



DIVISION III
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Division III June Webinar

Division III Analysis Updates

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Agenda

- Rationale for Analysis.
- Initial Process to Identify Tensions.
- Working Group and Consultant.
- Stakeholder Engagements and Membership Survey.
- Identified Tensions and Options.
- Next Steps.
- Questions.



Rationale for Analysis

- In October 2025, the Presidents Council endorsed a focused analysis of the key issues facing the division.
- The analysis will build off the recent reviews (2024) conducted by Deloitte, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- The council noted the analysis should not repeat the work of past reviews.
- The council indicated the analysis outcomes should strengthen the division.



Initial Process to Identify Tensions

- At the 2026 NCAA Convention, over 1,000 delegates, in attendance, participated in roundtable discussions.
- Each delegate had the opportunity to provide responses to the following:
 - What makes the Division III student-athlete experience unique?
 - Identify possible tensions within the area of the Division III student-athlete experience.
 - Identify possible tensions within the area of membership responsibility and oversight.



Initial Process to Identify Tensions

- Key themes:
 - Student first, athlete second. A holistic college experience.
 - Budget pressures.
 - NPI and access to national championships.
 - Eligibility rules.
 - Governance and presidential involvement.



Working Group and Consultants

- After the 2026 Convention, the Presidents Council endorsed the creation of a 19-member working group representative of the division.
 - A solicitation email was sent to the membership and over 100 individuals indicated interest in serving.
- The working group is responsible for the analysis' objectives, conducting research, collecting data, identifying areas for review, engaging the governance structure and membership, and making recommendations for actionable solutions.
- The Presidents Council hired a consultant to assist the working group.



Stakeholder Engagements/Membership Survey

- The consultants have conducted numerous stakeholder engagement interviews (e.g., councils, SAAC, private, public and high resourced institutions, ADRs, ATCs, FARs, SIDs, NADIIAA and DIIICA executive boards).
- In late April, the working group sent a survey to athletics directors and commissioners.
- 60% of athletics directors and approximately 80% of commissioners completed the survey.
- An executive summary of the survey will be released to the membership in early June.



Identified Tensions and Options

- The working group has reviewed stakeholder engagement feedback, data/research and the membership feedback to identify options to mitigate the six identified core tensions (not in priority order).
 - Tension 1: Championship Selection Criteria.
 - Tension 2: Playing Seasons & Resources.
 - Tension 3: Eligibility Evolution.
 - Tension 4: Economic Implications.
 - Tension 5: Membership Standards.
 - Tension 6: Governance Oversight & Presidential Engagement.



Next Steps

- The consultant sent the working group a survey after its May 21 meeting to assist with finalizing the prioritized option list.
- The working group has an in-person meeting on June 16 in Indianapolis.
 - During this meeting, the working group will review the prioritized options and develop recommended pathways that address the root causes of the identified tensions.
- The councils will review the recommendations during their summer meetings.
- The working group will continue to meet leading up to the 2027 Convention. An update will be given during the Issues Forum.



Questions



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