



Division III

DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

Viability Statement for NCAA Division III Provisional and Reclassifying Institutions

NCAA Division III provisional and reclassifying applicants shall submit a viability statement with the membership application. This statement should address the institution's commitment to the Division III philosophy statement as described below.

Division III Philosophy Statement (NCAA Bylaw 20.11).

- 1. The institution's chancellor or president has the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the intercollegiate athletics program at the institutional, conference and national governance levels.**
 - Describe how the chancellor or president has the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the institution's intercollegiate athletics program. Further, if the institution is affiliated with a conference, describe how the chancellor or president has the ultimate responsibility and final authority for the conduct of the conference's intercollegiate athletics program.

- 2. The institution places special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and places greater emphasis on the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs.**
 - Describe the institution's plan to maintain proper emphasis on athletics participants, including impact on students, alumni and institutional personnel.

3. The institution awards no athletically related financial aid to any student.

- Describe the institution's plan to ensure that athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance are not considered in the formulation of institutional financial aid packages.

4. The institution's primary focus is on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year, undergraduate experience.

- Describe the institution's plan to focus on the intercollegiate athletics experience as a four-year, undergraduate experience.

5. The institution encourages the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators.

- Describe the institution's plan to promote good sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes by its student-athletes, coaches, administrators and spectators.

6. The institution encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of sport offerings for its students through a broad-based athletics program.

- Describe the institution's intercollegiate athletics program, including the number of sports sponsored and the size of each team's roster.

7. The institution assures that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletes.

- Describe the institution's plan to promote fairness, openness and honesty in relationships between coaches, administrators and student-athletes.

8. The institution assures that athletics participants are not treated differently from other members of the student-body.

- Describe the institution's plan to ensure that athletics participants are treated similarly to other members of the student-body, including the plan to educate the broader campus community about the practical application of this NCAA Division III expectation.

9. The institution assures that student-athletes are supported in their efforts to meaningfully participate in nonathletic pursuits to enhance their overall educational experiences.

- Describe how the institution supports student-athletes in their efforts to participate in nonathletic pursuits.

10. The institution assures that athletics programs support the institution's educational mission by financing, staffing and controlling the programs through the same general procedures as other departments of the institution. Further, the administration of the institution's athletics program (e.g., hiring, compensation, professional development, certification of coaches) should be integrated into the campus culture and educational mission.

- Describe how the athletics department fits into the overall institutional administrative structure and educational mission.

11. The institution assures that athletics recruitment complies with established institutional policies and procedures applicable to the admission process.

- Briefly compare the institution's recruitment policies for student-athletes and for the general student-body.

12. The institution exercises institutional and/or conference autonomy in the establishment of initial- and continuing-eligibility standards for student-athletes.

- Describe the institution and/or conference initial- and continuing-eligibility standards for student-athletes.

13. The institution assures that academic performance of student-athletes is, at a minimum, consistent with that of the general student-body.

- Briefly compare the academic performance of student-athletes and the general student-body.

14. The institution assures that admission policies for student-athletes comply with policies and procedures applicable to the general student-body.

- Briefly compare the institution's admissions policy for student-athletes and for the general student-body.

15. The institution provides equitable athletics opportunities for males and females and gives equal emphasis to men's and women's sports.

- Describe the institution's efforts at achieving and maintaining gender equity and how Division III status affects those efforts.

16. The institution supports ethnic and gender diversity for all constituents.

- Describe the institution's efforts to promote respect and understanding of diversity issues.

17. The institution gives primary emphasis to regional in-season competition and conference championships.

- Describe the institution's philosophy regarding the scheduling of regular-season contests and emphasis on conference competition.

18. The institution supports student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletics performance, which may include opportunities for participation in national championships, by providing all teams with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities.

- Describe the institution's plan (operational and financial) to assure that each intercollegiate athletics team is provided with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities during the provisional or reclassifying process and continuing as an active Division III member.