HOW THE NCAA WORKS:

Association-Wide

Each division governs its day-to-day needs, but on broad issues that affect college athletics as a whole, the NCAA Board of Governors and a collection of committees set the course for the Association.

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 Association-wide committees work collaboratively with each division’s governance bodies to recommend legislation. These committees explore issues impacting sports rules changes, the health and safety of student-athletes or opportunities for women and minority groups in college sports, and recommend changes to the appropriate legislative groups.

The NCAA Board of Governors, the highest-ranking committee in the Association, can implement 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 Board of Governors policy change.

Changes in legislation, however, require each division to take action. The Association-wide groups propose changes to the committees in each division, which then debate and vote on the proposals through their legislative processes.

ASSOCIATION-WIDE COMMITTEES

- Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports
  - Adversary for research, legislation and best practices supporting health and safety of student-athletes. 23 members:
    - 3 from DI
    - 10 from DII
    - 10 from DIII

- Olympic Sports Liaison Committee
  - Facilitates communication among the NCAA, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing bodies of Olympic sports. 14 members:
    - 14 past athletes

- Postgraduate Scholarship Committee
  - Selects 174 postgraduate athletes to receive NCAA graduate Scholarships for graduate school. 7 members:
    - 2 from DI
    - 5 from DII

- Honors Committee
  - Selects recipients of awards presented at annual Honor Celebration, including the Theodore Roosevelt and Inspiration awards. 9 members:
    - 6 from NCAA
    - 2 from Board
    - 1 Honorary member

- Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee
  - Reviews issues relating to the interests of ethnic and racial minorities and women. 18 members:
    - 6 from Division I
    - 6 from Division II
    - 6 from Division III

- Committee on Fairness
  - Promotes the values of respect, fairness, equity, honesty and responsibility in college sports. 11 members:
    - 1 Honorary member

- Committee on Women’s Athletics
  - Selects academically and athletically distinguished student-athletes to receive scholarships. 6 members:
    - 1 Honorary member

- Values Committee
  - Values and best practices supporting NCAA, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing bodies of Olympic sports. 14 members:
    - 1 Honorary member

- Research Committee
  - Evaluates, supervises and coordinates the Association’s research activities. 10 members:
    - 4 from DI
    - 4 from DII
    - 2 from DIII

- Waterbury Scholarship Committee
  - Selects academic and athletically distinguished student-athletes to receive scholarships. 6 members:
    - 1 Honorary member

- Committee on Women’s Athletics
  - Selects academically and athletically distinguished student-athletes to receive scholarships. 6 members:
    - 1 Honorary member

- Liaison Committee
  - Recommendations concerning playing rules changes. Composed of six representatives from Division I, three from Division II and three from Division III. 12 members.