



DIVISION III
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Division III August Webinar

SAAC, Management and Presidents Council Updates

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Agenda

- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.
 - Working groups.
 - Joint meeting with Management Council.
- Management Council updates.
 - Championships updates.
 - Athletic Trainer Working Group.
 - 2024 Convention
 - Federated playing rules.
 - Mental health hardship waiver.
 - NIL.



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Agenda

- Presidents Council updates.
 - Philosophy Statement review.
 - Congressional engagement.
 - Financial and Risk Management Working Group.
 - Gender Equity progress report.
 - Post-eligibility injury insurance.
 - Sport Science Institute updates.
- Division III 50th anniversary.



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SAAC Updates

- Working group updates.
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ).
 - Mental and Physical Health.
 - Special Olympics.
- Joint meeting with Management Council.
 - Roundtable discussions.
 - Special Olympics activity.

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Championships Updates

- Based on a membership survey the committee identified the following as possible enhancements to Division III championships beginning with the 2024-25 academic year:
 - Increasing per diems.
 - Increasing travel parties.
 - Increasing championship brackets.
 - Providing additional flights to separate higher regionally ranked teams.
- The committee will seek additional membership feedback and continue to evaluate these identified priorities.



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Championship Updates

- The Division III Management Council approved a change to the deadlines for a In-Region Opponent waiver from December 31 to March 1 for fall sports, May 1 for winter sports and July 1 for spring sports.
- The committee continues to review the use of a selection criteria database (e.g., Pairwise) to help with the selection of teams that are not automatic qualifiers.
 - The committee is seeking feedback and considering implementing the database for the 2024-25 academic year.



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Athletic Trainer Working Group

- The council approved the creation of a working group to identify the factors impacting Division III's effort to hire and retain athletic trainers and create recommendations.
- The group conducted its first call July 26. It will begin to review available research and review a possible survey for Division III athletic trainers and administrators to help inform its future discussion.
- SSI coordinated a stakeholder meeting in June with representatives from Divisions I, II and III and leaders from athletic trainer strategic partner organizations.



2024 Convention

- NCAA Convention is Jan. 10-13 in Phoenix.
 - Registration opens on Sept. 12.
- Key in-person programming
 - Wednesday, Jan. 10 – A-wide educational sessions, State of College Sports, award presentation and welcome reception.
 - Thursday, Jan. 11 - A-wide educational sessions, Special Olympics activity, Woman of the Year presentation, delegates reception, and Division III LGBTQ of the Year Award Celebration.
 - Friday, Jan. 12 - Division III Issues Forum, and conference meetings.
 - Saturday, Jan. 13 – Division III Business Session.



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2024 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following three proposals for the 2024 Convention.
 - Revise the Division III Philosophy Statement.
 - Recognize Stunt as an emerging sport for women.
 - Amend sport sponsorship requirements for tennis.
- A membership conference has submitted the following proposal for the 2024 Convention which has not received a co-sponsor:
 - Amendment-to-Amendment deadline.



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Federated Playing Rules

- The Division III Management Council ratified the Division III specific playing rule process. The proposed process operates within the current structure but allows the division to adopt playing rules that are consistent with the division's philosophy. It also involves more Division III perspectives into the process.
- The process has been fully implemented and was used for several sports this summer.



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Mental Health Hardship Waiver

- The Management Council endorsed the criteria for a hardship waiver for a student-athlete unable to compete due to a mental health issue.
- The criteria mirror the current requirements for a hardship waiver while providing flexibility concerning the diagnosis of a mental health condition.
- The council is expected to review a final recommendation regarding implementation of this waiver process at its October meeting.



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Name, Image and Likeness

- The Management Council discussed the top NIL issues facing Division III student-athletes and institutions.
- The council discussed potential student-athlete protections including a public registry of NIL deals, agent certification and financial literacy education for student-athletes.
- The governance structure will continue to discuss potential concepts that should be considered for any potential Division III NIL legislation.



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Philosophy Statement Review

- Presidents Council tasked Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) to review the division's philosophy statement. (Aug. 2022)
- SPFC created a working group that developed a draft statement based on membership feedback. (Aug. 2022 through March 2023)
- The working group used feedback from two membership surveys (November 2022 and May 2023), the 2023 Issues Forum and the governance structure to create its recommendation for SPFC.



Philosophy Statement Review

- The Management Council reviewed and recommended to Presidents Council the revised statement forwarded from SPFC.
- The Presidents Council approved the revised statement for convention legislation at the 2024 Convention.
- The councils believe the revised statement:
 - Reflects Division III's unique values and position in today's intercollegiate athletics landscape.
 - Addresses the balance between the division's philosophy and operating bylaws.



Congressional Engagement

- The NCAA, including Division III institutions and conferences, face significant challenges:
 - Litigation seeking to classify student-athletes as employees of their institutions.
 - Patchwork of state laws (e.g., NIL).
 - Repetitive and consistent lawsuits.



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Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation.
 - NIL protections for student-athletes.
 - Special status of student-athletes: Affirm the current and unique relationship between universities and student-athletes, rather than student-athletes as employees of an institution.
 - Safe harbor from select liability complaints.
 - Codify that federal law preempts state law in certain areas, such as name, image and likeness.



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Congressional Engagement

- Division III Congressional Advocates have been meeting to continue to discuss ways to engage state and federal legislators.
- A toolkit was sent to presidents and chancellors in mid-May to help institutions in these engagement efforts.
- Several bi-partisan legislative drafts have been introduced. Institutions are encouraged to continue to communicate and inform their members of Congress.
- The governance structure will continue to discuss potential concepts that that should be considered for any potential Division III NIL legislation in case Congress doesn't act.



Financial and Risk Management Working Group

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group (Jan. 2023).
- The working group has conducted several meetings and discussed potential areas for further analysis. The working group will likely request approval to engage a third-party vendor to review the division's financial strengths and opportunities. (Oct. 2023)
- The working group will provide an update at the 2024 NCAA Convention.



Gender Equity Progress Report

- The NCAA received a [progress report](#) from an external independent group about the progress the Association has made in implementing the recommendations from Kaplan Phase 1 and 2 [reports](#).
- The councils will discuss this progress report and Association's internal Gender Equity Assessment conducted for DIII Championships at its October meeting.



Post-Eligibility Injury insurance

- The NCAA Board of Governors approved a post-eligibility insurance program that will be available to all student-athletes at all member schools in Divisions I, II and III effective Aug. 1, 2024.
- The coverage will be for two-years after student-athletes complete their college athletics experience and will cover injuries that occur while playing for the schools.
- The premium for this coverage will be paid by the NCAA.
- The NCAA will provide additional information leading up to the implementation date.



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Sport Science Institute

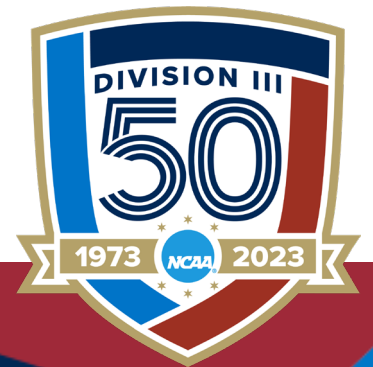
- CSMAS supported the initial draft of the recommended changes to the mental health best practices document proposed by the Mental Health Advisory Group.
- CSMAS continues to consider and discuss potential changes to the testing for cannabis at championships and whether it should remain on the list of banned substances.
- Concussion Safety Advisory group is forwarding recommended updates to the Concussion Safety Protocol Checklist. Changes likely to be effective in January 2024.



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Division III 50th Anniversary

- Division III will launch its campaign to commemorate and celebrate its 50th anniversary.
- The NCAA has created an anniversary logo that was unveiled April 17. [DIII unveils 50th anniversary logo and celebration - NCAA.org](#)
- Throughout the year, the division will celebrate its milestones and hold a division-wide week of service.



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Questions?



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