

## NCAA Division III New Member Process Frequently Asked Questions

I. <u>Definitions</u>.

**Question No. 1:** What is the exploratory year?

**Answer:** The exploratory year represents an opportunity for an institution to learn

about the NCAA and Division III. This period also allows the Division III membership committee and the institution to determine whether Division III membership is appropriate for the institution and if the campus is

prepared to begin the provisional membership process.

**Question No. 2:** What is a provisional member institution?

**Answer:** A provisional member institution is a four-year college or university, or a

two-year upper-level collegiate institution accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting agency and that has applied for active membership in

the NCAA (NCAA Division III Bylaw 20.02.3.2).

If your institution fits this description, please scroll to Section III (Division

III Provisional Member Process).

**Question No. 3:** What is a reclassifying member institution?

**Answer:** A reclassifying member institution is an active NCAA Division I or Division

II member institution that has applied for active membership in Division III.

If your institution fits this description, please scroll to Section IV (Division

III Reclassifying Member Process).

II. Division III Exploratory Year.

**Question No. 1:** How long is the entire process to join Division III?

**Answer:** An institution must serve an exploratory year (Bylaw 20.10.2.1); and then

three years in the provisional membership process (NCAA Bylaw 20.10.4. Institutions reclassifying from Divisions I or II are no longer required to

serve an exploratory year (Bylaw 20.6.4).

**Question No. 2:** What is the timeline for the exploratory year?

**Answer:** See <u>Appendix A</u> for a timeline of the exploratory year.

**Question No. 3:** When is the exploratory year application due?

**Answer:** For an institution intending to explore Division III during the upcoming

academic year, the exploratory year application is due not later than

January 15. The application for the exploratory year may be found on the NCAA Division III Membership webpage in the "Division III Membership Links" section.

**Question No. 4:** Is there a cost associated with the exploratory year?

**Answer:** A \$1,000 nonrefundable fee must be submitted with the exploratory year

application.

Question No. 5: Does an institution applying for the exploratory year require an offer of

conference membership?

**Answer:** No. Exploratory institutions do not need a conference invitation. However,

as part of the application to be a provisional member, an exploratory institution that wants to transition to provisional membership to begin during or after the 2024-25 academic year will need a bona fide invitation

from an active Division III multisport.

For additional information regarding the conference membership

requirement, see Appendix B.

Question No. 6: Is an institution automatically accepted to participate in the exploratory

year when it submits an application?

**Answer:** No. Although most applicant institutions are invited to participate in the

exploratory year, none are automatically accepted.

**Question No.** 7: When is an institution notified of its status to participate in the exploratory

year?

**Answer:** An institution is notified of its status to participate in the exploratory year

process following the NCAA Division III Membership Committee's meeting

held every February.

**Question No. 8:** When does an institution officially begin the exploratory year?

**Answer:** September 1 of the academic year in which the institution serves its

exploratory year. For example, if an institution serves its exploratory year during the 2023-24 academic year, September 1, 2023, is when the

exploratory year officially begins.

Question No. 9: Is an institution required to publicly announce its participation in the

Division III exploratory year? If so, when?

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Answer:

The NCAA Division III Presidents Council requests (but does not require) an institution to publicly announce its decision to explore Division III to provide transparency for all institutional stakeholders, and to ensure all prospective and current student-athletes are aware of potential athletically related financial aid implications if the institution ultimately decides to apply for Division III provisional membership status. Public announcements may be issued once an institution's application for the exploratory year has been accepted by the Division III Membership Committee.

**Question No. 10:** 

Is an institution considered a Division III member during the exploratory year?

Answer:

No. An institution is not considered a Division III member in any regard during the exploratory year. Therefore, if an institution is a member of another athletics association (e.g., NAIA), the institution should continue to adhere to the rules and regulations of the association to which it belongs.

Question No. 11:

Must an institution adhere to Division III legislation during the exploratory vear?

Answer:

No.

Question No. 12:

What is an institution required to do and/or attend during the exploratory year?

Answer:

During an institution's exploratory year, an institution is required either to:

- 1. Send the chancellor or president and director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) to an all-day New Member Orientation at the NCAA national office in Indianapolis, typically in September or October; or
- 2. Host a representative of the Division III Membership Committee and NCAA staff during an all-day visit to the institution's campus, typically in September or October.

The Membership Committee shall determine whether an institution must attend the New Member Orientation at the national office or host a campus visit based on whether the institution's exploratory application demonstrates a commitment to the Division III philosophy and evidence of the resources necessary to conduct a viable Division III athletics program. If the institution's exploratory application does not demonstrate a commitment to the Division III philosophy and evidence of the resources necessary to conduct a viable Division III athletics program, the Membership Committee may wish to conduct a visit to the institution's campus.

Question No. 13: Is an institution required to attend the NCAA Convention during the

exploratory year?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution is required to attend the NCAA Convention as a non-

Division III member. An exploratory member institution's chancellor or president and director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) are required to attend the following Convention sessions: Division III New Member Session, the Division III Issues Forum and the Division III Business

Session.

**Question No. 14:** Is an institution required to attend the NCAA Regional Rules Seminars

during the exploratory year?

**Answer:** No. However, an institution is welcome to attend the NCAA Regional Rules

Seminars as a non-Division III member.

**Question No. 15:** Is there a way for an institution to waive the Division III exploratory year?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution may apply for a waiver of the exploratory year not later

than May 15 following the submission of the exploratory year application. The Membership Committee may grant waivers of the exploratory year based on a determination that the institution demonstrates a commitment to the Division III philosophy and evidence of the resources necessary to conduct a viable Division III athletics program. See Bylaw 20.10.2.1.4 for

specific application criteria.

Question No. 16: If an institution is accepted to participate in the exploratory year, but

ultimately changes course, may the institution defer its exploratory year?

**Answer:** No. If an institution prefers to participate in a subsequent exploratory year,

the institution must reapply, including an additional \$1,000 nonrefundable

fee.

Question No. 17: If an institution applies for a second exploratory year, does it negatively

impact the institution's chances of being accepted to participate in the

provisional membership process?

Answer: No. There is no consequence (good or bad) for an institution that

participates in multiple exploratory years. The Membership Committee recognizes the philosophical, political, fiscal, and operational complexities of joining Division III and encourages institutions to explore Division III at

their own pace.

III. Division III Provisional Membership Process.

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NCAA Division III New Member Process Frequently Asked Questions Page No. 5

**Question No. 1:** How long is the entire process to join Division III?

**Answer:** An institution must serve an exploratory year (Bylaw 20.10.2.1 and then

three years in the provisional membership process.

**Question No. 2:** When is the application for provisional membership due?

**Answer:** For an institution intending to be a provisional member for the upcoming

academic year, the provisional membership application is due not later than January 15. The application for provisional membership may be found on the Division III Membership webpage in the "Provisional and Reclassifying"

Resources" section.

**Question No. 3:** Is there a cost associated with the provisional membership process?

**Answer:** A provisional member institution must pay a nonrefundable fee of \$40,000

for the provisional/reclassifying member education program. At the time of approval of the application for the exploratory year, the institution will be invoiced a \$1,000 nonrefundable fee and given 30 days to pay it. The remaining \$39,000 fee is due by September 1 of the first year of the provisional membership process. This educational fee covers travel and other expenses for NCAA staff and Membership Committee members. It also funds staff time and material associated costs provisional/reclassifying membership program. It is important to note a provisional member institution must also pay NCAA annual dues during each year of the provisional membership process (Bylaws 20.10.2.1.3 and

20.13).

**Question No. 4:** How many institutions are accepted as provisional or reclassifying members

each year?

Answer: There is a maximum of four institutions admitted to the

provisional/reclassifying membership process in any one year, and a maximum of 12 provisional or reclassifying institutions participating in the

program in total. (Bylaw 20.10.3).

**Question No. 5:** Does an institution applying for provisional membership require an offer of

conference membership?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution whose provisional or reclassifying membership process

will begin during or after the 2024-25 academic year is required to have a bona fide invitation from an active Division III multisport conference before applying for Division III membership. To satisfy this requirement, the institution may use a memorandum, signed by the chair of the chancellors and presidents' group or appropriate designee of the conference, as

evidence of the active member conference's offer to become a full member upon the institution becoming an active Division III members.

For additional information regarding this requirement, see Appendix B.

**Question No. 6:** When is an institution notified of its status to participate in the provisional

membership process?

Answer: An institution is notified of its status to participate in the provisional

membership process following the Division III Membership Committee's

meeting held every February.

**Question No. 7:** When does an institution officially begin the provisional membership

process?

**Answer:** September 1 following acceptance by the Membership Committee into the

provisional membership process. For example, if the Membership Committee accepts an institution into the provisional membership process in February 2024, the institution's official start date of the provisional membership process

is September 1, 2024.

Question No. 8: Is an institution required to publicly announce its participation in the

provisional membership process? If so, when?

Answer: The Presidents Council requests (but does not require) an institution to

publicly announce its provisional membership to provide transparency for all institutional stakeholders, and to ensure all prospective and current student-athletes are aware of potential athletically related financial aid implications. Public announcements may be issued once an institution is accepted by the Membership Committee to participate in the provisional

membership process.

Question No. 9: Is an institution in the provisional membership process considered a

Division III member institution?

**Answer:** Yes. Provisional membership is a class of Division III membership (Bylaw

20.01.2).

Question No. 10: Must a provisional member institution adhere to Division III legislation? If

so, when?

**Answer:** Yes. Beginning September 1 of the first year of provisional membership and

thereafter, a provisional member institution must administer its athletics program in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and other legislation of the NCAA and of Division III (Bylaw 20.10.5. In recognition of differing

academic calendars at various institutions, during the summer prior to the start of the first year of provisional membership, the institution is encouraged to begin applying Division III legislation no later than the first day of preseason practice, the first day of classes, or September 1, whichever is earliest.

**Question No. 11:** 

When must a provisional member institution stop honoring athletics scholarships?

Answer:

A provisional member institution shall not award athletically related financial aid to incoming students (e.g., first-year; transfer) beginning with the first year of the provisional membership process and thereafter (Bylaw 20.10.5.1). Following the completion of year two, a provisional member institution may no longer award athletically related financial aid to any student and must comply with all financial aid requirements set forth in Bylaw 15.3. There is a "Financial Aid Transition Breakdown" chart available on the Division III Membership webpage under the "Provisional and Reclassifying Resources" section.

Question No. 12:

When must a provisional institution submit the Division III annual electronic financial aid report?

Answer:

During the second year of provisional membership (and each subsequent year), a provisional member institution must complete the Division III financial aid annual electronic reporting process (Bylaws 15.3.1.1 and 20.10.5.1). The data submitted in the fall of year two describes the financial aid packages awarded during year one of provisional membership.

**Ouestion No. 13:** 

May a provisional member institution use the registered marks of the NCAA (i.e., the NCAA name, logo or other insignia)?

Answer:

Yes (Bylaw 20.10.9.2).

**Question No. 14:** 

Is a provisional member institution required to attend the NCAA Convention and/or NCAA Regional Rules Seminars each year?

Answer:

Yes. A provisional member institution's chancellor or president (other institutional guests are welcome) is required to attend the NCAA Convention during the first year of the provisional membership process (attendance also is required in the second year for those institutions that received a waiver of the exploratory year), and during any subsequent year in which there is a change in presidential leadership. A provisional member institution's director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) is required to attend the NCAA Convention and NCAA Regional Rules Seminars each year.

**Question No. 15:** What programming is required during attendance at the NCAA Convention?

**Answer:** During the NCAA Convention, a provisional member institution's chancellor

or president and director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) are required to attend the following Convention sessions Division III New Member Session, the Division III Issues Forum and the Division III

Business Session.

**Question No. 16:** May a provisional member institution vote at the NCAA Division III Business

Session at Convention?

Answer: No. Only active Division III member institutions may vote at the NCAA

Division III Business Session at Convention.

Question No. 17: When is a provisional member institution eligible for Division III grant

programs?

**Answer:** Provisional member institutions in year three may participate in the

Student-Athlete Regional Leadership Conference within their respective region and are eligible to receive NCAA funding to attend the conference. The decision of whether provisional member institutions may receive access to conference grant funding is left to the discretion of their conferences. Provisional member institutions are not considered in the determination of the allocation of conference grant funds to each conference; however, conferences that have provisional member institutions may choose to share

grant resources with those member institutions.

**Question No. 18:** Does a provisional member institution count as a Division III opponent for

championships selection purposes?

**Answer:** Yes (Bylaw 31.3.2.2). Please see the "Championship Selection Criteria for

Reclassifying and Provisional Institutions" chart found on the Division III Membership page under the "Provisional and Reclassifying Resources"

section for further details.

**Question No. 19:** Is a provisional member institution eligible for NCAA championships?

Answer: No.

**Question No. 20:** If a provisional member institution is a member of a conference, may the

institution compete in the conference championship?

**Answer:** It depends on the rules and policies of the particular conference.

Question No. 21: Is a provisional member institution eligible for NCAA catastrophic-injury

insurance?

**Answer:** A provisional member institution is not eligible for NCAA catastrophic-

injury insurance. However, a provisional member institution must certify insurance coverage for medical expenses resulting from athletically related injuries sustained by a student-athlete participating in a covered event in an intercollegiate sport as recognized by the participating institution. Covered benefits are described in Bylaw 20.8.4.3.2 and include such events as team travel, competition, practice and conditioning sessions. Such insurance coverage must be of equal or greater value than the \$90,000 deductible of the NCAA catastrophic-injury insurance and may be provided through the participant's personal insurance coverage or the institution's insurance

program.

**Question No. 22:** May athletics department staff or student-athletes at a provisional member

institution serve on a Division III committee?

Answer: No.

Question No. 23: May a provisional member institution maintain membership in other

athletics associations?

Answer: Yes, if the other athletics association allows it. However, a provisional

member institution must ensure compliance with Division III legislation.

**Question No. 24:** Is there any information that a provisional member institution must provide

to the national office statistics staff?

**Answer:** Provisional member institutions must submit score reporting to the national

office statistics staff during each of the three years of provisional membership. The NCAA statistics staff contacts institutions via email at the beginning of each season and outlines which requirements are expected of

all institutions.

Question No. 25: Is there a way for an institution to reduce the three-year provisional

membership process?

Answer: No.

# IV. <u>Division III Reclassifying Membership Process.</u>

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**Question No. 1:** How long is the entire process to join Division III?

**Answer:** An institution must serve three years in the reclassifying membership

process.

**Question No. 2:** When is the application for reclassifying membership due?

**Answer:** For an institution intending to be a reclassifying member for the upcoming

academic year, the reclassifying membership application is due not later than January 15. The application for reclassifying membership may be found on the Division III Membership webpage in the "Provisional and

Reclassifying Resources" section.

**Question No. 3:** Is there a cost associated with the reclassifying membership process?

**Answer:** A reclassifying member institution must pay a nonrefundable fee of \$39,000

for the provisional/reclassifying member education program, plus \$2,000 for standard Division III annual dues. These fees are due by September 1 of the first year of the reclassifying membership process. This educational fee covers travel and other expenses for NCAA staff and Division III Membership Committee members. It also funds staff time and material costs associated with the provisional/reclassifying membership program. It is important to note a reclassifying member institution also must pay Division III annual dues during each year of the reclassifying membership process (Bylaws

20.10.2.1.3 and 20.13).

**Question No. 4:** How many institutions are accepted as provisional or reclassifying members

each year?

Answer: There is a maximum of four institutions admitted to the

provisional/reclassifying membership process in any one year, and a maximum of 12 provisional or reclassifying institutions participating in the

program in total. (Bylaw 20.10.3).

**Question No. 5:** Does an institution applying for reclassification need to have an offer of

conference membership?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution whose provisional membership process will begin during

or after the 2024-25 academic year is required to have a bona fide invitation from an active Division III multisport conference before applying for Division III membership. To satisfy this requirement, the institution may use a memorandum, signed by the chair of the chancellors and presidents' group or appropriate designee of the conference, as evidence of the active member conference's offer to become a full member upon the institution becoming

an active Division III members.

**Question No. 6:** When is an institution notified of its status to participate in the reclassifying

membership process?

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**Answer:** An institution is notified of its status to participate in the reclassifying

membership process following the Membership Committee's meeting held

every February.

Question No. 7: When does an institution officially begin the reclassifying membership

process?

**Answer:** September 1 following acceptance by the Membership Committee into the

reclassifying membership process. For example, if the Membership Committee accepts an institution into the reclassifying membership process in February 2024, the institution's official start date of the reclassifying membership

process is September 1, 2024.

Question No. 8: Is an institution required to publicly announce its participation in the

reclassifying membership process? If so, when?

**Answer:** The Presidents Council requests (but does not require) an institution to

publicly announce its reclassifying membership to provide transparency for all institutional stakeholders, and to ensure all prospective and current student-athletes are aware of potential athletically related financial aid implications. Public announcements may be issued once an institution is accepted by the Membership Committee to participate in the reclassifying

membership process.

Question No. 9: Is an institution in the reclassifying membership process considered a

Division III member institution?

**Answer:** Yes. Provisional membership is a class of Division III membership (Bylaw

20.01.2). This designation includes reclassifying membership.

**Question No. 10:** Must a reclassifying member institution adhere to Division III legislation? If

so, when?

**Answer:** Yes. Beginning September 1 of the first year of reclassifying membership

and thereafter, a reclassifying member institution must administer its athletics program in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and other legislation of the NCAA and of Division III (Bylaw 20.6.5). In recognition of differing academic calendars at various institutions, during the summer prior to the start of the first year of provisional membership, the institution is encouraged to begin applying Division III legislation no later than the first day of preseason practice, the first day of classes, or September 1, whichever

is earliest.

Question No. 11: When must a reclassifying member institution stop honoring athletics

scholarships?

**Answer:** A reclassifying member institution shall not award athletically related

financial aid to incoming students (e.g., first-year; transfer) beginning with the first year of the reclassifying membership process and thereafter (Bylaw 20.6.5.1). Following the completion of year two, a reclassifying member institution may no longer award athletically related financial aid to any student and must comply with all financial aid requirements set forth in

Bylaw 15.3.

Question No. 12: When must a reclassifying institution submit the Division III annual

electronic financial aid report? There is a "Financial Aid Transition Breakdown" chart available on the Division III Membership webpage under

the "Provisional and Reclassifying Resources" section.

**Answer:** During the second year of reclassifying membership (and each subsequent

year), a reclassifying member institution must complete the Division III financial aid annual electronic reporting process (Bylaws 15.3.1.1 and 20.6.5.1). The data submitted in the fall of year two describes the financial

aid packages awarded during year one of reclassifying membership.

Question No. 13: May a reclassifying member institution use the registered marks of the

NCAA (i.e., the NCAA name, logo or other insignia)?

**Answer:** Yes (Bylaw 20.10.9.2).

Question No. 14: Is a reclassifying member institution required to attend the NCAA

Convention and/or NCAA Regional Rules Seminars each year?

**Answer:** Yes. A reclassifying member institution's chancellor or president (other

institutional guests are welcome) is required to attend the NCAA Convention the first two years of the reclassifying membership process, and during any subsequent year in which there is a change in presidential leadership. A reclassifying member institution's director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) is required to attend the NCAA

Convention and the NCAA Regional Rules Seminars each year.

**Question No. 15:** What programming is required during attendance at the NCAA Convention?

**Answer:** During the NCAA Convention, a provisional member institution's chancellor

or president and director of athletics (other institutional guests are welcome) are required to attend the following convention sessions: Division III New Member Session, the Division III Issues Forum and the Division III

Business Session.

**Question No. 16:** May a reclassifying member institution vote at the NCAA Division III

**Business Session at Convention?** 

Answer: No. Only active Division III member institutions may vote at the NCAA

Division III Business Session at Convention.

**Question No. 17:** When is a reclassifying member institution eligible for Division III grant

programs?

Answer: Reclassifying member institutions in year three may participate in the

Student-Athlete Regional Leadership Conference within their respective region and are eligible to receive NCAA funding to attend the conference. The decision of whether reclassifying member institutions can receive access to conference grant funding is left to the discretion of their conference. Reclassifying members are not taken into account in the determination of the allocation of conference grant funds to each conference; however, conferences that have reclassifying members may choose to share grant

resources with those member institutions.

**Question No. 18:** Does a reclassifying member institution count as a Division III opponent for

championships selection purposes?

**Answer:** Yes, (Bylaw 31.3.2.2). Please see the "Championship Selection Criteria for

Reclassifying and Provisional Institutions" chart found on the Division III Membership page under the "Provisional and Reclassifying Resources"

section for further details.

**Question No. 19:** Is a reclassifying member institution eligible for NCAA championships?

**Answer:** No. A reclassifying member institution is not eligible to participate in

Division III championships and is no longer eligible to participate in any

Division I or Division II championships.

**Question No. 20:** If a reclassifying member institution is a member of a conference, may the

institution compete in the conference championship?

**Answer:** It depends on the rules and policies of the particular conference.

**Question No. 21:** Is a reclassifying member institution eligible for NCAA catastrophic-injury

insurance?

**Answer:** Yes. Reclassifying member institutions maintain their eligibility for

catastrophic-injury insurance.

**Question No. 22:** May athletics department staff or student-athletes at a reclassifying member

institution serve on a Division III committee?

**Answer:** No. Reclassifying member institutions may not be represented on Division

III committees and may not serve on any Divisions I or II committees.

Question No. 23: Is there any information that a reclassifying member institution must

provide to the national office statistics staff?

Answer: Reclassifying member institutions must submit score reporting to the

national office statistics staff during each of the three years of reclassifying membership. The NCAA statistics staff contacts institutions via email at the beginning of each season and lays out which requirements are expected of

all institutions.

Question No. 24: An institution reclassifying from Division II to Division III does not retain

Division II privileges, even if the institution continues to meet all Division II requirements. What if an institution is reclassifying from Division I to

Division III? What should an institution be aware of?

Answer: A Division I institution that meets Division I requirements retains all

Division I privileges, including voting and championships access. Realistically, this adherence to Division I legislation is difficult because the Division III reclassifying membership process requires institutions to follow

Division III legislation, which often contradicts Division I legislation.

**Question No. 25:** Is there a way for an institution to reduce the three-year reclassifying

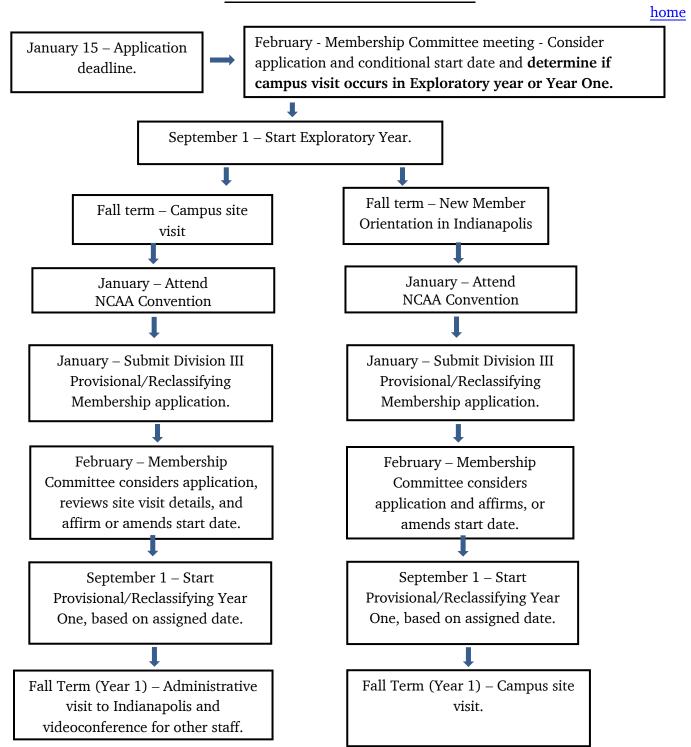
membership process?

**Answer:** No. Effective August 1, 2020, the waiver of one-year of the provisional

membership process has been eliminated.



#### TIMELINE FOR EXPLORATORY YEAR



<sup>\*</sup> Note: If an institution has received an exploratory year waiver, the institution must attend the exploratory period orientation session in Indianapolis <u>and</u> host an exploratory visit by NCAA staff and a membership committee member during Provisional Year One.





Type: Educational Column

**Title:** Proposal No. 2023-9 Division Membership -- Provisional Membership -- Application Process - Application for Membership -- Require Conference Membership

Division: III

Date Issued: January 14, 2023

Date Published: January 18, 2023

Item Ref No: 9

Text:

**Effective Date:** For institutions, whose provisional or reclassifying membership process will begin during or after the 2024-25 academic year.

Source: NCAA Division III Presidents Council [Management Council (Membership Committee)].

**Intent:** To require an institution to have a bona fide invitation from an active Division III conference before applying for Division III membership and maintain a conference affiliation during the Division III membership process.

#### **General Application.**

Question No. 1: How does this proposal change the current rule?

**Answer:** This is a new requirement. It would require an institution to have a bona fide invitation from an active Division III multi-sport conference before applying for Division III membership. The institution must maintain a conference affiliation during the Division III membership process.

**Question No. 2:** Can an institution without a Division III conference invitation apply for Division III membership?

Answer: No. The bona fide invitation from a conference is part of the application process.

Question No. 3: What is considered a bona fide invitation from a conference?

**Answer:** To satisfy this requirement, the institution may use a memorandum, signed by the chair of the chancellors and presidents' group or appropriate designee of the conference, as evidence of the active member conference's offer to become a full member upon the institution becoming an active Division III members.

Question No. 4: <u>Does the provisional or reclassifying member have to maintain an affiliation with the same</u> conference during the Division III membership process?

Answer: No. The institution may change their conference affiliation during the membership process.

**Question No. 5:** If an institution loses their conference affiliation, can the institution move forward through the provisional or reclassifying membership process?

Answer: Yes. However, failure to maintain a conference affiliation throughout the duration of the membership process could result in the institution being required to repeat a year of the three-year membership process per Bylaw 20.10.8.3. If the failure to maintain a conference affiliation is due to circumstances beyond the control of the institution, the committee may consider those circumstances during its review of the institution's annual report. Finally, the institution must receive a new invitation from a conference to be eligible to apply for active membership.

**Question No. 6:** Do institutions applying for the exploratory year require a bona fide invitation from a conference?

**Answer:** No. Exploratory institutions will not need a conference invitation. However, it will be a requirement as part of the application to be a provisional member, so any exploratory institutions wanting to transition to provisional membership will need a bona fide invitation.

**Question No. 7:** Would this proposal allow an institution to become an active Division III member as an independent institution?

**Answer:** No. An institution without conference affiliation will not be invited into active Division III membership.

Question No. 8: Would this proposal affect current Division III independent institutions?

Answer: No.

**Question No. 9:** <u>Do institutions currently in the membership process need a bona fide invitation from a conference?</u>

**Answer:** No. The proposal, if adopted, would become effective for institutions starting the Division III provisional/reclassifying process in the 2024-25 academic year. Institutions that are currently provisional or reclassifying members would not need a conference affiliation to move forward with the membership process.

**Notice about Educational Columns and Hot Topics:** *Educational columns and hot topics are not official or staff interpretations. They are intended to assist the membership by providing examples, scenarios and reminders related to legislation and interpretations at the time of publication. Member institutions are reminded to review the referenced bylaws and interpretations to ensure correct application of current rules and regulations.* 

### **Legislative References**

Legislative Cite	Title
20.10.2.2.1	Standards for Application for Membership.