



Division III November Webinar

Management and Presidents Council Updates

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Agenda

- Management Council updates.
 - Hardship waiver for mental health.
 - Championships updates.
 - Women's wrestling.
 - Athletic Trainer Working Group.
 - Officiating and sportsmanship.
 - 2024 legislative proposals.
 - Name, image and likeness.



Agenda

- Presidents Council updates.
 - Financial and Risk Management Working Group.
 - Congressional engagement.
 - Sport Science Institute updates.
 - Sports wagering.
- Additional updates.
 - Enrichment Fund evaluation.
 - Federated playing rules.



Hardship Waiver for Mental Health

- The Management Council approved a two-year blanket waiver for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.
- The criteria mirror the current requirements for a hardship waiver while providing flexibility concerning the diagnosis of a mental health condition.
- Information will be gathered from conference offices during this period to evaluate the criteria and determine the appropriateness of any future legislative change.



Championships Updates

- Based on a membership feedback, the committee has identified the following as possible enhancements to Division III Championships for the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years:
 - Increasing per diems (increased to \$125/\$55 for this year).
 - Increasing championship brackets (including football).
 - Providing some additional flights to separate higher regionally ranked teams.
- A survey was sent to feedback on the possible championships budget enhancements and principles.
- The committee will use membership feedback to inform its recommendations that it anticipates finalizing during its February 2024 meeting.





Championships Updates

- The committee approved a process and feedback instrument for sport committees to use to gather membership feedback before recommending a change to the championship date formula.
- The committee continues to review the use of a selection criteria database (e.g., Pairwise) to help with the selection of teams that are not automatic qualifiers.
 - The committee has received positive feedback from championship managers and sport committees.
 - The committee will continue to engage membership stakeholders.



Women's Wrestling

- The Committee on Women's Athletics advised the Management Council that the number of institutions that sponsored the sport of women's wrestling has exceeded the threshold for a national collegiate championship.
- At its February 2024 meeting, the committee will discuss a potential recommendation for the three divisions to consider legislation (January 2025) to conduct the championship in the 2025-26 academic year.



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 working group has recently conducted a survey of the Division III athletics directors and head athletic trainers. The working group reviewed the results of the survey results during its October meeting.
- The working group will use the survey information as the foundation for a discussion with the membership at the 2024 Convention Issues Forum.



Officiating and Sportsmanship

- The council discussed the officiating crisis and the impact of poor sportsmanship on officiating (e.g., 55% of officials indicated they are leaving the profession due to verbal abuse by coaches and spectators).
- The council reviewed [resources](#) recently released by the NCAA and discussed strategies to promote [Gameday the DIII Way](#).
- The membership will discuss this issue during the Convention Issues Forum.



2024 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following three proposals for the 2024 Convention.
 - Revise the Division III Philosophy Statement. [Received two amendments]
 - Recognize Stunt as an emerging sport for women.
 - Amend sport sponsorship requirements for tennis to align with playing rules.
- The membership has submitted the following proposal:
 - Amendment-to-Amendment deadline.



Name, Image and Likeness

- The Management Council discussed the top NIL issues facing Division III student-athletes and institutions.
- The council discussed potential student-athlete protections including a voluntary registry of NIL service providers, disclosure of NIL deals, development of a standardized NIL contract and financial literacy education for student-athletes.
- The governance structure will continue to discuss concepts that should be considered for any potential Division III NIL legislation.



Financial and Risk Management

- Presidents Council approved the creation of a Financial and Risk Management Working Group. (Jan. 2023)
- After several meetings, the working group requested, and the councils approved, funding to hire a third-party vendor to strengthen financial performance, improve revenue growth, identify financial priorities, threats and recommendations to reduce risk. Anticipate the review being completed by Summer 2024.
- The working group will provide an update at the 2024 NCAA Convention Division III Business Session.



Congressional Engagement

- The goal is to proactively shape possible future federal legislation that:
 - Governs defined aspects of college sports (e.g., NIL) and pre-empts state laws.
 - Codifies student-athletes non-employment status.
 - Provides a safe harbor from future lawsuits.
- In August, Congress introduced five bills and recently had a senate hearing.
- Encourage membership to engage federal legislators – email, call, meet and/or invite to campus.



Sport Science Institute Updates

- CSMAS supported the recommended changes to the mental health best practices document proposed by the Mental Health Advisory Group. The document is being socialized and reviewed for feedback. Anticipate the BOG will approve in January 2024.
- CSMAS is recommending removing cannabinoids from the list of banned drug classes coupled with providing educational resources. Management Council will consider the recommendation in January 2024.
- CSMAS approved recommended updates from the Concussion Safety Advisory group to the Concussion Safety Protocol Checklist. Changes will be effective in January 2024.



Sports Wagering

- NCAA recently conducted a survey of college-age students. Results indicated that more than 60% were gambling.
- Prevalence of gambling, legal in 38 states, coupled with extensive social media use is leading to mental health issues.
- The NCAA recently launched a [sports wagering e-learning module](#) for current and prospective student-athletes.
- Resources regarding sports wagering can be found on [NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org).



Enrichment Fund Evaluation

- A vendor was retained to conduct an outside evaluation of the Division III Enrichment Fund.
- The evaluation will be conducted in three phases. Phase One – Programs, Phase Two – Grants and Phase Three – Conference Grant.
- The evaluation is expected to begin in November and conclude by June 2024.
- The evaluation will be used to help inform future programming and budget allocation to programs funded by the Enrichment Fund.



Federated Playing Rules

- In July, the Management Council ratified the Division III specific playing rule process. The process operates within the current structure but allows the division to adopt playing rules that are consistent with the division's philosophy and involves more Division III perspectives into the process.
- The process has been fully implemented and is being used for all playing rules requests.
- Key elements of the process include the following:
 - The Division III members of the playing rules would vote on Division III specific rules and determine whether proposed common rules should apply to Division III.



Federated Playing Rules

Key Elements include:

- The Division III members of the playing rules committee will be assisted in this process by the corresponding with Division III sport championship committee members. Those individuals will consult with each other throughout the process.
- There will be an increased emphasis on identifying proposals that have a cost impact or impact a fundamental Division III principle. These types of proposals require significant divisional input and there will be additional engagement to solicit Division III comments.
- All rule proposal recommendations will be sent to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). PROP will vote on all common rules and the Division III members of PROP will vote on rules identified as Division III specific.



Questions

