



DIVISION III
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Division III May Webinar

SAAC, Management and Presidents Councils Updates

Louise McCleary, Bill Regan and Ali Spungen

Agenda

- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Updates
- Council updates
 - Eligibility Pilot Waiver.
 - Sports betting.
 - 2026 Convention Proposals.
 - Playing Rules.
 - Noncontroversial proposals.
 - Coaches Connect Program.
 - Mental Health First Aid.
 - Live Streaming football stipend.
 - Transfer portal.
 - Purchasing Cooperative.
 - Sport Science Institute updates.



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SAAC Updates



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SAAC Updates

2025 SAAC Leadership

Chair:

Lillian Case, Juniata

Landmark Conference

Former field hockey student-athlete

Vice Chair:

Josey Johnson, Otterbein

Ohio Athletic Conference

Cross country and track student-athlete

Communications Director:

Zoey Wexler, Western New Eng.

Conference of New England

Former field hockey student-athlete



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SAAC Updates

- Communication – connect with your National SAAC representative.
- Congressional engagement – [Student-Athlete Advocacy Toolkit](#).
- DIII Week.
- Special Olympics.
- What is SAAC? [Resource](#).



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SAAC Updates

Subcommittee updates:

- Mental and Physical Health.
- Sports Ethics and Fan Behavior.
- Hot Topics.

 To see all of SAAC's great work this year, follow along on Instagram (@diiiisaac) and X (@d3saac).



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Council Updates



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Eligibility Pilot Waiver

- The Presidents Council established a pilot waiver, that is currently open, to provide the opportunity for a Division III student-athlete to continue to participate while enrolled at another institution.
- Key guidelines include: existing relationship between the institutions, student-athlete participated at the Division III institution, the second institution does not sponsor varsity athletics, and the conference has approved the participation.
- The councils will regularly review the waiver outcomes.



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Sports Betting

- The Management Council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation that no longer prohibits Division III student-athletes and administrators to bet on professional athletics beginning with the 2025-26 academic year.
- The proposal is not final until approved by the council in July. Since this is common legislation, all divisions must pass similar legislation.
- The council believes this supports a harm reduction strategy by removing an obstacle for a student-athlete seeking help for a gambling problem without impacting the integrity of intercollegiate contests.



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Sports Betting

- The Management Council also directed the staff to work with Division III committees to develop potential concepts to help implement a harm reduction strategy for student-athletes that gamble on collegiate athletics.
- Concepts could include creating a safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties.
- The council continues to prioritize harm reduction and education as the means to create an environment for a student-athlete to get help for problem gambling.



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2026 Convention Proposals

- The Management Council sponsored the following proposals for the 2026 Convention:
 - **Expenses provided for practice.** The proposal would permit an institution to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.
 - **Flag Football.** The proposal will add flag football as an emerging sport for women. This proposal has an immediate effective date.



Federated Playing Rules

- The Management Council adopted a process to implement the 2025 Convention proposal that permits the council to exempt Division III from a newly adopted common playing rule.
- The process includes a path for the council to review a new playing rule and a separate path for the membership to ask the council to review a playing rule.
- The council can only review new playing rules that have not been implemented and either have a significant financial impact or would negatively impact a Division III principle.



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Noncontroversial Legislation

Management Council approved in concept, the following noncontroversial legislation:

- Review Major Junior ice hockey participation pursuant to the same standards as all other pre-enrollment participation.
- Deregulating several areas of the benefits and support services legislation by defaulting to institutional policy.
- Permit institutions and conferences to pursue partnerships and sponsorships with third parties including professional sports organizations.



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Coaches Connect Program

- The Management Council approved the establishment of a Coaches Connect program for Division III.
- The objective of the program is to enhance the education and engagement of Division III coaches in the work of governance and championships.
- Beginning Fall 2025, representatives from conferences that sponsor the sport, NCAA staff, the sport committee chair and a coaches association representative will meet periodically to discuss current issues in the governance structure.
- The program will start with three sports and will be re-evaluated in the summer of 2026.



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Mental Health Partnership

- Division III has engaged the National Council for Mental Wellbeing to provide fully funded mental health training to all Division III institutions with a focus on head coaches and athletics trainers.
- Provides a three-year certification.
- Provides a pathway for new staff to receive the training.
- Training is available now through Aug. 1, 2027.
- More information about the training and requesting the training can be found on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).



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Live Streaming Football Stipend

- The councils approved an increase to the stipend for hosts to live stream preliminary-round games of the Division III Football Championship.
- The increase is from \$1,000 to \$2,000, beginning fall 2025.
- The increase supports the Championships Committee approval to require hosts to provide at least two cameras for live streaming for the football championships.



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Transfer Portal

- The Management Council received an update from the NCAA Research staff about the transfer portal.
- The update provided the number of Division III student-athletes who used the portal, the number who transferred to another Division III institution or another division and the number that have transferred from another division into Division III.
- The council will continue to discuss the transfer portal and its utility in reducing the administrative burden for member institutions.



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NCAA/E&I Cooperative Purchasing Pilot

- The councils received an update regarding NCAA/E&I Cooperative Purchasing pilot program.
- 95% of NCAA member institutions are enrolled in E&I.
- Initial feedback indicates that participating schools realized an average cost savings of 34% for athletic equipment purchases (e.g., weight plates, treadmills) and a 12% saving for athletic training supplies (e.g., athletic tape).



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Sport Science Institute

- The NCAA Sports Science Institute is conducting two meetings this summer.
 - Athletic Trainer Stakeholder meeting with representatives from the National Athletic Trainers Association and its accrediting bodies to discuss the credentialing process for athletic trainers.
 - Performance Technology Summit to discuss the current use of performance technologies in intercollegiate athletics.



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Questions?



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