Division II Priorities
2018-19

DIVISION II
STRATEGIC PLAN

The division will conduct a midterm assessment of the 2015-21 strategic plan, during which stakeholders will review the results of the Division II membership census and provide feedback to the Division II Planning and Finance Committee about the various goals. An updated version of the plan will be distributed at the 2019 NCAA Convention. The Planning and Finance Committee also will track progress on the Association-wide strategic plan to ensure that the divisional plan is consistent with the overall direction of the Association.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The division remains committed to collaborating with the Sport Science Institute to enhance student-athlete health and safety. Focus areas this year include:

• Increasing the number of institutions that voluntarily participate in the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program in order to ensure data are available to inform decisions regarding injury prevention policies and practices.

• Continuing to partner with the Gordie Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to host a Division II-specific APPLE Training Institute March 22-24, 2019, and provide funding for administrator and student-athlete teams from 40 Division II colleges and universities to attend.

• At the 2019 NCAA Convention, the membership will vote on a proposal that will require Division II institutions to complete a health and safety survey regarding the organizational and administrative aspects of athletics health care delivery. If the proposal is adopted, results from the survey will be available via the Institutional Performance Program, which will allow institutions to make comparisons with peer groups.

DIVISION II UNIVERSITY

Division II University was successfully launched in May 2018 with the coaches education program. At the 2019 NCAA Convention, the membership will vote on whether required education in the new system should replace the current coaches recruiting exam beginning in the 2019-20 academic year. Promoting the system, training the membership on its use and identifying priorities for the development of additional educational tools will continue through the next year.
Division II Priorities
2018-19

LIFE IN THE BALANCE AND MAKE IT YOURS

Life in the Balance — a phrase created in 2005 to summarize the Division II philosophy that highlights the division’s exceptional academics, high-level athletics competition and community/campus engagement — will be emphasized to promote the Division II student-athlete experience. It’s not just a phrase; it’s part of the Division II philosophy.

The division also will continue to promote the Make It Yours brand to conferences and member institutions, while expanding promotional efforts to include external constituents such as high school and travel team coaches, prospective student-athletes and their parents, and guidance counselors.

2018 FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FESTIVAL

The division will conduct its 11th National Championships Festival from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 in Pittsburgh to crown champions in men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, and women’s volleyball. The festivals represent the largest gathering of student-athletes of any NCAA championship event (this year’s will celebrate the achievements of nearly 1,000 Division II student-athletes), and they continue to be the only NCAA event at which six team champions are crowned at a single site.

SAAC INITIATIVES

- Promote CPR and AED certification within conferences and on campuses.
- Through the Love2Play initiative, encourage children to play multiple sports and to have fun while they play.
- Explore ways to strengthen the division’s partnerships with Team IMPACT and Make-A-Wish.
- Continue to talk about mental health and determine how SAAC can help stop the stigma and raise awareness.
- Participate in the annual Student-Athlete Day of Action with Division II conferences and institutions to speak out against sexual assault.
- Continue to discuss voluntold activities (activities that are not technically required but carry consequences if skipped) and determine next steps.

INCLUSION

- Work with the NCAA office of inclusion to implement initiatives that support Association-wide goals and priorities and promote available resources to Division II institutions and conferences.
- Continue to help the Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association identify and implement their own initiatives, including potential steps to optimize the role of the senior woman administrator.
- For the first time, Division II will fund attendance of teams from more than 40 Division II institutions to the NCAA Inclusion Forum. Each team will develop an institution-specific action plan to enhance diversity and inclusion on campus.

REGULAR-SEASON MEDIA COVERAGE

Division II will launch a new regular-season media agreement this academic year to continue to promote the division, its Life in the Balance philosophy and the Make It Yours brand. The agreement once again will feature dozens of regular-season contests in several sports throughout the country.