



**DIVISION III**  
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# Division III May Webinar SAAC and Council Meeting Recaps

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# Agenda – SAAC and Councils Updates

- SAAC Updates.
- Eligibility Waiver Program.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- Name, Image, and Likeness.
- Division III Analysis.
- Championships Updates.
  - Live Streaming.
- Budget Planning.



# Agenda – Association-wide Updates

- Membership-wide Survey.
- Sports Science Institute Updates.

## Reminders

- Mental Health Training.
- NCAA Identification Number.



# SAAC Updates



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# SAAC Updates

Chair: **Josey Johnson, Capital University**

Ohio Athletic Conference

Cross country and track student-athlete

Vice chair: **Dom Petruzzelli, Neumann University**

Atlantic East Conference

Former soccer student-athlete

Communications director: **Holly Hall, Alma College**

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Former tennis student-athlete

**2026**

**SAAC Leadership**



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# SAAC Updates

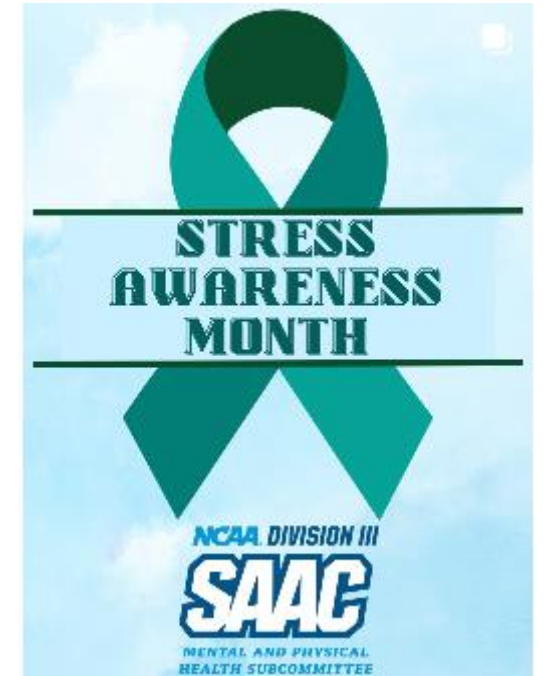
- Communication – connect with your National SAAC representative.
- Division III Week recap.
- Special Olympics – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- Report your events.
  - [Division III Week reporting](#)
  - [Special Olympics reporting](#)



# SAAC Updates

Subcommittee updates.

- Mental and Physical Health.
- Congressional Engagement.
- DIII Download.
- How to stay involved.
  - [Division III SAAC homepage](#)
  - Follow [@diiisaac](#) (IG) & [@d3saac](#) (X) for updates, initiatives.



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# Council Updates



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# Eligibility Waiver Program

- The Subcommittee for Legislative Relief recommended, and the Management Council approved, the continuation of the eligibility waiver program through the 2026-27 academic year.
- The program permits Division III student-athletes to continue to represent their institution in intercollegiate competition while enrolled at another institution that does not sponsor varsity athletics and has a formal academic agreement with the Division III institution.
- In 2025-26, SLR processed five waiver requests.



# Key Noncontroversial Legislation

- Clarified preseason practice and first date of competition for men's water polo.
- Increased the size of the manufacturer's logo on uniforms to four square inches.
- Allowed individuals who take over a departing member's term on a committee who are from the same conference to be eligible for reappointment if they have served for less than two years.



# Name, Image, and Likeness

- At the 2026 convention, the delegates approved a resolution that charged the Presidents Council and governance structure with monitoring the changing NIL landscape and developing strategies, policies and possibly legislation that would protect valid NIL opportunities consistent with the division's philosophy.
- Presidents Council approved a framework that provides the goals, structure, and timeline for completing a review.
- A working group will be created to oversee the review process.
- The DIII Analysis will help inform the efforts of the working group.



# Division III Analysis

- In October, 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, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- Delegates identified existing tension points at the 2026 NCAA Convention.
- Presidents Council endorsed the creation of a 19-member working group and hired a third-party contractor to assist with the analysis.
- There have been stakeholder engagement sessions and a membership-wide survey was sent to ADs and commissioners to collect feedback and data.



# Division III Analysis

- The working has reviewed stakeholder engagement feedback and data/research regarding 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.
- The working group is charged with developing initial solutions to present to the Presidents Council during its Aug. meeting.



# Championships Updates

- The committee is reviewing championship ticket prices for team preliminary rounds and anticipates acting to standardize prices for 2026-27.
- During the committee's June meeting, it will review NPI dial recommendations from Fall and Winter sports. It will review the Spring sport dial recommendations during its Aug. meeting. Any new dials will become effective in 2027-28.
- Creating an educational webinar regarding NPI.



# Live Streaming

- Live streaming of Fall and Winter team championships.
  - In the Fall, streamed 211 events and had 33 million minutes of live content versus 19 million minutes in 2024 (73% increase). [NCAA.com and ESPN+]
  - In the Winter, streamed 172 events across 7 sports and had 14 million minutes of live content watched versus 12.4 million minutes last year (13% increase). [NCAA.com and Hudl]
  - All championships promoted via NCAA Fan Database.
  - No paywall to access the live streams on NCAA.com.
- Live streaming is positively impacting the division's visibility.



# Budget Planning

- Division III is planning its budget for the 2026-27 (FY27) and 2027-28 (FY28) academic years.
- Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) will review requests from the governance structure, the Championships Committee, and affiliate groups (e.g., NADIII AA, D3CA, D3SIDA).
- SPFC will present final budget recommendations to the councils (final approving bodies) for their summer meetings.
- New budget begins September 1.



# Association-Wide Updates



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# Membership-wide Survey

- Prioritization survey was sent to all institutions (top five individuals), conference commissioners and divisional national SAAC members. (Feb. 3-13)
- The survey is seeking feedback on Association-wide spending priorities.
- In the spring, the councils reviewed the feedback and forwarded recommendations to the NCAA Board of Governors.
- The goal is to identify programs and services that may be reduced or eliminated to save costs.



# Sport Science Institute Updates

- The NCAA's chief medical officer's current vision includes developing and supporting membership education, utilizing the SSI spotlights to inform the membership on key topics (e.g., sleep, mental health and social media) and campus-level engagement.
- SSI is regularly collaborating with athletic trainer organizations. The goal is to develop mentoring pipelines, team physician advocacy programs and resources outlining alternative health care delivery models.
- Created an advisory group to recommend guidance on prevention and harm reduction strategies for substance-related and addictive behaviors (e.g., gambling).



# Questions



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# Reminders



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# Mental Health First Aid

- 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.
- Training is available now through Aug. 1, 2027.
- To date, 40% of the division has scheduled or received the training.
- More information about the training and requesting the training can be found on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).



# NCAA Identification Number

- The Division III Management Council approved a change to its policies for the reporting of Division III graduation rate information beginning in 2032.
- Student-athletes initially enrolling in a Division III institution beginning fall 2026 will need an NCAA ID number.
- NCAA ID numbers can be obtained from the NCAA Eligibility Center.

