



DIVISION III
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Division III November Webinar

Management and Presidents Councils Updates

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Agenda

- Legislation.
- Women's Lacrosse Playing Rule.
- NCAA Identification Number.
- Athletics Communications Working Group.
- Live Streaming – Division III Championships.
- Analysis of Division III Structure.



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2026 Convention Legislation

- The councils took the following positions for the membership sponsored proposals for the 2026 convention.
- Presidential Grouping:
 - Establish a Division III women's wrestling championship – support.
 - Criteria for use of a season – oppose.
 - Name, Image and Likeness resolution – support.
 - In-region competition requirements – support.
 - Multiple automatic qualifier model – oppose.
 - Core-member participation - support



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2026 Convention Legislation

- General Grouping:
 - Reduce the waiting period for an automatic qualification – oppose.
 - Adding a mandatory winter break – oppose.
 - Providing meals during unofficial visits – support.



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Sports Wagering

- The Division III Management Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to remove the prohibition of wagering on professional sports.
- The proposal becomes effective November 22, 2025.
- The Division III membership will ratify at the 2026 Business Session during the NCAA Convention.



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Playing Rule

- The Division III Management Council approved a request to exempt Division III from a playing rule in women's lacrosse that would have required officials to wear headsets beginning with the 2027 season.
- The use of headsets is permissive, but not mandatory for Division III.
- The membership must ratify the council's decision at the 2026 convention.



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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.



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Strategic Communications Working Group

- The working group has recently published the revised version of the:
[Guide to Strategic Athletics Communications on Campus](#)
- The working group forwarded a recommendation to the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee to establish an athletics communication grant for FY27 and FY28.



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Championships Live Streaming

- For 2025-26, all rounds of Division III team championships will be live streamed for free.
- Hudl will assist hosts with placing the live streams on NCAA.com to provide a central location to access.
- All Division III championships will be promoted via the NCAA Fan Database (approx. 19 million).
- Using live streams to market the division and strengthen its brand.



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Division III Analysis

- With input from the Management Council and the Presidents Advisory Group, the Presidents Council endorsed a focused analysis of the key issues facing the membership.
- Initial identified areas of analysis include championship access, eligibility standards, and membership criteria.
- This analysis will build off the recent reviews conducted by Deloitte, Lewis Rice, and the Division III Philosophy Statement Working Group.
- The Presidents Council is encouraging presidents and chancellors to attend the Presidents and Chancellors Forum held during the 2026 convention (Wed., Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m. EST) to discuss this analysis.



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Questions?



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