

It's not broken; why fix it?

Know the facts
before you vote!

campus and the faculty is advised to monitor the facility, but can instruct student-athletes to stop participating if a coach deems as dangerous.

Proposal No. 65
MEMBERSHIP — MULTIDIVISION CLASSIFICATION — AWARDING OF ATHLETICS AID
Source: Presidents Council [Management Council (Joint Subcommittee on the Future of Division III)]

*Under current legislation, can a student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid for participation in a Division I sport play a Division III sport in another season?
No. An NCAA official interpretation that was recently incorporated into the NCAA Division III Manual states that a student-athlete who receives athletically related financial aid for participation in a Division I sport may not participate in any Division III sports.*

Proposal No. 65-1
MEMBERSHIP — MULTIDIVISION CLASSIFICATION — AWARDING OF ATHLETICS AID — Waiver
Source: Clarkson University, Colorado College, Hartwick College, Johns Hopkins University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, State University College at Oneonta, and St. Lawrence University

What does this amendment accomplish?

This amendment would allow the eight institutions currently offering athletically related financial aid in a Division I sport to continue that practice, but would preclude any other Division III institution that qualifies for the 1983 waiver from doing so.

2004 NCAA CONVENTION • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • JANUARY 9–12

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY • COLORADO COLLEGE • HARTWICK COLLEGE • JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE AT ONEONTA
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE • RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK • ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

Dear Colleagues:

We have spoken with many of you about the NCAA Proposal 65, legislation that would revoke the waiver that allows eight Division III schools to continue offering athletic grants-in-aid to student-athletes participating in a Division I sport.

The question we keep hearing from you is, simply, “Why?”

You want to know why we are so determined to preserve the waiver. You want to know why we have proposed an alternative, an “amendment-to-the-amendment,” numbered Proposal 65-I, which we will offer on the floor of the NCAA Convention in January.

The answer: Nothing’s broken. There’s no need to fix it.

Our Division I sports are incredibly important to our institutions. Their long histories of competing at the highest level and their rich traditions are points of immense pride for our students, our alumni, and our communities.

At the same time, however, these sports have virtually no impact on the rest of Division III. These are but 13 teams at eight schools, fewer than one of every 538 sport programs offered by Division III schools. Our participation at the highest level in our traditional sports notwithstanding, we are committed Division III members and offer our student athletes model Division III athletics programs. We gain no competitive or financial advantage over Division III opponents by virtue of our limited involvement in Division I.

A revocation of the waiver would hurt our institutions. It would do nothing for the cause of Division III. In fact, it could weaken it. We must retain flexibility within Division III, allowing some diversity, or we could drive outstanding schools out of our division.

Please read the following questions and answers about Proposal 65 and our alternative. Think about them, and ask us or our athletics directors for more information if you need it.

Then, during the debate at the 2004 NCAA Convention in Nashville, **please vote for Proposal 65-1, the amendment-to-the-amendment offered by our eight institutions.**

Remember: Nothing’s broken. There’s no need to fix it.

Sincerely,



Anthony G. Collins, *President*
Clarkson University



Richard Celeste, *President*
Colorado College



Richard P. Miller, *President*
Hartwick College



William R. Brody, *President*
Johns Hopkins University



Alan Donovan, *President*
College at Oneonta



Shirley Ann Jackson, *President*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Steven Diner, *Provost*
Rutgers University-Newark



Daniel F. Sullivan, *President*
St. Lawrence University

What is Proposal 65?

The legislation would eliminate a waiver that, for reasons of history and tradition, allows eight Division III institutions to continue offering athletic grants-in-aid to student-athletes participating in a Division I sport.

How many schools benefit from the waiver?

Only eight of the 424 Division III schools: Clarkson (men's and women's ice hockey), Colorado College (men's ice hockey, women's soccer), Hartwick (men's soccer, women's water polo), Johns Hopkins (men's and women's lacrosse), College at Oneonta (men's soccer), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (men's ice hockey), Rutgers-Newark (men's volleyball) and St. Lawrence (men's and women's ice hockey).

What is behind this legislation?

The legislation was proposed as a part of a larger Division III reform agenda. Proponents say that the core principle of Division III is the prohibition of athletic grants-in-aid. They feel that if the eight multidivisional schools want to remain in Division III, they should not offer athletic grants-in-aid even in their Division I sports.

Why should the waiver continue?

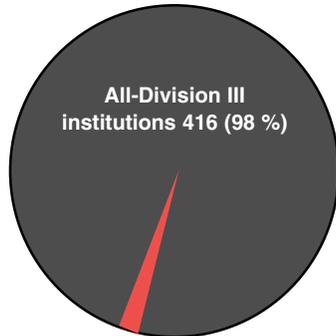
The waiver was granted in 1982–1983 to recognize the very special situation that exists at a small group of institutions. As a group, the eight schools operate typical Division III programs very much guided by the Division III philosophy. The only significant difference between us and other Division III members is a history and tradition of prominence in a particular sport, generally a sport that has a relatively low national visibility but that is important locally or regionally. Given this history, and the importance of that traditional sport to each institution, its students, alumni and community, it makes sense for our institutions to continue competing in their traditional sports at the highest competitive level.

Oneonta, N.Y. (Hartwick and Oneonta State), is known as “Soccer Town USA” due to its rich history and tradition of soccer. The National Soccer Hall of Fame is located in Oneonta.

Colorado College hosted the first 10 NCAA hockey championships, beginning in 1948. The new World Arena, funded by members of the community, operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and hosts hundreds of events each year for the Colorado Springs community to enjoy.

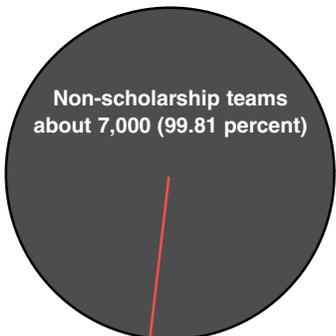
How widespread are Division I programs with grants-in-aid in Division III?

Percentage of Division III Schools Offering Any Athletic Grants-in-Aid



Multidivisional institutions 8 (2 %)

Division I Programs Offering Athletics Grants-in-Aid at Division III Institutions



Division I grant-in-aid teams 13 (0.19 percent)

Johns Hopkins’ tradition in lacrosse is equally strong in Baltimore. The Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the headquarters of U.S. Lacrosse, the sport’s national governing body, are on the university’s campus. Johns Hopkins was one of the co-organizers of—and a finalist in—the record-setting 2003 NCAA Division I-II-III Men’s Lacrosse Championship weekend.

These strong traditions are vitally important to the regions where the eight schools are located. David Palenchar, president and CEO of World Arena, said, “Colorado College hockey is as essential a part of the fabric of this community as Pike’s Peak.”

In a rural region, Clarkson and St. Lawrence provide cultural and entertainment opportunities, including the chance to experience competitive sports at the highest collegiate level. Citizens in these communities have not only zealously supported the tradition of Division I hockey, they also relish each and every game of the season.

Does the exemption damage Division III’s ability to establish an atmosphere consistent with the philosophy of Division III and its member institutions?

We believe strongly in the principles of Division III, but we do not believe that an exception—granted in extremely special cases for clear and specific reasons, and affecting fewer than one of every 538 sport programs offered by Division III schools—represents a threat to the future of Division III.

What does Proposal 65-1, your proposed amendment to Proposal 65, accomplish?

The amendment-to-the-amendment provides an opportunity for the membership to address the philosophical concerns about multidivisional classification raised by Proposal 65. It does so, however, without harming the eight members who, for reasons of tradition, have successfully participated in a Division I sport. It recognizes that the exemption granted these eight schools was granted for good cause and has resulted in no disruption to Division III.

Proposal 65-I provides that the eight Division III multidivisional institutions that offer grants-in-aid in their Division I sports would be permitted to maintain programs that are historically significant to them. If necessary to maintain Title IX compliance, they would be allowed to elevate a team of the opposite sex to Division I.

Don't the eight multidivisional schools have a competitive advantage?

The majority of our conference rivals, the schools against which we compete most of the time, support our position. For instance, John Fry, president of Franklin and Marshall and chair of the Centennial Conference Executive Committee, says, "It is [the Centennial Conference's] position that Johns Hopkins has gained no competitive advantage on the other members of the Centennial Conference from its Division I lacrosse program. As Hopkins' chief competitors for automatic berths to NCAA Division III championships, the Centennial Conference is proud of its association with this world-class university and wonders why this is a concern to the remainder of Division III if it is not problematic for us."

It is also clear on a national basis that the eight schools do not gain any advantage in Division III competition by fielding one or two Division I teams. NACDA Directors' Cup rankings over the past eight years illustrate the point. The multidivisional schools' average finish since 1996 has been 83rd. Members of NESCAC, a conference of small private colleges, and WIAC, a conference of larger state universities, have averaged 63rd and 65th, respectively. In 2003, the multidivisional institutions placed one school (Johns Hopkins) in the top 30 of the Directors' Cup rankings. NESCAC and WIAC each placed four schools in the top 30.

Don't multidivisional schools have better Division III facilities because of their Division I sports?

Compare the natatoriums at Middlebury, Franklin and Marshall or Emory to those at Johns Hopkins or RPI. Compare soccer facilities at Emory, Messiah or Misericordia to those at RPI, Clarkson or Johns Hopkins. Compare football facilities at Gettysburg or Mount Union to those at RPI or Colorado College. An institution does not need to sponsor a Division I program to build quality athletics facilities, nor does sponsoring a Division I sport guarantee that an institution's Division III sports have better facilities than other Division III programs.

NACDA Directors' Cup Standings	
	avg. finish since 1996
NESCAC63.4
WIAC65
MULTIDIVISIONALS83.6



“There is an overwhelming bond amongst ALL athletes at Johns Hopkins, regardless of division or sport. We will all leave Hopkins having been given the opportunity of a lifetime: to gain an unparalleled wealth of knowledge and to participate in a sports program that offers the proper balance between student and athlete.”

—SKYE YOUNG, DIVISION III VOLLEYBALL
STUDENT-ATHLETE AT JOHNS HOPKINS AND
CHAIR OF SAAC.

Do the multidivisional schools follow the Division III philosophy in their Division III sports?

We believe strongly in the Division III philosophy. We offer a wide range of sports and broad-based athletics participation. Our institutions offer an average of 21 intercollegiate programs, six more than the NCAA Division III average and 11 more than the NCAA Division III minimum.

Do the multidivisional schools receive any revenue from Division I?

The multidivisional schools do not receive any Division I championship money. The schools do not receive the annual Academic Enhancement payout made to Division I institutions. Multidivisional schools do not have access to the NCAA Student-Athlete Assistance Fund. They do not receive Division I funding for sport sponsorship, nor do they receive NCAA grant-in-aid funding for offering scholarships.

Didn't the presidents survey mailed last April reveal that a majority of the membership supported the elimination of multidivisional classification?

The eight multidivisional institutions believe that survey respondents did not fully understand the issue they were being asked to consider. This document is an effort to increase understanding of the very good reasons why a very few Division III institutions have been granted a waiver and allowed to offer athletics grants-in-aid in our Division I sports. In focus groups conducted by the NCAA in April and May, many participants said that institutions with established multidivisional programs should be left alone.

If Ivy League institutions can compete without scholarships, why can't the multidivisional institutions?

In most cases, the multidivisional institutions compete for the same academically high-caliber student-athlete as do Ivy League schools. We are not, however, similarly endowed and are not in a position to commit to be need-blind or to meet 100 percent of every admitted student's demonstrated financial need. Our aid packages routinely involve loans and unmet need. Not all our admitted students are aided, even if they have need. Our Division I coaches ensure that needy student-athletes will have at least their need met with athletic grants-in-aid. Athletic grants-in-aid remove uncertainty and allow the eight institutions to be competitive in recruiting.

The Ivy League's strong endowments, financial aid policies and reputation make it possible for them to recruit Division I athletes without athletic grants-in-aid. The multidivisional institutions need athletic grants-in-aid to attract Division I student-athletes with academic profiles comparable to those of their general student bodies.

How do the student-athletes feel about Proposal 65?

The National Student-Athlete Advisory Council voted to oppose Proposal 65 and support Proposal 65-I.

Haven't times changed to the point where multidivisional classification isn't appropriate any longer?

The eight multidivisional schools have developed their programs and plans in confidence that the NCAA meant what it said in 1983 when it created the waiver for our Division I sports. Over these two decades, we have continued to develop the rich tradition and prominence of the Division I sports on our campuses, in harmony with our thriving Division III sports programs. In some cases, we have made financial commitments to competition venues in our Division I sports, commitments that would be difficult to meet at a lower level of competition.

There remains no data that illustrates we garner a competitive advantage from fielding Division I teams; in fact, there is good data to support the argument that we do not. Our closest athletic rivals support the continuation of the exemption. To the extent that the exemption creates a lack of uniformity across Division III, that lack of uniformity is statistically small and, in practical terms, insignificant. The exemption does little, if anything, to undercut the philosophical underpinnings of Division III. It was granted and continues to exist for good, rational and easily justifiable reasons. There is no compelling reason to repeal it.



“I definitely feel that there is no distinction between Division I and Division III student-athletes in the day-to-day experiences here at Colorado

College. I feel valued and acknowledged for my personal qualities and achievements—not just for my status as a Division I athlete. Colorado College has created an environment that fosters mutual respect for success in academics and athletics for all of the student-athletes.”

—LIA MARTINEZ, DIVISION I SOCCER CAPTAIN AND DEFENDER AT COLORADO COLLEGE.



COLORADO COLLEGE
1 8 7 4



HARTWICK
est. 1797

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS
NEWARK

ST. LAWRENCE
UNIVERSITY

Clarkson has the highest winning percentage in the history of Division I men's ice hockey. The hockey graduation rate is 83 percent. A significant number of these student-athletes have gone on to successful business leadership roles.

Colorado College, winner of two national ice hockey titles, has produced the WCHA's Student-Athlete Award winner two straight seasons. Women's soccer, which has played in two national title games, has had 12 ISAA/Adidas scholar athletes.

Hartwick College has won an NCAA national championship and has made seven NCAA Final Four appearances in men's soccer. Over the past three years, the program has posted an average GPA near 3.1. The women's water polo team has been nationally ranked each year since entering Division I and has posted a team GPA of 3.17.

Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse has won 42 national and seven NCAA titles. Its 32 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances are the longest active streak in any Division I sport. Last year's men's and women's lacrosse seniors posted an average GPA of about 3.4.

The College at Oneonta men's soccer team has played at the highest level of competition for 50 years, with one NCAA Finals appearance and one winner of the national player of the year award. The team's graduation rate is more than 25 percent better than the student body average.

RPI has won two national ice hockey titles in more than a century of competition. In the spring 2003 semester, 19 players made the dean's list. The team's average GPA was higher than that for RPI non-athletes.

Rutgers-Newark men's volleyball has made five appearances in the NCAA Final Four and 18 in the East Regional. The team's 80 percent graduation rate is more than double the university average.

St. Lawrence was the first school to qualify for both the men's and women's Division I NCAA Ice Hockey Championships in the same year. Of 39 men's team players drafted by the NHL, 36 completed their degrees. Last year, five women's team players had 4.0 GPAs.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON PROPOSAL 65-1.