



DIVISION III
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Division III August Webinar

SAAC, Management and Presidents Councils Updates

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Agenda

- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Updates.
- Council Updates.
 - Transfer Portal.
 - Playing Rules committee structure.
 - Eligibility.
 - 2025-26 budget.
 - Budget planning.
 - DIII National Office staff.



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SAAC Updates



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SAAC Updates

- Welcoming our new members.
- Hot topics.
- Legislation.
- Communication goal – empowering the student-athlete voice.
 - Connect with your National SAAC representative.



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SAAC Updates

- Subcommittee updates.
 - Mental and Physical Health: Life After Sport.
 - DIII download.
 - Congressional engagement.
- Special Olympics partnership.
- Follow us on X (@d3saac) and Instagram (@diiisaac)



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Council Updates



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Transfer Portal

- The Management Council sponsored a proposal for the 2026 NCAA Convention that would mandate the use of the transfer portal for all Division III institutions effective August 1, 2026.
- If adopted the proposal would:
 - Replace the current “permission to contact” legislation related to four-year college transfer student-athletes with a “notification model”.
 - Specify that an institution must place a student-athlete in the portal within seven days of their request.
 - Maintain the current self-release process for student-athletes transferring to another Division III institution.



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Eligibility

- The Management Council engaged in an open discussion of several elements of the division's eligibility legislation taking into account the division's philosophy statement.
- The topics included the current eligibility standards regarding the use of a season for Division III student-athletes and those transferring into Division III from other divisions and associations.
- The council took no formal action or made any recommendations. It will continue to discuss these issues as it observes the current legal environment, any actions by another division, and the current landscape in higher education.



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Playing Rules Committee Structure

- The Management Council approved a noncontroversial proposal to establish a new playing rules governance structure for Division III.
- The new structure was needed if Division I moves forward with transitioning its playing rules to their sport oversight committees. It is anticipated that Division I will consider this for final action in August.
- The new structure is anticipated to be effective on Sept 1, 2025.



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Playing Rules Committee Structure

- The new structure will have a joint Division III and II Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).
- It will be comprised of 12 members. Six from DIII and six from DII.
 - Division III Championship Committee member.
 - Division III Management Council member.
 - Division III conference commissioner.
 - 3 at-large.



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Playing Rules Committee Structure

- The new structure will have sport playing rules committees.
- The committees will be comprised of 9 members. Four from DIII and four from DII.
 - 4 Division III members.
 - 4 Division II members.
 - 1 secretary rules editor.
- For men's and women's ice hockey and men's and women's lacrosse, Division III will have a greater number of committee members.



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2025-26 Budget

- The councils approved two budget recommendations from the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.
 - Increase championship per diem to \$150 traveling teams/individuals and \$60 for hosts.
 - Provide funding to live stream Division III sessions from the 2026 Regional Rules Seminar.
- The councils also endorsed the division's budgeting guidelines and FY26 strategic implementation plan.



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Budget Planning

- Sept. 2025 begins the two-year budget planning cycle (FY27 and FY28).
- The governance structure will engage with membership groups and committees to identify budget priorities.
- Championship Committee forwards its recommendations to Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.
- SPFC forwards championship, Enrichment Fund and supplemental funding requests to the councils.
- Final budget approved in summer 2026.



Budget Planning

- In 2024, Division III engaged Deloitte to review the division's finances. The review identified financial priorities, opportunities and risks.
- Steps have been taken to implement several of the recommendations for that report:
 - Live streaming.
 - Mental Health First Aid program.
 - Championships senior leadership.
- The Presidents Council Future Subcommittee is tasked with identifying future strategic priorities.



Division III National Office

- With the retirement of two senior VPs and the AMA VP, national office leadership reviewed the current structure of governance and regulatory affairs.
- The result of this review is the merging of the divisional AMA and governance staffs.
- The Eligibility Center and Enforcement will report to a new Senior VP.
- Changes will be effective Sept 1, 2025.



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Questions?



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