



2026 NCAA CONVENTION

DIVISION III PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**120th Annual Convention
January 13-16, 2026
National Harbor, Maryland**

DIVISION III LEGISLATION

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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Publication of Proposed Legislation 120th Annual Convention

This publication presents all the proposed amendments to NCAA Division III legislation that were properly submitted in accordance with the September 15 deadline in the NCAA legislative calendar. The proposals herein appear in the order in which they would appear, if adopted, in the NCAA Manual. No attempt has been made to place them in topical groupings or in the order in which they eventually might appear in the Convention agenda. **The order of the sixteen proposals in the Publication of Proposed Legislation will change in the Official Notice.**

Each proposal is accompanied by the traditional statement of intent, proposed effective date and a statement of rationale.

No new proposals may be submitted for the 2026 NCAA Convention inasmuch as the September 15 deadline has passed. Member institutions and conferences, as well as the Management Council and Presidents Council, now have until November 1 by 5 p.m. Eastern time to submit amendments to the proposals. Such amendments-to-amendments may not increase the modification set forth in the printed proposal. Amendments-to-amendments submitted by the membership must have 20 or more active member institutions for proper sponsorship in Division III. In addition, amendments-to-amendments may be sponsored by two or more member conferences in Division III. It should be noted that proposals that are withdrawn after the September 15 sponsor-modification deadline appear in the Publication of Proposed Legislation; however, information will be included in the Official Notice to indicate the sponsor's intent to withdraw the proposal (at the Convention).

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Publication of Proposed Legislation (see Appendix A).

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

Official Notice of the 2026 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.

2025-26 Legislative Calendar

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

July 1: 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 21-22: 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 1 deadline.

August 4: 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 1 deadline.

September 15: Deadline for submission of amendments sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council.

September 15: 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) or 10 additional individual 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 October 1: Posting of Publication of Proposed Legislation. This publication includes all membership-sponsored proposals and includes all proposals sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council.

Date POPL is Posted through November 1: Amendment-to-amendment period. The Presidents Council and Management Council as well as the membership (see Bylaw 9.3.4.2) may submit amendments to the proposals in the 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.

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 Presidents Council and Management Council are authorized to submit further amendments-to-amendments at the Convention if they deem such action necessary.

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

January 13-16, 2026: NCAA Convention. Voting on proposals will occur at the business session.

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee

Rachana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges

Harry Dumay, Elms College

Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Matt Grawrock, State University of New York at Morrisville

Andrew Green, Central College (Iowa)

Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology

Bella Nesbeth, Grinnell College (SAAC rep.)

Danielle O'Leary, William Peace University

Sarah Otey, University Athletic Association

Andrea Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College

120th 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 are adopted become effective on adjournment of the Convention.]

Note: In the following proposals:

- Those letters and words that appears 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 RECRUITING -- UNOFFICIAL VISIT -- MEALS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR GUESTS

Intent: Amend the current legislation to allow institutions to provide meals in an on-campus dining facility for a prospective student-athlete and those individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete.

Bylaws: Amend 13, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.7.2.1.1 Meals. An institution may provide a prospective student-athlete **and the individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete** with a meal in the institution's on-campus dining facility during an unofficial visit. An institution may provide a meal in an off-campus dining facility when all on-campus dining facilities are closed, provided the institution can certify that it is the institution's normal policy to provide such a meal under similar circumstances to all prospective students (including nonathletes) visiting the campus. [R]

Source: College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Little East Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: As recruiting budgets are getting pinched, the unofficial visit is often the only opportunity for the prospective student-athlete and their guests to visit an institution's campus. The current rule can be confusing since some institutions are able to use the exception in bylaw 13.7.3 and provide meals to the guests of prospective student-athletes through their admissions offices but not others. This puts many institutions in an awkward position. This proposal seeks to provide consistency across all institutions. When on an unofficial visit, sharing a meal with a coach or current student-athletes in a more relaxed setting such as the dining hall provides an opportunity for a prospective student-athlete and their guests to learn more about the institution and what their experience might look like should they enroll. As many campuses are finding ways to cut budgets, some institutional admission offices are eliminating on-campus meals for prospective students in general, thus a valuable opportunity is no longer available to those coaches. This would allow athletic departments to provide these meals. The proposal seeks to only provide on-campus meals to the guests of prospective student-athletes. Bylaw 13.7.2.1.2 remains unchanged.

Budget Impact: Varies

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council:* Management Council supports this proposal, as it believes that institutional policy as opposed to a national standard is more appropriate in these circumstances.

No. 1-2 RECRUITING - CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS - FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES - REQUIRE USE OF THE NCAA TRANSFER PORTAL

Intent: To (1) replace the current "permission to contact" legislation related to NCAA four-year college transfer student-athletes with a "notification of transfer" model; (2) specify that an institution must place a student-athlete's written request for transfer into the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven-consecutive calendar days; (3) specify that a student-athlete must successfully complete an educational module before they are entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal; and (4) maintain the existing processes for the Division III self-release, for student-athletes interested in transferring to another Division III institution.

A. Bylaws: Amend 13, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.1.1.2 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact in any manner (e.g., in-person contact, telephone calls, electronic communication, written correspondence) with the student-athlete of another NCAA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining **authorization through the notification of transfer process or the self-release process.** *written permission to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer. If permission is granted, all applicable NCAA recruiting rules apply. If an institution receives a written request from a student-athlete to permit another institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall grant or deny the request within seven business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the request. If the institution fails to respond to the student-athlete's written request within seven business days, permission shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete. Written permission may be granted by: [D]*

(a) *The first institution's athletics director (or an athletics administrator designated by the athletics director); or*

(b) *The student-athlete, if the student-athlete attends a Division III institution (see Bylaw 13.1.1.2.1).*

13.1.1.2.1 Notification of Transfer. **A student-athlete may initiate the notification of transfer process by providing their Division III institution with a written notification of transfer at any time. The student-athlete must complete an educational module related to transferring before the institution may enter the student-athlete's information into the national transfer database (i.e. Transfer Portal). The student-athlete's institution shall enter their information into the NCAA Transfer Portal within seven-consecutive calendar days of receipt of confirmation of the student-athlete's completion of the educational module.**

13.1.1.2.12 Self-Release. Using a form made available by the NCAA national office, a student-athlete who attends a Division III institution may issue, on their own behalf, ~~permission~~ **authorization** for another Division III institution to contact the student-athlete about a potential transfer. The student-athlete shall forward this form to the director of athletics at the **Division III** institution of interest. Contact between the student-athlete and institution may occur during the 30-day period beginning with the date the **self-release** ~~permission to contact~~ form is signed by the student-athlete. **Following the expiration of the 30-day period, the student-athlete must initiate the notification of transfer process.** ~~An additional form must be issued for contact to occur or continue beyond the initial 30-day period.~~ [D]

13.1.1.2.12.1 Privacy and Disclosure Requirements. During the initial 30-day period, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current **Division III** institution of the contact. ~~At the completion of the initial 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides to transfer to the institution in receipt of the form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within a seven-day period of the form's expiration date that the self-release was issued. At the completion of the initial 30-day period, if the student-athlete decides not to pursue the transfer, the institution in receipt of the form shall not notify the student-athlete's current institution of the contact at any time. If the student-athlete is undecided at the end of the 30-day period, the initial contact must remain private unless and until the student-athlete issues a second permission to contact form. Upon receipt of the second permission to contact form, the institution in receipt of the form shall notify the student-athlete's current institution within seven days that a second release was issued.~~ [D]

~~13.1.1.2.2 Hearing Opportunity. If the institution decides to deny a student-athlete's request to permit any other institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall inform the student-athlete in writing that they, on request, shall be provided a hearing conducted by an institutional entity or committee outside of the athletics department (e.g., the office of student affairs; office of the dean of students; or a committee composed of the faculty athletics representative, student-athletes and nonathletics faculty/staff members). The student-athlete shall be informed of this hearing opportunity within seven business days of the request for permission to contact. Within 15 business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the student-athlete's written request for a hearing, the institution shall conduct and provide written results of the hearing to the student-athlete. The student-athlete shall be provided the opportunity to actively participate (e.g., in-person, via telephone) in the hearing. If the institution fails to conduct the hearing or provide the written results to the student-athlete within 15 business days, permission to contact the student-athlete shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete.~~ [D]

13.1.1.2.3 Student-Athlete Withdrawn from Four-Year College. A member institution may contact a student-athlete who has withdrawn officially from a four-year collegiate institution without obtaining **authorization** ~~permission~~ from the first institution. [D]

13.1.1.2.4 Transfer from Institution on Probation. It is not necessary for an institution to obtain **authorization through the notification of transfer process** ~~permission in writing~~ to recruit a student-athlete at an institution that has been placed on probation with sanctions that preclude it from competing in postseason competition during the remaining seasons of the student-athlete's eligibility. However, the student-athlete's institution must be notified of the recruitment and may establish reasonable restrictions related to the contact (e.g., no visits during class time), provided such restrictions do not preclude the opportunity for the student-athlete to discuss transfer possibilities with the other institution [see Bylaw 14.13.1.2-(c)]. [D]

13.1.1.2.5 Transfer While Ineligible Due to Positive Drug Test. If a student-athlete who is declared ineligible due to a positive drug test administered by the NCAA transfers to another NCAA institution, the institution from which the student-athlete transferred must notify the new institution of the student-athlete's ineligibility (see Bylaw 18.4.1.5.4). [D]

B. Bylaws: Amend 13.6, as follows:

[Roll Call]

13.6.1.2.1 Transfer Student. If a student-athlete attending a four-year institution desires to transfer and that institution provides the **authorization** ~~permission~~ required (per Bylaw 13.1.1.2), it is permissible for a second institution to provide the student-athlete one official visit to that institution's campus.

C. Bylaws: Amend 14.5.5, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14.5.5 Four-Year College Transfers. See Bylaw 13.1.1.2 for prohibition against contacting student-athletes of another four-year collegiate institution without **first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer or self-release process** ~~permission~~.

[14.5.5.1 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: While the current legislation requires Division III institutions to secure permission to contact another NCAA institution's student-athlete before recruitment, institutional policy dictates how that permission is gained. Optional use of the NCAA Transfer Portal and differences in institutional transfer tracer forms is overly burdensome and can be difficult for administrators to accurately track. This proposal will streamline the transfer certification process for Division III institutions and establish a system to allow for better tracking and information sharing. Additionally, maintaining the self-release processes will continue to permit Division III student-athletes to continue to pursue transfer opportunities without fear of repercussion from their original institutions.

Budget Impact: None.

No. 1-3 ELIGIBILITY -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A SEASON OF ELIGIBILITY -- MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION -- ONLY COMPETITION TRIGGERING USE OF A SEASON

Intent: To specify that a student-athlete would be charged with a season of eligibility if the student-athlete competes at any point during the traditional season.

Bylaws: Amend 14, as follows:

[Roll Call]

14 Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements.

[14.01 through 14.1 unchanged.]

14.2 Seasons of ~~Participation~~**Competition**: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** in any one sport (see Bylaw 14.2.4.1).

[14.2.1 unchanged.]

14.2.2 Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall complete their seasons of ~~participation~~**competition** during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution. For an institution that conducts registration other than on a traditional semester or quarter basis, the Management Council shall determine an equivalent enrollment period.

[14.2.2.1 unchanged.]

14.2.2.2 Fraction of 10 Semesters/15 Quarters Remaining. A student-athlete whose combination of semesters and quarters of previous enrollment leaves them with any fraction of the 10th semester or 15th quarter of eligibility at the beginning of their final semester or quarter may remain eligible for the entire semester or quarter.

[14.2.2.3 through 14.2.2.4 unchanged.]

[14.2.3 unchanged.]

14.2.4 Criteria for Determining Season of Eligibility.

14.2.4.1 Minimum Amount of ~~Participation~~**Competition**. A season of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** shall be counted in the student-athlete's sport when a student-athlete ~~participates (practices or competes)~~ during ~~or after the first contest in~~ the traditional segment ~~following the student-athlete's initial participation of that academic year at that institution~~ or when the student-athlete engages in intercollegiate competition during the nontraditional

segment in that sport. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics ~~participation (practice or competition)~~ conducted by a Division III collegiate institution at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team level. (See Bylaw 14.1.11, for student-athletes participating in a recognized foreign exchange/study abroad program).

14.2.4.1.1 Exceptions. A season of ~~participation~~**competition** shall not be counted:

[14.2.4.1.1-(a) through 14.2.4.1.1-(b) unchanged.]

(c) In baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, when a student-athlete ~~participates (practices or competes)~~ during the nontraditional segment.

(d) ~~During the traditional segment when an international student (see Bylaw 12.1.1.1) practices during the temporary certification period per Bylaw 12.1.1.4.1, even if such practice occurs during or after the first contest in the traditional segment.~~

~~14.2.4.1.2 Exception -- Pending Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Waiver. A student-athlete who is eligible for practice may practice, but not compete, after the first contest or date of competition without using a season of participation while a Subcommittee for Legislative Relief waiver is pending. To be eligible for this exception, the institution must have received official notification that the national office has received the institution's completed waiver application and all relevant supporting documentation. If the waiver request is denied, the student-athlete must cease practicing immediately on notification to the institution of the decision or the student-athlete shall be charged with the use of a season of participation. If the institution chooses to appeal a waiver denial, the student-athlete shall not resume practice until the institution receives official notification that any information required for appeal has been received. If the subcommittee denies the appeal, the student-athlete must cease practicing immediately upon notification to the institution of the decision or the student-athlete shall be charged with the use of a season of participation.~~

14.2.4.1.32 Student Managers and Student Coaches. ~~A season of participation shall be counted when a student manager or student coach participates as a team member in practice or other physical activities during the time frame set forth in Bylaw 14.2.4.1.~~ A student coach or student manager's role should be limited to performing traditional coaching or managerial duties. **If these individuals practice and/or compete they will be subject to the same eligibility regulations as student-athletes.**

14.2.4.1.43 Transfer from a Non-Division III Institution.

The season of ~~participation~~**competition** standard does not apply to a transfer student-athlete's previous participation at a non-Division III institution. A transfer student-athlete is subject to the legislation that applied to the previous institution during the term(s) of participation.

14.2.4.2 Track and Field and Cross Country. For the purposes of determining a season of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition**, cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field shall be considered separate sports.

14.2.4.2.1 Participation on Triathlon Team. Participation in triathlon shall not use a season of ~~participation~~**competition** in cross country, swimming or track and field.

14.2.4.3 Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. For the purposes of determining a season of ~~intercollegiate participation~~**competition**, volleyball and beach volleyball shall be considered separate sports.

[14.2.4.4 unchanged.]

14.2.4.5 Intercollegiate ~~Participation~~**Competition**. A student-athlete is considered to have engaged in a season of intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** when they compete in an athletics event involving any one of the conditions characterizing intercollegiate ~~participation~~**competition** (per Bylaws 14.02.6 and 14.2.4.1).

14.2.4.6 International Competition/Summers. Competition by a student-athlete representing an institution in international competition during the summer-vacation period shall not affect the student-athlete's seasons of ~~participation~~**competition**, provided the competition has been certified by the institution per Bylaw 17.32.1 or sanctioned by the Management Council, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting, and the request for Management Council sanction has been made by the institution at least 30 days before the competition.

14.2.4.7 Foreign-Tour Competition. A student-athlete who did not ~~participate~~**compete** during the institution's season just completed and who represents the institution in a certified foreign tour after that intercollegiate season and before the start of the next academic year shall not be charged with a season of ~~participation~~**competition** for the preceding season.

~~14.2.4.8 Male Practice Player. A male student who practices with a women's team in a sport that is also sponsored as a men's sport by the NCAA or is considered the same sport under amateurism regulations, is charged with a season of participation in the men's sport. If a male student practices with a women's team in a sport that has no equivalent men's sponsored sport, the male student is charged with a season of participation in the women's sport.~~

14.2.5 Hardship Waiver. A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of ~~participation~~**competition** (per Bylaw 14.2.4) by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for reasons of "hardship." Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from a season-ending injury or illness (including a mental health condition) that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

[14.2.5-(a) through 14.2.5-(b) unchanged.]

[14.2.5.1 through 14.2.5.4 unchanged.]

14.2.6 Season-of-~~Participation~~**Competition** Waiver -- Participation While Ineligible. In conjunction with a request for restoration of eligibility and any conditions imposed thereon per Bylaw 14.12, a student-athlete may be granted an additional season of ~~participation~~**competition** by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when they engaged in a limited amount of ~~participation~~**competition** as a result of a good-faith, erroneous formal declaration of eligibility by the institution's appropriate certifying authority or a student-athlete's good-faith, erroneous reliance on a coaching staff member's decision to put the student-athlete into ~~participation~~**competition** before the coaching staff member receiving a formal declaration of the student-athlete's eligibility from the institution's appropriate certifying authority. The participation must have occurred under all of the following conditions:

- (a) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred while the student-athlete was representing an NCAA member institution;
- (b) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred within 60 days of the date the student-athlete first reported for athletics participation;

[14.2.6-(c) unchanged.]

- (d) The student-athlete was involved innocently and inadvertently in the erroneous determination or declaration of eligibility, which permitted the student-athlete to ~~participate~~**compete** while ineligible; and
- (e) In the case of a coaching staff member's erroneous decision, the student-athlete had reason to believe they would be eligible to participate and the student-athlete did not contribute to the coaching staff member's erroneous decision to allow the student-athlete to ~~participate~~**compete**.

[14.2.6.1 through 14.2.6.2 unchanged.]

14.2.7 Season-of-~~Participation~~**Competition** Waiver -- Participation While Eligible. A student-athlete may be granted an additional season of ~~participation~~**competition** by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement when, due to extenuating circumstances (per Bylaw 14.2.7.1.2), the student-athlete, while eligible, engaged in a limited amount of ~~participation~~**competition**. The ~~participation~~**competition** must have occurred under all of the following conditions:

- (a) The ~~participation~~**competition** occurred within the first half of the traditional segment; and

[14.2.7-(b) unchanged.]

14.2.7.1 Administrative Criteria. The following criteria shall be employed in the administration of this season-of-~~participation~~**competition** waiver:

[14.2.7.1.1 through 14.2.7.1.3 unchanged.]

[14.2.7.2 unchanged.]

[14.4 through 14.13 unchanged.]

Source: Atlantic East Conference, Empire 8 and Little East Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: This proposal empowers student-athletes to control their collegiate athletic experience by offering flexibility in participation seasons. Transitioning to college is challenging academically and mentally, and this policy supports well-being at a personalized pace. It allows struggling students to acclimate without the pressure of using a season of eligibility while still being engaged with their team which is also important for retention efforts in this challenging time in higher education. This proposal greatly enhances their opportunity to successfully navigate their challenges rather than be compelled to make a decision between the appropriate experience for their needs and leaving the team to save eligibility. The current policy, adopted in 2004, is outdated

and doesn't reflect the modern college student or the evolution of higher education. Many students now need more than four years to complete their degree, and graduate programs are more common. This proposal does NOT grant student-athletes five years of competition. They still have four years to compete but the flexibility to determine those years based on their unique circumstances. Student-athletes should have the same opportunity as non-athletes to maximize their collegiate experience, including athletics. It's time for our division to evolve and give student-athletes more control over their experience.

Budget Impact:

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council opposes this proposal as it is contrary to the philosophical tenet that Division III should primarily focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year undergraduate experience.

No. 1-4 AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TYPES OF AWARDS, AWARDING AGENCIES, MAXIMUM VALUE AND NUMBERS OF AWARDS -- REMOVE EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND REFERENCES TO AWARD VALUES

Intent: To remove the exact dollar amounts and references to the value of awards from the awards legislation.

A. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.1.3 Nonpermissible Awards. The following awards are prohibited unless received per Bylaw 16.1.1.2, except that receipt of a cash award is not permitted under any circumstance. [R]

16.1.3.1 Cash or Equivalent. An individual may not receive a cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash-equivalent award (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or trade or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletics participation. [R]

16.1.3.2 Gift Certificates or Gift Cards Redeemable for Cash. Gift certificates or gift cards that are redeemable for cash shall be prohibited. [R]

16.1.3.3 Country Club or Sports-Club Memberships. An award of a country club or sports-club membership is strictly prohibited, ~~even if the cost of the membership is below the maximum award value permitted by NCAA legislation.~~ [R]

16.1.3.4 Transfer of Nonpermissible Award. Cash or any other award that an individual could not receive under NCAA legislation may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different individual or agency (e.g., a collegiate institution). [R]

B. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.4, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.1.4 Types of Awards, Awarding Agencies, ~~Maximum Value~~ and Numbers of Awards. Athletics awards given to individual student-athletes shall be limited to those approved or administered by an institution, its conference or an approved agency as specified in the following subsections and shall be limited to ~~the normal retail value and~~ number as specified in this section. Each of the following subsections is independent of the others so that it is permissible for an individual student-athlete to receive the awards described in all subsections. ~~The value of an award may not exceed specified value limits and a student-athlete may not contribute to its purchase in order to meet those limits.~~ [R]

16.1.4.1 Participation Awards. Awards for participation in intercollegiate athletics may be presented each year, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-1. Awards for participation in special events may be provided only to student-athletes eligible to participate in the competition. [R]

16.1.4.2 Awards for Winning Conference and National Championships. Awards for winning an individual or team conference or national championship may be presented each year, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-2. Awards for winning a conference or national championship in a team sport may be provided only to student-athletes who were eligible to participate in the championship event. ~~The total value of any single award received for a conference or national championship may not exceed the value in Figure 16-2, and each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.~~ Each permissible awarding agency may provide only a single award for each championship to each student-athlete. Separate awards may be presented to both the regular-season conference champion and the postseason conference champion ~~(with a separate limitation), even but~~ if the same institution wins both the regular-season and postseason conference championship, ~~the combined value of both awards shall not exceed the value in Figure 16-2.~~ [R]

16.1.4.3 Special Achievement Awards. Awards may be provided each year to individual student-athletes and teams to recognize special achievements, honors and distinctions, limited in ~~value and~~ number as specified in Figure 16-3. [R]

16.1.4.3.1 Conference Postgraduate Scholarship Award. A student-athlete may receive a conference postgraduate scholarship award, provided the following conditions are met:

[16.1.4.3.1-(a) through 16.1.4.3.1-(h) unchanged.]

16.1.4.4 Local Civic Organization and Booster Clubs. A local civic organization (e.g., Rotary Club, Touchdown Club) and booster clubs may provide awards to an individual student-athlete or member institution's team(s). The following regulations shall apply to such an event: [R]

[16.1.4.4-(a) through 16.1.4.4-(c) unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 16.1.5, as follows:

[Roll Call]

~~16.1.5 Purchase Restrictions.~~

~~16.1.5.1 Assignment of Normal Retail Value. Normal retail value shall be assigned as the value of an award when determining whether an award meets specified value limits, even when a member institution receives institutional awards from an athletics representative or organization free of charge or at a special reduced rate. Normal retail value is the cost to the institution that is based solely on volume and is available to all purchasers of a similar volume and that does not involve an obligation to make additional purchases to enable the supplier to recover the costs for the original purchase.~~

~~16.1.5.2 Supplementary Purchase Arrangement. An institution may not enter into a supplementary purchase arrangement with an awards supplier whereby the supplier agrees to sell an award (e.g., a watch or ring) at a price below the maximum amount specified by NCAA legislation with the understanding that the institution will make additional purchases of other unrelated items to enable the supplier to recover the costs for the original purchase. Such an arrangement would exceed the specific value limitations placed on permissible awards. [R]~~

~~16.1.5.3 Combining Values. An institution may not combine the value limits of awards given in a sport during the same season, or given to student-athletes who participate in more than one sport, to provide an award more expensive than permissible under separate application to some or all of its participating student-athletes. [R]~~

~~16.1.5.4 Student-Athlete Contribution to Purchase. The value of an award may not exceed specified value limits, and a student-athlete may not contribute to its purchase in order to meet those limits. [R]~~

[16.1.6 through 16.1.7 renumbered as 16.1.5 through 16.1.6, unchanged.]

D. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-1, as follows:

Figure 16.1 Participation Awards

**FIGURE 16-1
Participation Awards**

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
Annual Participation — Underclassmen	\$225	Once per year per sport	Institution	1
Annual Participation — Senior	\$425	Once per year per sport	Institution	1
Special Event Participation				
• Participation in postseason conference championship contest or tournament	\$375 ¹	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event (may include conference office)	2
• Participation in postseason NCAA championship contest or tournament	Institution — \$375 NCAA — No limit	Once per event	• Institution • NCAA	2
• Participation in all-star game	\$400 ²	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event	2
• Participation in other established meets, tournaments and featured individual competition	\$400 ²	Once per event	• Institution • Management of event	2

¹The combined value of all awards received for participation in this type of event from the institution and the management of the event may not exceed the maximum value in this figure.
²Each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.

E. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-2, as follows:

Figure 16.2 Championship Awards

FIGURE 16-2
Championship Awards

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
National Championship conducted by NCAA	\$415 [†]	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
National Championship not conducted by NCAA***	\$415 [†]	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
Conference Championship – regular season	\$325 [†] #	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2
Conference Championship – postseason contest or tournament	\$325 [†] #	Once per championship	• Institution** • Conference**	2

[†]Each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate limit per award.

** Award may be provided by another organization recognized by the institution or conference to act in its place.

*** Applies only to sports or classification division in which the NCAA does not conduct championships. Teams must be designated as a "national champion" by a national wire-service poll or the national coaches association in that sport.

#The combined value of both awards shall not exceed the maximum value in this figure if same institution wins conference regular season and postseason championships.

F. Bylaws: Amend Figure 16-3, as follows:

Figure 16.3 Special Achievement Awards

**FIGURE 16-3
Special Achievement Awards**

Type of Award	Maximum Value of Award	Number of Times Award May Be Received	Permissible Awarding Agencies	Maximum Number of Permissible Awarding Agencies
Special attainments or contribution to team's season (e.g., scholar-athlete, most improved player, most minutes played, most valuable player)	\$175	Once per category of award per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Institution ▫ Conference 	2
Conference student-athlete of the year award	\$350	Once per year for one student-athlete in a male sport and one student-athlete in a female sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Conference 	1
Conference scholar-athlete of the year award	\$350	Once per year for one student-athlete in a male sport and one student-athlete in a female sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Conference 	1
Most valuable player — special event*	\$325**	Once per event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Institution ▫ Conference ▫ Organization approved by institution or conference 	Unlimited
Most valuable player — bowl game or all-star contest	\$350	Once per event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Sponsoring entity of all-star contest 	1
Established regional/national recognition awards (e.g., Jostens Trophy, Gagliardi Trophy)	no limit	Once per year per award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Management of award program 	1
Specialized performance in single contest or during limited time-period (e.g., player of the game, player of the week)	\$80 (certificate, medal, or plaque only)	Unlimited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Institution ▫ Conference ▫ Outside organization (e.g., local business) 	Unlimited
Hometown award	\$80	Unlimited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Group (other than institution's booster club) located in the student-athletes' hometown. 	Unlimited

* The award recipient must be selected by a recognized organization approved by a member institution or conference.

** Each permissible awarding agency is subject to separate limit per award. Each awarding agency may provide only a single award for each event to each student-athlete.

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: Current legislation limits awards to a specific dollar amount and restricts the manner these awards may be purchased. The specific dollar amounts have not been adjusted in nearly 15 years and have not been regularly monitored. Due to the rising costs, it is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase the same or similar types of awards from year to year. Removing the exact dollar amounts would eliminate the need to monitor and modify award limitations moving forward. This awards legislation remains permissive legislation; thus, it is left to the institution and/or conference policies to determine the amount which can be spent on awards to student-athletes and provides flexibility in spending on awards.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional interest in providing awards.

No. 1-5 AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- PERMIT ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ONE ALL-STAR CONTEST OR OTHER POST-ELIGIBILITY EVENT

Intent: To permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses for student-athletes to participate in one collegiate all-star contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16 Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.

[16.01 through 16.1 unchanged.]

16.1.7 Expenses to Receive Noninstitutional Awards. A conference, an institution, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, a national governing body (or the international equivalents) or the awarding agency may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to receive a noninstitutional award or recognition for athletics or academic accomplishments. Actual and necessary expenses may be provided for the student-athlete's parents (or legal guardians), spouse or other relatives or individuals of a comparable relationship to attend the recognition event or awards presentation. [R]

16.1.7.1 All-Star Contest. **After a student-athlete exhausts eligibility in the sport, An** institution may ~~not~~ provide **actual and necessary** expenses ~~to a student-athlete to participate~~ **for participation** in ~~an~~ **one collegiate All-Star** contest or similar **post-eligibility** competitive event. [R]

[16.2 through 16.12 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: Current legislation prohibits an institution from providing expenses for a student-athlete to participate in a collegiate all-star contest or similar competitive event. An institution may, however, provide a student-athlete with a one-time award for their participation, which could be used towards an expense costing \$400 or less, but could not be contributed toward an expense costing more than \$400. This proposal would eliminate the confusion and permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to participate in one all-start contest or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institution's interest in providing expenses for student-athletes who qualify for a collegiate all-star event or similar post-eligibility competitive event.

No. 1-6 AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES -- TEAM ENTERTAINMENT -- PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TICKETS

Intent: To clarify that institutions may provide reasonable entertainment during the playing season; further that reasonable entertainment could include providing professional sports tickets.

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16 Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.

[16.01 through 16.2 unchanged.]

16.2.2 Nonpermissible Procedures.

[16.2.2.1 through 16.2.2.4 unchanged.]

~~16.2.2.5 Professional Sports Tickets. An institution or any representative of its athletics interests may not purchase or otherwise obtain tickets to a professional sports contest and make these tickets available to student-athletes enrolled in an NCAA member institution. Such a gift of tickets would represent an unacceptable extra benefit (see Bylaw 16.7.1.1 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets as team entertainment related to an away-from-home contest and Bylaw 16.10.1.5 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets for recognition by a professional sports organization). [R]~~

[16.3 through 16.6 unchanged.]

16.7 Team Entertainment.

16.7.1 Entertainment in Conjunction With Practice and Competition. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide reasonable entertainment (but may not provide cash for such entertainment) to student-athletes **during the playing season, consistent with existing institutional policy**~~in conjunction with practice or competition.~~ [R]

~~16.7.1.1 Professional Sports Tickets. Complimentary tickets to professional sports contests shall not be provided to student-athletes, unless the tickets are provided by the institution (or by a representative of athletics interests through the institution) for entertainment purposes to student-athletes involved in an away-from-home contest. (See Bylaw 16.10.1.5 for permissible provision of professional sports tickets for recognition by a professional sports organization). [R]~~

~~16.7.2 Practice Sites on Road Trips. Any practice on an extended road trip shall take place either at the competition site, on a direct route between the institution's campus and the first competition site or on a direct route between two consecutive competition sites. It is not permissible for an institution to schedule practice sessions at other locations to provide entertainment opportunities for team members. [D]~~

[16.8 through 16.12 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: While current legislation permits an institution to provide reasonable entertainment to student-athletes in conjunction with practice or competition, there is a specific prohibition against providing professional sports tickets as such entertainment, unless it is in conjunction with an away from home contest. Regulating certain types of entertainment expenses is overly burdensome and institutions should have discretion to determine when to provide entertainment expenses to student-athletes during the team's declared playing season. This proposal would provide flexibility for entertainment while also maintaining the prohibition of providing cash for such entertainment.

Budget Impact: May vary depending on the institution's interest in providing entertainment expenses.

No. 1-7 AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES FOR ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES – EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE – ELIMINATE DISTANCE AND LOCATION RESTRICTIONS

Intent: To permit institutions to provide expenses for practice sessions at any location, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed.

Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.8.1 Permissible. The permissible expenses for practice and competition that an institution may provide a student-athlete are defined in the following subsections (see Bylaw 16.10 for expenses that may be provided by individuals or organizations other than the institution).

16.8.1.1 Practice. Expenses may be paid for practice sessions **at any location provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed**~~only if they are associated with an away-from-home contest or conducted at a site located within the member institution's state or, if outside that state, not more than 100 miles from the institution's campus.~~ [D]

~~16.8.1.1.1 Practice Sites on Road Trips. Any practice on an extended road trip shall take place either at the competition site, on a direct route between the institution's campus and the first competition site or on a direct route between two consecutive competition sites. [D]~~

~~16.8.1.1.2 Skiing—Weather Exception. In men's and women's skiing, a member institution may transport a team to a practice site beyond the mileage limitations of Bylaw 16.8.1.1 if necessitated by weather conditions. [D]~~

~~16.8.1.1.3 Women's Rowing—Weather Exception. In women's rowing, a member institution may transport a team to a practice site beyond the mileage limitations of Bylaw 16.8.1.1 if necessitated by weather conditions. If practice activities are conducted during an institution's academic term, the practice activities shall occur only at a site located within the member institution's state or, if outside the state, not more than 200 miles from the institution's campus. All practice activities must be within the institution's declared playing and practice season in women's rowing. [D]~~

~~16.8.1.1.4 On- or Off-Campus Practice Sites. An institution may transport student-athletes from a central on-campus site (e.g., the locker room) to an on- or off-campus practice site.~~

~~16.8.1.1.5 Exception—Golf and Swimming and Diving. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) for golf and swimming and diving student-athletes at any location during an official vacation period, provided the student-athlete is eligible and no class is missed. [R]~~

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) for a student-athlete to represent the institution in competition, provided the student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate competition. [D]

[16.8.1.2.1 through 16.8.1.2.6 unchanged.]

16.8.1.2.7 Location of Practice on Extended Competition Road Trips. An institution may not conduct practice as part of an extended road trip associated with competition at a location that results in additional missed class time.

[16.8.1.3 through 16.8.1.5 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee)

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: Currently, an institution may pay for expenses for a practice trip anywhere within the state or if outside the state then no more than 100 miles. This has vastly different applications depending on the state and where within the state, a Division III institution is located. Removing the location and mileage restrictions will acknowledge these differences and permit institutions to provide practice expenses absent an arbitrary limitation. Further, the condition that class time may not be missed for practice activities maintains the philosophical tenet of Division III athletics existing as part of the academic experience.

Budget Impact: May vary based on institutional interest in offering alternative practice sites.

No. 1-8 PLAYING SEASONS – ADD A MANDATORY WINTER BREAK

Intent: To establish a seven-consecutive-calendar-day-period between December 15th and December 28th, in which student-athletes may not participate in any athletically related activities.

Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.02 unchanged.]

17.02.1.1.1.4 Strength and Conditioning Activities as follows:

[17.02.1.1.1.4-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Voluntary individual workouts monitored for safety purposes by a strength and conditioning coach (certified or noncertified). If the coach is also a staff member for one of the institution's intercollegiate teams the monitoring may occur only if the coach performs monitoring duties for all student-athletes using the facility at that time. **The winter break prohibition (see Bylaw 17.1.1.1.1) does not apply to this bylaw.**

[17.02.1.1.1.4.1 unchanged.]

[17.02.1.1.1.5 unchanged.]

[17.02.2 through 17.02.14 unchanged.]

[17.1 unchanged.]

17.1.1.1 Declaration of Playing Season. Each member institution shall determine the playing season for each of the sports referenced under Bylaw 17.02.13. Declaration of the institution's playing season in each such sport shall be on file in writing in the department of athletics before the beginning of the institution's playing season for that sport. Changes in the declaration for a particular sport are permissible and also shall be filed in writing in the office of the institution's director of athletics.

17.1.1.1.1 Winter Break. Each Division III member institution must declare a seven-consecutive-calendar-day winter break between December 15 and December 28 as part of the declaration of the playing season. The declared winter break shall be consistent for all institutionally sponsored NCAA Division III varsity sports. During the winter break, a student-athlete may not participate in any athletically related activities, including voluntary athletically related activities with a sport coach unless otherwise noted.

[17.1.1.2 through 17.1.1.5 unchanged.]

[17.1.2 through 17.1.6 unchanged.]

[17.2 through 17.31 unchanged.]

17.32 Foreign Tours.

[17.32.1 unchanged.]

17.32.1.4 Timing of Tour. The tour shall be scheduled during the summer-vacation period between the institution's spring and fall terms or during any other vacation period published in the institution's official catalog. **If an official vacation period overlaps with the institution's declared winter break, the tour may be conducted during that break.** All travel to and from the foreign country must take place during such a vacation period. However, if the team crosses the international date line during the tour, the change of date will be disregarded and the equivalent time as measured in the United States will be used to determine the institution's vacation period.

[17.32.1.5 through 17.32.1.6 unchanged.]

17.32.1.7 Practice Limitation. Not more than 10 days of practice are permitted before departure. The 10 days of practice are not required to occur on consecutive days, provided extenuating circumstances exist (e.g., final exams, convocation, summer class schedules, summer employment, **winter break**, etc.) that affect the institution's ability to conduct 10 days of practice in the 10 days immediately before departure and all practice days are conducted during the 20 calendar days immediately before the foreign tour departure date. Only student-athletes who will accompany the team on the foreign tour are permitted to participate in the 10 practice days (see Bylaw 17.1.5.1).

[17.32.1.8 through 17.32.1.10 unchanged.]

[17.32.2 unchanged.]

[17.33 unchanged.]

Source: Collegiate Conference of the South and Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2028

Rationale: The proposed legislation establishing a mandatory seven-day winter break over a period typically included as an official period vacation for most institutions is designed to prioritize the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Division III student-athletes, coaches and support staff in alignment with the core values of the division. This supports a healthier and more sustainable environment within athletic departments. By creating a predictable and uninterrupted break period, this proposal ensures that student-athletes are afforded meaningful time away from the demands of intercollegiate athletics to rest, recover, and spend time with family and friends during the institutional break. A legislated break reflects the Division III values by protecting time for non-athletic pursuits and personal reflection. Removing all athletically related activities ensures a true mental and physical pause from athletic responsibilities. This proposal permits an institution to select the same break across the athletics department. The flexible adjustment mechanism preserves the intent of the legislation while accommodating practical scheduling concerns. This proposal supports the continued health and sustainability of Division III athletics by embedding a reasonable and equitable rest period into the annual calendar, promoting long-term well-being and reinforcing the educational mission of Division III institutions.

Budget Impact: None

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council.*: Management Council opposes this proposal, as it is overly prescriptive as institutions should have autonomy to determine appropriate breaks consistent with their mission and academic calendars. It may also have unintended negative consequences for student-athletes (limited access to on-campus facilities and need to find and pay for alternative accommodations).

No. 1-9 CHAMPIONSHIPS -- ESTABLISH A DIVISION III WOMEN'S WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Intent: To establish a Division III women's wrestling championship starting in 2027-28 academic year and a Division III Women's Wrestling Committee as specified.

Bylaws: Amend 18.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers 92 national championships. Thirteen are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (13).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (7)
Fencing	Rifle	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Skiing	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Fencing
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo
		Wrestling (<u>DI and DII eff. 8/1/27</u>)

18.3.2 Division III Championships.

Men (14)	Women (154)
Baseball	Basketball
Basketball	Cross Country
Cross Country	Field Hockey
Football	Golf
Golf	Ice Hockey
Ice Hockey	Lacrosse
Lacrosse	Rowing
Soccer	Soccer
Swimming and Diving	Softball
Tennis	Swimming and Diving
Indoor Track and Field	Tennis
Outdoor Track and Field	Indoor Track and Field
Volleyball	Outdoor Track and Field
Wrestling	Volleyball
	<u>Wrestling (eff. 8/1/27)</u>

Source: American Rivers Conference, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin and Middle Atlantic Conferences.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: Currently, there are 55 Division III institutions that sponsor the sport of women's wrestling. Division III accounts for more than half of all NCAA institutions sponsoring women's wrestling, Establishment of a Division III championship would eliminate the inequities of competing against Division I opponents for the national title. A separate Division III championship would provide an avenue for Division III student-athletes to compete against similarly situated programs consistent with the Division III philosophy. An 8/1/26 effective date for the creation of the committee would provide the committee adequate time to gather information and prepare adequately. The championship would be established during the 2027-28 academic year,

Budget Impact: TBD

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* The Presidents Council supports this proposal. This proposal recognizes the growth of the sport at the Division III level and provides Division III student-athletes with an opportunity to compete for a divisional national championship.

No. 1-10 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

Intent: In women's acrobatics and tumbling, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's acrobatics and tumbling committee.

A. Bylaws: Amend 18, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

18 Championships.

[18.01 through 18.2 unchanged.]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~923~~ national championships. ~~Thirteen~~**Fourteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (~~134~~).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (78)
Fencing	Rifle	<u>Acrobatics and Tumbling</u>
Gymnastics	Skiing	Beach Volleyball
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Bowling
Water Polo		Fencing
		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Water Polo
		Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 20.02, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. ~~Acrobatics and tumbling, R~~ugby and stunt; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

D. Bylaws: Amend 20.12, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

20.12 Eligibility for National Collegiate and Division Championships.

20.12.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's acrobatics and tumbling

- Women's beach volleyball
- Women's bowling
- Men's fencing
- Women's fencing
- Men's gymnastics
- Women's gymnastics

- Women's ice hockey (Divisions I and II)
- Men's and women's skiing
- Men's volleyball (Divisions I and II)
- Men's water polo
- Women's water polo
- Women's wrestling

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

20.12.2 Options When No Division III Championship Is Conducted. An active member institution that holds membership in Division III is eligible to compete in the Division II championships in those sports for which no championship is conducted in Division III. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of Division III that govern the sport in question.

20.12.2.1 Exception for Maximum Number of Contests or Dates of Competition. A Division III member institution that is eligible for a championship in another division because there is no championship in that sport in its membership division shall apply the maximum number of contests or dates of competition in the sport involved that applies to the division in which it declares its intention to compete.

E. Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.4 Common Committees -- Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities.

[21.4.1 unchanged.]

21.4.2 Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee, Women's. The Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling Committee shall consist of six members. The committee shall include at least one representative from each division.

[21.4.2 through 21.4.8 renumbered as 21.4.3 through 21.4.9, unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Acrobatics and tumbling has been an emerging sport in all three divisions since 2020. In spring 2025, based on unofficial data, 44 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport. The sport has continued to grow in the collegiate space and has received continued interest in the youth/K-12 level from related sports. Acrobatics and tumbling has a diverse recruiting pool of student-athletes competing in gymnastics, cheerleading, diving, dance and weightlifting, among other sports. The sport attracts a wide variety of athletes from socioeconomic and racial backgrounds. This pool has created more participation opportunities for women with over 1,100 student-athletes competing in 2023-24 across all three divisions. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches and officials. This proposal would be effective immediately to allow the women's acrobatics and tumbling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.

Budget Impact: \$2 million recurring annually for establishing a championship and committee (also includes broadcast production cost).

Intent: In women's stunt, to establish a National Collegiate Championship and to establish a women's stunt committee.

A. Bylaws: Amend 18, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

18 Championships.

[18.01 through 18.2 unchanged.]

18.3 Current Championships. The Association currently administers ~~923~~ national championships. ~~Thirteen~~**Fourteen** are National Collegiate Championships. Additionally, there are 26 Division I championships, 25 Division II championships and 28 Division III championships (see Bylaw 31.02.2 for information about the classification and terminology of championships and see Bylaw 18.2.1 for the voting requirements for the establishment of a new championship). The current championships are as follows:

18.3.1 National Collegiate Championship (~~134~~).

Men (4)	Men and Women (2)	Women (78)
Fencing	Rifle	Beach Volleyball
Gymnastics	Skiing	Bowling
Volleyball (Divisions I and II)		Fencing
Water Polo		Gymnastics
		Ice Hockey (Divisions I and II)
		Stunt
		Water Polo
		Wrestling

[18.3.2 unchanged.]

[18.4 through 18.6 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 20.02, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. Acrobatics and tumbling, **and** rugby ~~and stunt~~; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 20.12, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

20.12.1 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships. Separate championships in each division are not sponsored in the following sports:

Women's beach volleyball	Men's and women's skiing
Women's bowling	Women's stunt
Men's fencing	Men's volleyball (Divisions I and II)
Women's fencing	Men's water polo
Men's gymnastics	Women's water polo

Women's gymnastics
Women's ice hockey (Divisions I and II)

Women's wrestling

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

D. Bylaws: Amend 21, as follows:

[Common provision, all divisions, divided vote]

21.4 Common Committees -- Committees With Playing Rules and Championships Administration Responsibilities.

[21.4.1 through 21.4.5 unchanged.]

21.4.6 Stunt Committee, Women's. The Women's Stunt Committee shall consist of six members. The committee shall include at least one representative from each division.

[21.4.6 through 21.4.8 renumbered as 21.4.7 through 21.4.9, unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Stunt has been an emerging sport in Divisions I and II since August 2023, and Division III since August 2024. In spring of 2025, based on unofficial data, 41 NCAA member institutions met minimum sports sponsorship requirements, putting the sport above the legislatively required threshold of 40 varsity programs to be considered for National Collegiate championship status. It is anticipated that the announcement of sponsoring an NCAA championship would continue to drive membership interest in the sport. As the newest emerging sport, stunt has grown rapidly both in the collegiate space and in the youth/K-12 level with increased stunt competition opportunities around the country. Stunt has a high number of student-athletes from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities competing on teams at NCAA schools, which has created more participation opportunities for women within the NCAA. In 2023-24, a total of 704 student-athletes competed in stunt in Divisions I and II. The sport also has a high percentage of women coaches and officials. This proposal would be effective immediately to allow the women's acrobatics and tumbling committee to begin its work in January 2026 to prepare for the first national collegiate championship in spring 2027.

Budget Impact: \$1.9 million recurring annually for establishing a championship and committee (also includes broadcast production cost).

No. 1-12 DIVISION MEMBERSHIP, PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- EMERGING SPORTS FOR WOMEN -- WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

Intent: To add women's flag football as an emerging sport for women and establish legislation related to playing and practice seasons and membership.

A. Bylaws: Amend 16, as follows:

[Roll Call]

16.8.1.3 Other Competition. During an academic year in which a student-athlete is eligible to represent an institution in athletics competition (or in the next summer), an institution may provide actual and necessary expenses related to participation in the following activities: [R]

[16.8.1.3-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Specific competition (e.g., Olympic Trials) from which participants may directly qualify for the **Continental Championships**, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World Youth Championships, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships or the junior-level equivalent competition (e.g., Youth Olympic Games, Junior World Championships, U19 World University Games); and

(c) National team tryout competition events, including events from which participants are selected for another tier of tryout competition or events from which final selections are made for the national team that will participate in the **Continental Championships**, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American

Games, World Championships, World Cup, World Youth Championships, World University Games (Universiade) and World University Championships or the junior-level equivalent competition.

[16.8.1.3.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 17, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17 Playing and Practice Seasons.

[17.01 through 17.02 unchanged.]

17.02.13.1 Team Sports. The following are classified as team sports for purposes of this bylaw:

Acrobatics and Tumbling	Lacrosse
Beach Volleyball, Women's	Rugby, Women's
Baseball	Rowing, Women's
Basketball	Soccer
Field Hockey	Softball
Flag Football, Women's	Stunt
Football	Volleyball
Ice Hockey	Water Polo

[17.02.13.2 unchanged.]

[17.02.14 unchanged.]

[17.1 unchanged.]

17.1.4.4 Nontraditional Segment Competition Limitations for Baseball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, **Women's Flag Football** and Volleyball. The nontraditional segment shall be subject to the following limitations:

[17.1.4.4-(a) unchanged.]

[17.1.4.4-(a)-(1) through 17.1.4.4-(a)-(5) unchanged.]

(6) Women's Flag Football. Three regulation contests or 144 minutes of competition activity.

[17.1.4.4-(a)-(6) renumbered as 17.1.4.4-(a)-(7), unchanged.]

[17.1.4.5 unchanged.]

[17.1.5 through 17.1.6 unchanged.]

[17.2 through 17.10 unchanged.]

17.11 Flag Football, Women's. Regulations for computing the flag football playing season are set forth in Bylaw 17.1, General Playing-Season Regulations. (See Figure 17-1)

17.11.1 Length of Playing Season. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3 for spring NCAA Championship sports)

17.11.2 Preseason Practice. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.3 First Date of Competition. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.4 End of Playing Season. (See Bylaw 17.1.2.3)

17.11.5 Number of Contests.

17.11.5.1 Maximum Limitations -- Institutional. A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule against outside competition during the institution's flag football playing season in any one year to a maximum of 24 contests during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment, except for those contests excluded under Bylaw 17.11.5.3. During the traditional segment, countable contest limitations apply separately to multiple teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman). During the nontraditional segment, all teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman) shall be treated as one team for purpose of the countable contest limitations. For in-season foreign competition, see Bylaw 17.1.4.3.

17.11.5.2 Maximum Limitations -- Student-Athlete. A student-athlete may participate in each academic year in a maximum of 24 flag football contests during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment. This limitation includes those contests in which the student represents the institution, including competition as a member of the varsity, subvarsity or freshman team of the institution in accordance with Bylaws 17.02.4 and 17.02.9.

17.11.5.3 Exemptions. (See Standard Exemptions set forth in Bylaw 17.1.4.5.)

17.11.6 Out-of-Season Athletically Related Activities. (See Bylaw 17.1.5)

[17.11 through 17.33 renumbered as 17.12 through 17.34, unchanged.]

C. Bylaws: Amend 20, as follows:

[Roll Call]

20 Division Membership.

[20.01 through 20.02 unchanged.]

20.02.6 Emerging Sports for Women. The following shall be considered emerging sports for women:

(a) Team Sports. Acrobatics and tumbling, **flag football**, rugby and stunt; and

[20.02.6-(b) unchanged.]

[20.02.6.1 unchanged.]

[20.02.7 unchanged.]

[20.1 through 20.11 unchanged.]

20.11.4.8 Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship. In each sport, the institution's team shall engage in at least a minimum number of intercollegiate contests (against the varsity programs of four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions) each year. In the individual sports, the institution's team shall include a minimum number of participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contests requirement. The following minimums are applicable:

Team Sports	Minimum Contests	Minimum Participants	Individual Sports	Minimum Contests	Minimum Participants
Acrobatics and Tumbling	6	18	Bowling	8	5
Beach Volleyball	8		Cross Country	5	5
Baseball	25		Fencing	8	5
Basketball	18		Golf	6	4
Field Hockey	12		Men's Gymnastics	6	6
Women's Flag Football	12		Women's Gymnastics	6	5
Football	7		Rifle	6	4
Ice Hockey	18		Skiing	5	5
Lacrosse	10		Swimming and Diving	8	8
Women's Rowing	8		Tennis	10	4
Women's Rugby	8		Track and Field, Indoor	5	10
Soccer	13		Track and Field, Outdoor	6	12
Softball	24		Women's Triathlon	4	3
Stunt	6	16	Wrestling, Men's	7	6

Volleyball	17	Wrestling, Women's	7	6
Water Polo	13			

(Note: The minimum-contest requirements set forth in Bylaw 20.11.4.8 apply only to the provisions of this section and do not apply to minimum-contest requirements in Bylaw 14 and Bylaw 17.)

[20.11.4.8.1 through 20.11.4.8.8 unchanged.]

20.11.4.8.8.1 Exception -- Women's Flag Football. In women's flag football, an institution may count up to three contests per year against collegiate club teams toward meeting minimum-contest requirements.

[20.11.4.8.8.1 renumbered as 20.11.4.8.8.2, unchanged.]

[20.11.4.8.9 through 20.11.4.8.11 unchanged.]

[20.11.4.9 through 20.11.4.10 unchanged.]

[20.11.5 unchanged.]

[20.12 through 20.15 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Women's Athletics).

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: The continued growth in high school girl's flag football and the number of collegiate institutions sponsoring the sport demonstrate the rapid growth of the sport and its potential to reach NCAA championship status at the collegiate level. Enough women's flag football teams met the prescribed guidelines of the Emerging Sports for Women Program application to demonstrate significant interest and sustainability within college. Additionally, the sport is relatively inexpensive to sponsor and attracts additional demographics of potential student-athletes. In addition, there is a shared commitment at the collegiate level to increase participation opportunities from institutions and conferences, as well as funding and resources from national governing bodies to further support the sport's growth. Finally, the immediate effective date will allow schools that sponsor the sport in the 2026 spring championship season to count towards the requirement of 40 institutions to establish a national collegiate championship in a women's sport.

Budget Impact: Will vary based on institutional decisions related to sponsorship.

No. 1-13 CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- REQUIRED PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CORE MEMBERS.

Intent: To require an institution that is a core member of a conference to participate in the conference's automatic qualification (AQ) process for the sport(s) in which the institution sponsors. Failure to participate in the conference's defined AQ process (including declining participation in the conference's postseason tournament) in a particular sport will render that institution ineligible for NCAA championship selection (i.e. at-large selection).

Administrative: Amend 31, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31 Executive Regulations.

[31.01 through 31.2 unchanged.]

31.2.1 Institutional Eligibility. To be eligible to enter a team or an individual in NCAA championship competition, an institution shall recognize the sport involved as a varsity intercollegiate sport (see Bylaw 17.02.13) and shall:

[31.2.1-(a) through 31.2.1-(h) unchanged.]

(i) An institution that is a core member of a conference that receives an automatic qualification in a sport must fully participate in the conference's process required to earn that automatic qualification.

[31.2.1.1 through 31.2.1.10 unchanged.]

[31.2.2 through 31.2.3 unchanged.]

[31.3 unchanged.]

31.3.4 Selection of Balance of Championship Field (At-Large Berth). Once the official representative(s) of each qualifying conference is determined, the governing sports committee responsible for selection of the balance of the championship field shall complete the championship field in accordance with the minimum requirements and selection criteria approved for the particular championship as approved by the Championships Committee. There shall be no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region.

[31.3.4.1 unchanged.]

31.3.4.1.2 Institutional Eligibility. Institutions must satisfy institutional eligibility requirements set forth in Bylaw 31.2.1 (including the in-region opponent competition requirement). **Additionally, an institution that is a core member of a conference that has an automatic qualification in the sport, must fully participate in that automatic qualification process to be eligible for at-large selection.**

[31.3.4.1.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.4.2 through 31.3.4.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.5 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

[31.4 through 31.9 unchanged.]

Source: Landmark Conference, North Coast Athletic Conference and Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conf.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: The Division III philosophy emphasizes a strong commitment to conference membership and prioritizes in-region competition. Institutions should not be permitted to serve as core members of a conference while opting out of league competition in certain sports. This practice not only impacts which teams receive the conference's automatic qualifier (AQ) but also affects the number of at-large bids available to the rest of Division III. With the limited access ratio to NCAA selections, it is essential to prevent institutions and conferences from manipulating structures in pursuit of additional access. Allowing core members to bypass their conference's AQ process undermines the integrity of both conference championships and the NCAA selection process, and is unfairly disadvantageous to schools that fully engage with their leagues. Furthermore, when core members choose to compete independently in select sports, it weakens the conference's overall competitive reputation and AQ strength. This proposal reinforces conference stability by requiring full participation, which in turn enhances the league's standing and credibility within NCAA processes. Ultimately, this change safeguards the fairness and equity of championship access by ensuring that NCAA selections-both automatic and at-large-are earned through a transparent and consistent pathway.

Budget Impact: NA

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council supports this proposal to reinforce the integrity of the NCAA automatic qualification and championships selection process.

Additional Information:

10/24/2025: 31.2.1(i) was editorially added to reflect the sponsors' intent and reduce confusion.

No. 1-14 CHAMPIONSHIPS – AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION – MULTIPLE AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER MODEL

Intent: To develop a formula to provide multiple automatic qualifiers to multisport conferences that have 12 or more core members that sponsor a sport. Specifically: (1) Once a conference reaches 12 or more core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately receive a second automatic qualifier in that sport; (2) If a conference falls below 12 core members sponsoring a sport, the conference will immediately lose their second automatic qualifier in the sport; and (3) The method by which the conference determines its conference representatives is the responsibility of the conference and shall be declared and outlined at the time of the automatic-qualifier declaration.

Administrative: Amend 31.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31.3 Selection of Teams and Individuals for Championships Participation. A list of the active institutions eligible for championships consideration shall be supplied by the NCAA president to the chair of each governing sports committee and to the athletics director of the host institution. This list should be observed carefully to ensure that no entries are accepted from or invitations extended to ineligible institutions.

[31.3.1 unchanged.]

31.3.1.2 Bracket Composition Brackets shall consist of automatic qualifiers and at-large participants. The number of at-large participants is determined by subtracting the number of automatic qualifiers from the total bracket size. There shall be a minimum of two at-large berths:

- (a) Automatic Qualifiers – Institutions that earn their conference’s automatic-qualification. The conference must satisfy the automatic qualification requirements per Bylaw 31.3.3 ~~and no conference shall receive more than~~ **to receive** one automatic berth per sport **and conferences with 12 or more members sponsoring a sport shall receive two automatic berths (see Bylaw 31.3.3.1.1.2);** and

[31.3.1.2-(b) unchanged.]

[31.3.2 through 31.3.3 unchanged.]

31.3.3.1 Requirements – Division Championship. To be eligible for automatic qualification in a division championship, a member conference shall meet the following general requirements:

[31.3.3.1-(a) unchanged.]

- (b) The conference shall have the responsibility of determining which team(s) or individual shall represent the conference in NCAA competition. Any competition to determine such, shall not be considered NCAA championship competition. The method by which a conference determines its conference representative(s) shall be declared at the time of the automatic-qualification declaration and shall be objectively outlined.

[31.3.3.1-(c) through 31.3.3.1-(h) unchanged.]

[31.3.3.1.1 unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.1.2 Second Automatic Qualifier. A multisport conference may immediately receive a second automatic qualification to a Division III championship, provided:

(a) The conference currently has an automatic qualification in the given sport; and

(b) The conference has 12 or more core members that sponsor the sport.

If, at any time, the conference has fewer than 12 core members in the sport, it shall immediately forfeit the additional automatic berth.

[31.3.3.1.2 through 31.3.3.1.5 unchanged.]

[31.3.3.2 through 31.3.3.3 unchanged.]

[31.3.4 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

Source: Presidents' Athletic Conference and United East Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: With many institutions having to make strategic decisions about the long-term viability and sustainability of their institution, those aligning in larger athletic conferences to mitigate the landscape's instability see a significant decrease in access opportunities for automatic qualifiers. In today's formula, if 12 institutions function in two separate conferences of six, they are permitted access to two automatic qualifiers. If those same 12 schools combine their business operations to provide operational stability, they are only permitted access to one automatic qualifier. This is causing institutions to make decisions for the betterment of their institution, while at the same time creating a negative impact on recruitment, retention, and student-athlete experience. By creating a model that awards automatic qualifiers based on sport sponsorship numbers, student-athletes in all conferences will have more equitable access to championships. Additionally, in this model conferences will not be awarded multiple automatic qualifiers in all sports. Only in those sports in which their sponsorship is 12 core members or greater will receive the benefit.

Budget Impact:

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council opposes this proposal as the current access through automatic qualification is sufficient and additional opportunities are better established through the NCAA Power Index (NPI) rather than increasing automatic qualification access.

Intent: To reduce the required minimum percentage of in-region competition for championships eligibility from 70% to 50% for all sports except golf, which would stay at 25%, and tennis, which would maintain its 50% requirement; Further, to expand the official break exception to apply to any official institutional break and allow institutions hosting contests during another institution's break to also exempt the out-of-region contest even if that hosting institution is not in an institutional vacation period.

Administrative: Amend 31, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31 Executive Regulations.

[31.01 through 31.3 unchanged.]

31.3.2 In-Region Opponent Competition Requirements. To be eligible for selection to Division III team championships, a minimum percentage [as defined in Bylaw 31.3.2-(a)-(e**b**)] of an institution's scheduled regular-season contests shall be against in-region opponents. End-of-season conference tournaments and postseason competitions are not included in the in-region calculation, except for the sport of golf which shall include conference tournaments. The following are the minimum in-region requirements:

(a) In team sports other than golf ~~and tennis~~ 75 percent.

[31.3.2-(b) unchanged.]

~~(c) Tennis -- 50-percent requirement. For multi-team tournaments, only those teams within a tournament or contest in which the team directly competes against shall be included in the 50-percent calculation.~~

31.3.2.1 Waiver. Institutions that fail to satisfy the in-region opponent requirement may appeal to the Championships Committee for a waiver. The waiver shall be approved on a sport-by-sport basis for a period of one year, and the request shall be received not later than March 1 for fall sports, May 1 for winter sports and July 1 for spring sports. If the Championships Committee grants the appeal, the institution may be considered for selection to Division III team championships.

31.3.2.2 Countable In-Region Competition. For selection purposes in team sports, golf and tennis that select at-large championship participants, competition is countable as in region when the institutions (active, provisional or reclassifying Division III) are located in the same established sport region or geographical area (see Bylaw 21.12.1.1), within a 500-mile radius of each other (based on the NCAA Championship Travel Expense System calculation) or are members of the same conference.

31.3.2.3 Exception. ~~For sports with a spring NCAA championship, a~~An institution may exempt out-of-region contests conducted during ~~one~~ institutional vacation periods (e.g., spring break) **from the in-region percentage calculation, provided at least one participating institution is on an official institutional vacation period.**

[31.3.3 through 31.3.6 unchanged.]

[31.4 through 31.9 unchanged.]

Source: Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference; Collegiate Conference of the South; and Southern Athletic Association

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Modern Evaluation Metrics: The NCAA Power Index (NPI) uses national-level data to assess teams, rendering outdated the need for arbitrary geographic benchmarks. Teams are fairly evaluated regardless of regional frequency. • Geographic Equity: This amendment offers relief to institutions in remote or low-density regions, which face logistical challenges in meeting high in-region thresholds. • Improved Official Break Fairness: The amended exemption ensures institutions hosting matches during vacation periods are not penalized due to unmatched academic calendars. This encourages inter-regional play without disadvantage and ensures host institutions in geographically isolated or warm-weather regions are not penalized for providing competitive opportunities. • Scheduling Flexibility & Sustainability: Lowering the threshold allows schools to better adapt to scheduling issues like institutional closures and strengthens autonomy without imposing additional travel. Conclusion: This proposal modernizes Bylaw 31.3.2 by aligning it with current evaluation tools, improving equity across diverse geographies, and facilitating competitive, fair scheduling. These changes account for national evaluation metrics and geographic disparities across Division III institutions. Adjusting the minimum in-region threshold and refining the vacation period exemption creates a more balanced and inclusive Division III environment. An immediate effective date would positively impact institutional programs that will need a waiver for the 2025-26 season.

Budget Impact: None

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Presidents Council:* Presidents Council supports this proposal, as it addresses challenges incurred by geographically isolated institutions to satisfy the in-region standard for championships eligibility while maintaining the emphasis on regional competition as established in the Philosophy Statement.

No. 1-16 CHAMPIONSHIPS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION -- WAITING PERIOD -- MULTISPORT CONFERENCE -- ADJUST FROM TWO YEARS TO ONE.

Intent: To reduce the wait time for a multisport conference to receive an automatic qualification from two years to one year.

Administrative: Amend 31.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31.3.3.1.1 Additional Requirements -- Multisport Conference. A member conference that conducts competition in more than one sport shall also satisfy the following to be eligible for automatic qualification: (Adopted: 4/13/10)

(a) Complete a ~~one~~two-year waiting period, which requires for ~~the two consecutive~~ academic years before being eligible for the automatic-qualification privilege, the following: (Adopted: 1/12/04, Revised: 10/20/06)

[31.3.3.1.1-(a)-(1) through 31.3.3.1.1-(a)-(3) unchanged.]

(b) After completion of the ~~two-year~~ waiting period, either:

[31.3.3.1.1-(b)-(1) through 31.3.3.1.1-(b)-(2) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.1.1 Exception. A member conference that has been a member conference of the Association for two years but has not satisfied the conditions set forth in Bylaw 31.3.3.1.1(a)-(2) or (3) may be immediately eligible for automatic qualification if:

[31.3.3.1.1.1-(a) unchanged.]

(b) Those six conference members have been core conference members for at least ~~one~~two academic years; and

[31.3.3.1.1.1-(c) unchanged.]

Source: Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference, Conference of New England and Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2026

Rationale: Reduces the burden on student-athletes losing half their career access to the NCAA automatic qualifier to one year to allow for NCAA championship administrative adjustments. Assists multi-sport conferences on servicing their evolving membership sport sponsorship needs which are out of the student-athlete's control. Assists with decreasing enrollment and recruiting challenges as many times this causes unforeseen drops on team rosters. Will increase retention as student-athletes will be less likely to leave due to two year wait burden. Assists member institutions to stay with core member conferences. Allows time for the Championship Committee to adjust the bracket, etc. Assists conferences/schools to broaden sport sponsorship therefore enrollment.

Budget Impact: \$0

Position Statement(s): *NCAA Division III Management Council:* Management Council opposes this proposal, as a waiver process already exists for a conference with compelling rationale to reduce the waiting period.

Appendix A

Request for Interpretation

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Publication of Proposed Legislation. Interpretations related to the proposed legislation in this Publication of Proposed Legislation may be requested via electronic mail to the primary contact persons at cberg@ncaa.org or jmyers@ncaa.org, not later than November 21. When submitting such a request, please include the proposal number in question, your institution's name and your title. All resulting interpretations will be distributed to the delegates in time for the conference meetings held in conjunction with the Convention.