

NCAA Division III Conference Membership Guidelines

This document provides information related to the NCAA Division III conference membership application process for both single-sport and multisport conferences.

A Model Division III Conference:

A model Division III conference athletics program is integral to the educational mission of its member institutions. The administration of a successful conference athletics program should strive to incorporate the core attributes of the Division III mission and philosophy, as well as a commitment to academic success, compliance, continuing education and professional development, diversity & inclusion and sportsmanship.

Division III Conference Application Process:

1. Ensure that your conference is comprised of the appropriate number of members.
 - A multisport conference must be comprised of at least seven members. If a multisport conference is comprised in part of provisional or reclassifying members, the conference must still contain a minimum of four active members.
 - A single-sport conference must be comprised of at least seven members. If a single-sport conference is comprised in part of provisional or reclassifying members, the conference must still contain a minimum of four active members.
 - For a single-sport conference in a National Collegiate sport, the minimum number of active institutions is controlled by the number needed for a National Collegiate automatic qualification. Provisional and reclassifying schools may not contribute to the minimum number of active institutions but may be included in the overall conference composition.
2. Complete all portions of the conference membership application not later than February 1 for membership effective September 1 of that year. The application is accessible on the membership page on NCAA.org.
3. For multisport conferences, include a completed conference self-study guide (CSSG) using the latest form approved by the Division III Membership Committee. This form can be found on the Division III Membership page on ncaa.org.
4. Include a check for conference annual dues with the application. Refer to NCAA Constitution 3.7.2 (current annual dues) for current dues rates.
5. Include a copy of your conferences' constitution and bylaws.

6. Submit completed application before the appropriate deadline to Debbie Brown at the NCAA national office (P.O. Box 6222, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 or electronically to dbrown@ncaa.org). Ms. Brown will forward a copy of your application to the Division III Membership Committee.

Things to Keep in Mind:

1. The application will be reviewed and approved or rejected by the NCAA Division III Membership Committee during its annual February meeting
2. Conferences must be able to demonstrate that chancellors or presidents have ultimate responsibility and final authority for the operation of the conference and any institution that is a member of the conference [NCAA Constitution 3.3.4.4 (president or chancellor involvement)]. This should be clearly reflected in the bylaws and constitution.
3. Multisport conferences must have a conference student-athlete advisory committee per Constitution 3.3.4.5 (conference student-athlete advisory committee).
4. A newly approved multisport conference must wait two years before gaining access to championships automatic qualification and needs to have at least seven members offering a sport in order to receive an automatic qualification in that sport. Please note that those members must be the same seven institutions sponsoring the sport for each year of the waiting period.

Single-sport conferences are not eligible for championships automatic qualification unless a waiver is granted through the NCAA Division III Championships Committee, as described in NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1.2 (additional requirements - single-sport conferences).