

NCAA Division I Strategic Summit Principles

Improving Student-Athlete Career Development.

1. ***Reassessing Student-Athlete Time Demands.*** Division I student-athletes are constantly balancing their academic and athletics commitments. Division I policies regarding time demands must ensure that student-athletes can successfully pursue both of these commitments while affording them the same educational opportunities available to the student body.
2. ***Preparing Student-Athletes for a Career and Life After Sport.*** All Division I student-athletes should be provided with the best possible information regarding their careers and the ability to pursue professional development opportunities for careers outside of athletics.
3. ***Helping Student-Athletes Translate Their Skills.*** Division I student-athletes have valuable skills that will serve them long after their collegiate athletics experiences have ended, like leadership, discipline, and the ability to work in teams. These skills are highly valued by employers in a range of industries and sectors, and Division I should continue to provide support for student-athletes in translating their experiences as athletes to prospective employers.

Assisting Student-Athletes' Assessment of Their Professional Sports Prospects.

4. ***Appropriate Access to Information About Professional Athletics Careers.*** Division I student-athletes should be provided with the best possible information regarding their career opportunities, including their opportunities to pursue athletics at a professional level.
5. ***Greater Flexibility to Return to College.*** In some sports, high school graduates have the option to pursue an education and compete in intercollegiate sports or to become a professional athlete. Division I student-athletes should have, in limited circumstances, the ability to return to school, complete their degree, and compete in collegiate athletics after an initial decision to play in a professional league.

Enhancing Student-Athlete Academic Success.

6. ***NCAA's Benchmark-Setting Role.*** Division I and its member schools share the primary goal of providing the best possible education for their student-athletes, while recognizing they have different roles to play in achieving that goal. The NCAA's function is to set targets and standards for academic achievement of student-athletes that meaningfully measure their academic progress toward a degree in a program or major offered to the student body. Member schools are held accountable through these targets and standards, but they also have broader accountability to their governing boards about the quality of education offered to all students. The NCAA's role is not to be duplicative of the role of educational accrediting bodies that already have a role that address the academic quality available for an institution's entire student body.
7. ***Effective Measurement of Academic Achievement.*** Current Division I metrics for measuring academic achievement and progress toward graduation were never meant to be static. Division I should prioritize regular reassessment of these metrics, adjusting them as necessary, including perhaps adjusting metrics to account for differences across member schools.

Ensuring that Division I Organization and Policies Reflect its Values.

8. ***A Values-Based Revenue Distribution Plan.*** The Division I Revenue Distribution Plan should reflect and enhance the division's overarching commitments, including the commitment to sound academic standards and student-athlete academic performance at member schools.

Reaffirming the Collegiate Model of Sports.

9. ***Students Competing Against Students.*** Division I student-athletes must be students, and at the core of the collegiate model is the idea that students are competing against students. All participants in college sports must be students embarking on an academic program and working toward a degree; they should be engaged in athletics as part of their educational experience and not as an employment.
10. ***Promoting the Educational Value of Sports.*** The decades of experience of Division I and its student-athletes have made clear that participation in college sports has an important and substantial educational value. Ensuring that this educational value is received by student-athletes and promoted among Division I member schools and in the media is a key priority for Division I.
11. ***Reaffirming Other Core Values of Division I College Sports.*** The current model of college sports (1) represents a pursuit of excellence in both academics and athletics; (2) supports higher education mission and in enhancing the sense of community and strengthening the identity of member institutions, in particular through a commitment to financial support in the form of athletics scholarships and gender equity; (3) reflects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship; and (4) should retain presidential leadership.
12. ***Multi-Sport Sponsorship.*** One of the most important elements of the collegiate model is that a broad and diverse group of student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports. A continued commitment to gender equity and multi-sport sponsorship to member schools is therefore critical to the future of the Division I collegiate model of sports. This multi-sport sponsorship commitment by institutions should include a range of approaches suitable to specific institutions in the division as a whole.
13. ***Assuring the Core Mission of Health and Safety.*** The NCAA was founded on the principles of health and safety in intercollegiate athletics. Division I and its member schools support fully this core mission by complying with both health and safety legislation as well as inter-association guidelines and recommendations that address health and safety. Member schools will embrace the mission of the NCAA Sport Science Institute, and support and disseminate educational initiatives and recommendations from the Sport Science Institute and NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.