



NCAA Division III Legislative Proposals

| Proposal Number | Title | Status | Source | Effective Date | Intent | Rationale |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|---|----------------|--|--|
| 2013- | ORGANIZATION -- PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL -- INCREASE COMPOSITION TO 18 MEMBERS -- AMEND REPRESENTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Presidents Council. | Immediate | To increase the Presidents Council membership from 15 to 18 members and amend the specific representational requirements regarding the enrollment and public/private status of the institutions being represented as well as the gender composition of the Council. | The compositional requirements for Presidents Council have not changed since 1999, when the membership increased the composition of the Division III Presidents Council from 11 to 15, to allow the Council to better perform its duties. Those four additional positions were "at large" positions. Over that period, Division III has experienced significant growth. The proposed increase recognizes that growth and enhances presidential representation and involvement. The specific representational requirements more accurately reflect the current Division III membership. |
| 2013- | AMATEUR STATUS -- BEFORE INITIAL, FULL-TIME COLLEGIATE ENROLLMENT -- PRIZE MONEY BASED ON TEAM PERFORMANCE | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee). | August 1, 2013 | To specify that before initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual may accept payment based on the individual's or his or her team's place finish or performance, or given on an incentive basis (e.g., bonus) from a team, provided the combination of such payments and expenses provided to the individual does not exceed his or her actual and necessary expenses. | Prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment an individual may compete in an open event and receive prize money based on his or her place finish or performance. Such prize money is not limited to actual and necessary expenses. Individuals that compete on a team are not afforded the same opportunity to receive prize money based on performance. NCAA Divisions I and II permit individuals to receive prize money based on a team's performance without jeopardizing their amateur status. Consequently, individuals in team sports are being put in a difficult situation. The individual on a winning team may accept prize money while her teammate who is considering a Division III institution could not accept the money. It is not equitable to treat the team sport athletes differently, nor is it reasonable for an individual to discern these amateurism nuances between divisions. Consistency as well as fairness for these individuals justifies allowing receipt of prize money based on a team's performance, so long as the prize money does not exceed actual and necessary expenses. |



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| 2013- | AMATEURISM -- PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES -- PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PARTICIPATION IN INSTITUTIONAL FUNDRAISERS | Ready for Convention Vote | State University of New York Athletic Conference, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference | Immediate | To permit prospective student-athletes to participate in institutional fundraisers prior to their initial collegiate enrollment provided the prospect has graduated and has forwarded the paid acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. | Currently, prospective student-athletes are prohibited from participating in institutional fundraisers prior to their attending classes or reporting for practice activities. This prohibition precludes those prospective student-athletes who have made a determination on their institution of attendance from participating in fundraisers that may be intended to pay or supplement the costs associated with preseason practice (e.g., food, lodging) and/or other participation-related expenses. |
| 2013- | RECRUITING -- ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS -- ALL FORMS OF PRIVATE ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE PERMITTED | Ready for Convention Vote | Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference | Immediate | To specify that any form of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., electronic mail, Instant Messages, text messages or facsimiles) including private communication through a social networking site may be sent to a prospective student-athlete (or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians), provided the correspondence is sent directly to the prospective student-athlete (or his or her parents or legal guardians) and is private between only the sender and recipient (e.g., no use of public chat rooms, message boards, or public communication through a social networking site). | There is a growing concern that current prohibitions on electronic transmissions are outdated and lagging behind prospective student-athletes' use of technology. Current limitations are inhibiting the exchange of information in the most efficient, cost effective and least intrusive means as compared to other forms of communication, such as telephone calls. Developments in technology have made it easier and less expensive to communicate through the expanded availability and prevalence of mobile communication devices that are multifunctional and often provide options for the user to define his or her communication preferences. Institutions have been permitted to send an unlimited number of emails to student-athletes for several years and there have not been any concerns regarding frequency or intrusion. This proposal seeks to deregulate the current restrictions on private electronic communication through social networking sites as well as define private electronic correspondence in a broad manner in order to account for future advancement in technology. In addition, the burden and expenditure of resources related to rules monitoring will be greatly decreased. |



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| 2013- | ELIGIBILITY -- RECOGNIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM -- TRANSFER AND OUTSIDE COMPETITION EXCEPTION | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee). | Immediate | To specify that if a Division III student-athlete participates in athletics while engaging in a study abroad or foreign exchange program that is recognized by his or her institution, then the student-athlete shall not trigger the outside competition legislation or the transfer legislation if the student-athlete returns to his or her home institution; further, to specify that a student-athlete participating in such a program shall not trigger the use of a season of participation. | Many student-athletes participate in a foreign exchange or study-abroad program as a part of their collegiate experience. Currently, when a student-athlete participates in such a program, participating in athletics during this period could render the student-athlete ineligible by triggering the outside competition legislation. Further, the student-athlete often triggers transfer status and would have to satisfy an exception to the transfer legislation to be immediately eligible on return to the certifying institution. Lastly, student-athletes who participate in athletics while abroad could trigger the use of a season of participation. Modifying the legislation to prevent these consequences is consistent with the Division III philosophy and encourages student-athletes to participate in study abroad programs similarly to the general student body. An institution's recognition of a study-abroad or foreign exchange program is not limited only to those programs that are conducted by the institution itself; so long as the program is recognized by the institution, this exception will apply. |



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| 2013- | ELIGIBILITY -- FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE TRANSFERS -- EXCEPTIONS -- TRANSFER FROM A DIVISION III INSTITUTION -- CHANGE FROM SEASON OF PARTICIPATION TO ANY PARTICIPATION | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee). | August 1, 2013 | To specify that a four-year college transfer student from a Division III institution would have to satisfy a transfer exception or sit a year in residence, if the transfer student has ever participated (practiced or competed) at a Division III school, regardless if the student used a season of participation. | Currently, the four-year transfer exception allows a student-athlete to transfer and be immediately eligible if the student-athlete has not used a season of participation at a Division III institution, and has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics at a non-Division III institution. Effectively, a student-athlete who is academically ineligible at one Division III institution could transfer to another Division III institution and be immediately eligible provided the student-athlete has not used a season of participation. For example, the current rule allows a student-athlete to participate and compete in the nontraditional segment (which does not trigger the use of a season of participation) in the fall, become academically ineligible, and then transfer to another Division III institution mid-year and become immediately eligible for competition in the spring championship segment. In this situation, the student-athlete would not have been eligible had he or she remained at the previous institution. This proposal affirms that academic eligibility should be the primary consideration when determining eligibility status for a transfer student-athlete who has participated in practice or competition at a previous institution, including Division III institutions. |
| 2013- | AWARDS AND BENEFITS -- SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS -- CONFERENCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP | Ready for Convention Vote | City University of New York Athletic Conference, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference | Immediate | To permit NCAA member conferences to provide an award granting a scholarship for graduate school to one male and one female student-athlete that have excelled in the classroom, in athletics and the community and who have exhausted their eligibility. | Similar to the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, a conference postgraduate scholarship award (not administered or awarded by a member institution) would permit a conference to recognize one male and one female student-athlete in the form of an award based on their overall collegiate accomplishments including academic, athletic and community involvement to assist with the student-athletes' postgraduate studies. |



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| 2013- | PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- CONFIRMATION OF SICKLE-CELL TRAIT STATUS | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Presidents Council [Management Council (Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports)]. | August 1, 2013, for all incoming (first year and transfers) student-athletes; August 1, 2014, for all student-athletes. | To require confirmation of sickle-cell trait status for all student-athletes not later than the 2014-15 academic year including mandatory confirmation of status of all incoming student-athletes (first year and transfers) in the 2013-14 academic year. Further, to provide education regarding sickle-cell trait for all students-athletes and provide additional mandatory education for those that do not confirm their status. | By encouraging awareness of one's sickle-cell trait (SCT) status, this proposal promotes the health and safety of all student-athletes. Knowledge by the student-athlete and education by key institutional staff that conducts and monitors workouts continues to be the most important factor for determining appropriate precautions and interventions and ultimately preventing catastrophic events. Consequently, education, in addition to knowledge of one's own trait status, is a key component to the overall health and well being of the student-athlete. Education is required for all student-athletes, and those that either waive the test or want to participate before results of the test are confirmed shall be provided additional education regarding the implications of their decision and the risks, impact and precautions related to sickle cell trait. Many Division III institutions already confirm SCT status as part of their medical examination process confirming both the need and feasibility of this health and safety measure. Likewise, the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS) has determined the need of these measures for Division III, based on Division III specific data and research. Combining knowledge of SCT status with a robust educational program puts all institutions in the best position to protect student-athletes' health and well-being. |



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| 2013- | PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- FOOTBALL -- FIVE-DAY ACCLIMATIZATION PERIOD -- THREE-HOUR RECOVERY PERIOD | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports). | August 1, 2013 | In football, to establish that on any day during the five-day acclimatization period, student-athletes must be provided with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between all sessions. | The current legislation regarding the five-day acclimatization period in football permits a member institution to conduct an on-field practice or testing session in conjunction with a walk-through session without a three-hour recovery period between the two sessions if the walk-through session occurs first. The NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports reviewed the current permissible walk-through legislation in football and found inconsistencies across the three divisions. In the interest of providing consistent safeguards for student-athletes, the committee recommended that the three divisions evaluate this legislation and align the language with that of Division II, which states that student-athletes must be provided with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between any sessions occurring that day. Amending the legislation to require a three-hour period between all sessions would ensure that Division III student-athletes have recovery from the cumulative effects of on-field activities, especially in the heat. |
| 2013- | PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- FOOTBALL -- OUT-OF-SEASON ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES -- USE OF HANDSHIELDS | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee). | Immediate | To permit the use of hand shields during the spring football strength and conditioning period. | The use of hand shields during the strength and conditioning period allows coaches to provide skill instruction to student-athletes who are not "skill position" players or special teams' players. Specifically, coaches will be able to teach proper stance, hand placement and movement, including blocking which would enhance the safety of the game. The use of hand shields would be restricted to one-on-one and two-on-two skill instruction and would continue to prohibit player-to-player contact. |



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| 2013- | PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- ICE HOCKEY -- FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST DATE -- NOVEMBER 1 | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee). | August 1, 2013 | In ice hockey, to specify that a member institution shall not play its first contest (game, exhibition or scrimmage) against outside competition in ice hockey before November 1. | In ice hockey, the first permissible contest date and practice date are the same, which raises concerns for student-athletes' health and well-being. Student-athletes will benefit by delaying the first permissible contest day to allow them to properly condition and be protected from premature exposure to the full rigors of competition. A two-week delay between the first practice date and the first contest is typical in many sports and with the length of the ice hockey season, institutions would not be negatively impacted by such a delay. Lastly, institutions that have signed a contract prior to July 24, 2012, may honor such agreements. |
| 2013- | PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- TENNIS -- FALL PERIOD -- EXCEPTION TO PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASON -- INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION -- NATIONAL SMALL COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Management Council (Interpretations and Legislation Committee). | August 1, 2013 | To specify that an institutional coaching staff member may coach a student-athlete who has qualified for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championships even if the activity occurs outside the declared playing season. | The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championships annually crowns men's and women's singles and doubles national champions in each of the ITA's four small college divisions [NCAA Divisions II and III, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Junior/Community College] during the month of October. Participants are determined through the ITA Regional Championships, held in September and October, which serve as qualifying tournaments. Under the current rules, if coaches work with the one or two student-athletes who qualify for the national championships, then that interaction has to count against the institution's 19 week playing season. This proposal allows the few student-athletes who qualify for the ITA National Small College Championship to continue to receive coaching and not have the entire team disadvantaged by losing weeks of the playing season. |



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| 2013- | DIVISION MEMBERSHIP -- CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT FUNDING -- INSTITUTIONS RECLASSIFYING FROM DIVISION III TO DIVISION II | Ready for Convention Vote | NCAA Division III Presidents Council [Management Council (Membership Committee)]. | Effective for those institutions beginning Division II candidacy year one in 2013-14 academic year and thereafter. | To stipulate that a Division III member institution is ineligible for Division III championships and Division III grant funding once it commences the Division II reclassification process. | Division III legislation currently allows a Division III member institution that is reclassifying to Division II to access Division III championships and grant funding during the first year of its Division II candidacy, provided the Division III institution does not provide athletically related financial aid to its student-athletes. The current legislation is challenging for the reclassifying institution because the institution intends to function and follow Division II legislation, yet it hopes to maintain eligibility for access to Division III championships and grant funding by complying with Division III legislation. Further, there is an inherent competitive advantage for a Division III institution reclassifying to Division II due to the promise of athletically related aid and announcement of the transition. |