

LEGISLATION



2018 NCAA CONVENTION

DIVISION III INITIAL PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

112th Annual Convention

January 17-20, 2018

Indianapolis, Indiana

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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**Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation Submitted by the
NCAA Division III Membership
112th Annual Convention**

This publication presents all proposed amendments to NCAA legislation that were properly submitted by the NCAA Division III membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline in the NCAA legislative calendar. The nine proposals herein are printed in the order in which they would appear, if adopted, in the NCAA Division III Manual. No attempt has been made to place them in topical groupings or in the order in which they eventually might appear in the 2018 NCAA Convention agenda. **The order of the nine proposals may change in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation and in the Official Notice. Therefore, the numeral 1 will be placed in front of each proposal number to help identify it in future legislative publications as having originated in the initial (first) publication.**

Each proposal is accompanied not only by a statement of intent and proposed effective date, but also by a statement of rationale and a listing of the primary contact person designated by the sponsors of the amendment.

This publication is produced directly from the Legislative Services Database for the Internet each time it is downloaded. Therefore, the content of the publication may change each time it is accessed from the NCAA webpage. As modifications or corrections are made to proposals during the sponsor modification period, updates will be made to LSDBi and those changes will be reflected in this document.

Between the date this publication is posted (not later than August 15) and September 15, sponsors of these proposals are permitted to refine and change the amendments in any manner that is germane to the proposal as printed in this publication. Such changes may either increase or decrease the modification set forth in the original proposal - i.e., the sponsors may alter the proposal to make greater or lesser changes in the current legislation than they originally submitted. A sponsor-modification memorandum will be distributed to designated primary contact persons in mid-August. Sponsors may use the LSDBi "Sponsor-Modification Submission" section to modify the legislative proposals they have submitted. All such modifications must be received in the NCAA national office not later than 5 p.m. Eastern time, September 15. In addition, sponsors who wish to withdraw a proposal should contact Chris Brown (cbrown@ncaa.org) or Jeff Myers (jmyers@ncaa.org); however, please note that proposals withdrawn after September 15 will still appear in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation.

No new proposals may be submitted by the Division III membership for the Convention after the July 15 deadline has passed; however, proposals are available for co-sponsorship until September 1. Member institutions and conferences that wish to offer suggested revisions to an amendment are encouraged to contact the designated primary contact person, as listed with each proposal. Such contacts should be made as early as possible in the period of time between the date this publication is posted and September 15, to assure time for appropriate consideration by the sponsors.

This represents the first in a series of three publications addressing Convention legislation, as dictated by the provisions of NCAA Constitution 5. The other publications will be as follows:

Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. Issued not later than September 23 and includes the proposals properly sponsored by the Division III membership as modified on or prior to September 15, as well as all legislation submitted by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and the NCAA Division III Management Council in accordance with the September 1 deadline. Amendment-to-amendment forms will also be available at this time.

Official Notice of the 2018 Convention. Issued on November 15; and contains all Division III legislation for the Convention, including all amendments-to-amendments and resolutions submitted by the November 1 deadline.

2017-18 Legislative Calendar

The legislative calendar, as set forth in Constitution 5, is summarized here for convenience of reference.

July 15: Deadline for submission of amendments by the Division III membership. Each amendment must include a statement of intent and a separate statement of rationale (200 words or less), as well as identification of the designated primary contact person, and must be sponsored by at least one conference or at least 10 of the 20 individual institution sponsors.

July 17-18: Management Council consideration. The Management Council considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor. It also reviews proposals submitted by the membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline.

August 9: Presidents Council consideration. The Presidents Council considers legislative proposals that it may wish to sponsor. It also reviews the proposals submitted by the membership in accordance with the July 15 deadline.

Not Later Than August 15: Posting of Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation.

Date IPOPL is Posted through September 15: Sponsor-modification period. Sponsors are permitted to refine and change their proposals in any manner germane to the original proposal. Member institutions and conferences are invited to offer any suggested revisions of a proposal to the primary contact person listed with the proposal. Also, members that believe an amendment should not be modified should so inform the primary contact person.

September 1: Deadline for submission of amendments sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council.

September 1: Deadline for proper co-sponsorship of membership proposals. The proposals must receive proper co-sponsorship from one additional conference (if originally sponsored by one conference) or 10 additional institutions (if originally sponsored by 10 institutions) or it will be withdrawn.

September 15: Deadline for submission by all sponsors (with submission by the primary contact person) of any modification to their original amendments. These modifications may represent either greater or lesser changes; they need only be germane to the original amendment.

Not Later Than September 23: Posting of Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. This publication includes all membership-sponsored proposals as modified and includes all proposals sponsored by the Presidents Council or Management Council.

Date SPOPL is Posted through November 1: Amendment-to-amendment period. The Presidents Council and Management Council as well as the membership (see Constitution 5.3.5.3) may submit amendments to the proposals in the Second Publication of Proposed Legislation. These amendments-to-amendments may not increase the modification of the provisions to be amended; they must fall between the provisions of the original proposed amendment and the current provisions.

November 1: Deadline for all amendments-to-amendments to be received in the national office. No amendments-to-amendments sponsored by the membership may be submitted after this date. The Presidents Council and Management Council are authorized to submit further amendments-to-amendments at the Convention if they deem such action necessary.

November 15: Mailing of the Official Notice of the Convention. This publication includes all Division III proposed legislation and the properly submitted amendments-to-amendments and resolutions.

January 17-20, 2018: NCAA Convention. Voting on proposals will occur at the business session.

NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee

Amy J. Backus, Case Western Reserve University
Chuck Brown, Pennsylvania State Erie, The Behrend College
Jim Cranmer, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Alexandra Fox, Mills College
Shantey M. Hill, St. Joseph's College (Long Island)
Gregg Kaye, Commonwealth Coast Conference
Shana Levine, Lewis and Clark College (chair)
Michael Rubayo, Swarthmore College (student-athlete)

112th Annual Convention
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

[Note: Pursuant to Constitution 5.3.12, all amendments shall become effective not earlier than the first day of August following adoption by the Convention; however, if a voting delegate wishes to propose an immediate effective date, or an effective date other than the first day of August following the Convention, the rationale statement shall contain reasons why the amendment has an alternative effective date. Those proposals that are given an immediate effective date and that are adopted, become effective on adjournment of the Convention.]

[Note: In the following proposals:

- Those letters and words that appear in *italics* and ~~strikethrough~~ are to be deleted;
- Those letters and words that appear in **boldface** and are underlined are to be added; and
- Those letters and words that appear in normal text are unchanged from the current Division III legislation.]

General Grouping

No. 1-1 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- ANNUAL CONTEST EXEMPTIONS -- ALUMNI CONTEST

Intent: To permit the stand-alone annual exemption of one alumni contest per sport during any segment/period, with the exception of football.

Bylaws: Amend 17.1.4.5, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.1.4.5 Standard Contest or Date of Competition Exemptions.

17.1.4.5.1 Annual Exemptions. The maximum number of contests or dates of competition during the traditional segment shall exclude the following (see Figure 17-1):

- (a) Conference Championship. Competition in one conference championship tournament (or the tournament used to determine the conference's automatic entry in the NCAA championship);
- (b) Season-Ending Tournament. Competition in one season-ending tournament (e.g., NCAA championship, NAIA championship, NCCAA championship). A season-ending tournament is one that involves competition after the end of the regular season between teams that are not identified until the close of that regular season; and
- (c) Exhibitions, Scrimmages or Joint Practices. Competition in up to two exhibitions, scrimmages or joint practices against any opponent (see Bylaw 13.11.2.2 for competition against prospective student-athletes).

(d) Alumni Contest. An institution may exempt one contest or date of competition each year with an alumni team of the institution during any segment/period in all sports with the exception of football.

~~17.1.4.5.1.1 Exception—Alumni Contest. An institution may exempt one contest or date of competition each year with an alumni team of the institution during any segment/period provided it is counted as one of the two exempted exhibitions, scrimmages or joint practices [see Bylaw 17.1.4.5.1.1 (c)].~~

[17.1.4.5.2 through 17.1.4.5.3 unchanged.]

Source: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, Great Northeast Athletic Conference, Little East Conference, Michigan Intercol. Ath. Assn., Middle Atlantic Conferences, and Ohio Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: Proposal 2017-4 served to standardize the annual contest and date of competition exemptions. However, we believe the legislation went too far by eliminating the alumni contest as a stand-alone exemption. This proposal restores the alumni contest exemption as it existed in all sports that had them prior to the passage of Proposal 2017-4. Alumni contests are events that serve a distinctly different purpose than preseason scrimmages and exhibition games against organized teams (e.g., Division III member squads, foreign club teams), which are intended to prepare a team for regular season competition. Alumni contests are friendly competitions that are intended to build or maintain good will among former players and current student-athletes and to keep them connected with the institution through a friendly athletic activity. Often times these will occur in the non-traditional season or vacation periods. By standardizing an alumni game exemption separate and distinct from the preseason scrimmage/exhibition/joint practice exemptions, this legislation will more logically reflect the inherent difference between these two types of athletic activities and allow them to more properly meet their intended purposes.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Donna Ledwin, Commissioner
Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference
Email: ledwin@amccsports.org

No. 1-2 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASEBALL -- NUMBER OF CONTESTS AND DATES OF COMPETITION -- REDUCTION IN PERMISSIBLE CONTESTS

Intent: In baseball, to reduce the maximum number of contests to 36.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.2.5.1, as follows:

17.2.5.1 Maximum Limitations -- Institutional. A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule against outside competition in baseball during the institution's baseball playing season to a maximum of ~~40~~ **36** contests (games, scrimmages and exhibitions) during the traditional segment, and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment, except for those contests excluded under Bylaw 17.2.5.3. During the traditional segment, countable contest limitations apply separately to multiple teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman). During the nontraditional segment all teams (e.g., varsity, subvarsity and freshman) shall be treated as one team for purpose of the countable contest limitations. For in-season foreign competition, see Bylaw 17.1.4.3.

B. Bylaws: Amend 17.2.5.2, as follows:

17.2.5.2 Maximum Limitations -- Student-Athlete. An individual student-athlete may participate in each academic year in a maximum of ~~40~~ **36** baseball contests (games, scrimmages and exhibitions) during the traditional segment and one date of competition during the nontraditional segment. This limitation includes those contests in which the student-athlete represents the institution, including competition as a member of the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team of the institution in accordance with Bylaws 17.02.4 and 17.02.9.

Source: State University of New York Athletic Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: Reducing permissible contests by four (4) would reduce missed-class time and operating costs while also leveling the competitive playing field without sacrificing the integrity of the baseball season nor the process of championship selection. A 36-game regular season would still produce a greater body of work than almost every other NCAA Championship sport. Although institutions are not mandated to maximize their schedules, the self-regulating or conference-regulating of contests puts institutions and leagues at a disadvantage in terms of recruiting and post-season selection because the playing field is not level. Even more compelling is the disparate weather across the nation that gives institutions a distinct advantage in warmer weather climates in terms of competition dates. Although softball has similar challenges, the nature of the sport of baseball with its unique field and specific use of a pitching staff arguably makes it the most vulnerable sport impacted by weather. Schools in colder weather climates have compact schedules with little room for changes and when changes happen, student-athletes are faced with serious increases in missed-class time while athletic departments are detrimentally impacted by increased rescheduling costs.

Budget Impact: Reduction in costs; institutions would gain more control.

Primary Contact Person:

Tom DiCamillo, Commissioner
State University of New York Athletic Conference
Email: sunyacsports@gmail.com

General Grouping

No. 1-3 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASKETBALL -- FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST -- NOVEMBER 8TH

Intent: In basketball, to establish the first permissible contest date as November 8. When November 8 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday, a member institution may play its first contest on the Friday immediately preceding November 8.

Bylaws: Amend 17.3.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.3.3 First Contest. A member institution shall not play its first contest (games, scrimmages and exhibitions) against outside competition in basketball before November ~~15~~ 8, except as provided under Bylaw 17.3.3.1. When November ~~15~~ 8 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday, a member institution may play its first contest on the Friday immediately preceding November ~~15~~ 8.

[17.3.3.1 unchanged.]

Source: Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and State University of New York Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: This proposal establishes an earlier first contest date in basketball, which would allow for more balance in institutions' schedules. More game dates would be allowed in the first semester, which could create fewer contests in the second semester and a better balance between semesters. This proposal would establish a set first contest date that shortens the month-long preseason by one week. The proposal does not extend the 19 week playing and practice season, but allows for programs to better distribute weeks for practice and/or contests.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Dan McKane, Executive Director
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Email: dpmckane@miacathletics.com

No. 1-4 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- FOOTBALL -- MOVING THE FIRST CONTEST DATE ONE WEEK LATER

Intent: In football, to move the first permissible contest date one week later, based on moving the start of the Division III Football Championship tournament back by one week and to establish the first permissible practice date as 28 days prior to the first permissible Saturday contest date.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.10, as follows:

[Division III, roll call]

17.10 Football.

17.10.1 Length of Playing Season. (See Bylaw 17.1.1.3.1 for fall NCAA championship sports.)

17.10.2 Preseason Practice.

17.10.2.1 First Practice Date. A member institution shall not commence official preseason football practice sessions for the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team ~~before the date that will permit a maximum of 25 practice opportunities (see Bylaw 17.10.2.1.1)~~ **28 days** before ~~its~~ **the** first ~~scheduled~~ **permissible Saturday contest date (see Bylaw 17.10.3), regardless of an institution's actual first contest date** ~~intercollegiate game or before the Friday after the institution's first contest (game) if the first contest is scheduled for a Thursday.~~

17.10.2.1.1 ~~Practice Dates Opportunities~~ — **Football Required Day Off Football.** ~~In football only, to establish the starting date for preseason practice, the institution shall count one practice opportunity for each day beginning with the opening day of classes and one practice opportunity for each day classes are not in session in the week of the first scheduled intercollegiate contest (see Bylaw 17.10.3). Next, the institution shall count practice opportunities on an alternating basis in a two-one-two-one format (i.e., the first of the remaining days is counted as two, the next day is counted as one, the next as two, etc.) up to and including the 20th opportunity. Finally, the institution shall count one practice opportunity for each of the five days before the day of the 20th opportunity. The institution shall not count any days during the preseason when all institutional dormitories are closed, the institution's team must leave campus and practice is not conducted.~~ **During the preseason practice period, all physical athletically related activity shall be prohibited during one calendar day per defined week when classes are not in session for any portion of the week. (See Bylaw 17.1.4.1 for day off requirements when classes are in session.)**

17.10.2.1.1.1 ~~Sunday.~~ **Physical Athletically Related Activity.** ~~Sundays before the institution's opening day of classes are included in the counting. Sundays after the institution's opening day of classes are excluded from the counting.~~ **Physical athletically related activity shall include any on-field activity, weight training or conditioning. Community service, film review, leadership training, team building, team meetings and other similar activities shall not be considered physical activity.**

17.10.2.1.1.2 ~~Week.~~ ~~The "week" of the first scheduled intercollegiate contest is defined as the six days, including or excluding Sunday pursuant to Bylaw 17.10.2.1.1.1, before the first contest (or before Friday if the first contest is on a Thursday, see Bylaw 17.10.3) even if one or more of the days fall into different traditional calendar weeks.~~

17.10.2.1.1.3 ~~Opening Day of Classes.~~ ~~The "opening day of classes" is defined as the first day of classes as listed in the institution's official catalog. Required freshman orientation is not considered to be the opening day of classes for the academic year.~~

[17.10.2.2 through 17.10.2.3 unchanged.]

[17.10.3 through 17.10.6 unchanged.]

B. Administrative: Amend 31.1.3, as follows:

31.1.3 Sites and Dates. The governing sports committees recommend to the Championships Committee the sites and dates for all NCAA championships, **except the date determination for the first round of the Division III National Football championship (See Bylaw 31.1.3.1.2).**

31.1.3.1 Championships Committee Approval. Championships Committee approval shall be obtained before final site commitments are made to the host institution or any other individual or organization associated with the management of an NCAA championship. However, in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, the governing sports committees are authorized to select sites for preliminary rounds of competition without prior Championships Committee approval.

31.1.3.1.2 Exception - The Division III National Football Championship The first round of the Division III National Football Championship shall not occur before the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

[31.1.3.2 through 31.1.3.3 unchanged.]

Source: Middle Atlantic Conferences

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: With the release of the "Interassociation Recommendations on Year-Round Football Practice Contact for College Student-Athletes" and the subsequent elimination of two-a-days, a school's academic calendar no longer plays a significant role in determining the first permissible practice date. 28 days of preseason merge current practice opportunities with the preseason recommendations. By starting competition, a week later, the first date of preseason will now be close to what it has been historically. The room and board costs to institutions and the summer earning potential of student-athletes will remain about the same. While this change will extend the season for two teams playing in the national championship, all institutions will benefit from the significant preseason cost saving. For the teams playing later in December, they will be on winter break and less likely to incur academic stress present earlier in the month.

Budget Impact: Depends on squad size and room/board costs, but will save each school between \$10-20,000

Primary Contact Person:

Kenneth Andrews, Executive Director
Middle Atlantic Conferences
Email: andrews@gomacsports.com

General Grouping

No. 1-5 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- ICE HOCKEY -- FIRST PERMISSIBLE ON-ICE PRACTICE DATE -- SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER

Intent: In ice hockey, to establish the first permissible on ice practice date as the second Monday in October.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.13.2, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.13.2 Preseason Practice A member institution shall not commence on-ice practice sessions in ice hockey before the ~~third~~ **second** Monday in October.

[17.13.2.1 unchanged.]

B. Bylaws: Amend 17.13.3, as follows:

[Roll Call]

17.13.3 First Contest. A member institution shall not play its first contest (game, exhibition or scrimmage) against outside competition in ice hockey before the ~~second~~ **third** Friday following the first permissible practice date, except as provided under Bylaw 17.13.3.2.

[17.13.3.1 through 17.13.3.2 unchanged.]

Source: Middle Atlantic Conferences and Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: This proposal establishes an earlier first on-ice practice date in ice hockey. The additional on-ice practices will allow student-athletes and teams to properly prepare for contests from a health and safety standpoint. Currently, teams have 10 on-ice days to prepare for a season during the academic year. This proposal will help ensure the safety of the student-athletes during pre-season training sessions. This proposal does not change the 19-week allowance, but allows for teams to better use their weeks to prepare student-athletes.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

Dan McKane, Executive Director
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Email: dpmckane@miacathletics.com

No. 1-6 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- FOREIGN TOURS -- INSTITUTIONALLY CERTIFIED TOURS -- TOUR TO U.S. TERRITORY OR COMMONWEALTH

Intent: At this time, a tour to a U.S. commonwealth (e.g., Puerto Rico) or territory (e.g., Virgin Islands) is not considered a foreign tour. To allow for this experience, remove the prohibition on travelling to U.S. commonwealths and territories for this once in every three year opportunity. Teams could still conduct in-season trips to U.S. commonwealths and territories as currently legislated.

Bylaws: Amend 17.29.1.2, as follows:

17.29.1.2 Tour to U.S. Territory or Commonwealth. A tour to a U.S. commonwealth (e.g., Puerto Rico) or a U.S. territory (e.g., Virgin Islands) ~~is not~~ **may be** considered a foreign tour.

Source: Middle Atlantic Conferences

Effective Date: January 20, 2018

Rationale: With the increasing cost of foreign tours and more prevalent risks of such travel, opening up access to the U.S. commonwealths and territories would allow for more opportunities so student-athletes could participate in this unique experience. Besides the chance to compete in their sport, foreign tours provide many tangible academic benefits. Travel outside of the U.S. enhances the cultural exposure and awareness of our student-athletes.

Budget Impact: Depends on size of team and tour location

Primary Contact Person:

Kenneth Andrews, Executive Director
Middle Atlantic Conferences
Email: andrews@gomacsports.com

Presidents Council Grouping

No. 1-7 DIVISION III COMMITTEES -- ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP -- STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- CHANGE IN COMPOSITION

Intent: Allow for each conference and the group of independents to have a representative on National SAAC.

Bylaws: Amend 21.9.5.10.1, as follows:

[Roll Call]

21.9.5.10 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

21.9.5.10.1 Composition. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall consist of:

- (a) One student-athlete from **the group of independent institutions and one student-athlete from of the Division III multisport voting conferences** ~~unit represented in the Division III Student Athlete Advisory Committee partnership program. A unit shall consist of two partnered conferences. Independent institutions shall collectively be represented as one additional unit. If there is an odd number of Division III conferences, the unpaired conference and all independent institutions shall collectively be represented as one additional unit;~~ and

[21.9.5.10.1-(b) unchanged.]

[21.9.5.10.2 through 21.9.5.10.4 unchanged.]

Source: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, Great Northeast Athletic Conference and State University of New York Athletic Conference.

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: Currently, conferences share the National SAAC representative on an alternating basis; however, with the growth and emphasis on student athlete input, it is imperative that the interests of student athletes within a conference are represented at the national level. By sharing the National SAAC representative with another conference, the interests of the student athletes are not always served. For example, the SUNYAC currently shares its National SAAC Representative with the Empire 8. The conferences are completely different with the SUNYAC comprised of state universities and the Empire 8 comprised of private institutions.

Budget Impact: Approximately \$115,000 to account for the increase of approximately 20-23 student-athletes for attendance at three in-person meetings and attendance at the NCAA convention.

Primary Contact Person:

Tom DiCamillo, Commissioner
State University of New York Athletic Conference
Email: sunyacsports@gmail.com

No. 1-8 EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS - PRINCIPLES OF ESTABLISHING BRACKET SIZE - POOL A - TWO AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER BERTHS FOR CONFERENCES WITH OVER 15 MEMBERS

Intent: To maintain an established automatic qualification access ratio (1:7.5) for conferences with over 15 members.

A. Administrative: Amend 31.3.1.1, as follows:

31.3.1.1 Principles of Establishing Bracket Sizes. In team sports, overall bracket sizes shall be established based on an approximate access ratio of 1:6.5. In golf and tennis, the team portion of the bracket shall be based on an approximate access ratio in the range of 1:7 to 1:7.5 with the specific access ratio to be recommended by the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Golf Committees and NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Tennis Committees, respectively, subject to approval by the NCAA Division III Championships Committee. The individual participant access ratio shall be determined according to Championships Committee policy (see Bylaw 31.3.1.1.1 for maximum bracket sizes). The overall team bracket size shall be determined by dividing the total number of active Division III institutions sponsoring the sport by 6.5 or the number specified for golf and tennis, and then adjusted as necessary by the Championships Committee. Bracket composition shall be based on three pools (A, B and C) and shall be established using the following principles:-- --

- (a) Pool A -- Conferences that meet the automatic-qualification requirements per Bylaw 31.3.3. ~~No conference shall receive more than one automatic berth per sport;~~ **Conferences with 15 or more members shall receive a second automatic berth in sports with 15 or more sponsoring institutions.**

[31.3.1.1-(b) through 31.3.1.1-(c) unchanged.]

[31.3.1.1.1 unchanged.]

B. Administrative: Amend 31.3.3, as follows:

31.3.3 Automatic Qualification [Pool A]. The Championships Committee and the governing sports committees annually shall award automatic qualification to those conferences that meet the requirements set forth herein.

31.3.3.1 Requirements - Division Championship. To be eligible for automatic qualification in a division championship, a member conference shall meet the following general requirements:

[31.3.3.1-(a) through 31.3.3.1-(i) unchanged.]

[31.3.3.1.1 unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.2 Member Conference With 15 or More Members--Multisport. A member conference with 15 or more members is eligible for two automatic qualifications in a sport as follows:

(a) Complete a two-year waiting period, which requires for two consecutive academic years before being eligible for the automatic-qualification privilege, the following:

(1) Been a member conference of the Association. No waivers of this provision shall be granted;

(2) Conducted competition in the sport in question; and

(3) Maintained fifteen consistent conference members that sponsored the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis, provided:

(i) Each of the fifteen conference members were active Division III institutions or institutions in the final two years of the NCAA Division III provisional or reclassifying membership process;

(ii) At least twelve of the fifteen members were core institutions per Bylaw 31.3.3.1.5; and

(iii) All active Division III institutions within the fifteen members were eligible for the NCAA Division III championship per Bylaw 31.2.1.

(b) After completion of the two-year waiting period, either:

(1) Maintains at least fifteen active Division III institutions that sponsor the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis and that are eligible for the NCAA Division III championship per Bylaw 31.2.1, twelve of which shall be core institutions per Bylaw 31.3.3.1.5; or

(2) Is in the grace period per Bylaw 31.3.3.1.4.

31.3.3.1.2.1 Exception. A member conference that has been a member conference of the Association for two years, but has not satisfied the conditions set forth in Bylaw 31.3.3.1.2, may be immediately eligible for automatic qualification if:

(a) At least fourteen of the members are core conference members (per Bylaw 31.3.3.1.5) that sponsor the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis;

(b) At least fourteen core conference members have been core conference members for two or more academic years; and

(c) At least fifteen members, including fourteen core members, are eligible for the NCAA Division III championship in the sport, per Bylaw 31.2.1.

31.3.3.1.23 Additional Requirements -- Single-Sport Conferences. A single-sport member conference shall also satisfy one of the following to be eligible for automatic qualification:

[31.3.3.1.2-(a) through 31.3.3.1.2-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.3-(a) through 31.3.3.1.3-(b) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.23 Additional Requirements -- Single-Sport Conferences. A single-sport member conference shall also satisfy one of the following to be eligible for automatic qualification:

[31.3.3.1.2-(a) through 31.3.3.1.2-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.3-(a) through 31.3.3.1.3-(b) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.34 Grace Period. A period for two consecutive academic years after the date the conference falls below the seven required institutions but maintains at least four institutions (they must be core institutions for multisport conferences) in the particular sport. Continued automatic-qualification eligibility shall be as follows:

[31.3.3.1.3-(a) through 31.3.3.1.3-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.4-(a) through 31.3.3.1.4-(b) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.34 Grace Period. A period for two consecutive academic years after the date the conference falls below the seven required institutions but maintains at least four institutions (they must be core institutions for multisport conferences) in the particular sport. Continued automatic-qualification eligibility shall be as follows:

[31.3.3.1.3-(a) through 31.3.3.1.3-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.4-(a) through 31.3.3.1.4-(b) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.4.1 Grace Period for Conferences With Two Automatic Qualifications in a Sport. The grace period for conferences with two automatic qualifications in a sport applies as set forth in 31.3.3.1.4 (a) and (b), provided the conference maintains 12 core members.

31.3.3.1.45 Core Institution. For purposes of Bylaw 31, a core institution is an active NCAA Division III member institution that is a member of an NCAA Division III conference and participates in that conference in more than one conference-sponsored sport. An institution may be a core institution in only one multisport conference. An institution that was considered a core institution in more than one multisport conference prior to September 1, 2011, may continue as a core institution in those conferences until it is no longer an active member of the particular conference.

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31.3.3.1.56 Sponsoring the Sport. For purposes of Bylaw 31, "Sponsoring the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis" requires that the institution:

[31.3.3.1.5-(a) through 31.3.3.1.5-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.6-(a) through 31.3.3.1.6-(b) unchanged.]

31.3.3.1.56 Sponsoring the Sport. For purposes of Bylaw 31, "Sponsoring the sport on a varsity intercollegiate basis" requires that the institution:

[31.3.3.1.5-(a) through 31.3.3.1.5-(b) renumbered as 31.3.3.1.6-(a) through 31.3.3.1.6-(b) unchanged.]

[31.3.3.2 through 31.3.3.3 unchanged.]

Source: USA South Athletic Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2018

Rationale: The current Division III AQ model was approved based on the principle of access for all. This model has proved widely successful with significant divisional growth and infrastructure tied to conference stability. As Division III continues to adapt to the ever-shifting landscape of higher education, there is a need for flexibility and accommodation related to the application of the AQ access ratio. Specifically, due to a variety of economic, geographic or philosophic factors, co-ed and especially single gender institutions may find themselves grouped in conferences with many members. In these instances, current legislation does not provide student-athletes with equal access to the championship experience. This unequal application of the access ratio leads to the creation of smaller conferences to satisfy AQ requirements in some sports. Unfortunately, many institutions do not sponsor exactly the same sports due to facility or enrollment considerations. This leaves many conferences chasing AQ for sports with fewer teams through affiliates or additional membership growth. This proposal maintains access ratios for student-athletes while providing that conference stability can be established. Currently, Division III operates with one conference following the proposed model with administrative hardship at a seemingly low level.

Budget Impact: Small gain in revenue if each division in a conference pays membership dues.

Primary Contact Person:

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No. 1-9 EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS -- SELECTION CRITERIA -- PRIMARY CRITERIA -- RANKING AND SELECTION -- STRENGTH OF VICTORY

Intent: To add Strength of Victory (SOV) to primary criteria for championships ranking and selection.

Administrative: Amend 31.3.4.2, as follows:

[Roll Call]

31.3.4.2 Selection Criteria. The governing sports committee responsible for the selection of the balance of the championships field shall select teams in Pools B and C based on the criteria below. The criteria of two or more teams shall be compared to determine the higher-ranked team. An attempt shall be made to determine the ranking of two or more teams after consideration of the primary criteria (see Bylaw 31.3.4.2.1). If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the secondary criteria will be used (see Bylaw 31.3.4.2.2). All the criteria listed will be evaluated (not listed in preferential order).

31.3.4.2.1 Primary Criteria -- Ranking and Selection (All Contests Leading up to NCAA Championships).

[31.3.4.2.1-(a) through 31.3.4.2.1-(d) unchanged.]

(e) Division III strength of schedule (see Bylaw 31.3.4.2.3); ~~and~~

(f) Division III strength of victory (see Bylaw 31.3.4.2.4); and

[31.3.4.2.1-(f) relettered as 31.3.4.2.1-(g), unchanged.]

31.3.4.2.2 Secondary Criteria -- Ranking and Selection.

[31.3.4.2.2-(a) through 31.3.4.2.2-(c) unchanged.]

31.3.4.2.2.1 Performance in Previous Championship Season -- Football. In football, if all primary criteria are equal among teams with undefeated records, performance in the previous championship season may be considered in the secondary criteria.

31.3.4.2.3 Definition of Strength of Schedule.

31.3.4.2.3.1 Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball. In baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, the strength of schedule shall be calculated by combining the opponents' average winning percentage (OWP) with the opponents' opponents' average winning percentage (OOWP) on the weighted scale of two-thirds weight for OWP and one-third weight for OOWP. Further, on a sport-by-sport basis, the Championships Committee may assign different weight to home contests and away contests for purposes of calculating the OWP and OOWP.

31.3.4.2.3.2 All Other Sports. In all other sports not listed in Bylaw 31.3.4.2.3.1, the strength-of-schedule criteria shall be determined by the Championships Committee on a sport-by-sport basis.

31.3.4.2.4 Definition of Strength of Victory.

31.3.4.2.4.1 Strength of Victory. Strength of victory (SOV) is the average combined winning percentages of teams an institution has defeated.

Source: Empire 8

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: History has proven that ranking and selection committees heavily rely upon Strength of Schedule (SOS). When conferences award champions or automatic qualifications, it is based on outcomes of competition. However, when we select for the NCAA Tournament, we rely heavily on a calculation that does not take into account outcomes of contests - SOS. By adding strength of victory (SOV), the average combined winning percentages of teams an institution has defeated, to the primary criteria we can consider the quality of victories and provide more context into SOS. SOV compliments and balances SOS to ensure committees have more insightful data when making its decisions.

Budget Impact: None

Primary Contact Person:

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Request for Interpretation

Member institutions and conferences are encouraged to contact primary contact persons, and if necessary, to request interpretations of the proposed legislation in this Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation. Interpretations related to the proposed legislation in this Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation may be requested via electronic mail to cbrown@ncaa.org or jmyers@ncaa.org. When submitting such a request please include the proposal number in question, your institution's name and your title.