

HOW THE NCAA WORKS:

Association-wide

While each NCAA division is empowered with setting its own rules and operating guidelines, some topics rise to a level affecting college sports as a whole and need a coordinated voice to guide the Association in a unified direction. For those situations, a group of committees comprising representatives from all three divisions makes recommendations that can impact the entire Association – whether a small, private Division III school or a national champion Football Bowl Subdivision program – equally.

The NCAA Board of Governors, the highest-ranking committee in the Association, implements policies by which all three divisions must abide. When the NCAA stopped allowing schools to host championships if their state governments displayed the Confederate flag, it was through a policy created by the Board of Governors.

Changes in legislation, however, require each division to take action. The Association-wide committees propose changes to the divisions, which then debate and vote on the proposals through their legislative processes. These committees explore issues impacting the health and safety of student-athletes or opportunities for women and minority groups in college sports.

NCAA Association-wide Committees, Descriptions and Members

ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES

Committee on Women's Athletics

Studies and makes policy recommendations concerning opportunities for women, equity and other issues directly affecting women's athletics.

18 Members:

- 3 - Presidents or chancellors (one from each division)
- 3 - Student-athletes (one from each division)
- 12 - Member school and conference administrators

Honors Committee

Selects recipients of awards presented at annual Honors Celebration, including the Theodore Roosevelt and Inspiration awards.

9 Members:

- 1 - Current or former president or chancellor
- 3 - One member from each subdivision of Division I (FBS, FCS and Division I subdivision)
- 1 - Division II Management Council member
- 1 - Division III Management Council member
- 1 - Nationally distinguished public member who was an Honors awardee
- 2 - Nationally distinguished public members

Postgraduate Scholarship Committee

Selects student-athletes to receive NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for graduate school.

7 Members:

- 1 - Past postgraduate scholarship winner
- 6 - Member school and conference administrators and others who work daily in college sports

Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports

Provides expertise and leadership to the Association to promote a healthy and safe environment for student-athletes through research, education, collaboration and policy development.

25 Members:

- 3 - Divisional governance representatives
- 3 - Student-athletes
- 5 - Medical doctors
- 14 - Experts representing fields of sports and medicine, including a coach, two licensed mental health practitioners, two athletic trainers, a dietitian and a sport science researcher

Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee

Reviews issues related to the interests and advocacy of ethnic and racial minorities, LGBTQ or individuals who have disabilities.

18 Members:

- 3 - Presidents or chancellors (at least one from each division)
- 3 - Student-athletes (one from each division)
- 12 - Member school and conference administrators

Walter Byers Scholarship Committee

Selects one male and one female academically and athletically distinguished student-athlete to receive scholarships.

7 Members:

- 6 - Member school and conference administrators
- 1 - Former student-athlete

Association-wide committees can effect change by making recommendations to the Board of Governors, which has the authority to set policies – such as prohibiting mascots and imagery considered hostile or abusive to Native Americans – that affect the entire Association.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is the highest-ranking body in the NCAA and focuses on strategic discussions that impact the Association as a whole. The responsibilities of the board's nine voting members include:

- » Providing final approval and oversight of the Association's budget, enterprise risk management, strategic planning and establishing policies related to fiduciary responsibility.
- » Employing the Association's president, who shall be administratively responsible to the Board.
- » Formulating policies and procedures consistent with the NCAA Constitution.
- » In consultation with the leadership of the divisional governing bodies, adopting and implementing legal strategy, Association risk mitigation, and government relations and policy matters that affect the Association.
- » Convening the annual Convention and may call for a special convention as needed.

9 voting members:

- 4 - Division I, to include at least one member institution president or chancellor and one conference commissioner
- 1 - Division II Executive Board member
- 1 - Division III Presidents Council member
- 2 - Independent governors (individuals who are not currently employed or compensated by any member institution or conference and shall be verified as independent by the Board of Governors)
- 1 - Graduated NCAA student-athlete (all former student-athlete representatives, voting or ex officio, shall have graduated not more than four years prior to appointment)

7 ex officio members:

- 3 - Chairs of Division I Council, Division II Management Council and Division III Management Council
- 1 - President or chancellor of a historically Black college or university
- 2 - Graduated NCAA student-athletes (must represent each of the two divisions not represented by the voting member student-athlete)
- 1 - NCAA President



Neither the Association-wide committees nor the Board of Governors has authority to enact legislation. But they can influence and provide guidance by recommending legislation to each division, where it can be reviewed in the divisions' legislative processes.

DIVISION I COUNCIL

DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIVISION II MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DIVISION II EXECUTIVE BOARD

DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DIVISION III PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Each division sets rules and policies specific to its members' needs but looks to the Board of Governors for guidance on the overall strategy of the Association.

Association-wide Playing Rules

Representatives from the three divisions serve on PROP, which makes recommendations related to playing rules for specific sports.

Playing Rules Oversight Panel

Oversees playing rules committees, including the final approval of rules changes.

12 Members, school and conference administrators:

- 6 - Division I representatives | 3 - Division II representatives | 3 - Division III representatives