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# **Division III May Webinar**

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

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# Agenda

- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.
  - Working groups.
  - Special Olympics partnership.
  - Congressional engagement.
- Management Council updates.
  - Athletic Trainer Working Group.
  - Federated playing rules.
  - Championships updates.
  - Mental health hardship waiver.



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# Agenda

- Management Council updates.
  - NIL and legislative actions.
- Presidents Council updates.
  - Board of Governors Congressional engagement.
  - Philosophy Statement review.
  - Financial and Risk Management Working Group.
  - Enrichment Fund evaluation.
  - Sport Science Institute updates.
- Division III 50th anniversary.



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# SAAC Updates

- Working group updates.
  - Social Media – follow Division III SAAC.  
 @d3saac and  diiisaac
  - SAAC University – shares mental and physical health resources and also focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion.
  - The committee is in the process of re-evaluating working groups and goals for 2023-24.



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# SAAC Updates

- Special Olympics partnership.
  - Celebrating the 12th year of the partnership.
  - [Report](#) your DIII Special Olympics event.
  - Donated \$10,000 thanks to social media engagement during DIII Week.



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# SAAC Updates

- Congressional engagement and education.
  - Joint townhalls and Student-Athlete Leadership Forum session.
  - Opportunity to learn more about the legal and state threats to collegiate athletics.
  - Call to action.
    - Share your #WhyD3.
    - Talk with SAAC groups, ADs, presidents and chancellors.
    - Stay tuned and informed.



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# Athletic Trainer Working Group

- The council approved the creation of a working group to identify the factors impacting Division III's effort to hire and retain athletic trainers and create recommendations.
- The group will be comprised of Division III athletic trainers, athletic directors, a member of Management Council and a Division III president/chancellor.
- SSI also is coordinating a stake holder meeting, June 2023, with representatives from Divisions I, II and III and leaders from athletic trainer strategic partner organizations.



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# Federated Playing Rules

- The Division III Management Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the legislative requirement that playing rule must be common.
- The council reviewed and provided feedback on an initial Division III specific playing rule process. The proposed process operates within the current structure but adds more Division III perspectives.



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# Championships Updates

- A survey was sent to determine the membership's priority of potential enhancements the Championships Committee is considering for FY25.
- The committee continues to review the use of a selection criteria database (e.g., PairWise) to help with the selection championship brackets.
  - The committee is considering implementing the database for the 2024-25 academic year.



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# Mental Health Hardship Waiver

- The council reviewed initial elements of a process for a hardship waiver for a student-athlete unable to compete due to a mental hardship.
- The council is expected to review a final recommendation at its summer meeting.
- If approved conference commissioners would review and approve the waivers per the guidelines.



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# Blanket Waiver – Full-Time Enrollment

- The council extended the current blanket waiver which permits student-athletes to participate while enrolled part-time, provided the student-athlete meets noted criteria.
- **Only** student-athletes who earned a season-of-participation under pandemic relief during the 2020 spring term and/or 2020-21 academic year *and* who have not previously used any pandemic-related enrollment relief may use the extended relief during the 2023-24 or 2024-25 academic year.



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# Noncontroversial Legislation

- Clarifying when student-athletes can participate in outside competition under the new playing season model.
- Clarifying the counting of days for track and field and swimming and diving under the new playing season model.
- Permitting student-athletes to participate in all-star contests without impacting their eligibility.
- Amending the start and end date for skiing.



# Name, Image and Likeness

- The Management Council approved an [educational resource](#) to guide institutions in their involvement in a student-athlete's Name, Image and Likeness activities. (April 2023)
- Additional resources include:
  - Interim [educational resources and videos](#) and [interim NIL policy](#) located on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).
  - ILC develop a [resource](#) to provide guidance on booster, collectives and institutional involvement with NIL.



# 2024 Convention Legislation

- The Division III Management Council agreed to sponsor convention legislation to add Stunt as an emerging sport for women.
- The council referred a convention proposal to amend the minimum number to participant in the sport of tennis from 6 to 4 to the Membership Committee for further review. Anticipate the council finalizing the legislative proposal during its summer meeting.



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# Congressional Engagement

- The NCAA, including Division III institutions and conferences, faces significant challenges:
  - Litigation seeking to classify student-athletes as employees of their institutions.
  - Patchwork of state laws (e.g., NIL).
  - Repetitive and consistent lawsuits.



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# Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation.
  - NIL protections for student-athletes.
  - Special status of student-athletes: Affirm the current and unique relationship between universities and student-athletes, rather than student-athletes as employees of an institution.
  - Safe harbor from select liability complaints.
  - Codify that federal law preempts state law in certain areas, such as name, image and likeness.



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# Congressional Engagement

- Division III Congressional Advocates have been meeting to assist the Division III Board of Governors representative and to engage the membership and seek feedback on ways to approach Congress.
- Advocates have conducted multiple listening and feedback sessions with the Division III membership.
- Feedback from the sessions was shared with the advocates, councils and the Division III representative to Board of Governors.
- Anticipate a toolkit being sent to presidents and chancellors in early May.



# Philosophy Statement Review

- A working group collected feedback from the membership and provided a draft to SPFC and the councils.
- The councils have provided input and approved the following timeline to finalize any recommendation by their summer meetings:
  - May – draft statement sent to the membership for feedback.
  - June – SPFC will review the working groups' final recommendation.
  - July/August – councils will review the recommended statement for potential legislation for the 2024 convention.



# Financial and Risk Management Working Group

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group comprised of members of the Division III Administrative Committee and membership. Other experts will contribute, as needed.
- The working group will periodically review the division's financial standing within the current landscape of intercollegiate athletics and examine threats, risks, and opportunities to enhance the division. The working group will report to the Presidents Council and work with Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.
- The working group's first meeting is in mid-May.



# Evaluation of Enrichment Fund

- The councils approved the process (scope, schedule and desired outcomes) and estimated cost (\$200,000) for an outside evaluation of the Division III Enrichment fund.
- The evaluation will be used to help inform future programming and budget allocation to programs funded by the Enrichment fund.



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# Sport Science Institute

- The Mental Health Advisory Group recently met to discuss updates to the mental health best practices document. Updates will be reviewed by CSMAS in June.
- Tramadol will be added to list of banned drugs on January 1, 2024. This drug will be added to WADA's list on the same day.
- Anticipate CSMAS to recommend an end to testing for cannabis at NCAA championships during its summer meeting.



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# Division III 50th Anniversary

- Division III will launch its campaign to commemorate and celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The NCAA has created an anniversary logo that was unveiled April 17. [DIII unveils 50th anniversary logo and celebration - NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org/divisioniii/unveils-50th-anniversary-logo-and-celebration)
- The campaign will launch August 6 and run through the 2023-24 academic year.



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# Questions?



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