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# **Division III August Webinar**

## **SAAC, Management and Presidents Councils Updates**

**Louise McCleary, Bill Regan and Ali Spungen**

# Agenda

- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.
  - General updates.
  - Subcommittee updates.
- Management Council updates.
  - Championships updates.
  - 2025 NCAA Convention and legislative proposals.
  - Sports wagering.



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# Agenda

- Management Council updates (cont.)
  - Federated playing rules review.
  - Athletic Trainer Working Group recommendations.
- Presidents Council updates.
  - Division III budget.
  - Transfer year-in-residence.



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# SAAC Updates

SAAC updates.

- Hot topics.
- Congressional engagement.
- Legislation.
- Communication – connect with your national SAAC representative.
- Division III 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – finale.



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# SAAC Updates

- Subcommittee updates.
  - Sports Ethics and Fan Behavior.
  - Mental and Physical Health – #ThriveTogether.
  - Special Olympics.
- Follow along on X @d3saac and Instagram @diiiisaac.



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# Management Council Updates



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# Championship Updates

- The Division III Management Council approved a waiver, for up to two years, that will provide team sport committees with flexibility to ensure top seeded teams do not compete against each other in the preliminary rounds of the championship.
- The Championship Committee is working with team sport committees to clarify “top seeded teams”.
- The waiver is effective beginning with the 2024-25 academic year.



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# Championship Updates

- The committee adopted a proposal to include video streaming as a host requirement for regional and preliminary rounds contests in select team sports effective in 2024-25.
- Minimum standards for video streaming include:
  - > At least one camera that shows the action.
  - > Neutral play-by-play and color commentary.
- Hosts will receive \$1,000 per day to off-set production and announcer costs.



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# Championship Updates

- The NCAA Power Index which is effective beginning with the 2024-25 academic year, has been established for all team sports.
  - A FAQ document, located on the Championships Committee webpage on [ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org), details the established criteria, explanation of criteria and application questions. ([FAQ](#))
  - Individual sport webinar recordings available on [ncaa.org](https://ncaa.org).



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# 2025 Convention

- NCAA Convention: Jan. 14-17, Nashville, TN – registration opens Sept. 10.
- Key in-person programming.
  - **Tuesday, Jan 14** – A-wide education sessions, State of College Sports, welcome and awards presentation.
  - **Wednesday, Jan 15** - A-wide education sessions, Special Olympics activity, Woman of the Year, DIII LGBTQ of the Year Award Celebration.
  - **Thursday, Jan. 16** - Division III Issues Forum & conference meetings.
  - **Friday, Jan. 17** – Division III Business Session.



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# 2025 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following convention proposals:
  - Graduated student enrollment exception.
  - Amend the legislative process.
  - National Collegiate Championship for women's wrestling.
  - Waiver for reclassifying institutions.



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# 2025 Convention Proposals

- The following membership proposals have been submitted for the 2025 Convention:
  - Increase composition of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
  - Multi-sport conference minimum size requirements.
  - Postgraduate student-athlete eligibility requirements.
  - Federated playing rules exemption.
  - Eliminate ice hockey preseason off-ice exception.



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# Sports Wagering

- The Management Council discussed the current sports wagering legislation and received updates from DIII SAAC and DIII Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee as well as membership feedback from spring and summer engagements.
- Both councils considered potential deregulation to permit wagering on professional athletics.
- The councils will continue to discuss at their October meetings.



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# Federated Playing Rules Review

- A review of the Division III Federated Playing Rules process is occurring, and a final report will be given to the council in Oct.
  - Ensure the process is being followed.
  - Assess whether the committee members involved in the process believe they can federate a rule.
  - Determine what is and is not working.
  - Provide recommended changes to the process, if needed.
- Visible action clock for baseball update.



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# Athletic Trainer Working Group

- The councils reviewed and endorsed the revised recommendations from the working group.
- Those recommendations focus on workload, work life balance and communication/culture.
- Final report is expected by the end of August.



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# Presidents Council Updates



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# Division III FY25-FY26 Budget

- Approved the budget for FY25 and FY26 that includes the following highlights:
- Enrichment Fund enhancements.
  - Increase of \$438,500 in new initiatives.
  - Increase in conference grant funding for Tier 1.
  - One-time grant to support officiating.
  - Programing for athletic trainers and sports communication.
  - Live streaming for Regional Rules Seminar (FY25).



# Division III Budget

- Championship Enhancements.
  - \$2.6 million in 2024-25 and \$941K in 2025-26.
  - Expansion of championship brackets.
  - Increase per diem - \$135 (FY25) and \$140 (FY26).
  - Increases for officiating fees.
  - Joint championship for men's basketball in 2026.



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# Division III Budget

- Supplemental Budget Enhancements:
  - Enhancements of \$3.6 million in 2024-25.
  - Stipend for championship host for live streaming.
  - Creation of national platform to house livestreams of preliminary rounds of team championships.
  - Health and Safety grant for institutions.
  - On-line mental health module for head coaches and athletic trainers.
  - Flexibility in establishing brackets to protect highly ranked teams.



# Transfer Eligibility

- The councils continued their discussion of the Division III requirement that all transfer student-athletes, who are academically ineligible, must serve a year in residence before being eligible to compete.
- The councils considered feedback from SAAC, ILC, FAR Advisory Group, the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief and the membership.
- The councils considered alternatives to the academic year-in-residence requirement that included permitting a student-athlete who was academically ineligible at the prior institution to regain their eligibility after one FT term.



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# Questions?



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