

SPO 2 Summary Report, 2018

Athletics Operations and Compliance



Strategic Positioning Outcome Area No. 2: Athletics Operations and Compliance

The Vision: Provide an athletics operations blueprint for Division II institutions and conferences that emphasizes balance for student-athletes, professional development for coaches and staff, and a commitment to compliance from all involved.

GOALS	INITIATIVES	HOW THEY HELP
Fortify Athletics Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidential Oversight• Coaches Education• Coaches Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced resources help new and veteran CEOs alike oversee and improve their programs• Comprehensive online outreach will deliver legislative and health and safety related content to DII coaches• Already proven program will expand to all sports, using former coaches as liaisons to enhance relationships and improve communication
Fortify Compliance Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture of Compliance• NAAC Education• Legislative Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration effort will better align policies/procedures/resources with expectations• Interactive educational training program helps administrators develop ethical compliance programs• New legislative approach simplifies compliance

Initiatives COMPLETED since the adoption of the plan in April 2015 that support these goals:

Model Communications Toolkit for Athletics Communications Personnel: This new resource available in print and online helps position athletics communications directors and staff (sports information personnel) as leaders within their campuses and helps them promote Division II to external audiences. The resource is available both at NCAA.org and at NCAAPublications.com.

Health and Safety Legislation: The legislation adopted at the 2016 Convention requires any person designated as a school's strength and conditioning coach to be nationally certified. If a school does not designate a strength and conditioning coach, anyone who conducts strength and conditioning workouts – including assistant or head coaches – would need to be certified.

Division II Identity Workshop for Coaches: The division has established a two-day professional development workshop for select Division II coaches each June at the NCAA national office. The interactive sessions update attendees on the division's unique attributes, the governance structure and compliance, and ways to promote the division to prospective students and their families.

National Association of Athletics Compliance Education Programming: The National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) received funding through the Foundation for the Future initiative to develop an online training tool to deliver rules education to Division II institutions, known as the D2 Education Program. The program covering 54 lessons was introduced nationally February 20, 2017. Direct emails were distributed to all DII senior compliance administrators, athletics directors, conference commissioners, and the D2 CCA-CA listserv. As of March 14, 127 individuals representing 101 institutions and conferences have registered to participate in the program. Ninety of those individuals have already logged into the program and begun their training.

Professional Development for Athletics Directors: Among goals for the D2 ADA was to elevate programming for veteran athletics directors during the NACDA convention. Through funds allocated from the Foundation for the Future initiative, the association hired consultants to present sessions at the June 2017 convention on best practices for leadership and effective management in today's changing landscape of college athletics. The ADA also administered the mentoring program enhancement (additional training sessions for mentors, and funds for mentees to visit their mentors on campus) and the New AD Orientation (additional educational and training sessions at the NCAA national office) for 2016-17.

Enhanced Outreach to Conferences Regarding Governance Committee Vacancies: This new process allows for conferences to provide more input on nominees from their conferences before committee selections. Due to the conference regional rotation required in the committee selection process, conferences are sometimes caught off guard when their "turn" is up for supplying candidates. This gives conferences an opportunity to weigh in on candidates from their leagues in order to help identify qualified nominees who would enhance the composition of a given sport or governance committee.

Compliance Mentor Program: This initiative pairs veteran compliance with less-experienced personnel at various Division II campuses. Pairings are made for 13 months to ensure a one-year cycle of compliance "seasons" in order to address questions or issues that may arise. Pairings conduct monthly teleconferences and other communication as necessary.

Legislation to Define Academic Misconduct: Division II adopted legislation at the 2017 Convention to clearly define what constitutes academic misconduct and what penalties are appropriate when an institutional staff member or another adult on campus is involved in a violation. Previously, the regulatory structure for identifying academic misconduct has been defined through the interpretive process rather than legislation. The new legislation articulates what actions constitute a violation while giving deference to institutional policy.

Streamlining Bylaw 15: Division II adopted legislation the 2017 Convention that eliminates term-by-term financial aid awards and permits increases in athletically related financial aid at any time, for any reason. The new legislation also changes financial aid legislation so that only institutional athletics aid counts toward individual and team equivalency limits. The model exempts other forms of institutional aid, such as academic and need-based aid, from individual and team equivalency limits, making it possible for student-athletes to receive more nonathletics financial aid without affecting a team's scholarship allotment.

Legislation Regarding the Nonchampionship Segment: Division II adopted legislation at the 2017 Convention that consists of the following components: (1) In all sports with a nonchampionship segment, prohibit all countable athletically related activity for two days each week during the nonchampionship segment; (2) In all sports with a nonchampionship segment other than golf, rowing and tennis, limit student-athlete participation in countable athletically related activity to four hours per day and 15 hours per week during a period of 45 consecutive days, with exceptions for school vacations, exams and closures; (3) In golf and tennis, limit student-athlete participation in countable athletically related activity to four hours per day and 20 hours per week during a period of 60 consecutive days, with the above exceptions; and (4) In rowing, limit student-athlete participation in countable athletically related activity to four hours per day and 15 hours per week during a period of 65 consecutive calendar days, with the above exceptions.

Initiatives LAUNCHED and still being implemented since the adoption of the plan:

Online Coaches Education Program: This comprehensive online education program will deliver legislative and health and safety related content to NCAA Division II coaches. The program will be launched in spring of 2018 and is expected to replace the current Division II coaches recruiting exam in the near future.

Coaches Connection Expansion: The existing program has created a successful collaboration between coaches and governance in football, women's volleyball, soccer and tennis; so much so in fact that the goal is to expand the program to all sports. The program added five sports this year: baseball, cross country, track and field, softball, and wrestling. Among accomplishments in 2016-17:

- Sport administrators, known as connectors, were hired for each of the eight sports (the three existing sports plus the five that were added in 2016-17).
- Each DII conference appointed a coach representative for each of the eight sports they sponsor.
- Each sport's connector held monthly teleconferences with the coach representatives, and minutes were distributed to conference colleagues.
- The connectors attended their respective sport's national championship and the coaches association meeting.

New Committee Member Orientation Resources: The national office is engaged in developing a three-pronged process to properly acclimate new committee members to their role within the governance structure. The process includes printed materials and ongoing communication steps between the new committee members and their corresponding staff liaisons to ensure a smooth transition.

EXISTING INITIATIVES implemented before the adoption of the plan

Chancellors and Presidents Summits: Division II periodically conducts a Chancellors and Presidents Summit that convenes leaders to discuss and act on pertinent issues. The most recent one was at the 2016 Convention, focusing on health and safety, among other issues.

Chancellors and Presidents Engagement Program: The NCAA also offers the Chancellors and Presidents Engagement Program, which provides campus leaders the opportunity to visit with peers and national office staff about best practices in overseeing athletics. The peer-to-peer approach continues to be well received.

Outreach Academies: Division II conducts annual governance academies in partnership with the Minority Opportunities Athletics Association and Women Leaders in College Sports. Participants find these sessions invaluable with regard to being apprised of Division II issues.

Collaboration Opportunities: The Division governance staff meets annually with Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association officers to engage about current issues. The national office also helps promote the annual Division II Conference Commissioners Association National Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. Participants find these sessions invaluable with regard to being apprised of Division II issues.

Faculty Athletics Representatives Leadership Institute: Division II annually conducts Faculty Athletics Representatives Leadership Institutes for select FARs.

Educational Programming: Division II launched an Education Resource Center on NCAA.org to help Division II athletics staff and coaches understand how to do their day-to-day jobs more effectively and efficiently. Division II offers a menu of educational sessions at the annual Regional Rules Seminars. The Educational Resource Center has improved and increased membership use of the Division II portion of NCAA.org.

Compliance Programming: Division II offers the Legislative Services Database and the Compliance Assistance program to its member institutions. The national office staff also has enhanced the compliance resource page on NCAA.org. Both of these programs continue to be extremely popular.