



Division III February Webinar

2024 NCAA Convention Recap

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Agenda – Division III Updates

- National SAAC Updates.
- Division III Membership Assessment.
- Media Rights Agreement.
- Men's Ice Hockey Bracket.
- Championship Updates.
- Athletic Trainer Working Group.
- Financial and Risk Management.
- Evaluation of the Enrichment Fund.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- 2024 Legislative Proposals.
- Name, Image, and Likeness.
- Review of Transfer Legislation.



Agenda – Association-wide Updates

Association-wide Updates.

- Congressional Engagement.
- Sport Science Institute Updates.



National SAAC Updates

- SAAC subcommittee updates.
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice.
 - Mental and Physical Health.
 - Special Olympics.
- SAAC chair casts first-ever SAAC vote at 2024 Business Session.
- SAAC leadership updates.
- Congressional engagement efforts.
- Division III Week - April 1-7.



National SAAC Updates

- Search for new Division III former student-athlete representative to the NCAA Board of Governors.
 - Current Division III representative term ends August 1.
 - Application information will be sent on Mon., Feb. 12.
 - Application closes Friday, March 15.
 - Please share correspondence with student-athletes, who have graduated within the last four years.
 - Current undergraduate student-athletes are not eligible.



Division III Membership Assessment

- The councils approved a two-year pause of the Division III membership assessment for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.
- The assessment of \$1,100 for institutions and \$450 for Division III conferences will resume for the 2026-27 academic year.
- The two-year pause will help spend down the excess above the mandated reserve and provide some financial relief for Division III institutions and conferences.



ESPN – Media Rights Agreement

- The councils ratified the expenditure of annual production costs of \$270,000 to \$495,000 to produce the Division III women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball semifinals and championship games on ESPN+.
- This additional coverage is part of the new broadcast rights agreement with ESPN.
- The agreement continues to include the Division III football semifinals on ESPN+ and the championship on ESPN University.
- The ESPN contract is in addition to the CBS/Warner Brothers contract and is estimated to provide \$1.2 million in new annual revenue for DIII.



Men's Ice Hockey

- The council's approved the allocation of \$38,000 to \$73,0000 annually to expand the men's ice hockey bracket from 12 to 13 teams.
- This expansion is effective beginning with the 2024 championship.
- The sport surpassed the threshold needed to expand the bracket with 84 team sponsoring the sport in 2022-23.



Championships Updates

- Based on recent survey results, the committee reached consensus on the following items to guide its February conversation regarding possible enhancements to Division III championships:
 - Increasing per diems remain the highest priority.
 - Continue to consider expanding the football bracket.
 - Combine Pools B and C.
 - Maintain capping team sport championships brackets at 64 and maintain the length of the championships to three weeks, except football.
 - Consider alternatives to establishing championship brackets.
 - Providing additional flights to separate higher regionally ranked teams.



Championship Updates

- 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 has received positive feedback from championship managers and sport committees.
 - The committee will continue to engage membership stakeholders.
 - The committee has released an FAQ and educational video to provide education to the membership.
- Proposed implementation date is 2024-25 academic year.



Athletic Trainer Working Group

- A working group has been studying factors impacting Division III's efforts to hire and retain athletic trainers. It will provide final recommendations by summer 2024.
- After reviewing the findings from a membership survey, the working group identified three areas of focus:
 - Workload for athletic trainers (health care delivery models/expectations based on number of student-athlete, teams and venues).
 - Work-life balance (work schedule, team travel, training room hours).
 - Athletics department culture (communication/collaboration, value, compensation).



Financial and Risk Management Working Group

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group. (Jan. 2023)
- The working group will work with a third-party vendor (Deloitte) to identify ways to strengthen financial performance, improve revenue growth, identify financial priorities, threats and recommendations to reduce risk. The timing for the review is:
 - Feb./March – Data collection, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and develop a SWOT analysis.
 - April– Develop potential opportunities and roadmap for implementation.
- Executive summary provided to SPFC in March and the councils in April. Final recommendations by summer 2024.



Evaluation of Enrichment Fund

- An outside vendor, Lewis Rice, was retained to conduct an evaluation of the Division III Enrichment Fund.
- The evaluation will be conducted in three phases. Phase One – Programs, Phase Two – Grants, and Phase Three – Conference Grants.
- The evaluation is underway and is expected to be completed by summer 2024.
- The review will evaluate whether the grants are achieving their intended results and alignment with the division's strategic plan.



Noncontroversial Legislation Cannabinoids

- The Management Council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to remove cannabinoids from the list of NCAA banned-drug classes.
- The noncontroversial proposal will be finalized in April and become effective immediately at that time. It will apply retroactively for the 2023-24 academic year.
- In addition to the legislative proposal, the council stressed the need for educational materials for institutions.



2024 NCAA Convention Legislation

Proposal Number	Proposal	Result	Vote
2024-1-1	Philosophy Stmt. – Undergraduate Experience	Adopted	287-174-5
2024-1-2	Philosophy Stmt. – Financial Aid	Adopted	461-7-1
2024-1 (as amended)	Amend Philosophy Statement	Adopted	412-45-6
2024-2	Amendment-to Amendment period	Adopted	460-3-1
2024-3	Sport Sponsorship - Tennis	Adopted	353-97-15
2024-4	Stunt	Adopted	377-56-34



Name, Image and Likeness

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



Review Transfer Legislation

- The Division III governance structure will begin an internal review of the division's transfer legislation.
- Governance committees will initiate the review in February 2024 and report to the councils in April 2024.
- Any recommendations/actions are expected to be presented to the councils at their summer 2024 meetings.



Women's Wrestling

- The Committee on Women's Athletics advised the Management Council that the number of institutions that sponsored the sport of women's wrestling has exceeded the threshold for a national collegiate championship.
- At its February 2024 meeting, the committee will discuss a potential request for the three divisions to consider 2025 Convention legislation to conduct the championship in the 2025-26 academic year.



Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation that:
 - Governs defined aspects of college sports (e.g., NIL) and preempts state laws.
 - Codifies student-athletes' non-employment status.
 - Provides a safe harbor from future lawsuits.
- Project DI connection.
- Encourage membership to engage federal legislators – email, call, meet and/or invite to campus.



Sport Science Institute

- The Board of Governors approved the second edition of the mental health best practices document proposed by the Mental Health Advisory Group. The document will be published in Feb. with an August 2024 effective date.
- CSMAS is developing a Performance and Training Advisory Group. The working group will begin its work during the 2023-24 academic year and is expected to conduct a Performance Technology Summit.
- CSMAS recommended to the Board of Governors that Phase Two of the current transgender student-athlete participation policy be extended through the 2024-25 academic year.



Questions?

