



2025 NCAA CONVENTION

DIVISION III INITIAL PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**119th Annual Convention
January 14-17, 2025
Nashville, Tennessee**

DIVISION III LEGISLATION

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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**Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation Submitted by the
NCAA Division III Membership
119th Annual Convention**

This publication presents the proposed amendments to NCAA legislation that were properly submitted by the NCAA Division III membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline in the NCAA legislative calendar.

The proposals are accompanied not only by a statement of intent and proposed effective date, but also by a statement of rationale and a listing of the primary contact person designated by the sponsors of the amendments.

This publication is produced directly from the Legislative Services Database for the internet (LSDBi) each time it is downloaded. Therefore, the content of the publication may change each time it is accessed from the NCAA webpage. As modifications or corrections are made to the proposals during the sponsor modification period, updates will be made to LSDBi and those changes will be reflected in this document.

Between the date this publication is posted (not later than August 15) and September 15, sponsors of this proposal are permitted to refine and change the amendment in any manner that is germane to the proposals as printed in this publication. Such changes may either increase or decrease the modification set forth in the original proposal (i.e., the sponsors may alter the proposal to make greater or lesser changes in the current legislation than they originally submitted). A sponsor-modification memorandum will be distributed to designated primary contact persons in mid-August. Sponsors may use the LSDBi "Sponsor Modification Submission" section to modify the legislative proposal they have submitted. All such modifications must be received by the NCAA national office not later than 5 p.m. Eastern time, September 15. In addition, sponsors who wish to withdraw a proposal should contact Jeff Myers (jmyers@ncaa.org) or Corey Berg (cberg@ncaa.org); however, please note that if withdrawn after September 15, the proposal will still appear in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation.

No new proposals may be submitted by the Division III membership for the Convention after the July 15 deadline; however, proposals are available for co-sponsorship until September 1. Member institutions and conferences that wish to offer suggested revisions to an amendment are encouraged to contact the designated primary contact person listed with each proposal. Such contacts should be made as early as possible in the period of time between the date this publication is posted and September 15 to assure time for appropriate consideration by the sponsors.

This represents the first in a series of three publications addressing Convention legislation, as dictated by the provisions of NCAA Bylaw 9. The other publications will be as follows:

Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. Issued not later than September 23 and includes the proposals properly sponsored by the Division III membership as modified on or prior to September 15, as well as all legislation submitted by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and the NCAA Division III Management Council in accordance with the September 1 deadline. Amendment-to-amendment forms will also be available at this time.

Official Notice of the 2025 NCAA Convention. Issued on November 15 and contains all Division III legislation for the Convention, including all amendments-to-amendments and resolutions submitted by the November 1 deadline.

2024-25 Legislative Calendar

The legislative calendar, as set forth in Bylaw 9, is summarized here for convenience of reference.

July 15: Deadline for submission of amendments by the Division III membership. Each amendment must include a statement of intent and a separate statement of rationale (200 words or less), as well as identification of the designated primary contact person, and must be sponsored by at least one conference or at least 10 individual institution sponsors.

July 17-18: Management Council consideration. The Management Council considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor. It also reviews proposals submitted by the membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline.

August 2: Presidents Council consideration. The Presidents Council considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor. It also reviews the proposals submitted by the membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline.

Not Later Than August 15: Posting of Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation.

Date IPOPL is Posted through September 15: Sponsor-modification period. Sponsors are permitted to refine and change their proposals in any manner germane to the original proposal. Member institutions and conferences are invited to offer any suggested revisions of a proposal to the primary contact person listed with the proposal. Also, members that believe an amendment should not be modified should so inform the primary contact person.

September 1: Deadline for submission of amendments sponsored by the Management Council or Presidents Council.

September 1: Deadline for proper co-sponsorship of membership proposals. The proposals must receive proper co-sponsorship from one additional conference (if originally sponsored by one conference) otherwise 10 additional institutions (if originally sponsored by 10 institutions) or it will be withdrawn.

September 15: Deadline for submission by all sponsors (with submission by the primary contact person) of any modification to their original amendments. These modifications may represent either greater or lesser changes; they need only be germane to the original amendment.

Not Later Than September 23: Posting of Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. This publication includes all membership-sponsored proposals as modified and includes all proposals sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council.

Date SPOPL is Posted through November 1: Amendment-to-amendment period. The Presidents Council and Management Council as well as the broader membership (see Bylaw 9.3.4.2) may submit amendments to the proposals in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. These amendments-to-amendments may not increase the modification of the provisions to be amended; they must fall between the provisions of the original proposed amendment and the current provisions. Additionally, the sponsors of membership proposals in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation may submit amendments-to-amendments that increase the modification of the provisions to be amended (see Bylaw 9.3.4.2.2.2).

November 1: Deadline for all amendments-to-amendments and resolutions to be received in the national office. No amendments-to-amendments sponsored by the membership may be submitted after this date. The Management Council and Presidents Council are authorized to submit further amendments-to-amendments at the Convention if they deem such action necessary.

November 15: Publication of the Official Notice of the Convention. This publication includes all Division III proposed legislation and the properly submitted amendments-to-amendments and resolutions.

January 14-15, 2025: NCAA Convention. Voting on proposals will occur at the business session.

NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee

Rashana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges
Harry Dumay, Elms College
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Andrew Green, Central College (Iowa)
Jack Langan, Cornell College (SAAC rep.)
Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology
Michael A Mattia, Gettysburg College
Danielle O'Leary, William Peace University
Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association
Andrea Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College

119th Annual Convention

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

[Note: Pursuant to Bylaw 9.3.11, all amendments shall become effective not earlier than the first day of August following adoption by the Convention; however, if a voting delegate wishes to propose an immediate effective date, or an effective date other than the first day of August following the Convention, the rationale statement shall contain reasons why the amendment has an alternative effective date. Those proposals that are given an immediate effective date and that are adopted, become effective on adjournment of the Convention.]

Note: In the following proposals:

- Those letters and words that appear in *italics* and ~~strikethrough~~ are to be deleted;
- Those letters and words that appear in **boldface and are underlined** are to be added; and
- Those letters and words that appear in normal text are unchanged from the current Division III legislation.

No. 1-1 Postgraduate Student Academic Eligibility Requirement

Intent: To require a postgraduate student to have been academically eligible to compete had the student remained at the institution where the student most recently attended.

Bylaws: Amend Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation., as follows:

14.1.8 Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation. A student who has graduated from an NCAA Division III institution may participate as a graduate or postbaccalaureate student at the Division III institution they most recently attended as an undergraduate or another Division III institution, provided:

[14.1.8-(a) through 14.1.8-(c) unchanged.]

(d) If the student initially enrolls at the certifying institution after attending a regular academic term as a full-time postgraduate student at another institution, the student would have been academically eligible to compete had the student remained at the institution where the student most recently attended class during a regular term as a full-time student.

[14.1.8.1 unchanged.]

Source: Great Northeast Athletic Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Rationale: Graduate/postbaccalaureate students are not held to the same transfer exceptions as undergraduates in Bylaw 14.5.5.1.1. Provided a graduate/postbaccalaureate student meets Bylaw 14.1.8 (graduate student/postbaccalaureate participation) they will be immediately eligible. Suppose a graduate/postbaccalaureate student becomes ineligible. In that case, they can transfer to another NCAA Division III school and be immediately eligible, provided they meet Bylaw 14.1.8 even if they left the previous institution ineligible. Adding this eligibility requirement will make it so graduate/postbaccalaureate students cannot transfer out of being academically ineligible.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Joni Williamson , Assistant Commissioner
Great Northeast Athletic Conference
Email: jwilliamson@thegnac.com

No. 1-2 Playing and Practice Season - Ice Hockey - Preseason Practice - Elimination of Exception --Off-Ice Training

Intent: The intent of the proposal is to eliminate the exception (17.14.2.1) that allows ice hockey teams to have off-ice practice sessions starting the first Monday in October.

Bylaws: Amend 17.14, as follows:

17.14 Ice Hockey. Regulations for computing the ice hockey playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1, General Playing-Season Regulations. Institutions that conduct women's ice hockey shall comply with the same playing and practice season legislation that currently exists for men's ice hockey. (See Figure 17-1)

[17.14.1 unchanged.]

17.14.2 Preseason Practice A member institution shall not commence on-ice practice sessions in ice hockey before the second Monday in October.

~~17.14.2.1 Exception -- Off-Ice Training. A member institution shall not commence off-ice practice sessions prior to the first Monday in October.~~

[17.14.3 through 17.14.6 unchanged.]

Source: Middle Atlantic Conferences

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Rationale: With the adoption of the new playing and practice legislation that allows winter sports 114 days with up to eight permissible out-of-season days, this exception is no longer necessary. The eight out-of-season days may be used on the ice (or may be used for off-ice training) thus allowing institutions to design the acclimatization to the season as they see fit. Eliminating the exception will add clarity to the legislation.

Budget Impact: none.

Primary Contact Person:

Megan Morrison, Executive Director
Middle Atlantic Conferences
Email: morrison@gomacsports.com

General Grouping

No. 1-3 FEDERATED PLAYING RULES EXEMPTIONS

Intent: To establish a process by which Division III may consider federating sport-specific playing rules that have either a financial or philosophical impact for Division III institutions.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.32, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.32 Playing Rules. Member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA, or an outside organization (see Bylaw 31.1.6), develops playing rules. Division III member institutions may be exempt from applying playing rules that the Division III Management Council determines places an unreasonable financial burden on Division III institutions or is otherwise incompatible with Division III philosophical principles. Management Council may not exempt institutions from following a rule if such would create an unsafe environment for student-athletes. It is not mandatory that those rules be used in institutional scrimmages, exhibitions or other forms of practice with outside competition.

[17.32 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 21.11.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

21.11.3 Duties and Responsibilities. The Management Council shall:

[21.11.3-(a) through 21.11.3-(i) unchanged.]

(j) Establish and oversee the Division III federated playing rules process.

(k) At its discretion, or as requested by two conferences or 20 member institutions, review whether an exemption to a common playing rule is appropriate.

(1) Management Council will utilize the appropriate existing committees, as well as any other relevant groups as the basis of their review. The membership may also be surveyed.

(2) Health and Safety determinations will be made by CSMAS and/or SSI, with consultations of relevant committees, outside groups or associations.

(3) The full membership will certify any Management Council votes.

Source: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Little East Conference, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference and Presidents' Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: With the adoption of the revised NCAA Constitution in January of 2022, all three NCAA divisions ratified language providing flexibility for division, sub-division or federated level to establish rules for sports competition and participation "as deemed necessary." The current federated rules process for Division III, which is captured in policy as opposed to legislation, has been ineffective in including meaningful and representative Division III input on playing rules changes. The existing process is not representative of the entire division and is insufficient in determining which playing rules are most appropriately federated. This proposal would allow Management Council, a body legislatively designed to be representative of the entire Division, to review proposed rules changes for a philosophical or financial impact on Division III and take action to exempt Division III from approved common playing rules. The federated exemptions would become effective immediately based on Management Council's action and would be subject to ratification by the entire Membership (on a timeline determined by the Management Council, either at Convention or at times appropriate to the playing rules change cycle).

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Keri Alexander Luchowski, Executive Director

North Coast Athletic Conference
Email: keri@northcoast.org

Presidents Council Grouping

No. 1-4 MULTISPORT CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP SIZE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

Intent: To align NCAA Division III legislative requirements for a multisport conference to be consistent with the membership size requirements for a single sport conference as well as to align legislative requirements for membership size for a multisport conference with the NCAA Division III legislation related to eligibility for Automatic Qualifiers and access to NCAA Division III Championships.

A. Bylaws: Amend 20.02.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.02.3.3 Member Conference. A member conference is a group of at least ~~seven~~**six** colleges and/or universities that conducts competition among its members and determines a conference champion in one (single-sport conference) or more (multisport conference) sports (in which the NCAA conducts championships or for which it is responsible for providing playing rules for intercollegiate competition), duly elected to conference membership under the provisions of this article. A member conference is entitled to all of the privileges of active members except the right to compete in NCAA championships.

[20.02.3.3.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 20.9, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.9.1.2 Composition of Conference. A conference shall be comprised of at least ~~seven~~**six** core institutions. Provisional or reclassifying member institutions in their third year of the membership process may be considered core institutions for purposes of comprising a conference, provided there are at least four active member institutions. A conference may include provisional members in addition to the seven core members.

[20.9.1.2.1 through 20.9.1.2.4 unchanged.]

Source: Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference and Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Rationale: The current NCAA Division III bylaw 20.9.1.2.2 dictates that for a single-sport conference, formal conference status may be granted provided it has six active NCAA member institutions. However, the current NCAA Division III bylaw for a multisport conference requires seven active member institutions. This proposal seeks to create consistency amongst the legislative requirements for both a single-sport conference and a multi-sport conference. In addition, this proposal seeks to better align the multisport conference membership legislative requirements with the current Division III bylaw 31.3.3.1.1 regarding eligibility of multisport conferences to receive an Automatic Qualifier to Division III Championships. Specifically, bylaw 31.3.3.1.1 only requires six member institutions that fulfill other requirements articulated in order to secure or maintain Automatic Qualifier access to NCAA Division III Championships. Thus, this proposal will not have an immediate impact or change on the requirements related to championship access or securing/maintaining an AQ for a multisport conference. Moreover, this proposal aligns with recent decisions in the NCAA Division III governance structure modifying Bylaw 31.3.1.1 to establish an access ratio of 1:6.0 in team sports. This proposal will ultimately better align applicable membership requirement and championships access bylaws for both single-sport and multi-sport conferences.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Corey Borchardt, Commissioner
Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
Email: cpborchartd@umacathletics.com

No. 1-5 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP -- STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- CHANGE IN COMPOSITION

Intent: Allow for each multi-sport conference and the group of independents to have a primary representative on National SAAC.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9.5.11.1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

21.9.5.11.1 Composition. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall consist of:

- (a) One student-athlete from each **multi-sport conference**. ~~unit represented in the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee partnership program. A unit shall consist of two partnered conferences.~~ Independent institutions shall collectively be represented **by one student-athlete**. ~~as one additional unit. If there is an odd number of Division III conferences, the unpaired conference and all independent institutions shall collectively be represented as one additional unit;~~ and

[21.9.5.11.1-(b) unchanged.]

~~21.9.5.11.1.1 Partner Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Liaison. Each conference and group of independents without a member on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, shall have a student-athlete designated as a Partner Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Liaison. Compositional requirements, roles and responsibilities and term limits for this liaison role shall be set forth in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee policies and procedures.~~

Source: American Rivers Conference and Great Northeast Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: This proposal aims to provide more clarity and consistency in the role of committee members. Under the current committee structure associate members rely on their partner conference's primary member for updates on meetings the associate members do not attend, creating inconsistent communication from the national committee to conference and institutional SAACs. The term length for associate members, coupled with the possibility of rolling on as primary members, has been confusing to navigate for student-athletes and conference staff. With longer and consistent service terms for all committee members (2-3 years, as opposed to just one year for some current associate members) the committee would be able to get more impactful work accomplished. Having all committee members serving in the same capacity (primary members) would improve committee operations. The immediate effective date aligns with committee member term expirations after the NCAA Convention. Estimated budget impact includes the cost of additional student-athletes attending the in-person November meetings.

Budget Impact: \$33,000

Primary Contact Person:

Marie Stroman, Commissioner
American Rivers Conference
Email: mstroman@rollrivers.com

Request for Interpretation

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to contact primary contact persons, and if necessary, to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation. Interpretations related to the proposed legislation in this Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation may be requested via electronic mail to cberg@ncaa.org or jmyers@ncaa.org. When submitting such a request please include the proposal number in question, your institution's name and your title.