

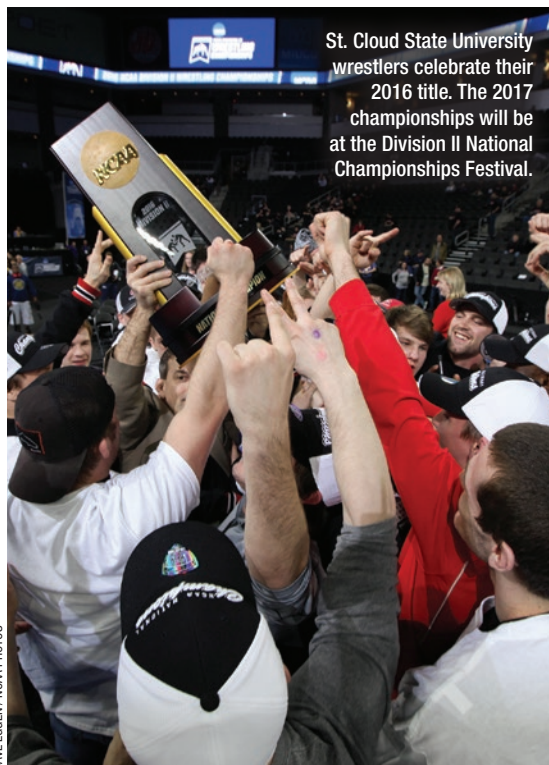
Division II Priorities 2016-17



FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION



The division will begin implementing the 10 initiatives that received funding, each of which ties directly to strategic positioning outcome areas in the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan (academics and life skills; athletics operations and compliance; diversity and inclusion; game day, conference and national championships; and membership and positioning initiatives). The governance structure will begin annual assessments in spring 2017.



DAVE EGGEN / NCAA PHOTOS



2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FESTIVAL

The division will conduct its 10th festival (the third for winter sports) March 8-11. Co-hosted by the Gulf South Conference and the city of Birmingham, the festival will crown champions in men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track and field, and wrestling, uniquely celebrating the achievements of more than 1,100 DII student-athletes. The festivals continue to provide the only NCAA stage upon which multiple champions are crowned in a single event.

MAKE IT YOURS™ ACTIVATION, PHASE 2

While the initial phase focused on Division II constituents, Phase 2 will look outwardly at ways in which the division can strengthen its position as a high-quality and desirable option for prospective student-athletes and their families to consider when making their college choice.

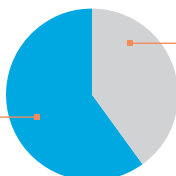


BUDGET PRIORITIES: CHAMPIONSHIPS, ACADEMICS, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Division II Planning and Finance Committee approved a new long-range budget that better aligns with the division's current spending on championships and strategic efforts. The new approach allocates an additional \$2.5 million in base budget dollars for enhancements to current or new initiatives. Of that total, \$1.5 million will be allocated to championships, with the remaining \$1 million targeting academic, inclusion and health and safety initiatives. Committees will work during the coming year to develop proposals that benefit the division collectively.

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\$1.5 million will be allocated to the championships program



\$1 million will target academic, inclusion and health and safety initiatives

COACHES OUTREACH

The division will launch year six of the Division II Coaches Connection program, which uses former coaches to strengthen communication between the coaching constituency and the NCAA governance structure in various sports. Among the Foundation for the Future initiatives is a commitment to expand the program during the next five years. The division also approved funding through Foundation for the Future to build a comprehensive online coaches education program that focuses on legislation and health and safety issues.

Division II Priorities

2016-17 continued



ENHANCEMENT OF THE COMPLIANCE CULTURE

Division II is committed to helping institutions and conferences maintain engaged and functioning compliance operations and providing meaningful educational opportunities. The division will assess the current culture to identify challenges and develop realistic enhancement efforts, including:

- ▶ A collaborative partnership with the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC).
- ▶ Engaging campus compliance personnel in honest and meaningful discussions about the culture of compliance in Division II.
- ▶ Partnering with the membership to identify and address situations in which current policies, procedures and legislation do not realistically align with the resources available on Division II campuses.
- ▶ Encouraging a culture of shared responsibility by providing the opportunity for compliance administrators to build relationships with their peers and the NCAA staff at Regional Compliance Seminars and other NCAA events.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Presidents Council has committed to fund initiatives to enhance student-athlete health and safety on campus and in the community. Collaborating with the Sport Science Institute, the division will advance nine strategic priorities that have been identified. In addition, with the success of the first Division II-specific APPLE conference in 2015, the division has approved funding to conduct a second one in the fall of 2017.



LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

The Division II governance structure in 2016-17 will continue to review various legislative issues, including financial aid, the nonchampionship segment, academic misconduct, independent medical care, four-year transfer legislation, and ways to help reduce student-athlete time demands. Pending membership feedback, proposals could be presented at the 2017 or 2018 NCAA Convention.



REGIONALIZATION



The division is reviewing its regionalization policy, which for the past eight years has been a cornerstone of the Division II championship model. Although the 2013 membership census confirmed that regionalization is still the best model for Division II, more than 90 changes to the division's landscape because of conference alignment or reclassification have affected the composition of various regions since then. Among items to be examined are the contiguous state model, as well as selection modifications to avoid repeat matchups in preliminary rounds.