

Institutions from the Association of Division III Independents Sponsor Legislation for Exempted Independent Championships Competition

The Association of Division III Independents was formed last year with several purposes in mind, including more effective participation by independents in the Division III legislative process and governance structure, and equitable opportunities for participation in NCAA championships by student-athletes at Division III independent institutions. In its first year, the association had 20 independent Division III institutions that were charter members.

With that in mind, the association's Executive Committee has taken a leading role in developing proposed legislation to permit student-athletes at independent institutions a valuable postseason opportunity currently available only to student-athletes at conference members.

Under current rules, student-athletes at conference members may participate in season-ending conference championships. Those contests may be considered for purposes of championships selection, and the games do not count toward regular-season contest limits. Student-athletes at independent institutions have no such opportunity.

Proposed legislation developed by the Association of Division III Independents (sponsored formally by 10 institutions for the 2004 NCAA Convention) permits student-athletes at independent institutions the same opportunity for exempted postseason competition currently available to conference members.

Please refer to the legislative proposal and fact sheet for more specific information.

A survey will be sent soon to all Division III independent institutions. Feedback from the survey will allow the Association to provide more specific information to the Division III membership about the number of independent institutions interested in taking advantage of the postseason opportunities afforded by this proposal, and the sports in which interest is most pronounced.

#