DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Monthly Compliance Webinar

2027 Convention Prep: Legislative Proposals

Corey Berg

Agenda.

- Presidents Grouping.
  - 2027-1: Football Spring Period
  - 2027-2: Council Vacancies
  - 2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model
- General Grouping.
  - 2027-4: Use of Agents
  - 2027-5: Women’s Flag Football
- Questions.

Presidents Grouping.

2027-1: Football Spring Period.

21 Institutions Across DIII.

To amend the **spring football practice period** as follows:

(1) Establish a **three-day transition** period where two days are helmet only and the third day may be shoulder pads and helmets;

(2) Establish **four** of the 16 days as "walk-through" days with no pads or helmets;

(3) For the remaining nine days: permit **two** days of student-athletes wearing helmets only, **three** days of shoulder pads and helmets, and **four** days of wearing full pads;

(4) Define permissible activities based on the protective equipment worn; and

(5) Limit full padded practices to no more than **75 minutes** of full-contact drills.

2027-2: Council Vacancies.

United East Conference & Little East Conference.

To change the length of the **unexpired term** which requires a vacancy to be filled for the Division III Presidents Council and Management Council.

From at least **two** years to at least **one** year.

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

American Rivers Conference & Ohio Athletic Conference.

To transition from a **season-based** eligibility and waiver-driven framework to a continuous, five-year **age-based** eligibility model that mirrors the framework adopted by **Divisions I** and **II**.

The Current Rule.

Student-athletes have **10-semesters** or **15-quarters** of full-time enrollment to participate in up to **four seasons** of a sport.

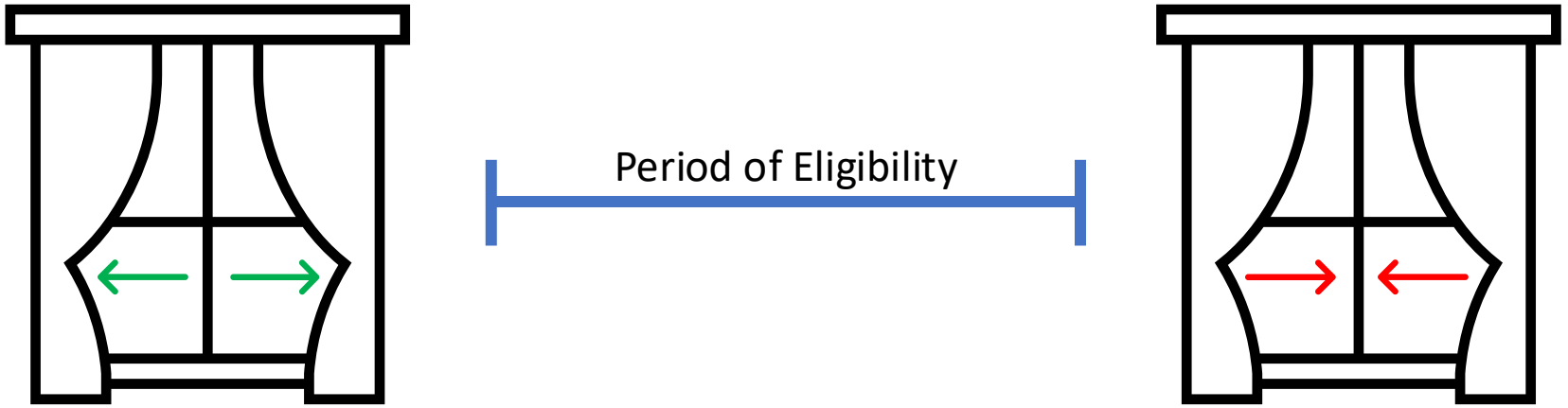
They also have access to:

- **Hardship Waivers** to restore seasons due to injury/illness
- **SOP Waivers** to restore seasons due to other circumstances
- **Extension Waivers** to provide additional terms

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

It's ***Not*** 5-in-5.

Seasons and terms of enrollment will **no longer** be the structure of a student-athlete's eligibility.



Initial FT collegiate enrollment ***OR*** Academic Year After 19th Birthday

5 Years Later

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

It's ***Not*** 5-in-5.

- Student-athletes are **not** guaranteed five seasons to play.
- Hardship waivers, season of participation waivers and extension of eligibility requests would **no longer exist**.
- The only exceptions to the five-year window would be for **pregnancy**, **military service** or **religious mission** trips.

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

If Adopted in DIII…

Effective Date: Immediate.

How It Applies: 2026-27 & prior: Pick a Model.
2027-28 & later: Age-Based, Only.

“Old Model” Deadline: 2030-31 Academic Year

“Submit by” Date: July 31, 2027

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

Deadline Was November 1.

Amendment	Implications for Overall Proposal
Removal of 19th Birthday.	The ***only*** trigger for the POE will be initial, full-time collegiate enrollment.

2027-3: Age-Based Eligibility Model.

What Motivated the Other Divisions to Go...

Division I: Desire for a single, consistent model.
Reduced reliance on waivers.
More predictability for all involved.

Division II: The pulled 5-in-5 proposal from 2026.
Established graduation data.

General Grouping.

2027-4: Pre-Enrollment Use of Agents.

Interpretations and Legislation Committee.

In the **pre-enrollment** space, permit an individual to enter into an agreement with an **agent** for the purpose of identifying or securing playing opportunities.

2027-5: Flag Football – National Collegiate Championship.

Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.

Establish a **National Collegiate Championship** (beginning in 2028), as well as a Women's Flag Football **sports committee**.

Questions?