

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STUDENT-ATHLETE STUDENTS



WHAT IS A

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

A student-athlete advisory committee (SAAC) is a committee made up of student-athletes assembled to provide insight on their experience. The SAAC also offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on NCAA member institution campuses.

Presently, there are separate national SAACs for NCAA Divisions I, II and III. **NCAA legislation mandates that all member institutions have SAACs on their respective campuses. Further, NCAA legislation requires that all member conferences have SAACs.**

The information that follows will assist you in understanding how the network of SAACs, from individual campus committees to conference committees to national committees, interact and support one another to shape intercollegiate athletics policy and enhance the student-athlete experience.



HISTORY OF THE NCAA

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Association-wide SAAC was adopted at the 1989 NCAA Convention, and was formed primarily to review and offer student-athlete input on NCAA activities and proposed legislation that affected student-athlete well-being.

The initial national committee was comprised of student-athletes from a non-federated membership. Its purpose was to ensure that the student-athlete voice was one that accounted for the myriad of educational and athletics experiences of a diverse group of female and male student-athletes at all NCAA member institutions. In August 1997, the NCAA federated into three divisions. The federation caused the SAAC to expand to three SAACs representing NCAA Divisions I, II and III.



Each committee is comprised of a diverse group of female and male student-athletes charged with the responsibility of assisting in the review of NCAA proposed legislation and representing the voice of student-athletes in the NCAA governance structure. This is accomplished by providing student-athlete input on issues related to student-athlete well-being that are division-specific and Association-wide. (Federation has increased student-athlete participation in the governance process of intercollegiate athletics, by increasing the number of SAAC members from the former Association-wide committee of 28 student-athletes to a total of 80 members serving on the national Divisions I, II and III committees).

The input of the respective Divisions I, II and III SAACs continues to be sought by a variety of constituencies within the Association. Student-athlete committee members have the opportunity to speak with their respective NCAA Management and Presidents Councils, have representation on many Association-wide committees, and continue to speak to legislative issues on the NCAA Convention floor.

National SAACs (Divisions I, II and III) at a glance:

- Generate a student-athlete voice within the NCAA structure.
- Solicit student-athlete response to proposed NCAA legislation.
- Recommend potential NCAA legislation.
- Review, react and comment to the governance structure on legislation, NCAA activities and subjects of interest.
- Actively participate in the administrative process of NCAA athletics programs.
- Promote a positive student-athlete image.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL SAACs



“The mission of the National Collegiate Athletic Association Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete well-being and fostering a positive student-athlete image.”



DIVISION I

The Division I national SAAC consists of one student-athlete from each of the 31 Division I conferences. Members are selected by the current Division I SAAC members from a pool of three nominees from each of the represented conferences. Each student-athlete serves a two-year term.

The Division I SAAC reports directly to the Division I Management Council, and two SAAC members participate in each meeting of the Management Council as nonvoting members. It is through this representation on the Management Council and other Division I and Association-wide committees that NCAA Division I student-athletes offer input and assist in shaping the proposed legislation by which their division is governed.

DIVISION II

The Division II SAAC consists of one student-athlete representative from each of the Division II multi-sport voting conferences, one student-athlete representative from Division II independent institutions and two student-athlete at-large positions.

The Division II SAAC affects the legislative process via an annual summit held each July with the Division II Management Council, during which members of the SAAC have an opportunity to interact with members of the Management Council on proposed NCAA legislation and current Division II issues. Also, committee members participate in the NCAA Convention each January, where they express the student-athlete voice on collective concerns regarding proposed Division II legislation.

Division II national SAAC members actively take the lead in addressing issues facing Division II student-athletes, such as the development of campus and conference SAACs, NCAA rules education, faculty/student-athlete relationships and championships enhancements.

During the NCAA Convention, Division II SAAC members have an opportunity to speak to proposed legislation in front of the Division II membership.

DIVISION III

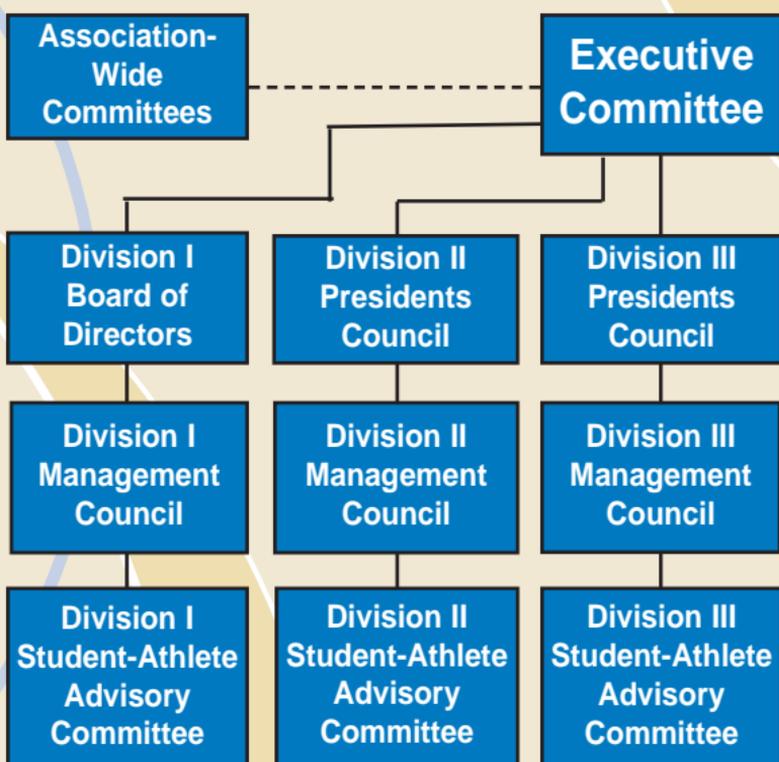
There are 24 members on the Division III SAAC.

Two student-athletes from the committee are voting members of the Division III Management Council. In Division III, legislation is proposed to the Management Council from Division III committees. The Management Council then has the option of forwarding the proposed legislation to the Division III Presidents Council for approval. If the legislation is approved by the Presidents Council, it is voted on annually at the NCAA Convention in January by each Division III member institution to determine if it will become new legislation.

During the NCAA Convention, Division III SAAC members have an opportunity to speak to proposed legislation in front of the Division III membership.

CONFERENCE SAACs

NCAA legislation mandates that each NCAA conference has a conference SAAC in order to strengthen the communication among the campus and national committees. Through increased communication and networking, the SAACs hope to better represent the views of all student-athletes.



All three national SAACs report to their respective Management Councils.

CAMPUS SAACs

Though the focus of campus SAACs is intended to be more parochial in nature, communication among campus, conference and national SAACs offers student-athletes the opportunity to shape the landscape of intercollegiate athletics.

Functions of campus SAACs:

- Promote communication between athletics administration and student-athletes.
- Disseminate information.
- Provide feedback and insight into athletics department issues.
- Generate a student-athlete voice within the campus athletics department during its formulation of policies.
- Build a sense of community within the athletics program involving all athletics teams.
- Solicit student-athlete responses to proposed conference and NCAA legislation.
- Organize community service efforts.
- Create a vehicle for student-athlete representation on campus-wide committees (e.g., student government).
- Promote a positive student-athlete image on campus.

Members of a campus SAAC have the opportunity to address issues affecting student-athletes at their institution or in their conference; furthermore, members have the opportunity to offer input on issues that may be national in scope.

The campus committee is meant to serve as a local student-athlete voice in addressing issues of student-athlete well-being at its respective institutions. Campus committees can facilitate better communication among student-athletes from various athletics teams to address issues common to all.

The campus SAAC may also serve as a conduit of communication among student-athletes, coaches and athletics administrators on issues to improve the student-athlete experience and promote growth and education through sports participation. Concerns can be voiced and solutions offered regarding any issue that may be relevant to NCAA student-athletes.

Through the grass-roots efforts of the campus SAACs communicating with the conference SAACs, and the conference SAACs communicating with the national SAAC, student-athletes have the opportunity to change the face of intercollegiate athletics.

CAMPUS SAAC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The NCAA recommends the creation of some type of executive board to oversee the operation of campus and conference SAACs. Traditional board member positions include chair, chair-elect, secretary/treasurer and chairs of any standing subcommittees. All of these positions should be held by student-athletes.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The constitution of the campus SAAC is a document written by the executive board and approved by the representatives. The constitution is essential to outline the policies and operating procedures of the committee. It should include the name and purpose of the committee, membership, leadership structure, standing committees, philosophy, advisors, impeachment process, veto powers, ratification and amendment procedures and voting and meeting requirements. It should be noted that many institutions require that an organization have bylaws to be an officially recognized student committee.

Copies of campus SAAC bylaws and models are available through the NCAA national office and on each division SAAC Web site at www1.ncaa.org/membership/membership_svcs/saac/index.html.

SAAC ENHANCEMENT IDEAS

- Create an annual report for your campus SAAC. Include concerns, committee actions, yearly activities, special honors or recognitions received by teams or student-athletes, graduation-rate information and other relevant topics.
- Present and distribute the annual SAAC report to constituent groups (e.g., athletics administrators, athletics council, board of trustees, coaches, faculty, CHAMPS/Life Skills Advisor, your conference SAAC and national SAAC).
- Collaborate with other student organizations on campus to organize activities (e.g., student government, CHAMPS/Life Skills program).
- Create a campus or conference SAAC Web site to promote information exchange, such as posting your SAAC mission statement, meeting minutes, roster, recent activities, strategic plan and more.

IDEAS ON BUILDING AND ENHANCING YOUR SAAC CAN BE FOUND IN A POWERPOINT TITLED "ENHANCING YOUR SAAC," THAT WAS PRESENTED AT THE 2004 NCAA REGIONAL RULES SEMINAR. THE PRESENTATION IS POSTED ON THE NCAA WEB PAGE AT NCAA.ORG.

HELPFUL TIPS :

- Consider committee composition (e.g., sport major, class rank, ethnicity, gender, etc.).
- Fully explain the purpose of SAAC to all involved.
- Recruit volunteers dedicated to that purpose.
- Hold new member orientation to clarify purpose and renew goals.
- Develop a SAAC handbook outlining committee and institution policy.
- Register your committee on your campus. It may receive institutional funds.
- Create a SAAC Web page and list serve to promote information sharing.
- Outreach to other student groups and invite other groups to SAAC meetings.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your SAAC.

RESOURCES

www.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities.html

This Web site offers links to colleges and universities that have home pages. Many institutions have a section for their department of athletics. A Web search may uncover new resources. Try the following search words to locate new Web sites and information:

community service
higher education
student-athlete well-being

student organizations
student government
leadership
forming a campus SAAC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Collegiate Athletic Association

P.O. Box 6222

Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Phone: 317/917-6222

www.ncaa.org

www1.ncaa.org/membership/membership_svcs/saac/index.html

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