-on-one and two-on-two skill instruction;***Institutions may utilize footballs, sleds, hand shields, step-over bags, chutes and similar teaching equipment for any practices that are not walk-through sessions;**

(e **g**) During the helmet and shoulder pads days, *the use of equipment necessary for effective teaching of tackling and blocking is permitted.***practices shall be limited to thud contact (see Bylaw 17.12.1.4).** There shall be no full contact *or 11 v. 11 contact* drills*, and the focus should be on teaching individuals appropriate blocking and tackling*;

(h) During the four days of full pads, full contact drills are permitted (see Bylaw 17.12.1.3). Full padded practices are limited to no more than 75 minutes of full contact drills.

(i) No outside competition is permitted. An institution may conduct an intrasquad scrimmage on one of its four full padded days, but the scrimmage shall not exceed 75 minutes of full contact.

[17.12.7.1-(f) through 17.12.7.1-(g) relettered as 17.12.7.1-(j) through 17.12.7.1-(k), unchanged.]

[17.13 through 17.34 unchanged.]

Source: Alma College, Carnegie Mellon University, Central College (Iowa), Cornell College, Hampden-Sydney College, Illinois College, Kenyon College, Lake Forest College, Luther College, Maryville College (Tennessee), Millsaps College, Muhlenberg College, North Central College, Randolph-Macon College, Rhodes College, Shenandoah University, Trinity University (Texas), Wartburg College, Berry College, Hendrix College, Pacific Lutheran University.

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: This proposal reduces the number of practices with equipment or pads but allows for full 11-on-11 football during the non-traditional season. This aligns football with all other fall and spring sports with non-traditional seasons, allowing them to play their sport as they do on game day. The proposal maintains the limit of four practices per defined week but expands the use of protective equipment. Additionally, it uses established definitions of instructional tempo that already exist within the NCAA By-laws as well as a specified transition period, to reduce inconsistent interpretation of permissible contact. The proposal also permits multi-participant and full-team (11v.11) settings. This supports safer skill development and preparation for the traditional season. With clear definitions of activities, this proposal promotes consistent application and understanding throughout Division III football. It introduces a more flexible and structured model to improve consistency, safety, and student-athlete experience, including structured contact within both individual and team instructional settings. The proposal has an immediate effective date so that programs can implement the new structure this spring.

Budget Impact: None.

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council (Management Council)*: Presidents and Management Councils oppose this proposal as any changes to the Division III playing and practice season structure should be paused pending the current holistic review of the traditional and nontraditional playing seasons by the Division III Analysis Working Group. Furthermore, concerns exist regarding additional burdens for athletic training associated with adding four days of full-contact.

No. 2027-2 (1-5) DIVISION III PRESIDENTS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL -- TERM OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES

Intent: To change the length of the unexpired term which requires a vacancy to be filled from at least two years to at least one year for the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and Management Council to avoid lengthy periods in which an active multi-sport conference is not represented on either Presidents or Management Council.

Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Roll Call]

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.10 unchanged.]

21.10.3.2.3 Vacancies. The Presidents Council, by a majority vote, may fill a vacancy that occurs for a conference slot for the unexpired term provided there remains at least **one***two* year*s* for that term. Members appointed to fill vacancies shall be appointed only for the unexpired portion of that term.

[21.10.3.3 through 21.10.3.5 unchanged.]

[21.11 unchanged.]

21.11.4.1.3 Vacancies. When a vacancy occurs on the council, the council, by a majority vote, may fill the conference slot for the unexpired term provided there remains at least **one**~~two~~ year~~s~~ for that term. Members appointed to fill vacancies shall be appointed only for the unexpired portion of that term.

[21.11.4.2 through 21.11.4.4 unchanged.]

[21.12 through 21.13 unchanged.]

Source: Little East Conference and United East Conference.

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Current legislation notes a vacancy on either Presidents or Management Council can only be filled if at least two years remain on a term. Leaving a conference without representation on either council for 50% of a term without any structured process to ensure conferences have a voice and remain informed is contradictory to the legislation requiring representation of each active multi-sport conference on either council.

Budget Impact: None.

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council (Management Council)*: Presidents and Management Councils support this proposal as it aligns with the intent of the legislation to ensure consistent multisport conference representation in Division III's highest governing bodies.

No. 2027-3 (1-2) ELIGIBILITY -- FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY -- AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY MODEL

Intent: To transition from a season-based eligibility and waiver-driven framework to a continuous, five year age-based eligibility model that mirrors the framework adopted by Division I. The period of eligibility will be triggered by either a student-athlete's initial full-time collegiate enrollment or the start of the regular academic year following their 19th birthday (whichever occurs earlier), operating continuously for five years with limited, clear exceptions (e.g., pregnancy, military service, and religious missions). Furthermore, this proposal intends to establish an equitable implementation timeline providing current student-athletes with eligibility remaining after the 2025-26 academic year the benefit of whichever model is most advantageous, while exploring avenues to protect student-athletes finishing their eligibility during the 2026-27 academic year.

A. Bylaws: Amend 12.1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

12.1.1.4.1 Temporary Certification. If a prospective student-athlete reports for athletics participation before the student's amateur status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, for a maximum period of 45 days. After this period, the student's amateur status must be certified in order to continue to practice or to compete. ~~*See Bylaw 14.2.4.1.1, for determining use of a season.*~~

[12.1.1.4.1.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 13.1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

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 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*~~ **period** of the student-athlete's eligibility. However, the student-athlete's institution must be notified of the recruitment [see Bylaw 14.13.1.2-(c)]. [D]

C. Bylaws: Amend 14.1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14.1 General Eligibility Requirements.

[14.1.1 through 14.1.7 unchanged.]

14.1.8 Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation. A student who has graduated from an NCAA Division III institution may participate as a graduate or postbaccalaureate student at the Division III institution they most recently attended as an undergraduate or another Division III institution, provided:

(a) The student is enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate or graduate degree; **and**

(b) The student**'s** ~~*has*~~ **participation occurs within the applicable** eligibility ~~*remaining*~~ **period set forth in Bylaw 14.2.** ~~*; and*~~

~~*(c) The student's participation occurs within the applicable 10-semester/15-quarter period set forth in Bylaw 14.2.*~~

14.1.8.1 Graduates of a non-NCAA Division III Institution. A student who has graduated from a non-NCAA Division III institution may participate as a graduate or postbaccalaureate student provided they meet the criteria set forth in Bylaw 14.1.8(a) through ~~*(c)*~~ **(b)** and additionally meet the following:

[14.1.8.1-(a) unchanged.]

(b) The student-athlete has ~~*seasons of participation*~~ **eligibility** remaining based on Bylaw ~~*14.2.4.1 (minimum amount of participation)*~~**14.2**, regardless of where (e.g., other NCAA division, NAIA) the participation occurred; and

[14.1.8.1-(c) unchanged.]

[14.1.8.2 unchanged.]

[14.1.9 unchanged.]

14.1.10 Male Practice Player Eligibility. A male student who practices with a women's team is considered to be a student-athlete in that women's sport. The male student-athlete must be certified as eligible under all applicable NCAA eligibility requirements to participate (e.g., the individual must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies, sign a student-athlete statement and drug-testing consent form and ~~*have eligibility remaining under the 10-semester rule*~~ **all participation occurs during the applicable eligibility period**). The male student-athlete is subject to all other NCAA legislated restrictions. See ~~*Bylaw 14.2.4.8 for use of a season of participation and*~~ Bylaw 16.8.1.4 for benefits that a male practice player may receive.

[14.1.10.1 unchanged.]

14.1.11 Recognized Foreign Exchange/Study Abroad Program. A student-athlete who participates in a formal and established educational foreign exchange or study abroad program recognized by the certifying institution's academic authorities shall not be considered a transfer student-athlete upon return to the certifying institution. A student-athlete who also participates (practices or competes) in athletics while participating in the recognized study abroad program ~~*does not use a season of participation nor*~~ is **not** considered to have engaged in impermissible outside competition. All amateurism regulations still apply.

D. Bylaws: Amend 14.2, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14.2 ~~*Seasons of Participation: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule.*~~**Five-Year Period of Eligibility.** ~~*A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate participation in any one sport (see Bylaw 14.2.4.1).*~~**An individual's period of eligibility for practice and competition shall be limited to five academic years. An individual's five-year period of eligibility begins with the earlier of the following:**

(a) The regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year in which the individual enrolls in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.2) in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends a class in that term while enrolled full-time; or

(b) The beginning of the regular academic year immediately after the individual's 19th birthday.

14.2.1 Start of the Five-Year Period and Timing of 19th Birthday. The start to an individual's five-year period of eligibility and the timing of their 19th birthday shall be determined as follows:

(a) Start of the Five-Year Period.

(1) The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after May 1 but before November 1 shall begin with the fall term of that year.

(2) The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after November 1 but before May 1 shall begin with the first regular academic term (e.g., spring semester, winter quarter) that begins on or after January 1.

(b) Timing of 19th Birthday.

For an individual who turns 19 years old on or after September 1 but before January 1, the period of eligibility begins at the start of the subsequent academic year (the fall term that begins in the calendar year following the individual's 19th birthday), unless the individual enrolls full-time in a collegiate institution earlier.

14.2.1.1 Eligibility Following Final Fall Term. If a student-athlete's period of eligibility ends with a fall term, the student-athlete's period of eligibility shall extend through the day before the first day of classes of the following regular semester or quarter.

14.2.1.1.1 Exception -- Eligibility for Postseason Competition. If an NCAA championship or football postseason bowl period begins during a student-athlete's period of eligibility, the student-athlete's period of eligibility is extended through the institution or student-athlete's final competition in the championship or postseason bowl period.

14.2.2 Service Exception to the Five-Year Period of Eligibility. A regular academic term that occurs during time spent in active duty in the armed forces, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government is excepted from the application of the five-year period of eligibility.

~~*14.2.2.1 Use of Semester or Quarter. A student-athlete is considered to have used a semester or quarter under this rule when the student attends any class while officially registered in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign) in a regular term of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, even if the student-athlete drops to part-time status at any time during the term, including their first day of attendance (see Bylaw 14.2.3).*~~

~~*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.~~1~~**2**.**1** Collegiate Enrollment Concurrent with Service Assignment. Any time in which a student-athlete is enrolled for a minimum full-time program of studies as a regular student in a collegiate institution while simultaneously on active duty in the U.S. military, on an official religious mission or with a recognized foreign aid service of the U.S. government shall count against the **individual's period of eligibility** ~~*10 semesters/15 quarters in which the four seasons of participation must be completed.*~~

14.2.~~2~~**3**.~~3~~ Pregnancy Exception **to the Five-Year period of Eligibility.** A member institution may ~~*approve a two-semester or three-quarter extension of this 10-semester/15-quarter*~~ **extend the five-year** period of eligibility for a student-athlete for reasons of pregnancy.

14.2.3.1 Application. The pregnancy exception applies to any condition related to pregnancy (e.g., miscarriage, postpartum depression).

14.2.3.2 Medical Documentation. Contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation, from a physician (medical doctor) who administered care at the time of the pregnancy or related condition shall be submitted to establish the application of the pregnancy exception. For a case involving a psychological or mental illness, the required contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation may be provided by an individual (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist) who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness.

14.2.~~2~~**4** ~~*Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule.*~~**Alternate Academic Calendar.** ~~*A student-athlete shall complete their seasons of participation 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.~~3~~**5** Additional Applications of the ~~*10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule*~~ **Five-Year Eligibility Period**.

14.2.~~3~~**5**.1 Athletics Competition. Even though a student is enrolled for less than a minimum full-time program of studies at a collegiate institution, ~~*a student shall use a semester or quarter under the 10-semester/15-quarter*~~ **their five-year** period of eligibility **begins** if the**y** ~~*individual*~~ represent~~s~~ the institution in intercollegiate athletics.

14.2.~~3~~**5**.2 Nonrecognized College. Enrollment in a postsecondary, noncollegiate institution (e.g., technical school, seminary or business college) in the United States that is not accredited at the college level by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary of the Department of Education and legally authorized to offer at least a one-year program of study creditable toward a degree, constitutes enrollment in the application of the ~~*10-semester/15-quarter*~~ **five-year period of eligibility** rule only if:

[14.2.5.2-(a) through 14.2.5.2-(b) unchanged.]

14.2.~~3~~**5**.3 Joint College/High School Program. A student-athlete's **five-year period of** eligibility ~~*under the 10-semester/15-quarter rule*~~ does not begin while a student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in a joint high school/college academic program for outstanding high school students, in which the courses count as both high school graduation credit and college credit, provided the student has not officially graduated from high school and does not participate in intercollegiate athletics while enrolled in the joint program. **(See Bylaw 14.2 for when an individual's five-year period of eligibility begins.)**

14.2.~~3~~**5**.4 Vocational Program. A student-athlete's **five-year period of** eligibility ~~*under the 10-semester/15-quarter rule*~~ does not begin while the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies as a part of a special vocational program that combines enrollment in regular college courses and participation in vocational training courses, provided the student is not considered to be regularly matriculated by the institution, does not go through the customary registration and testing procedures required of all regular entering students and is not eligible for the institution's extracurricular activities, including athletics. **(See Bylaw 14.2 for when an individual's five-year period of eligibility begins.)**

14.2.6 Waivers. There shall be no waivers of the application of the five-year period of eligibility legislation.

14.2.~~4~~**7**.~~*1.4*~~ Transfer from a Non-Division III Institution.

The ~~*season of participation*~~ **five-year eligibility** 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.

~~*14.2.2.4 Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule Waiver. The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, may approve waivers to the 10-semester/15-quarter rule as it deems appropriate.*~~

~~*14.2.2.4.1 Waiver Criteria. A waiver of the 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility is designed to provide a student-athlete with the opportunity to engage in four seasons of intercollegiate participation within a 10-semester/15-quarter period. This waiver may be granted, based upon objective evidence, for reasons that are beyond the control of the student-athlete and the institution, which deprive the student-athlete of the opportunity to participate for more than one season in their sport within the 10-semester/15-quarter period. The Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement reserves the right to review requests that do not meet the more-than-one-season criteria detailed in this bylaw for extraordinary circumstances or extreme hardship.*~~

~~*14.2.2.4.1.1 Circumstances Beyond Control. Circumstances considered to be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution and do not cause a participation opportunity to be used shall include, but are not limited to, the following:*~~

~~*(a) Situations clearly supported by contemporaneous medical documentation, which states that a student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate competition as a result of incapacitating physical or mental circumstances;*~~

~~*(b) The student-athlete is unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a life-threatening or incapacitating injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, which clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;*~~

~~*(c) Reliance by the student-athlete on written, contemporaneous, clearly erroneous academic advice provided to the student-athlete from a specific academic authority from a collegiate institution regarding the academic status of the student-athlete or prospective student-athlete, which directly leads to that individual not being eligible to participate and, but for the clearly erroneous advice, the student-athlete would have established eligibility for intercollegiate competition;*~~

~~*(d) Natural disaster (e.g., earthquakes, floods); and*~~

~~*(e) Extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in the family) experienced by the student-athlete or by an individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent, which prohibit the student-athlete from participating in intercollegiate athletics. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent.*~~

~~*14.2.2.4.1.2 Circumstances Within Control. Circumstances that are considered to be within the control of the student-athlete or the institution and cause a participation opportunity to be used include, but are not limited to, the following:*~~

~~(a) A student-athlete's decision to attend an institution that does not sponsor their sport or decision not to participate at an institution that does sponsor their sport;~~

~~(b) An inability to participate due to failure to meet institutional/conference or NCAA academic requirements, disciplinary reasons or incarceration culminating in or resulting from a conviction;~~

~~(c) Reliance by a student-athlete on misinformation from a coaching staff member;~~

~~(d) Redshirt year;~~

~~(e) An inability to participate as a result of an academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.02.10) or fulfilling a condition for restoration of eligibility; and~~

~~(f) A student-athlete's lack of understanding regarding the specific starting date of their 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility.~~

~~14.2.2.4.2 Practice While Waiver is Pending. A student-athlete, who has exhausted their 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility, may practice, but not compete, provided the institution has filed a 10-semester/15-quarter extension waiver request with the NCAA national office. If the request is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial and may not continue to practice during the appellate process.~~

~~14.2.2.4.3 Use of Additional Terms. Any additional terms (semesters or quarters) provided as part of a 10-semester/15-quarter rules waiver must be used by the student-athlete in consecutive regular academic terms at the certifying institution.~~

~~14.2.4 Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility.~~

~~14.2.4.1 Minimum Amount of Participation. A season of intercollegiate participation 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 shall not be counted:~~

~~(a) During the traditional segment when a student-athlete participates in a preseason scrimmage or preseason exhibition conducted before the first contest following the student-athlete's initial participation of that academic year at that institution;~~

~~(b) During the traditional segment when a student-athlete participates in an alumni contest conducted before the first regular-season contest following the student-athlete's initial participation of that academic year at that institution;~~

~~(c) When a student-athlete participates (practices or competes) during the nontraditional segment; and~~

~~(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.~~

~~14.2.4.1.3 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.*~~

~~*14.2.4.2 Track and Field and Cross Country. For the purposes of determining a season of intercollegiate participation, 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 participation 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 participation, volleyball and beach volleyball shall be considered separate sports.*~~

~~*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 14.2.4.4.1.*~~

~~*14.2.4.4.1 Activities Constituting Use of Season. An individual shall use a season of participation per Bylaw 14.2.4.4 if the individual engages in activities that meet any of the following criteria:*~~

~~*(a) Any team competition or training in which pay in any form is provided to any of the participants above actual and necessary expenses;*~~

~~*(b) Any individual competition or training in which the individual accepts pay in any form based on their place finish or any competition or training in which the individual accepts pay in any form above actual and necessary expenses;*~~

~~*(c) Any competition pursuant to the signing of a contract with a professional team for athletics participation or entering a professional draft; or*~~

~~*(d) Any competition funded by a representative of an institution's athletics interests that is not open to all participants.*~~

~~*14.2.4.4.1.1 Competition Exceptions. A maximum one-time, one-year exception for participation in the following activities:*~~

~~*(a) Preparatory School Exception. Participation in organized competition while enrolled in a postgraduate college preparatory school shall be exempted; and*~~

~~*(b) Athletics Activity Exception.*~~

~~*(1) Official Pan American, Parapan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships, Olympic and Paralympic training, tryouts and competition or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams);*~~

~~*(2) Officially recognized training and competition directly qualifying participants for final Olympic and Paralympic tryouts or the junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, U20 World Cup, junior national teams); or*~~

~~*(3) Official tryouts and competition involving national teams sponsored by the appropriate national governing bodies of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (or for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation, or for student-athletes competing in a non-Olympic or Paralympic sport, the equivalent organization of that sport) or junior level equivalents (e.g., Youth Olympic, U20 World Cup, junior national teams).*~~

~~*14.2.4.4.1.2 Service Exceptions. Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government and the period between completion of the service commitment and the first opportunity to enroll as a full-time student in a regular academic term is exempt from the application of Bylaw 14.2.4.4.*~~

~~*14.2.4.4.2 Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. Volleyball and beach volleyball are considered the same sport for the purposes of Bylaw 14.2.4.4.*~~

~~*14.2.4.5 Intercollegiate Participation. A student-athlete is considered to have engaged in a season of intercollegiate participation when they compete in an athletics event involving any one of the conditions characterizing intercollegiate participation (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 participation, provided the competition has been certified by the institution per Bylaw 17.33.1 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 participate 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 participation 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 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:*~~

~~*(a) The season-ending injury or illness occurs before the completion of the first half of the traditional playing season in that sport for the season being waived and results in incapacity to compete for the remainder of the traditional playing season. The first half of the traditional playing season is measured by the maximum contest or date of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) limitation in each sport as set forth in Bylaw 17 plus one contest or date of competition (excluding exempted scrimmages, exhibitions and/or joint practices). For cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field, see Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1; and*~~

~~*(b) The season-ending injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not competed in more contests or dates of competition than a number equivalent to one-third of the standard denominator, where the standard denominator is determined by the maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one contest or date of competition (see Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1). For cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field, see Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1. Only competition (excluding exempted scrimmages, exhibition contests and/or joint practices) against outside participants during the traditional playing season, or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has competed. [See Figure 14-1]*~~

~~*14.2.5.1 Administration of Hardship Waiver. The hardship waiver shall be administered by the member conferences of the Association or, in the case of an independent member institution, by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. An institution may appeal a decision by its conference to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.*~~

~~*14.2.5.2 Criteria for Administration of Hardship Waiver. The following criteria are to be employed in the administration of the hardship waiver:*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.1 Nature of Injury/Illness. It is not necessary for the incapacitating, season-ending injury or illness to be the direct result of the student's participation in the institution's organized practice or game competition.*~~

~~*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.*~~

~~*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 First-Half-of-Season Calculation. In determining if an injury or illness occurs in the first half of the traditional season, any computation that results in a fractional portion of a contest or date of competition shall be rounded up to the next whole number. The first contest or date of competition immediately following the*~~

~~*rounded value is the first contest or date of competition in the second half of the season (e.g., 50 percent of a sport with a standard denominator of 11 contests -- 5.5 contests -- shall be considered 6 contests and an injury or illness must have occurred prior to the start of the seventh contest). [See Figure 14-1]*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.4 Reinjury in Second Half of Season. A student-athlete who suffers an injury in the first half of the traditional season, enters competition during the second half of the traditional season and then is unable to participate further as a result of aggravating the original injury does not qualify for the hardship waiver.*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.5 Percent Calculation. The following requirements are to be met in determining the percent calculation under this waiver provision: (Note: The percent calculation requirements set forth in Bylaws 14.2.5 and 14.2.5.2.3 apply only to the waiver provisions of this section and do not apply to the maximum- and minimum-contests requirements in Bylaw 20.)*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.5.1 Denominator in Percent Computation. The denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be based on the maximum contest or date of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) limitation in each sport (as set forth in Bylaw 17) plus one contest or date of competition. For the sport of cross country, the denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be based on the maximum dates of competition (as set forth in Bylaw 17) plus two dates of competition. For indoor and outdoor track and field, the denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be nine for each sport. [See Figure 14-1]*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.5.2 Fraction in Percent Computation. Any computation of the percent limitation that results in a fractional portion of a contest or date of competition shall be rounded to the next whole number (e.g., 33 percent of the standard basketball denominator of 26 -- 8.6 games -- shall be considered nine games).*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.6 Foreign-Tour Competition. A student-athlete who qualifies for a hardship for the previous academic year would not use a season of participation if the student-athlete represents the institution on a certified foreign tour during the summer-vacation period at the conclusion of that academic year.*~~

~~*14.2.5.2.7 Transfer Student-Athletes. The hardship-waiver criteria for a transfer student-athlete who suffers an injury or illness while attending an NCAA Division I or Division II institution may be based on the rule that would be most favorable to the student-athlete (the rule applicable to the division in which the injury or illness occurred or the Division III rule). The application of a particular division's legislation must include all the applicable elements of that division's legislation, as opposed to selected elements of the legislation of each division.*~~

~~*14.2.5.3 Eligibility for Practice. A student-athlete who meets the criteria for receipt of a hardship waiver may practice and/or participate in rehabilitative activities for the remainder of the season and still qualify for a hardship waiver. A student-athlete who competes in that sport during the remainder of the season shall use a season of participation, unless the competition meets an exception per Bylaw 14.2.4.1.1.*~~

~~*14.2.5.4 Practice While Waiver is Pending.*~~

A student-athlete, who has exhausted their seasons of participation but suffered a hardship during one or more of those seasons, may practice, but not compete, provided the institution has filed a hardship waiver request with the conference office or, in the case of an independent member institution, the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. If the request is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial and may not continue to practice during the appellate process.

[14.2.5.4 renumbered as 14.2.3.0, unchanged.]

~~*14.2.6 Season-of-Participation 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 participation by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when they engaged in a limited amount of participation 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 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 occurred while the student-athlete was representing an NCAA member institution;*~~

~~*(b) The participation occurred within 60 days of the date the student-athlete first reported for athletics participation;*~~

~~*(c) The student-athlete did not participate in more than two events or 10 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution's completed or scheduled (not exceeding the maximum limitations in each sport as set forth in Bylaw 17*~~

as set before the first scheduled contest or date of competition) events in their sport. All competition (including a scrimmage) against outside participants shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of events in which the student-athlete participated and the number of completed or scheduled events during that season (traditional and nontraditional) in the sport;

(d) The student-athlete was involved innocently and inadvertently in the erroneous determination or declaration of eligibility, which permitted the student-athlete to participate 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.

14.2.6.1 Percent Calculation. The requirements specified in Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5 shall apply to the 10-percent calculation specified in this waiver.

14.2.6.2 Practice While Waiver is Pending. A student-athlete, who has exhausted their seasons of participation, may practice, but not compete, provided the institution has filed a season-of-participation waiver request. If such a request is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial and may not continue to practice during the appellate process.

14.2.7 Season-of-Participation Waiver -- Participation While Eligible. A student-athlete may be granted an additional season of participation 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. The participation must have occurred under all of the following conditions:

(a) The participation occurred within the first half of the traditional segment; and

(b) The student-athlete did not compete in more contests or dates of competition than a number equivalent to one-third of the standard denominator, where the standard denominator is determined by the maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one contest or date of competition. All competition (including a scrimmage) against outside participants shall be countable under this limitation in calculating the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete participated.

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

14.2.7.1.1 Percent Calculation. The requirements specified in Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5 shall apply to the percent calculation specified in this waiver.

14.2.7.1.2 Extenuating Circumstances. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) The student-athlete is unable to compete as a result of a life-threatening injury or illness suffered by a member of the student-athlete's immediate family, which clearly is supported by contemporaneous medical documentation;

(b) The student-athlete is unable to compete as a result of extreme financial difficulties as a result of a specific event (e.g., layoff, death in family) experienced by the student-athlete or an individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent. These circumstances must be clearly supported by objective documentation (e.g., decree of bankruptcy, proof of termination) and must be beyond the control of the student-athlete or the individual on whom the student-athlete is legally dependent; and

(c) The student-athlete's institution dropped the sport (in which the student has practiced or competed) from its intercollegiate program.

14.2.7.1.3 Review Authority. In cases in which a student-athlete does not meet the extenuating circumstances listed in Bylaw 14.2.7.1.2, the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement shall have authority to review and grant waivers based on additional documented extenuating circumstances.

14.2.7.2 Practice While Waiver is Pending. A student-athlete, who has exhausted their seasons of participation, may practice, but not compete, provided the institution has filed a season-of-participation waiver request. If such a request is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial and may not continue to practice during the appellate process.

E. Bylaws: Amend Figure 14-1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

~~*Figure 14-1 Hardship Waiver Calculations -- Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17 Maximums Sport Standard Denominator*~~

~~FIGURE 14-1~~

~~Hardship Waiver Calculations — Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17~~

~~Sport~~	~~Standard Denominator*~~	~~First Half of Playing Season~~	~~One-third of Contests or Dates of Competition~~
~~Acrobatics and Tumbling~~	~~13~~	~~Before the start of the eighth date of competition.~~	~~5~~
~~Baseball~~	~~41~~	~~Before the start of the 22nd contest.~~	~~14~~
~~Men's Basketball~~	~~26~~	~~Before the start of the 14th contest.~~	~~9~~
~~Women's Basketball~~	~~26~~	~~Before the start of the 14th contest.~~	~~9~~
~~Beach Volleyball~~	~~17~~	~~Before the start of the 10th date of competition.~~	~~6~~
~~Women's Bowling~~	~~33~~	~~Before the start of the 18th date of competition.~~	~~11~~
~~Men's Cross Country~~	~~11#~~	~~Before the start of the seventh date of competition.~~	~~4~~
~~Women's Cross Country~~	~~11#~~	~~Before the start of the seventh date of competition.~~	~~4~~
~~Men's Fencing~~	~~12~~	~~Before the start of the seventh date of competition.~~	~~4~~
~~Women's Fencing~~	~~12~~	~~Before the start of the seventh date of competition.~~	~~4~~
~~Field Hockey~~	~~21~~	~~Before the start of the 12th contest.~~	~~7~~
~~Women's Flag Football~~	~~25~~	~~Before the start of the 13th contest.~~	~~9~~
~~Football~~	~~11~~	~~Before the start of the seventh contest.~~	~~4~~
~~Men's Golf~~	~~21~~	~~Before the start of the 12th date of competition.~~	~~7~~
~~Women's Golf~~	~~21~~	~~Before the start of the 12th date of competition.~~	~~7~~

~~* Maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5 (a) (b).~~
~~# Maximum of nine dates of competition (Bylaw 17) plus two dates of competition pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.~~
~~** See Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.~~

~~*FIGURE 14-1*~~

~~*Hardship Waiver Calculations — Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17*~~

~~*Sport*~~	~~*Standard Denominator**~~	~~*First Half of Playing Season*~~	~~*One-third of Contests or Dates of Competition*~~
~~*Men's Gymnastics*~~	~~*14*~~	~~*Before the start of the eighth date of competition.*~~	~~*5*~~
~~*Women's Gymnastics*~~	~~*14*~~	~~*Before the start of the eighth date of competition.*~~	~~*5*~~
~~*Men's Ice Hockey*~~	~~*26*~~	~~*Before the start of the 14th contest.*~~	~~*9*~~
~~*Women's Ice Hockey*~~	~~*26*~~	~~*Before the start of the 14th contest.*~~	~~*9*~~
~~*Men's Lacrosse*~~	~~*18*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Women's Lacrosse*~~	~~*18*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Men's Rifle*~~	~~*14*~~	~~*Before the start of the eighth date of competition.*~~	~~*5*~~
~~*Women's Rifle*~~	~~*14*~~	~~*Before the start of the eighth date of competition.*~~	~~*5*~~
~~*Women's Rowing*~~	~~*21*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th date of competition*~~	~~*7*~~
~~*Women's Rugby*~~	~~*16*~~	~~*Before the start of the ninth date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Men's Skiing*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Women's Skiing*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Men's Soccer*~~	~~*21*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th contest.*~~	~~*7*~~
~~*Women's Soccer*~~	~~*21*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th contest.*~~	~~*7*~~
~~*Softball*~~	~~*41*~~	~~*Before the start of the 22nd contest.*~~	~~*14*~~

~~** Maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5.(a)-(b).*~~
~~*# Maximum of nine dates of competition (Bylaw 17) plus two dates of competition pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.*~~
~~*** See Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.*~~

~~*FIGURE 14-1*~~

~~*Hardship Waiver Calculations — Standard Denominators Based on Bylaw 17*~~

~~*Sport*~~	~~*Standard Denominator**~~	~~*First Half of Playing Season*~~	~~*One-third of Contests or Dates of Competition*~~
~~*Stunt*~~	~~*14*~~	~~*Before the start of the 8th date of competition.*~~	~~*5*~~
~~*Men's Swimming and Diving*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Women's Swimming and Diving*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Men's Tennis*~~	~~*21*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th date of competition.*~~	~~*7*~~
~~*Women's Tennis*~~	~~*21*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th date of competition.*~~	~~*7*~~
~~*Men's Track and Field (Indoor)*~~	~~*9***~~	~~*Before the start of the sixth date of competition.*~~	~~*3*~~
~~*Men's Track and Field (Outdoor)*~~	~~*9***~~	~~*Before the start of the sixth date of competition.*~~	~~*3*~~
~~*Women's Track and Field (Indoor)*~~	~~*9***~~	~~*Before the start of the sixth date of competition.*~~	~~*3*~~
~~*Women's Track and Field (Outdoor)*~~	~~*9***~~	~~*Before the start of the sixth date of competition.*~~	~~*3*~~
~~*Women's Triathlon*~~	~~*7*~~	~~*Before the start of the fifth date of competition.*~~	~~*3*~~
~~*Men's Volleyball*~~	~~*23*~~	~~*Before the start of the 13th date of competition.*~~	~~*8*~~
~~*Women's Volleyball*~~	~~*23*~~	~~*Before the start of the 13th date of competition.*~~	~~*8*~~
~~*Water Polo*~~	~~*22*~~	~~*Before the start of the 12th date of competition.*~~	~~*8*~~
~~*Men's Wrestling*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~
~~*Women's Wrestling*~~	~~*17*~~	~~*Before the start of the 10th date of competition.*~~	~~*6*~~

~~** Maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5 (a) (b).*~~
~~*# Maximum of nine dates of competition (Bylaw 17) plus two dates of competition pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.*~~
~~*** See Bylaw 14.2.5.2.5.1.*~~

NCAA/11.05.2026/jn

F. Bylaws: Amend 17.1.6, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.1.6.4 Mandatory Medical Examination. Before participation in any practice, competition or out-of-season conditioning activities (or, in Division I, permissible voluntary summer conditioning or individual workouts, or permissible required summer athletic activities in basketball and football), student-athletes who are beginning their ~~*initial season*~~ **period** of eligibility and students who are trying out for a team shall be required to undergo a medical examination or evaluation administered or supervised by a physician (e.g., family physician, team physician). A nurse practitioner whose medical licensure allows for health care practice independent of physician supervision may complete the medical examination without supervision by a physician. The examination or evaluation must be administered within six months before participation in any practice, competition or out-of-season conditioning activities. In following years, an updated history of the student-athlete's medical condition shall be administered by an institutional medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) to determine if additional examinations (e.g., physical, cardiovascular, neurological) are required. The updated history must be administered within six months before the student-athlete's participation in any practice, competition or out-of-season conditioning activities for the applicable academic year.

[17.1.6.4.1 unchanged.]

G. Bylaws: Amend 18.4, as follows:

[Roll Call]

18.4.1 Student-Athlete Eligibility. To be eligible for NCAA championships, a student-athlete shall meet all applicable individual-eligibility requirements set forth in NCAA legislation. The general and academic eligibility requirements are set forth in detail in Bylaw 14.

[18.4.1.1 through 18.4.1.5 unchanged.]

18.4.1.5.1 Penalty -- Banned Drug Classes Other Than Narcotics. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class other than narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors), ~~*shall be charged with the loss of one season of participation in all sports, in addition to the use of a season of participation, pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.4.1, during the same academic year. The student-athlete*~~ shall remain ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition during the time period ending one calendar year (i.e., 365 days) after the collection of the student-athlete's positive drug-test specimen and until they test negative (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors).

[18.4.1.5.1.1 unchanged.]

18.4.1.5.2 Penalty -- Narcotics. A student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, tests positive for use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors) shall be ineligible for competition during 50 percent of a season in all sports (i.e., 50 percent of the Bylaw 17 maximum regular-season contests or dates of competition). The student-athlete shall remain ineligible from the time the institution is notified of the test result until the prescribed penalty is fulfilled and they test negative (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors).

18.4.1.5.2.1 Second Positive Test. If a student-athlete who previously tested positive for the use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics tests positive a second time for the use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics, they ~~*shall be charged with the loss of one additional season of participation in all sports, in addition to the use of a season of participation, pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.4.1, during the same academic year. The student-athlete*~~ shall remain ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition during the time period ending one calendar year (i.e., 365 days) after the collection of their second positive drug-test specimen or until the period of ineligibility for any prior positive drug tests has expired, whichever occurs later. If a student-athlete who previously tested positive for the use of a substance in the banned drug class narcotics tests positive for use of a substance in a banned drug class other than narcotics, they ~~*shall be ineligible for one season of participation in all sports, in addition to the use of a season of participation, pursuant to Bylaw 14.2.4.1, during the same academic year. The student-athlete*~~ shall remain ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition during the time period ending one calendar year (i.e., 365 days) after the collection of the student-athlete's positive drug test specimen and until they test negative (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors).

18.4.1.5.3 Breach of NCAA Drug-Testing Program Protocol. A student-athlete who is in breach of the NCAA drug-testing program protocol (e.g., no show) shall be considered to have tested positive for the use of any drug other than a narcotic.

18.4.1.5.3.1 Tampering With a Drug-Test Sample. A student-athlete who is involved in a case of clearly observed tampering with an NCAA drug test sample (e.g., urine substitution and related methods), as documented per NCAA drug-testing protocol by a drug-testing crew member, shall ~~*be charged with the loss of two seasons of participation in all sports if the season of competition has not yet begun for that student-athlete or the equivalent of two full seasons of participation in all sports if the student-athlete is involved in tampering with a drug-test sample during their season of participation (the remainder of contests in the current season and contests in the following two seasons up to the period of time in the initial season in which the student-athlete was declared ineligible). The student-athlete shall*~~ remain ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition during the time period ending two calendar years (i.e., 730 days) after the student-athlete was involved in the tampering with a drug test sample and until they test negative (in accordance with the testing methods authorized by the Board of Governors.

[18.4.1.5.4 through 18.4.1.5.7 unchanged.]

H. Bylaws: Amend 21.9.5.4, as follows:

[Roll Call]

21.9.5.4 Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.

[21.9.5.4.1 unchanged.]

21.9.5.4.2 Duties. The committee shall have the authority under Bylaw 14.12 to determine all matters pertaining to the policies and procedures for the reinstatement of eligibility of a student-athlete who is ineligible for intercollegiate competition as a result of an NCAA rules violation~~*, and for waivers of legislation that the Management Council or the membership has authorized the committee to grant*~~. The procedures for processing such appeals or requests shall be established by the committee and approved by the Management Council. The committee may reinstate eligibility immediately, may reinstate eligibility at a future time or may determine that eligibility should not be reinstated. The committee also may impose conditions for reinstatement of eligibility.

[21.9.5.4.3 through 21.9.5.4.5 unchanged.]

Source: American Rivers Conference and Ohio Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: Immediate. Applicable to all student-athletes who initially enroll full-time in any collegiate institution during the 2027-28 academic year and thereafter. The age-based model may also be applied to student-athletes: (1) who would have eligibility remaining (seasons and term(s) of full-time enrollment) following the 2026-27 academic year; and (2) who would have exhausted seasons but have term(s) of full-time enrollment remaining following the 2026-27 academic year. Previous rules may be applied to student-athletes who enroll full-time in any regular term before the 2027-28 academic year; however, no waivers will be available for the 2027-28 academic year and thereafter. Additionally, the legislated exceptions to the previous season of participation rules do not apply to participation that occurs during the 2027-28 academic year through the exhaustion of the student-athlete's Division III eligibility.

Rationale: This proposal initiates a necessary legislative debate within Division III following Division I's landmark shift toward a continuous, age-based eligibility framework. Introducing this proposal ensures our division can evaluate how this model aligns with or challenges our distinct divisional philosophy before risking long-term misalignment. Proponents highlight significant operational benefits. A standardized, time-bound framework would drastically reduce administrative burdens on compliance staff by eliminating the tracking of athletic redshirts, delayed enrollment, and complex competition variables. It replaces unpredictable, case-by-case waiver pipelines, such as medical hardships and extensions, with clear, predefined rules that offer upfront transparency for student-athletes. However, a shift of this magnitude introduces challenges that run counter to traditional Division III values. Moving away from a flexible, enrollment-driven framework provides less flexibility for student-athletes who pause their participation to focus on rigorous academics, study abroad opportunities, or financial constraints. Consequently, a continuous "clock" could negatively impact non-traditional, older, or transfer student-athletes whose journeys do not follow a rigid timeline. Given our membership's diverse institutional missions, proactive engagement is essential. This proposal utilizes the legislative comment and amendment periods to provide a structured platform to thoroughly evaluate this model's intersection with the student-athlete experience and the core values of Division III.

Budget Impact: None.

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council*: Presidents Council takes no position on this proposal and, instead, recommends that it be referred to the governance structure. Doing so would provide the opportunity to further assess the implications of the age-based model, explore and evaluate other potential models against the age-based model as well as the existing Division III eligibility model. It also provides time to observe the implications of the legislation adopted by Divisions I and II.

No. 2027-3-1 ELIGIBILITY -- AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY MODEL -- REMOVAL OF 19TH BIRTHDAY

Intent: To amend Proposal No. 2027-3 to provide student-athletes five continuous years of eligibility, up to five years of participation, while using only the current Division III standard of initial collegiate enrollment as the trigger for participation.

Bylaws: Amend 14.2, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14.2 Five-Year Period of Eligibility. An individual's period of eligibility for practice and competition shall be limited to five academic years. An individual's five-year period of eligibility **shall** begin~~s~~ with ~~*the earlier of the following:*~~ **the regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year in which the individual enrolls in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.2) in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends a class in that term while enrolled full-time.**

(a) ~~*The regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year in which the individual enrolls in a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.2) in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends a class in that term while enrolled full-time; or*~~

(b) ~~*The beginning of the regular academic year immediately after the individual's 19th birthday.*~~

14.2.1 Start of the Five-Year Period ~~*and Timing of 19th Birthday*~~. The start to an individual's five-year period of eligibility ~~*and the timing of their 19th birthday*~~ shall be determined as follows:

(a) ~~*Start of the Five-Year Period.*~~ **The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after May 1 but before November 1 shall begin with the fall term of that year**

(1) ~~*The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after May 1 but before November 1 shall begin with the fall term of that year.*~~

(2) ~~*The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after November 1 but before May 1 shall begin with the first regular academic term (e.g., spring semester, winter quarter) that begins on or after January 1.*~~

(b) ~~*Timing of 19th Birthday.*~~ **The period of eligibility of an individual whose initial full-time enrollment occurs on or after November 1 but before May 1 shall begin with the first regular academic term (e.g., spring semester, winter quarter) that begins on or after January 1.**

~~*For an individual who turns 19 years old on or after September 1 but before January 1, the period of eligibility begins at the start of the subsequent academic year (the fall term that begins in the calendar year following the individual's 19th birthday), unless the individual enrolls full-time in a collegiate institution earlier.*~~

[14.2.1 through 14.2.7 renumbered as 14.2.2 through 14.2.8, unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Removing age restrictions provides inclusive participation opportunities through five years to play up to five seasons, beginning with initial full-time collegiate enrollment. This approach ties eligibility to the collegiate experience, reduces waiver requests and administrative burdens, and provides flexibility, certainty, equity and consistency for student-athletes, institutions, administrators and NCAA staff.

Budget Impact: None.

General Grouping

No. 2027-4 (1-1) AMATEURISM -- BEFORE INITIAL, FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- PERMIT USE OF AGENTS

Intent: To permit individuals to enter into an agreement with an agent for the purpose of identifying or securing playing opportunities and receive benefits prior to their initial, full-time collegiate enrollment.

Bylaws: Amend 12, as follows:

[Roll Call]

12 Amateurism.

[12.01 unchanged.]

12.~~02~~**01**.~~1~~**5** **Professional Sports** Agent. A~~n~~ **professional sports** agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly:

[12.01.5-(a) through 12.01.5-(b) unchanged.]

[12.02 unchanged.]

~~*12.02.1.1 Application. An agent may include, but is not limited to, a certified contract advisor, financial advisor, marketing representative, brand manager or anyone who is employed or associated with such persons.*~~

[12.02.2 through 12.02.7 unchanged.]

[12.1 unchanged.]

12.1.4 Amateurism Status -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual's amateur status shall be determined using the following:

12.1.4.1 Permissible Activities -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may engage in the following without jeopardizing their amateur status:

[12.1.4.1-(a) through 12.1.4.1-(d) unchanged.]

(e) Agreement with a Professional Sports Agent. May enter into an agreement with a professional sports agent;

[12.1.4.1-(e) through 12.1.4.1-(r) relettered as 12.1.4.1-(f) through 12.1.4.1-(s), unchanged.]

[12.1.4.1 unchanged.]

12.1.4.2 Nonpermissible Activities -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for participation in a particular sport if the individual engages in any of the following activities:

[12.1.4.2-(a) through 12.1.4.2-(c) unchanged.]

~~*(d) Agreement with an Agent. Enters into an agreement with an agent (see Bylaw 12.3);*~~

[12.1.4.2-(e) through 12.1.4.2-(h) relettered as 12.1.4.2-(d) through 12.1.4.2-(g), unchanged.]

[12.1.5 through 12.1.8 unchanged.]

12.2 Involvement With Professional Teams.

[12.2.1 through 12.2.4 unchanged.]

12.2.4.3 Negotiations. An individual may request information about professional market value without affecting their amateur status. Further, the individual, their legal guardians or the institution's professional sports counseling panel may enter into negotiations with a professional sports organization without the loss of the individual's amateur status. An individual who retains a~~n~~ **professional sports** agent **after initial, full-time enrollment** shall lose **their** amateur status.

[12.2.5 unchanged.]

[12.3 unchanged.]

12.3.1 Professional Sports Agent -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may be represented by an agent for the purposes of marketing their athletics ability or reputation in a sport to secure an opportunity as a professional athlete. Business arrangements related to such representation (e.g., travel expenses associated with meeting) shall be consistent with arrangements between the agent and other prospective or current clients and align with industry standards.

12.3.~~1~~**2 Professional Sports Agent -- After Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment**~~General Rule~~. **After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, a**~~A~~n individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if they have ever agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing their athletics ability or reputation in that sport. Further, an agency contract not specifically limited in writing to a sport or particular sports shall be deemed applicable to all sports, and the individual shall be ineligible to participate in any sport.

12.3.~~1~~**2**.1 Representation for Future Negotiations. An individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.**2**~~1~~ if they enter into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations that are to take place after the individual has completed their eligibility in that sport.

12.3.~~1~~**2**.2 Benefits from Prospective **Professional Sports** Agents. **After initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, a**~~A~~n individual shall be ineligible per Bylaw 12.3.**2**~~1~~ if they (or their relatives or friends) accept transportation or other benefits from **a professional sports agent. The receipt of such expenses constitutes compensation based on athletics skill and is an extra benefit not available to the student body in general.**~~:~~

~~*(a) Any person who represents any individual in the marketing of their athletics ability. The receipt of such expenses constitutes compensation based on athletics skill and is an extra benefit not available to the student body in general; or*~~

~~*(b) An agent, even if the agent has indicated that they have no interest in representing the student-athlete in the marketing of their athletics ability or reputation and does not represent individuals in the student-athlete's sport.*~~

[12.3.2 through 12.3.3 renumbered as 12.3.3 through 12.3.4, unchanged.]

[12.4 through 12.6 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate, applicable to student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/27

Rationale: Currently, Division III permits individuals to try out and participate (practice and compete) with a professional team, as well as sign a contract with that team prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment. However, individuals are prohibited from using an agent to help market their ability or reputation to secure that opportunity as a professional athlete, making Division III the most restrictive division in regard to agents and agent activities. This restriction disadvantages individuals wanting to attend Division III institutions by restricting the avenue to achieve professional participation that is most common. Permitting agent representation prior to full-time collegiate enrollment promotes the opportunities for individuals to make informed decisions about participation with a professional team and promotes alignment with current opportunities for agent representation related to name, image and likeness activities. Finally, it is appropriate to have an immediate effective date as this only applies to individuals prior to full-time collegiate enrollment and would positively impact those individuals enrolling in a Division III institution for the 2027-28 academic year.

Budget Impact: None.

No. 2027-5 (1-4) NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

Intent: In women's flag football, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's flag football 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 9~~5~~**6** national championships. ~~*Fifteen*~~**Sixteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships

and 29 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 (1~~5~~**6**).

Men (4)	**Men and Women (2)**	**Women (~~9~~10)**
Fencing	Rifle	Acrobatics and Tumbling
Gymnastics	Skiing	Beach Volleyball
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Bowling
Water Polo		Fencing
		Flag Football
		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Stunt
		Water Polo
		Wrestling (Divisions I & II eff. 8/1/27)

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 20.02, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

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

(a) Team Sports. ~~*Flag football and r*~~**R**ugby; 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 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
Women's flag football
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 stunt
Women's water polo
Women's wrestling (Divisions I & II, eff. 8/1/27)

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.]

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 21.4.4 unchanged.]

21.4.5 Flag Football Committee, Women's. The Women's Flag Football Committee shall consist of six voting members and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members. The committee shall include at least one voting representative from each division.

[21.4.5 through 21.4.10 renumbered as 21.4.6 through 21.4.11, unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact).

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Flag football has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since January 2026. Data indicated 66 NCAA member institutions sponsored flag football, with 40 member institutions meeting minimum sports-sponsorship requirements. Additionally, more than 120 member institutions have indicated their intent to sponsor flag football during the 2026-27 academic year, with more than 130 member institutions expected to sponsor flag football in the 2027-28 academic year, demonstrating continued growth. Sponsorship of flag football as an NCAA championship is expected to further accelerate interest and participation. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), youth and K-12 participation have grown significantly, with girls' high school flag football experiencing a 60% year-over-year growth. NFHS also reported that in states where girls flag football is sanctioned, there were approximately 69,000 reported high school participants in 2024-25. Flag football attracts a varied recruiting pool of student-athletes and has relatively low barriers to entry, particularly at the youth and high school levels. Flag football will be an Olympic sport in 2028, and a professional league is expected to begin operations soon. The immediate effective date allows for the committee to be established and prepare for a Spring 2028 championship.

Budget Impact: Estimated annual championship costs, including sport committee establishment and championship operations, range from $2.3M to $3.2M depending on final decisions made regarding championship format.

Appendix A

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.

Appendix B

Interpretations to be Included in the 2027-28 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 2027 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 2027-28 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 2027-28 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 2026-27 Division III Manual also is not challenged, it will appear in the 2027-28 Division III Manual as noted.

There are no incorporations of interpretations submitted for approval during the 2027 NCAA Convention.

Appendix C

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 2027 NCAA Division III business session. Approval of the Official Notice will constitute ratification of these actions and incorporation in the 2027-28 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-2027-1 ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES -- RULES COMMITTEES WITHOUT CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES -- MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY RULES COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Intent: To reduce the number of Division II representatives on the Division II and III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee from two to one (and thus reduce the total membership on the committee from nine to eight (six Division III members; one Division II member; one non-voting secretary-rules editor).

Bylaws: Amend 21.3.6, as follows:

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 ~~*nine*~~**eight** members and shall be constituted as follows:

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

(b) Within Division~~s 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.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
The recommendation is based on the challenges with soliciting nominations for the current two Division II spots given how few Division II institutions sponsor ice hockey. While the recommendation does not directly affect Division III representation on the committee, the legislation in question is common and requires approval from both divisions.

NO. NC-2027-2 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- EXEMPTION TO THE CURRENT COMPOSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ASSIGNED COMMITTEES AND NCAA DIVISION III STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Intent: To clarify that an appointed position on a committee does not count for determining area or multi-sport conference representation; and that for the members of the NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee that are not appointed by position (at\u0002large members), there must be at least one representative from each Division III geographic area.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9.5.1, as follows:

21.9.5.1 Composition Requirements. The Strategic Planning and Finance, Championship, Financial Aid, Interpretations and Legislation, Membership and Nominating Committees shall reflect the representation of the division's participating student-athletes, including the following:

(a) Minimum of two, but no more than three members from each Division III geographical area (see Bylaw 21.12 for geographical areas). For Area 4, one must be from a multi-sport conference or institution located in California, Colorado, Oregon, Texas or Washington;

(1) Exceptions. The following committee members neither satisfy the geographic area requirements nor count against the maximum geographic area limitations:

(i) Presidents Council representatives;

(ii) Management Council representatives;

(iii) Student-Athlete Advisory Council representatives; and

(iv) those members appointed due to their position on another committee.

(2) Strategic Planning and Finance Committee shall not be subject to the geographic area requirements set forth in Bylaw 21.9.5.1(a). The committee shall, for the seven non-designated positions, have at least one representative from each Division III geographical area.

(b) One Management Council representative ~~*(the council member does not fulfill the area requirement)*~~;

(c) One Student-Athlete Advisory Council member ~~*(the SAAC member does not fulfill the area requirement)*~~;

(d) Minimum of three females;

(e) Minimum of three males;

(f) Minimum of one conference office staff;

(g) Minimum of one Faculty Athletics Representative;

(h) Minimum of one public institution/multi-sport conference representative; and

(i) No multi-sport conference shall be represented by more than one individual on each committee.

21.9.5.1.1 Exception. The following committee members are exempt from the prohibition on multi-sport conference representation:

(a) Presidents Council representatives;

(b) Management Council representatives;

(c) Student-Athlete Advisory Council representatives; and

(d) those members appointed due to their position on another committee.

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Current legislation prohibits two people from the same conference serving on a committee at the same time. It implies that if the appointed position is from the same conference as an existing committee member, one of the individuals must be removed from the committee. And, legislation requires at least two and not more than three members from each Division III geographic area. Because the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee has six appointed positions, it may be impossible to comply with
this requirement.

NO. NC-2027-3 ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -- COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS -- SPECIAL OPERATING RULES -- EXCEPTIONS TO RESTRICTION ON PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Intent: To permit parties to an NCAA infractions case to confirm, correct or deny information made public and allow the NCAA national office to share information if there is an immediate need to prevent harm or to address a potential ongoing violation. Additionally, to provide notice regarding the potential repercussions for parties who improperly disclose information.

Administrative: Amend 32, as follows:

32.1 Committee on Infractions -- Special Operating Rules.

32.1.1 Public Disclosure. Except as provided in Bylaws 19 and 32, the Committee on Infractions, the Infractions Appeals Committee and the ~~*enforcement staff*~~**NCAA national office** shall not make public disclosures about a pending case until the case has been announced in accordance with the prescribed procedures. An institution and any individual subject to the NCAA bylaws involved in a case, including any representative or **legal** counsel, shall not make public disclosures about the case until a final decision has been announced in accordance with prescribed procedures. **Parties who fail to satisfy public disclosure and confidentiality requirements may be sanctioned by the Committee on Infractions or the Infractions Appeals Committee.**

32.1.1.1 Public Information Exception. If information concerning a case is made public, the parties may confirm, correct or deny the information made public.

32.1.1.2 Immediate Need Exception. The NCAA national office may share information if there is an immediate need to prevent harm or to address a potential ongoing violation.

[32.1.2 through 32.1.4 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Current confidentiality rules preclude public disclosure before a case has been resolved and publicly announced by the Committee on Infractions (COI). The intent of the public disclosure legislation is to protect the integrity of a pending infractions case. Currently, if a party improperly shares information about an ongoing infractions case, the NCAA enforcement staff may allege and the COI may find a violation of the cooperative principle (Bylaw 32.1.3) for failing to protect the integrity of the investigation. The amended legislation provides transparency to parties should they fail to satisfy the public disclosure and confidentiality requirements. Additionally, the two proposed exceptions provide flexibility in those limited circumstances when pending case-related information has been made public and/or the NCAA national office may prevent harm or address ongoing violations. The two proposed exceptions allow reasonable flexibility to share select information earlier in the process.

NO. NC-2027-4 ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED COMPETITION BEFORE INITIAL COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- ELIMINATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR OF RESIDENCE

Intent: To eliminate the academic year of residence as a condition for student-athletes who participate in organized competition after delaying their initial full-time collegiate enrollment.

Bylaws: Amend 14.2.4, as follows:

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~~**1**.

~~*14.2.4.4.1 Academic Year of Residence. An individual who uses a season(s) of participation in a particular sport, per Bylaw 14.2.4.4.2, shall fulfill an academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.02.10) before being eligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition in that sport.*~~

14.2.4.4.~~2~~**1** Activities Constituting Use of Season. An individual shall use a season of participation per Bylaw 14.2.4.4 if the individual engages in activities that meet any of the following criteria:

[14.2.4.4.2-(a) through 14.2.4.4.2-(d) renumbered as 14.2.4.4.1-(a) through 14.2.4.4.1-(d) unchanged.]

14.2.4.4.~~2~~**1**.1 Competition Exceptions. A maximum one-time, one-year exception for participation in the following activities:

[14.2.4.4.2.1-(a) through 14.2.4.4.2.1-(b) renumbered as 14.2.4.4.1.1-(a) through 14.2.4.4.1.1-(b) unchanged.]

14.2.4.4.~~2~~**1**.2 Service Exceptions. Participation in organized competition during time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government and the period between completion of the service commitment and the first opportunity to enroll as a full-time student in a regular academic term is exempt from the application of Bylaw 14.2.4.4.

[14.2.4.4.3 renumbered as 14.2.4.4.2, unchanged.]

[14.2.4.5 through 14.2.4.8 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Loss of a season is an appropriate condition for when an individual delays their initial collegiate enrollment past the grace period because it negates any competitive advantage gained. There is no need to also require the student to serve an academic year of residence during their initial year in Division III, prohibiting them from being immediately eligible for competition.

NO. NC-2027-5 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- VACANCIES -- UNEXPIRED PORTION OF TERM -- EXCEPTION -- ELIGIBILITY FOR REAPPOINTMENT

Intent: To eliminate the restriction on individuals not being eligible for reappointment if they take over the term of a representative from the same conference.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9.1.3, as follows:

21.9.1.3 Vacancies. A representative of a playing conference or member institution whose term of service on a committee has expired shall not be replaced on that committee by another representative of the same conference or institution for a period of at least one year.

[21.9.1.3.1 unchanged.]

21.9.1.3.1.1 Exception -- Eligibility for Reappointment. An individual appointed to complete the unexpired term of a representative from the same conference shall be eligible for reappointment to a full term, provided the individual has served less than two years while filling the vacancy.

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Current legislation prohibits an individual who takes over the term of a representative from the same conference from being eligible for reappointment. By allowing individuals to be eligible for reappointment, it will allow continuity for those committees and improve the nominee pools for immediate vacancies.

NO. NC-2027-6 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- WATER POLO -- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST DATE OF COMPETITION

Intent: In men's water polo, to specify that the first permissible competition is the Friday that is 14 weeks before the start of the NCAA National Collegiate Water Polo Championship. Further, an institution will determine the start of preseason practice using the 16 units in the preseason practice formula before the first permissible contest date.

Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.02 unchanged.]

17.02.12 Fall Preseason Practice Formula -- Sports Other Than Football. In cross country, field hockey, golf, rowing, rugby, soccer, tennis**,** ~~*and*~~ women's volleyball **and men's water polo,** the first permissible date for preseason practice shall be determined by the application of 16 units in the preseason practice formula, as specified in this section.

[17.02.12.1 through 17.02.12.2 unchanged.]

~~*17.02.12.2.5 Men's Water Polo. In the sport of men's water polo, the first permissible date for preseason practice shall be determined by the application of 21 units in the preseason practice formula. The 21 units shall be applied in the same manner as set forth in Bylaw 17.02.12.2-(a)-(e) with the exception that there are 15*~~

~~*remaining units after applying Bylaw 17.02.12.2-(c). The remaining 15 units shall be assigned in the manner described in Bylaw 17.02.12.2-(d) Nos. (1) and (2).*~~

[17.02.13 through 17.02.14 unchanged.]

[17.1 unchanged.]

17.1.2.1 Sports with a Fall NCAA Championship other than football. Except for the sport of football (see Bylaw 17.12) and unless otherwise noted in the applicable sport section, the playing season shall be conducted according to the following:

[17.1.2.1-(a) unchanged.]

(1) First Permissible Practice. A member institution shall not commence practice before the date that permits a maximum of 16 units in the preseason practice formula (see Bylaw 17.02.12) before the first permissible contest date. ~~*This provision is not applicable to men's water polo [see Bylaw 17.29.2-(a)].*~~

(2) First Contest or Date of Competition. September 1 or the preceding Friday if September 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday (see Bylaw 17.1.4.5.1-(d) regarding alumni game). This provision is not applicable to men's water polo [see Bylaw 17.29.3-(a)]. Exempted scrimmages, exhibitions and joint practices [see Bylaw 17.1.4.5.1-(c)] are permitted prior to the first regular-season contest or date of competition.

[17.1.2.1-(a)-(3) unchanged.]

[17.1.2.1-(b) unchanged.]

[17.1.2.2 through 17.1.2.4 unchanged.]

[17.1.3 through 17.1.6 unchanged.]

[17.2 through 17.28 unchanged.]

17.29 Water Polo. Regulations for computing the men's and women's water polo playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1, General Playing-Season Regulations. (See Figure 17-1)

[17.29.1 unchanged.]

17.29.2 Preseason Practice.

(a) Men. ~~*A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in men's water polo before the date that permits a maximum of 21 permissible units in the preseason practice formula (see Bylaw 17.02.12.2.5) before the first scheduled intercollegiate competition.*~~**(See Bylaw 17.1.2.1)**

[17.29.2-(b) unchanged.]

17.29.3 First Date of Competition.

(a) Men. ~~*A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game, exhibition or scrimmage) against outside competition in men's water polo before the first Saturday in September. An institution may conduct exempted exhibitions, scrimmages or joint practice [see Bylaw 17.1.4.5.1-(c) before the first Saturday in September.*~~**An institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) with outside competition in men's water polo prior to the Friday that is 14 weeks before the start of NCAA National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship, except that an alumni scrimmage may be played the weekend before the first permissible date of competition.**

[17.29.3-(b) unchanged.]

[17.29.4 through 17.29.6 unchanged.]

[17.30 through 17.34 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Budget Impact: Will vary based on institution.

Additional Information:

The Division III men's water polo playing and practice season does not use the same practice and competition start dates as other fall sports because as a national collegiate sport, it previously aligned with start dates in Divisions I and II. When the other divisions updated their legislation going into the 2025-26 season, the current Division III men's water polo season became unnecessarily different, even from other Division III fall sports. This proposal will align the first permissible contest date with all other water polo programs. However, instead of matching the first practice opportunity of the other divisions, it will use the 16-unit practice formula that all other Division III fall sports except for football use.

NO. NC-2027-7 AMATEURISM -- PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES -- INCREASING SIZE OF MANUFACTURER LOGOS ON EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS AND APPAREL.

Intent: To increase the manufacturer or distributor logo on official uniforms from 2¼ square inches to four square inches.

Bylaws: Amend 12, as follows:

12 Amateurism.

[12.01 through 12.5 unchanged.]

12.5.3 Use of Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel. A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met: [D]

[12.5.3-(a) unchanged.]

(b) The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed **four** ~~*2 1/4*~~ square inches in area (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo.

12.5.3.1 Laundry Label. If an institution's uniform or any item of apparel worn by a student-athlete in competition contains washing instructions on the outside of the apparel on a patch that also includes the manufacturer's or distributor's logo or trademark, the entire patch must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram) that does not exceed ~~*2 1/4*~~ **four** square inches. [D]

[12.5.3.2 through 12.5.3.4 unchanged.]

[12.6 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Budget Impact: Will vary based on institution.

Additional Information:
With Division I Proposal No. 2025-35 permitting the increase of a manufacturer or distributor logo on official uniforms to four square inches, it may become difficult for Division III institutions to purchase uniforms meeting the 2¼ square inches requirement. This proposal ensures Division III institutions will not be negatively impacted by changes that manufacturers or distributors may elect to make to their normal label or trademark.

NO. NC-2027-8 Division III Committees -- Final Approval for Division III Sport Committees and Divisions II and III Playing Rules Committees.

Intent: To allow the NCAA Division III Championships Committee to have final approval on the slate of nominees for Division III sport committees and Divisions II and III Playing Rules Committees.

Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.6 unchanged.]

21.9 Division III Committees.

21.9.1 Eligibility for Membership.

[21.9.1.1 through 21.9.1.3 unchanged.]

21.9.1.4 Sports Committees -- Selection and Composition.

21.9.1.4.1 Method of Selection. The Division III members of each common committee per Bylaws 21.4 and 21.5, and each Division III sports committee per Bylaw 21.9.6 shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will forward a slate to the Championships Committee for appointment **and final approval**~~, subject to final approval by the Management Council~~.

[21.9.1.4.2 unchanged.]

[21.9.2 through 21.9.6 unchanged.]

[21.10 through 21.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Current legislation requires the Division III Nominating Committee to forward the slate of recommended sport and playing rules committee nominees to the Division III Championships Committee for appointments, subject to final approval of the Division III Management Council. By allowing the Division III Championships Committee to be the final authority on these appointments, it will improve the efficiency of the appointment process due to the high turnover of committee members. In addition, due to the nature of the work on these committees, they often need appointments made in a timely manner.

NO. NC-2027-9 COMMITTEES -- NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP SPORT COMMITTEES -- COMPOSITION REQUIREMENTS

Intent: To modify the composition requirements of National Collegiate Championship sports committees, as specified.

A. 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 unchanged.]

21.4.1.2 Composition Requirements. ~~*For committees that administer national collegiate championships in individual sports, at least 25 percent of the positions on each committee shall be filled by athletics administrators (i.e., 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). For committees that administer national collegiate championships in team sports, at least 50 percent of the positions on each committee shall be filled by athletics administrators. In order for a district to be represented on a committee for which district representation is specified, at least five of its active members shall sponsor the sport on an intercollegiate basis.*~~

(a) Administrator Representation. For committees that administer national collegiate championships in individual sports, at least 25 percent of the positions on each committee shall be filled by athletics administrators (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). For committees that administer national collegiate championships in team sports, at least 50 percent of the positions on each committee shall be filled by athletics administrators.

(b) Division I Autonomy Conference Representation. Each committee shall include a voting member from each Division I autonomy conference that sponsors the sport.

(c) Division I Student-Athlete Representation. Each committee shall include one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member.

(d) Nonvoting Members. Each committee may include additional nonvoting members, as determined by the committee (e.g., coaches association representative, secretary rules editor, national coordinator of officials).

21.4.1.2.1 Exception -- Men's and Women's Skiing Committee. The Men's and Women's Skiing Committee shall be exempt from the composition requirements set forth in Bylaw **21.4.1.2-(a) and Bylaw 21.4.1.2-(b).**

[21.4.1.3 through 21.4.1.6 unchanged.]

21.4.2 Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee, Women's. The Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee shall consist of six **voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members**. The committee shall include at least one **voting** representative from each division.

21.4.3 Beach Volleyball, Women's. The Women's Beach Volleyball Committee shall consist of six **voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members**.

21.4.4 Bowling Committee, Women's. The Women's Bowling Committee shall consist of ~~*seven*~~ **six voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members.**~~*, including the secretary-rules editor, who shall be a non-voting member.*~~

21.4.5 Rifle Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Rifle Committee shall consist of ~~*seven*~~ **six voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members.**~~*, including the secretary-rules editor.*~~

21.4.6 Skiing Committee, Men's and Women's. The Men's and Women's Skiing Committee shall consist of ~~*seven*~~ **six voting** members and **one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members. The composition for the voting memmbers** shall be constituted as follows:

[21.4.6-(a) unchanged.]

(b) One member shall be selected from the West skiing region, one member shall be selected from the Central skiing region, two members shall be selected from the East skiing region~~,~~ **and** two members shall be selected at large ~~*and one member shall be secretary-rules editor*~~; and

(c) Two members shall be coaches who represent downhill alpine skiing and two members shall be coaches who represent nordic skiing. ~~*The secretary-rules editor*~~**A nonvoting member** may be counted toward satisfying this requirement.

21.4.7 Stunt Committee, Women's. The Women's Stunt Committee shall consist of six **voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members**. The committee shall include at least one **voting** representative from each division.

21.4.8 Water Polo Committee, Men's. The Men's Water Polo Committee shall consist of ~~*six*~~ **five voting** members and **one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The composition of voting members** shall be constituted as follows:

[21.4.8-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Two members shall be from the West region; **and**

(c) One member shall be selected at-large~~*.; and*~~

~~*(d) An additional member shall be secretary-rules editor.*~~

21.4.9 Water Polo Committee, Women's. The Women's Water Polo Committee shall consist of ~~*six*~~ **five voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members.**~~*, including the secretary-rules editor.*~~ There shall be three **voting** members from Division I, one **voting** member from Division II~~,~~ **and** one **voting** member from Division III ~~*and one member selected at large*~~.

21.4.10 Wrestling Committee, Women's. The Women's Wrestling Committee shall consist of six **voting** members **and one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member. The committee may include additional nonvoting members.** The committee shall include at least one **voting** representative from each division.

B. Bylaws: Amend 21.5, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

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

21.5.1.1 Method of Selection. Each applicable division's governance structure shall nominate and select the members and chair of each committee.

21.5.1.2 Composition Requirements.

(a) Division I Autonomy Conference Representation. Each committee shall include a voting member from each Division I autonomy conference that sponsors the sport.

(b) Division I Student-Athlete Representation. Each committee shall include one Division I student-athlete as a nonvoting member.

(c) Nonvoting Members. Each committee may include additional nonvoting members, as determined by the committee (e.g., coaches association representative, secretary rules editor, national coordinator of officials).

21.5.1.~~2~~**3** Duties. Each committee shall be responsible for developing policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NCAA championships under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the applicable division's governance structure and the requirements, standards and conditions prescribed by Bylaw 31. Policies and procedures governing the administration of National Collegiate Championships applicable to more than one division also shall be subject to the ratification of the Board of Governors (see Bylaw 31 for committee duties related to the administration of championships).

21.5.1.~~3~~**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.

21.5.1.~~4~~**5** Special Operating Rules. Each committee shall act as one body to determine general policies for the administration of championships.

21.5.1.~~5~~**6** Selection Criteria. Each committee shall have the authority to establish championships selection criteria, including requirements to use regular-season playing rules that conform with rules used in NCAA championships under its jurisdiction in those sports for which the Association does not maintain playing rules.

21.5.1.~~6~~**7** Regional Advisory Committees. Regional advisory committees may be appointed by each championships committee.

21.5.1.~~7~~**8** Operation. The Board of Governors shall ratify policies regarding the length, location and expenses of common committee meetings.

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
The Division I Decision-Making Working Group referred to the Division I Cabinet the review of the composition and areas of authority of National Collegiate Championship sports committees in light of the new Division I governance structure in the fall of 2025. A cross-divisional review of National Collegiate Championship sports committees found the recommended changes to the committees' composition would be beneficial in relation to the new Division I governance structure.

NO. NC-2027-10 ELIGIBILITY -- HARDSHIP WAIVER APPEAL -- PRACTICE WHILE WAIVER IS PENDING

Intent: To (1) permit a student-athlete to continue to practice but not compete, provided the institution has filed a hardship waiver appeal ; and (2) specify that if the hardship waiver appeal is denied by the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial, regardless of whether the institution ultimately appeals the decision.

Bylaws: Amend 14.2, 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 14.2.5.3 unchanged.]

14.2.5.4 Practice While Waiver is Pending.

A student-athlete, who has exhausted their seasons of participation but suffered a hardship during one or more of those seasons, may practice, but not compete, provided the institution has filed a hardship waiver request with the conference office or, in the case of an independent member institution, the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. If the request is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial**.** ~~*and may not continue to practice during the appellate process.*~~

14.2.5.4.1 Practice While Waiver Appeal is Pending. A student-athlete whose institution has appealed a denied hardship waiver request, may practice, but not compete, while the hardship waiver appeal is pending with NCAA staff. If the appeal is denied, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities upon the institution's notification of the denial.

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:

Currently, if a student-athlete has used four seasons of participation and an institution is attempting to restore a season via a hardship waiver, the student-athlete is permitted to practice while the hardship waiver is pending at the conference office. However, if the conference office denies the waiver, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities even though the institution may still file a hardship waiver appeal to NCAA staff. The conference office may only approve hardship waivers that meet the legislation; NCAA staff, per guidance from the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, has flexibility to approve hardship waiver appeals based on the totality of circumstances. Permitting a student-athlete to continue practicing while a hardship waiver appeal is pending with NCAA staff keeps student-athletes involved with their teams and improves the student-athlete experience.

NO. NC-2027-11 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- GENERAL COMMITTEES -- COMMITTEE ON STUDENT-ATHLETE REINSTATEMENT

Intent: To increase size of committee to 10 and update the composition requirements accordingly.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9.5, as follows:

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.6 unchanged.]

21.9 Division III Committees.

[21.9.1 through 21.9.4 unchanged.]

21.9.5 General Committees. To conduct Division III business in an efficient and orderly fashion, the following general committees shall be established and will report directly to the Management Council.

21.9.5.1 Composition Requirements. The Strategic Planning and Finance, Championship, Financial Aid, Interpretations and Legislation, Membership**,** ~~*and*~~ Nominating **and Student-Athlete Reinstatement** Committees shall reflect the representation of the division's participating student-athletes, including the following:

[21.9.5.1-(a) through 21.9.5.1-(i) unchanged.]

[21.9.5.1.1 unchanged.]

[21.9.5.2 through 21.9.5.3 unchanged.]

21.9.5.4 Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.

21.9.5.4.1 Composition. The committee shall ~~*reflect the representation of the division's participating student-athletes and be composed of six members, including one member from the Management Council and one student-athlete who shall be a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee shall include at least two males and at least two females.*~~ **consist of 10 members that meet the criteria listed in Bylaw 21.9.5.1.**

[21.9.5.4.2 unchanged.]

21.9.5.4.3 Quorum. ~~*Three*~~**Five** members present and voting shall constitute a quorum to conduct committee business, it being understood that the chair shall make a special effort to have full committee attendance.

[21.9.5.4.4 through 21.9.5.4.5 unchanged.]

[21.9.5.5 through 21.9.5.11 unchanged.]

[21.9.6 unchanged.]

[21.10 through 21.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
As a result of the federation of the previous association-wide Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement is now a Division III Governance committee. During 2023, the composition of six governance committees integral to the division's overall operations was increased to 10 members to provide consistency in size and regional representation. Increasing the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement would provide consistency in representation with the other governance committees.

NO. NC-2027-12 AMATEURISM -- BEFORE INITIAL, FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- PERMIT ALL PRIZE MONEY

Intent: To permit (1) individuals prior to initial, full-time collegiate enrollment in team sports to accept prize money beyond their actual and necessary expenses; and (2) all individuals to accept any prize money from the sponsor of the event, even if the event is not an open event.

Bylaws: Amend 12, as follows:

12 Amateurism.

[12.01 through 12.1 unchanged.]

12.1.4 Amateurism Status -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual's amateur status shall be determined using the following:

12.1.4.1 Permissible Activities -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may engage in the following without jeopardizing their amateur status:

(a) Prize Money Based on Place Finish. May accept prize money based on the individual's or their team's place finish or performance, or payment given on an incentive basis (e.g., bonus) from a team, from the sponsor of an ~~*open*~~ athletics event, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee or the appropriate national governing body. **For purposes of this bylaw, "sponsor" includes any governing body or other entity that provides prize money based on place finish or performance but does not include member institutions or representatives of athletics interests**~~*If payment is based on a team's performance then the combination of such payments and expenses shall not exceed their actual and necessary expenses*~~;

[12.1.4.1-(b) through 12.1.4.1-(r) unchanged.]

[12.1.4.2 unchanged.]

[12.1.5 through 12.1.8 unchanged.]

[12.2 through 12.6 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate, applicable to student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/27

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Currently, individuals participating in individual sports are permitted to accept all prize money while those participating in team sports are limited to accepting actual and necessary expenses. This change ensures that all individuals are treated equally prior to full-time collegiate enrollment. Additionally, limiting prize money only to

open events is overly restrictive, as the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and other national governing bodies are permitted to provide prize money at invite-only events. Removing this restriction will provide consistency, while continuing to prohibit individuals from accepting prize money from institutions or individuals associated with institutions.

NO. NC-2027-13 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND PROCESS -- CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS -- ORDER AND GROUPING OF LEGISLATION -- CONSENT AGENDA

Intent: To allow the NCAA Division III Presidents Council to create a consent agenda at its annual NCAA Convention meeting for use at the Division III Business Session, if and when appropriate

A. Bylaws: Amend 9, as follows:

9 Legislative Authority and Process.

[9.01 through 9.02 unchanged.]

9.1 Conventions and Meetings.

9.1.1 Operating Procedures.

[9.1.1.1 through 9.1.1.8 unchanged.]

9.1.1.9 Consideration of Legislation. Legislation shall be acted on only at the Convention business sessions in accordance with the constitution and bylaws.

9.1.1.9.1 Order and Grouping of Legislation. In the consideration of groupings of related amendments or amendments-to-amendments, the Convention shall consider first the amendment that contemplates the greatest modification of the present circumstance, followed by the other amendments in the order of decreasing modification. Once an amendment in such a grouping is adopted, those that follow ordinarily will become moot.

9.1.1.9.1.1 Consent Agenda. The Presidents Council may designate two or more legislative amendments to a consent agenda for consideration at the Division III business session. At the business session, any legislative amendment may be removed from the consent agenda upon request of at least one delegate. Any legislative amendments remaining in the consent agenda shall be considered together as a single item.

[9.1.1.9.2 through 9.1.1.9.3 unchanged.]

9.1.1.9.3.1 Division III Convention Proposals. The method of voting on Division III legislative amendments or resolutions ~~*(that are not part of the consent package)*~~ at an NCAA Convention shall be by roll call, unless determined otherwise by the Presidents Council.

[9.2 unchanged.]

9.3 Amendment Process.

[9.3.1 through 9.3.4 unchanged.]

9.3.5 Notification to Membership.

[9.3.5.1 through 9.3.5.2 unchanged.]

9.3.5.3.5 Consent Agenda. At any annual Convention where the Presidents Council establishes a consent agenda, proposed amendments included in the consent agenda will be published prior to the Division III business session.

[9.3.6 through 9.3.12 unchanged.]

[9.4 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.9 unchanged.]

21.10 Presidents Council.

[21.10.1 unchanged.]

21.10.2 Duties and Responsibilities. The Presidents Council shall:

[21.10.2-(a) through 21.10.2-(f) unchanged.]

(g) Establish a consent agenda for consideration during the Convention business session (see Bylaw 9.1.1.9.1.1)

[21.10.2-(g) through 21.10.2-(l) relettered as 21.10.2-(h) through 21.10.2-(m), unchanged.]

[21.10.3 unchanged.]

[21.11 through 21.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None

Additional Information:
This change would provide the governance structure with the option of creating a consent agenda ahead of the Division III Business Session after monitoring membership feedback on the slate of proposals. Further, the decision to create a consent agenda would be made on an annual basis and would not require the governance structure to use one every year.

NO. NC-2027-14 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP -- ALLOW CONFERENCES TO FILL VACANCIES ON SAME COMMITTEE

Intent: To eliminate the restriction on conferences not being immediately eligible for representation on the same committee.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9, as follows:

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.6 unchanged.]

21.9 Division III Committees.

21.9.1 Eligibility for Membership.

[21.9.1.1 through 21.9.1.2 unchanged.]

21.9.1.3 ~~*Vacancies. A representative of a playing conference or member institution whose term of service on a committee has expired shall not be replaced on that committee by another representative of the same conference or institution for a period of at least one year.*~~

21.9.1.3.1 ~~*Unexpired Portion of Term. If an interim vacancy occurs and a committee member has equal to or more than one half of a term remaining, then that committee member may be replaced on that committee by another representative of the same conference or institution only for the remainder of that term.*~~

21.9.1.3.1.1 ~~*Exception -- Eligibility for Reappointment. An individual appointed to complete the unexpired term of a representative from the same conference shall be eligible for reappointment to a full term, provided the individual has served less than two years while filling the vacancy.*~~

[21.9.1.4 unchanged.]

[21.9.2 through 21.9.6 unchanged.]

[21.10 through 21.13 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
Current legislation precludes conferences from being immediately eligible for representation on a committee if the conference has just been represented on the committee. By allowing conferences to be immediately eligible for representation, the nominee pools will improve along with the efficiency of the appointment process. Feedback was obtained prior to making this recommendation, and the concept was supported by the Division III membership.

NO. NC-2027-15 DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS -- SPORTS SPONSORSHIP -- REMOVE PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENT FOR SPORTS SPONSORSHIP FOR ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

Intent: To eliminate the minimum participant requirement in the sport of acrobatics and tumbling.

Bylaws: Amend 20.11, as follows:

20 Division Membership.

[20.01 through 20.10 unchanged.]

20.11 Division III Membership Requirements.

[20.11.1 through 20.11.3 unchanged.]

20.11.4 Sports Sponsorship. A member institution shall sponsor in Division III a minimum number of sports based on institutional enrollment. At least one sport involving an all-male team or a mixed team and at least one sport involving an all-female team shall be conducted in every sport season. All sports used to meet the minimum sports sponsorship requirements must meet the minimum contest and participant requirements per Bylaw 20.11.4.8.

[20.11.4.1 through 20.11.4.7 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
Women's Flag Football	12		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 20.11.4.8.11 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 (Membership Committee).

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: None.

Additional Information:
When acrobatics and tumbling was adopted as an emerging sport, the legislative proposal established sports sponsorship requirements. In all three divisions, acrobatics and tumbling was identified as a team sport; however, both a minimum contest (six) and minimum participant (18) requirement were established for sports sponsorship. The intent of the minimum participant requirement was to ensure student athletes could compete safely and for institutions to build complete rosters. The NCATA Code of Points (which governs the playing rules for acrobatics and tumbling) sets the minimum participants in order to compete in a meet and takes into account health and safety considerations. As the sport has evolved, a bridge program was adopted effectively for the 2024-25 academic year that allows teams with a roster size under 18 to safely compete. The bridge program utilizes a simplified format and skill set to ensure safety, retention and a positive competitive experience for student-athletes and coaches during the implementation and building of an acrobatics and tumbling program and roster. Under the current legislation, teams utilizing the bridge program are not able to meet sports sponsorship requirements despite competing in meets that adhere to the playing rules. All other team sports except for stunt defer to playing rules on the minimum number of participants to complete a contests. Eliminating the requirement from the sports sponsorship legislation will keep acrobatics and tumbling consistent with other team sports and ensure the playing rules govern the minimum participant requirement for any necessary health and safety considerations.

NO. NC-2027-16 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND COMMITTEES -- ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES -- SUNSET AWARDS COMMITTEE

Intent: To sunset the NCAA Awards Committee.

Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21 Committees

[21.02 through 21.2 unchanged.]

~~*21.2.4 Awards Committee.*~~

~~*21.2.4.1 Composition. The Awards 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 awards recipient. Division II and Division III will be represented each by a member of the Management Council. Two positions shall be allocated for men, two allocated for women and five unallocated.*~~

~~*21.2.4.2 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.*~~

~~*21.2.4.3 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.*~~

[21.2.5 through 21.2.6 renumbered as 21.2.4 through 21.2.5, unchanged.]

[21.3 through 21.13 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Board of Governors)

Effective Date: Immediate

Budget Impact: Savings associated with elimination of committee operations.

Additional Information:
The NCAA Board of Governors directed the divisional legislative bodies to sunset the NCAA Awards Committee based on formal membership-wide feedback on Association priorities. Specifically, the membership indicated

interest in exploring other opportunities to celebrate student-athletes and their accomplishments year-round through digital and earned media channels. These communications strategies, in lieu of traditional award programming, will enable the NCAA to reach a broader audience in the celebration student-athletes.

Appendix D

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 2027 Division III business session. Approval of this Official Notice will constitute ratification of these actions and incorporation in the 2027-28 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.

NO. M-2027-1 AMATEURISM -- BEFORE INITIAL, FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- CLARIFY PROFESSIONAL DRAFT OPPORTUNITIES

Intent: To clarify that an individual may enter and/or be drafted by a professional league prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment without jeopardizing their eligibility.

Bylaws: Amend 12, as follows:

12 Amateurism.

[12.01 through 12.1 unchanged.]

12.1.4 Amateurism Status -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual's amateur status shall be determined using the following:

12.1.4.1 Permissible Activities -- Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Before initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may engage in the following without jeopardizing their amateur status:

[12.1.4.1-(a) through 12.1.4.1-(b) unchanged.]

(c) Drafted by Professional Team. May be drafted by a professional team;

[12.1.4.1-(c) through 12.1.4.1-(r) relettered as 12.1.4.1-(d) through 12.1.4.1-(s), unchanged.]

[12.1.4.2 unchanged.]

[12.1.5 through 12.1.8 unchanged.]

12.2 Involvement With Professional Teams.

[12.2.1 through 12.2.3 unchanged.]

12.2.4 Draft and Inquiry **-- After Initial Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment**.

12.2.4.1 Inquiry. An individual may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for a professional-league player draft or request information about the individual's market value without affecting their amateur status.

12.2.4.2 **Professional** Draft ~~*List*~~. ~~*Following initial full-time collegiate enrollment, a*~~**A**n individual **may enter a professional league's draft one time during their collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league.** ~~*loses amateur status in a particular sport when the individual asks to be placed on the draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport, even though:*~~

~~*(a) The individual asks that their name be withdrawn from the draft list before the actual draft;*~~

~~*(b) The individual's name remains on the list but they are not drafted; or*~~

~~*(c) The individual is drafted but does not sign an agreement with any professional athletics team.*~~

~~*12.2.4.2.1 One-Time Draft Exception -- All Sports. An enrolled student-athlete in any sport may enter a professional league's draft one time during their collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league.*~~

12.2.4.2.~~2~~**1** Exception -- International Basketball Draft. An **individual**~~*enrolled student-athlete*~~ in basketball may enter an international basketball draft and may be drafted during their final year of eligibility without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport.

12.2.4.3 Negotiations. An individual may request information about professional market value without affecting their amateur status. Further, the individual, their legal guardians or the institution's professional sports counseling panel may enter into negotiations with a professional sports organization without the loss of the individual's amateur status. An individual who retains an agent shall lose amateur status.

[12.2.5 unchanged.]

[12.3 through 12.6 unchanged.]

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

Effective Date: Immediate, applicable to student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/27

Budget Impact:

Additional Information:
Division III legislation does not explicitly state that an individual, prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, is permitted to enter a professional league's draft and/or be drafted without jeopardizing their intercollegiate eligibility. Specifically, it only speaks to "subsequent to full-time enrollment." However, Division III Proposal 2002-44 confirms it is permissible, so this modification of wording will provide clarification to the membership.

Appendix E

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).

There are no playing rules exemptions submitted for approval during the 2027 NCAA Convention.

Appendix F

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20.12.1	2027-5	21
21	2027-2	3
21.4	2027-5	21
21.4.5 (new)	2027-5	21
21.9.5.4	2027-3	4
21.9.5.4.2	2027-3	4
21.10.3.2.3	2027-2	3
21.11.4.1.3	2027-2	3

Appendix G

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.

Appendix H

NCAA Governance Structure

Board of Governors

Chair - James Phillips

Div.	Name, Institution	Conference	Term Exp.
FBS	Doug Girod, University of Kansas	Big 12 Conference	August 2027
FBS	Peter Mohler, University of Alabama	Southeastern Conference	August 2028
FBS	James Phillips, Atlantic Coast Conference	Atlantic Coast Conference	August 2028
FBS	Darryll Pines, University of Maryland College Park	Big Ten Conference	August 2028
FBS	Josh Whitman,* University of Illinois-Urbana	Big Ten Conference	August 2027
FCS	Tony Allen,* Delaware State University	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference	August 2028
DI	Merideth Page,^* Graduated Division I Student-Athlete		August 2028
DII	Davaris Cheeks,^* Graduated Division II Student-Athlete		August 2027
DII	Bennett Cherry,* California State University, San Marcos	California Collegiate Athletic Association	January 2027
DII	Sandra Woodley, The University of Texas Permian Basin	Lone Star Conference	January 2027
DIII	Rob Larson,* Luther College	American Rivers Conference	January 2027
DIII	Adaobi Nebuwa,^ Graduated Division III Student-Athlete		August 2028
DIII	Jim Troha, Juniata College	Landmark Conference	January 2027
independent	Leah Brown		January 2028
Independent	Allison Feaster, VP of Team Operations, Boston Celtics		August 2027
	Charlie Baker,* NCAA President		

^ Former student-athlete
** Ex Officio*

NCAA Staff Liaisons:

Terri Gronau, Vice President of Division II Governance and Member Services and Primary Liaison to the Board of Governors
Stephanie Quigg, Managing Director of Governance and Member Services

Division III Presidents Council

Chair - Marc Camille

Name, Institution	Term Exp.
Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University	January 2027
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	January 2028
David Bushman, Bridgewater College	January 2029
Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College	January 2027
Alberto Cardelle, SUNY Oneonta	January 2029
Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University	January 2027
Gary Crosby, Saint Elizabeth University	January 2028
Suzanne Davis, Greenville University	January 2028
Connor Doug,^ University of Chicago	January 2028
Katherine Frank, University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic	January 2029
Holly Hall,^ Alma College	January 2027
Julia Jasken, McDaniel College	January 2028
Rob Larson, Luther College	January 2027
Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University	January 2028
Lake Lambert, Hanover College	January 2029
Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury College	January 2028
Andy Manion, Edgewood University	January 2028
Andrew Martin, Washington University in St. Louis	January 2029
Milton Moreland, Centre College	January 2028
Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle	January 2028
Jim Troha, Juniata College	January 2027
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, Managing Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III Governance and Member Services

Division III Management Council

Chair - Rob Larson

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
Myranda Crews, Brevard	January 2027
Suzanne Davis, Greenville	January 2028
Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University	January 2028
Todd Gibson, Grove City	January 2029
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University	January 2027
Rob Larson, Luther College	January 2027
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College	January 2028
Scott Musa, Wilkes	January 2029
Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology	January 2028
Meghan Roman, Illinois College	January 2028
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference	January 2029
Heather Schneider, Adrian	January 2029
Anthony Scola, North Park University	January 2027
Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference	January 2028

^ Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

NCAA Staff Liaisons:

Corey Berg, Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Eric Hartung, Director of Division III Governance and Member Services
Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III Governance and Member Services

Appendix I

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 20, 2026. 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 2027 NCAA Convention.