

START

It all starts here, with the schools and athletics conferences that make up Division III. The idea-generator might be an athletics director interested in allowing football players to suit up in protective gear during spring practice, a faculty athletics representative who wants the division to limit how many hours student-athletes can travel for competition or a coach who thinks scrimmage rules are too restrictive. No matter its origin, the proposal begins life as a discussion topic in one or more Division III committees.

Some legislation is proposed by the members themselves. In order to submit a proposal, 20 active Division III schools or two conferences must sign on as sponsors. If those thresholds are met, the proposal will reach the Convention floor no matter what position the division's committees and councils take.

HOW THE NCAA WORKS: Division III

Athletics complements academics, and scholarships are based on merit and financial need.

Because its mission is to ensure student-athletes have a well-rounded college experience, Division III is the lone NCAA division that doesn't permit athletics scholarships. The athletic experience is designed to complement time spent in the classroom and pursuing other activities – some related to coursework, others extracurricular.

Roughly 75 percent of Division III student-athletes receive some form of academic grant or need-based scholarship. They have the same access to financial aid as the rest of the student body.

Access to competing in national championships is also important to Division III, where one of every 6.5 teams competes in the NCAA postseason. Division III is home to more than 194,000 student-athletes – the most in any division – who can earn the opportunity to compete in 28 Division III national championships.

The division's philosophy and the rules that implement it are set by members hailing from the roughly 450 schools and more than 40 conferences.

DIVISION III COMMITTEES

<p>Financial Aid Committee</p> <p>Reviews and considers the bylaws that govern financial aid.</p> <p>12 members:</p>	<p>Membership Committee</p> <p>Reviews issues related to Division III membership, including status of incoming and active members.</p> <p>10 members:</p>	<p>Student-Athlete Advisory Committee</p> <p>Composed of college athletes who monitor and act on issues.</p> <p>1 member for every two conferences; currently 22.</p>
<p>Interpretations and Legislation Committee</p> <p>Interprets all Division III legislation and reviews and refines legislative proposals.</p> <p>8 members:</p>	<p>Committee on Infractions</p> <p>Holds hearings as needed involving Division III schools accused of violating NCAA rules.</p> <p>5 members:</p>	<p>Infractions Appeals Committee</p> <p>Hears and acts on appeals of decisions by the Committee on Infractions.</p> <p>5 members:</p>
<p>Nominating Committee</p> <p>Suggests individuals who can fill vacancies on various Division III committees.</p> <p>8 members:</p>	<p>Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement</p> <p>Determines reinstatement process for college athletes deemed ineligible because of a rules violation.</p> <p>6 members:</p>	<p>Championships Committee</p> <p>Oversees administration of the division's 28 championships.</p> <p>9 members:</p>

KEY

- ➔ Legislative path
- ⬅️ Alternative legislative path
- ↔️ Communication path
- 👤 = President or chancellor
- 👤 = Management Council member
- 👤 = Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member
- 👤 = Financial aid administrator
- 👤 = Faculty athletics representative
- 👤 = Athletics director or senior woman administrator
- 👤 = Championships Committee member
- 👤 = Conference administrator
- 👤 = Member school and conference administrators and others who work daily in college sports
- 👤 = Athletics direct reports
- 👤 = General public

Besides the various required roles, the NCAA also works to ensure gender, racial and geographic diversity on its committees. Many of these diversity standards are mandated by legislation.

Committees debate the ideas and decide whether to sponsor them as pieces of legislation. Next stop: Management Council, which considers the committees' recommendation.

Each Division III championship sport has a committee made up of coaches and athletics administrators with knowledge of that sport. These committees rank and select teams and individuals for championships competition, plus recommend sites and dates.

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

The top leadership group in Division III, the Presidents Council is composed of presidents and chancellors and establishes and directs general policy.

- ◆ Establishes a strategic plan for Division III.
- ◆ Implements policies adopted by the NCAA Board of Governors.
- ◆ Can sponsor legislative proposals that are considered by Division III members each year at the NCAA Convention.
- ◆ Can adopt some administrative bylaws and regulations without approval of full membership.
- ◆ Approves the Division III budget.
- ◆ Approves championships regulations.
- ◆ Orders proposals for voting at the Convention business session.

18 members, all presidents and chancellors:

Strategic Planning and Finance Committee

Makes budget recommendations and monitors the Division III Strategic Plan.

13 members:

Administrative Committee

Takes action on issues that arise between meetings of the Presidents Council and Management Council.

5 members, including:

Must be a member of Management Council

The Management Council reviews and makes recommendations on each committee's proposals and forwards them to the Presidents Council.

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Management Council is composed primarily of individuals who have day-to-day knowledge of athletics operations, including faculty athletics representatives – the college faculty members who are designated liaisons to athletics.

- ◆ Implements policies adopted by the Presidents Council and Board of Governors.
- ◆ Recommends policy-oriented legislative proposals for sponsorship by the Presidents Council.
- ◆ Makes interpretations of Division III bylaws.
- ◆ Makes recommendations to the Presidents Council related to Division III.
- ◆ Reviews appeals by members of decisions made within the Division III governance structure.
- ◆ Sponsors administrative proposals for membership vote.

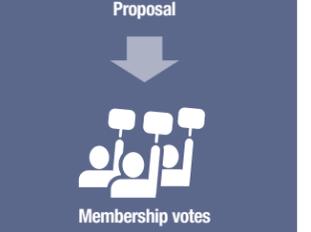
21 members:

- 9 ADs, SWAs or conference representatives
- 2 presidents or chancellors
- 2 FARS
- 2 college athletics direct reports
- 2 student-athletes

Since the division was established in 1973, it has operated under a "one institution, one vote" model. College athletes on the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee voice their opinions at the Convention business session but do not vote.

CONVENTION

The NCAA Convention, held each year in January, is the finish line for all sponsored proposals in Division III. Delegates from every school and conference gather during a Convention business session to place their votes on each proposal.



In most cases, Division III legislation requires only a simple majority vote of members present. Sometimes – such as in 2015, when the NCAA added beach volleyball as a championship sport – legislation applies to the entire Association, and each division must reach its own majority vote to pass. In still other cases, Association-wide legislation touches on an issue so important that it requires a two-thirds majority vote of all three divisions voting in a joint session.

Legislation approved

Approved proposal takes effect on the date specified in the legislation, usually Aug. 1 of that year.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- JULY 15** Have an idea? Legislative proposals submitted by members are due to the national office.
- AUG. 15** All those proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org in a publication commonly known as IPOPL, so schools can review them and begin developing opinions.
- SEPT. 1** Deadline for Presidents Council to sponsor legislation to be voted on at the NCAA Convention.
- SEPT. 15** Any final revisions to membership-sponsored proposals are due.
- SEPT. 23** Once again, the proposed pieces of legislation are published on ncaa.org, this time with proposals from both members and the committee structure, in a publication commonly known as SPOPL.
- NOV. 1** Any amendments to original proposals and any resolutions are due.
- NOV. 15** An official Division III notice of legislation, which includes final versions of all the proposals, is delivered to high-ranking individuals at Division III schools, including every president and athletics director.

FINISH