



**DIVISION III**  
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# Division III ADR Webinar

Managing Risk In Athletics for ADRs

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# Agenda

- Introductions.
- Risk Management as a Strategy.
- Student-Athlete Health and Safety Risks.
- Facility Risks.
- NCAA Compliance Risks.
- Checklist.
- NCAA Division III Analysis Update.



# Risk Management as a Strategy

In assessing your AD's strengths, consider:

- Skills as a manager (responding to crisis, issues, problem-solving).
- Skills as a strategist (forward thinking, ability to develop appropriate policies, awareness of potential risks).

Where are your strengths and where can you help?



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# Student-Athlete Health & Safety

- Injury treatment and prevention – Athletic Training & Sports Performance.
- Collaboration between athletic trainers and health services.
- Team culture issues (bullying, hazing, Title IX, mixed gender teams).
- Coaching risks impacting student-athlete health and safety.
- Travel (amount, meals, accommodations, other travel risks).
- Process for reporting concerns.
- Social media harassment.



# Facility & Equipment Risks

- Emergency action plan.
- Evacuation plan.
- Weather monitoring.
- Protective gear, nets, other hazards.
- Travel (outsourced or in-house transportation considerations).
- Signage.



# NCAA & Other Compliance Risks

- Who is your compliance officer? Trained?
- Start of Year/Season Forms – baseline concussion testing, etc.
- Title IX & sexual violence attestation.
- Payment of dues.
- EADA Report & Title IX (benefits & opportunities).
- Adding/dropping sports.
- Financial aid reporting.



# The Checklist

- Comprehensive schedule of NCAA compliance deadlines.
- Athletics department EAP.
- Monthly check with AD on risks.
- Ensure athletics department policies are updated annually and consistent with other student and institutional policies.
- Yearly discussion/review of student-athlete surveys.
- The “walk around”.



# Division III Analysis

- In Oct., the Presidents Council endorsed a focused analysis of the key issues facing the division.
- This analysis will build off the recent reviews conducted by Deloitte (financial), Lewis Rice (programs and initiatives), and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- At the 2026 NCAA Convention, delegates identified qualities that make the Division III student-athlete experience unique and existing tension points.
  - Access to championships.
  - Eligibility rules.
  - Expanded playing and practice seasons.
  - Governance processes.



# Division III Analysis

- Presidents Council endorsed the creation of a 19-member representative working group. It also created a charge for the working group. First videoconference on March 24 and an in-person meeting in mid-April.
- Hired Deloitte to assist the working group's efforts.
- A focus of the working group is stakeholder engagement and membership communication.



# Division III Analysis

- 1 Discuss how to organize around these problems. [January]**
- 2 Identify points of tension that can be address by Division III. [January]**
- 3 Develop solutions. [March to Jan. 2027]**
- 4 Socialize with membership. [March to Jan. 2027]**
- 5 Implement ideas, concepts and new policies. [Jan. 2027 and beyond]**



# Questions?



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