How the NCAA Works: Division I

The Board of Directors is the top-governing body for Division I, responsible for strategy and policy and overseeing legislation and management of the division.

- Focuses on strategies to improve college sports and their relationship to higher education.
- Monitors legislation to ensure it does not conflict with divisional rules and policies.
- Approves an annual budget.
- Adopts legislation when significant issues arise or on an issue that is fast-tracked but does not allow for the regular legislative process.
- Collaborates with the NCAA staff to ensure the national office can best serve Division I members.

Division I Committees

- Legislative Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Competition Oversight Committee
- Student-Athlete Experience Advisory Committee
- Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee
- Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee
- Football Oversight Committee
- Strategic Vision and Planning Committee

Committees make up the Division I Council, which has primary legislative authority for Division I. Although it only meets three times a year, it is the primary authority body for Division I.

Division I Council

- Made up of 13 presidents and chancellors representing each conference, it is the primary authority body for the board.

Board of Directors

- 24 members: 20 presidents, 1 from each PBS conference and 10 seats rotating among 16 schools:
  - 6 Big Ten (3 presidents and 3 chancellors)
  - 6 Big 12 (3 presidents and 3 chancellors)
  - 6 Pac-12 (3 presidents and 3 chancellors)
  - 6 SEC (3 presidents and 3 chancellors)

Division I Committees

- Oversight of Conference Operations
- Oversight of Waiver Process
- Oversight of Eligibility Requirements
- Oversight of Student-Athlete Health and Safety

These committees report to the Board of Directors to ensure it is aware of infractions issues.

Committee on Academics

- Primary academic authority for Division I, ensuring eligibility standards and academic-athletic performance.

Committee on Student-Athlete Health and Safety

- Responsible for reviewing and recommending legislation related to student-athlete health and safety.

Committee on Eligibility

- Makes final decisions on waiver requests in which the Division I conference has authority.
- All waiver requests are reviewed by the Division I Council.

Committee on Transfers

- Oversees all transfer requests, including those related to reinstatement.

Narrative

When people think about college sports, they most often think about Division I. Its teams are usually the ones broadcast on television, they have the highest profile, and they are frequently subject to public scrutiny.

Despite the differences, Division I schools share a commitment to the well-being of student-athletes, to creating sound academic standards and promoting fairness.

Led by the overall strategic vision of the Division I Board of Directors, comprised mostly of university presidents, the Division I governance structure provides autonomy for the 65 institutions in the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences to vote on rule changes in specific categories. The rest of the division is then free to follow those adopted rules.

When governing itself on issues outside the areas of autonomy, though, Division I operates much like the other two divisions. Representatives serve on NCAA committees that determine the division’s direction and develop legislation. Members of the Division I Council vote on these proposals. Both processes often work together to reach a positive outcome for college athletes.