HIGHLIGHTS

Street Drug Testing
Playing and Practice Seasons
Conference Commissioners and Presidential Engagement
Budget Resource
Recruiting Working Group and Athletics Direct Report Resource
2015 Graduate Rate Reporting Cycle
Division III Week
Governance Staff

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION III PRESIDENTS COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Summer weather has arrived and the academic year has come to an end. We hope your campus commenced on a high note and your students enjoyed graduation. In this quarterly update, we want to highlight current hot topics in Division III, including street drug testing, the playing and practice seasons review, and the release of several new resources.

We also hope these quarterly updates spark your continuing engagement in Division III. We welcome additional questions and comments at any time. You can find a recap of the April Council meeting here and all the Council decisions in the spring Summary of Actions. May you have a wonderful and safe summer!

STREET DRUG TESTING

The Presidents Council reviewed and endorsed the Management Council’s decision not to support, at this time, a 2016 legislative proposal to eliminate street drug testing at NCAA championship events. Key concerns included eliminating a known deterrent for many campuses; minimal financial savings, and the need to further develop additional NCAA educational resources.

With guidance from NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline, the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) and the Sport Science Institute will use feedback from the Presidents and Management Councils to further discuss the proposal. The Councils may consider revised legislation at a later date.
PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS

At the 2015 Convention, the Division III membership referred Proposal No. 6, which would have cut contest maximums in most sports by 10%. The Presidents Council, which co-sponsored the proposal, ultimately supported the referral in order to initiate a comprehensive review of the division’s entire playing and practice season’s legislation. The last review of playing and practice seasons legislation occurred more than 10 years ago. The next steps involve having the Management Council’s Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee undertake a comprehensive review on this project, which will include not only contest exemptions but also contest maximums and minimums, as well as the nontraditional season and the length of the playing seasons.

The subcommittee has identified seven areas of focus. The Council reaffirmed the importance of seeking membership feedback throughout the process, while retaining focus on the Division III philosophy. The subcommittee’s goal is to deliver models for discussion during the Issues Forum at the 2016 NCAA Convention. Voting on any proposed legislation would not occur until at least the 2017 Convention because the Presidents Council’s intent is to ensure Division III membership involvement and ownership on this critical discussion.

CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS AND PRESIDENTIAL ENGAGEMENT

The Presidents Council, along with leadership from the Division III Commissioners Association (DIIICA), discussed ways to enhance presidential leadership at the conference level, and the related role of commissioners to achieve that goal. The conversation during the recent meeting focused on how to strengthen communication between Presidents Council and the DIIICA. The Council believes stronger communication will be achieved by providing presidents with clearly articulated information to share with their conference commissioner. Additionally, Presidents Council encourages all Division III presidents to engage more frequently with their presidential colleagues within each conference. In August, the Council will review a list of best practices to be developed by the DIIICA leadership and governance staff.

BUDGET RESOURCE

As the division leadership continues to establish transparency around the budget process, staff created the following resource. The Presidents Council found the resource very helpful, and we encourage you to review it and share it with your institutional and conference colleagues.

RECRUITING WORKING GROUP AND ATHLETICS
DIRECT REPORT RESOURCES

The Presidents Council endorsed the Athletics Direct Report (ADR) Working Group’s “8 Best Practices to Maximize the ADR’s Role,” as well as a resource developed by the Recruiting Working Group to help schools make recruiting more efficient and effective. Both resources will be distributed to the membership this summer.

2015 GRADUATE RATE REPORTING CYCLE -- NOW OPEN

Division III member institutions may now report the graduation rates of their student-athletes. The Presidents Council requests that all Division III institutions submit the voluntary information for this strategic reason; the aggregate report is valuable for institutions and the division as a whole in emphasizing the academic value and the success of the Division III model.

Division III has retained its honorarium fund to encourage the voluntary submission of student-athlete data. The reporting portal will close June 1. For more information on the report and how to submit, please refer to the May Monthly Update.

DIVISION III WEEK

The fourth annual Division III Week took place April 6-12. Member conferences and institutions celebrated with a variety of events, including activities with Special Olympics and in conjunction with National Student-Athlete Day. Division III raised $4,359 for Special Olympics North America by garnering new engagement on Division III social media platforms (Twitter: @NCAADIII; and Facebook: NCAA Division III). Next year’s Division III Week will be celebrated April 4-10, 2016.

Thank you for your continued dedication to and passion for the Division III student-athlete experience. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or feedback. Jay Lemons (lemonsj@susqu.edu) and I (alancureton@unwsp.edu) look forward to serving you as vice chair and chair of the Presidents Council, respectively in the coming year. Have a great spring semester!

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