



**DIVISION III**  
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# **Governance Hot Topics**

## **Fall 2024**

# Agenda – Division III Updates

- 2025 Convention.
- 2025 Convention Proposals.
- Federated Playing Rules.
- Athletic Trainer Working Group.
- Athletic Communications Working Group.
- Championships Live Streaming.
- Noncontroversial Legislation.
- Name, Image and Likeness.
- Health and Safety Initiatives.
- Inclusive Leaders Program.
- Branding and Promotion.



# Agenda – Association Wide Updates

- Sports Betting.
- Sports Science Institute Updates.
- Emerging Sports for Women.



# Division III Updates



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# 2025 Convention

- NCAA Convention: Jan. 14-17, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Key in-person programming.
  - **Tuesday, Jan. 14** – Association-wide education sessions, State of College Sports, welcome and awards presentation.
  - **Wednesday, Jan. 15** - Association-wide education sessions, Special Olympics activity, Woman of the Year, DIII LGBTQ of the Year Award Celebration.
  - **Thursday, Jan. 16** - Division III Issues Forum and conference meetings.
  - **Friday, Jan. 17** – Division III Business Session.



# 2025 Convention Proposals

- The governance structure is sponsoring the following Convention proposals:
  - Amend the legislative process.
  - National Collegiate Championship for women's wrestling.
  - Waiver for reclassifying institutions.



# 2025 Convention Proposals

- The following membership proposals have been submitted for the 2025 Convention:
  - Composition of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
  - Multi-sport conference minimum size requirements.
  - Federated playing rules exemption.



# 2025 Convention Proposal Referral

- The Presidents Council referred the governance proposal that would provide an exception to allow a graduated student to participate while enrolled at an accredited non-member institution to the Management Council.
- The proposal will not be presented to the membership for a vote at the Convention.
- The Management Council was instructed to continue to study the proposal.





# Federated Playing Rules Process

- The Management Council discussed the findings from the review of the federated playing rules process.
- The findings of the review:
  - Confirmed that the process was implemented.
  - There was some inconsistency among the committee members involved in the process in their understanding of the process and the ability to federate a playing rule.
  - Membership response rates to playing rules surveys remain low.
  - Desire for more membership voices in the process for certain playing rules.



# Federated Playing Rules Process

- In response to the findings from the review the council made the following changes to the Division III process.
  - Establish a standard orientation for the committee members involved in the process.
  - Develop a policies and procedures resource.
  - Create a subcommittee of the Management Council that will provide additional oversight and guidance of playing rules that have a budgetary impact and/or impacts a fundamental Division III principle.



# Athletic Trainer Working Group

- The working group released its final recommendations.

[D3Gov\\_ATWGReport.pdf](#)

- The council sunset the working group.
- The council will continue to assess the effectiveness of the working group's recommendations.



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# Athletic Communications Working Group

- A working group has been created to update the “[Guide to Strategic Athletics Communication on Campus.](#)”
- Anticipate a membership survey of Division III sports communication professionals to understand the current work environment and workloads.
- Anticipate completion and updated resource by summer 2025.



# Championships Live Streaming

- All team hosts must live stream. Will be reimbursed \$1,000 per day.
- Signed an agreement to have Hudl work with hosts of all rounds of fall championships (i.e., field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball). No pay wall. Links will be available on ncaa.com.
- ESPN+ will provide live streaming of all rounds of football championship and the quarter, semis and final for women's volleyball. These links will only be available on ESPN+.
- All links will have the OTT app to enhance viewing on mobile devices and TVs.



# Key Non-Controversial Legislation

- The Management Council approved, in concept, several proposals during its October meeting. Three impact the governance structure:
  - Require all terms on Division III committees be four-years, including presidents and chancellors.
  - The position on Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) designated for a physician with expertise in endocrinology may be filled by someone “on the staff” or a member of the “general public.”



# Key Non-Controversial Legislation

- The Management Council approved, in concept, several proposals during its October meeting. Three impact the governance structure:
  - Consolidate the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA), Minorities Opportunities and Interests Committee (MOIC), the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity and the Gender Equity Task Force into one comprehensive committee that will focus on Association-wide issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.



# Name, Image and Likeness

- The NCAA's [NIL Assist](#), a mobile-friendly, web-based platform, features three pillars — a data dashboard, a suite of athlete educational resources and a registry of professional service providers.
- The governance structure will continue to discuss NIL to determine if additional changes are needed.
- During the 2025 NCAA Convention, Division III delegates will discuss NIL during the Issues Forum.





# Health and Safety Initiatives

- Health and Safety Grant.
  - Each Division III institution may be reimbursed up to \$2,000 for specified uses.
  - The grant is available for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.
- Mental Health Training.
  - The governance structure is evaluating a possible partnership with a third-party vendor to provide mental health training for head coaches and athletic trainers.



# Inclusive Leaders Program

- Between two trainings, there are approximately 50 Division III Inclusive Leaders Program facilitators.
- The two-hour program assists coaches and athletics administrators in identifying strategies and best practices to enhance their recruitment and retention of students of color.
- The facilitators are available to conduct the program at no cost to institutions.
- Go to the [Inclusive Leaders homepage](#) to schedule a training.



# Branding and Promotion

- Special Olympics partnership.
- Social media.
- Athletics Communicators Emerging Elite Program.
  - December 9-10, 2024, in Indianapolis.
- D3SIDA recognition award.
  - Three awards each year (\$1,500).
- Division III Week – April 7-13, 2025.



# Association-wide Updates



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# Sports Betting

- The councils received updates from a recent CSMAS meeting regarding sports betting. Key takeaways include:
  - Generally, policy prohibitions are ineffective.
  - Unclear how deregulation would impact gambling behaviors.
  - Changing culture and legal landscape create challenges for prevention of betting on professional sports.
  - Ethical implications (collegiate vs. professional).
  - Harm reduction strategies are, and will remain, important.



# Sports Betting

- The Presidents Council engaged in a joint conversation with the Presidents Advisory Group on the topic of possible deregulation that would permit betting on professional sports.
- The councils will continue to discuss the current sports betting legislation at future meetings.



# Sports Science Updates

- Deena Casiero, NCAA chief medical officer, shared the goals for SSI which include:
  - Continued focus on health, safety and performance as part of the Association-wide decision-making process.
  - Enhancing relationships with sports medicine professionals.
  - Developing practical guidance based on the needs of the membership.



# Sports Science Update

- Development of additional cannabis resources to include:
  - One-pager of common myths.
  - Tips to move to a harm-reduction strategy.
  - Updating the substance misuse toolkit.
- Updated mental health best practices document effective August 1, 2024, is currently available.





# Emerging Sports for Women

- The CWA continues to make enhancements to support current and prospective emerging sports.
- Tracking the growth and potential for a national collegiate championship for acrobatics and tumbling, triathlon and stunt.
- In September, CWA reviewed an application to consider flag football as an emerging sport and will further discuss during its Feb. meeting. If accepted, it will follow the same legislative process as other emerging sports.



# Questions?



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