





## Positions on Division II Convention Proposals

When considering a position (support, oppose, no position) on a proposal, the FARA Division II Legislative Subcommittee (subcommittee) considered whether the proposal fell under the following category or categories:

- Academic integrity;
- Institutional control; and/or
- Student-athlete well-being.

If the subcommittee determined the proposal did not fall under the category or categories above, or the subcommittee was split, they took no position.



# 2024 NCAA Convention Division II Proposals



# NCAA DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-1: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS--FOOTBALL-- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST CONTEST--FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST



- **Intent:** In football, to specify that a member institution shall not participate in its first contest with outside competition in the championship segment before one week prior to the Thursday preceding September 6.
  - Football only vote.
- **Effective Date:** August 1, 2024.
- **Source:** Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Gulf South Conference, Lone Star Conference and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

# **DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-1: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS-- FOOTBALL-- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST CONTEST -- FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST, (Contd.)**



## **Rationale:**

- Currently, in football, an institution may participate in its first permissible regular-season contest on the Thursday preceding September 6.
- Amending the first permissible contest date to allow institutions to play their first regular-season contest with outside competition one week prior to the Thursday preceding September 6, will provide institutions with the flexibility to schedule and play the maximum allowable 11 contests over a 12-week period, if desired.
- Institutions will have the ability to schedule an off/bye week during the season which will benefit student-athlete health and safety.
- This proposal will also lessen the burden of finding available non-conference opponents and will create added flexibility and financial benefits to include unique opportunities such as sponsored or destination-site contests with opponents outside or within an institution's own conference.

# **FARA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE POSITION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, AND/OR STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**



- Oppose.
- Student-athlete well-being.
  - Budget impact (e.g., student-athletes arriving early).
  - Inequities of resources among Division II institutions.
  - Impact on athletics administrators.
  - Season creep.

# DIVISION II FARA POSITION



- Categories:
  - Academic integrity;
  - Institutional control; and/or
  - Student-athlete well-being?
  
- Support, oppose or no position?

# DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-2: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS-- SOFTBALL-- NUMBER OF CONTESTS-- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS-- INSTITUTIONAL AND STUDENT-ATHLETE-- CHAMPIONSHIP AND NONCHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS



- **Intent:** In softball, to specify that an institution or student-athlete shall limit its playing season to 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the segment in which the NCAA championship is conducted and eight contests (games and scrimmages) during another segment.
- **Effective Date:** August 1, 2024.
- **Source:** Montana State University Billings, East Coast Conference, Gulf South Conference, Albany State University (Georgia), Metropolitan State University of Denver, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Union University, University of Alabama in Huntsville and University of West Alabama.



**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-2: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- SOFTBALL --  
NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS -- INSTITUTIONAL AND  
STUDENT-ATHLETE -- CHAMPIONSHIP AND NONCHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS,  
(Contd.)**



**Rationale:**

- Currently, in softball, an institution and a student-athlete must limit its playing season with outside competition to 56 contests (game and scrimmages).
- Institutions and student-athletes are also allowed to participate in up to three discretionary exemptions annually.
- These exemptions are excluded from an institution's and student-athlete's maximum contests limit.
- Softball student-athletes are at a disadvantage from a developmental standpoint comparative to other sports (e.g., soccer, volleyball) since current legislation only permits three discretionary exemptions.

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-2: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- SOFTBALL --  
NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS -- INSTITUTIONAL AND  
STUDENT-ATHLETE -- CHAMPIONSHIP AND NONCHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS,  
(Contd.)**



**Rationale:**

- Any contests scheduled outside of the three discretionary exemptions would count against an institution's and student-athlete's maximum contests limit.
- Permitting eight additional contests during the nonchampionship segment, in addition to the three discretionary exemptions, will allow for proper in-game development, especially for incoming student-athletes, and scheduling flexibility for institutions.



## **FARA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE POSITION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, AND/OR STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**

- Oppose.
- Student-athlete well-being.
  - Season creep.
  - Additional eight contests will not help with player development. Most student-athletes already play summer ball.
  - Increases likelihood of more travel of softball student-athletes.

# DIVISION II FARA POSITION



- Categories:
  - Academic integrity;
  - Institutional control; and/or
  - Student-athlete well-being?
- Support, oppose or no position?



# **DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-3: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION-- ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP FOR DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM NUMBER OF SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS AND THREE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD**

- **Intent:** To amend the minimum number of sponsoring institutions required to establish and maintain a Division II championship to 35 institutions for both men's and women's sports; further, to establish a three-year grace period during which a sport that falls below the minimum sponsorship requirement may regain the necessary sponsoring institutions before the championship is discontinued.
- **Effective Date:** August 1, 2024.
- **Source:** NCAA Division II Presidents Council [Management Council (Championships Committee)].

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-3: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION--  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM  
SPONSORSHIP FOR DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM NUMBER OF  
SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS AND THREE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD, (Contd.)**



**Rationale:**

- This proposal was originally recommended by the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee's championships subcommittee during its review of Division II bylaws and subsequently referred to the NCAA Division II Championships Committee for further review.
- The Championships Committee collaborated with various membership stakeholder groups to vet the proposal and gathered membership feedback through membership surveys which indicated broad support for both reducing the minimum sponsorship requirement and making it consistent across both men's and women's sports.
- The Championships Committee believes 35 is an appropriate benchmark that both reflects membership interest and commitment meriting a Division II championship and gives emerging sports a reasonable target to transition to championship status.

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-3: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION--  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM  
SPONSORSHIP FOR DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS-- MINIMUM NUMBER OF  
SPONSORING INSTITUTIONS AND THREE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD, (Contd.)**



**Rationale:**

- Additionally, the Championships Committee determined that a three-year grace period provides sufficient time for a given sport to recover should it fall below the minimum requirement without unduly extending the grace period and tying up resources that could otherwise be devoted to championships in good standing and emerging sports that merit championship consideration.

**FARA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE POSITION:  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, AND/OR  
STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**

- No position.





# DIVISION II FARA POSITION



- Categories:
  - Academic integrity;
  - Institutional control; and/or
  - Student-athlete well-being?
- Support, oppose or no position?

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-4: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION --  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- CRITERIA  
FOR SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION --  
- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION IN ALL TEAM SPORTS OTHER THAN  
FOOTBALL**



- **Intent:** In all team sports other than football, to specify that automatic qualification privileges shall be granted to all conferences that sponsor the sport.
- **Effective Date:** August 1, 2024.
- **Source:** NCAA Division II Presidents Council [Management Council (Championships Committee)].

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-4: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION --  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- CRITERIA FOR  
SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS -- AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION --  
AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION IN ALL TEAM SPORTS OTHER THAN  
FOOTBALL, (Contd.)**



**Rationale:**

- Currently, sport committees have the option of recommending when and if to apply automatic qualification to their selection process for team sports.
- However, the concept of requiring automatic qualification rather than maintaining it as an option emerged during the Implementation Committee review process as being a core tenet of the Division II championships program.
- The Championships Committee believes that all conferences should be provided access to NCAA Division II Championships in all team sports when bracket sizes are appropriate to do so.
- The Championships Committee also noted that automatic qualification has long been regarded as the most effective way to grow a sport, as it establishes an equitable path for member institutions to participate in NCAA championships and an incentive for sponsorship.

**FARA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE POSITION:  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, AND/OR  
STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**

- No position.



# DIVISION II FARA POSITION



- Categories:
  - Academic integrity;
  - Institutional control; and/or
  - Student-athlete well-being?
  
- Support, oppose or no position?

**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-5: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION --  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- CRITERIA FOR  
SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS -- EARNED ACCESS -- FOOTBALL -- EARNED  
ACCESS FOR ALL FOOTBALL-SPONSORING CONFERENCES**



- **Intent:** In football, to amend the earned access legislation to specify that all football-sponsoring conferences shall be represented in the bracket; further, to specify, that the highest-ranked team in a football-sponsoring conference that is not already represented in the bracket shall be included.
  - Football only vote.
- **Effective Date:** August 1, 2024.
- **Source:** NCAA Division II Presidents Council [Management Council (Championships Committee)].



**DII PROPOSAL NO. 2024-5: CHAMPIONSHIPS ADMINISTRATION --  
ADMINISTRATION OF DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIPS -- CRITERIA FOR  
SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS -- EARNED ACCESS -- FOOTBALL --  
EARNED ACCESS FOR ALL FOOTBALL-SPONSORING CONFERENCES,  
(Contd.)**

**Rationale:**

- Currently, in football, earned access only applies if at least one member institution finishes no more than two spots lower than the super region bracket size in the final NCAA Division II football regional ranking.
- The Championships Committee believes that all conferences should be provided access to the NCAA Division II Football Championship when bracket sizes are appropriate to do so.
- The Championships Committee also noted that earned access has long been regarded as the most effective way to provide guaranteed access to the championship.

**FARA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE POSITION:  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL, AND/OR  
STUDENT-ATHLETE WELL-BEING**

- No position.





# DIVISION II FARA POSITION



- Categories:
  - Academic integrity;
  - Institutional control; and/or
  - Student-athlete well-being?
- Support, oppose or no position?

