

DIVISION III GUIDELINES

Section 1: Purposes

- (a) To develop new teams and players in the NWBA.
- (b) To create an opportunity for novice and inexperienced players to develop their skills at an appropriate level.
- (c) To create an opportunity for teams and players to progress to a higher level of play.
- (d) To provide an entry level atmosphere for teams to participate in the NWBA.

Section 2: Membership

NWBA teams wanting to play in Division III must so indicate on their Official NWBA Team Registration and Roster form by the required date of submission for such form each season. The Division Commissioner will rule on the eligibility for membership of any teams in question. Membership in Division III may include:

- (a) Any newly formed team of novice and/or inexperienced players.
- (b) Any team which does not have the financial resources to participate in another division.
- (c) Any team wanting to compete at a recreational level.
- (d) An annual fee of \$50 has been requested of each Division III team. Fees will be collected and banked. Establishing a Treasury for Division III will over time allow a source of revenue for fundraising projects of interest to Division III teams without impacting other NWBA Divisions. These funds may also be used to assist the NWBA with projects that benefit Division III teams should it become necessary. Teams requesting Hardship Status will be granted exceptions not to exceed two (2) seasons.

Section 3: Team Roster

Team rosters are limited to 15 accredited/ veteran players. No additions of veteran players may be made after **31 December** unless a same season transfer has been granted. Novice/ new players may be added to rosters at any time during the season. Players over **50** years of age or novice players shall not be considered part of the 15 accredited team players.

Section 4: Player Eligibility

- (a) Players rostered with a Division III team may not also be rostered with another NWBA Division. This would not prohibit a player listed on a Division III roster from playing with team in the Women's or Junior divisions. Class II and III Women would also be allowed to play one class lower.
- (b) All players rostered with a team must be from the same local geographical area thereby preserving the idea of developing grass roots level teams within the NWBA.
- (c) If player has not played for a minimum of 1 year he/she no longer has "history" with a specific team. As with any new player he/she must play for most proximal team. If player does not want to play for most proximal team he/she must have a letter signed by each team crossed to play for selected team and all Conference Commissioners involved. This will then be the permanent team. If a team does not approve, then the

CC can still approve the decision with his recommendation to Division III. A player has the right to appeal to Division III Committee for further review.

Section 5: Player Transfers

- (a) Between season transfers should occur prior to the **September 1** deadline for team registration. Any player requesting a between season transfer shall be required to submit a signed **Division III Player Transfer** form to the Division III Commissioner in order to be eligible to play for the team to which the player is transferring. A copy of this form should be retained by the player and/or the team to which the player is transferring.
- (b) Where a player is listed on the roster of two or more teams:
 - (1) The team, which has a signed **NWBA Player Transfer Form** from the player in question, shall have the right to list such player on their roster.
 - (2) Where no team has a **NWBA Player Transfer Form** from the player in question, the player in question shall be ruled a contested player and will be ineligible until such time as the Division III Commissioner rules as to which team has the right to list such player on their roster.
- (c) A player which signs two or more letters indicating an intent to play for different teams in the same season, unless otherwise allowed, shall be declared ineligible to play for that season.
- (d) Once the Committee receives all required information, it will make a ruling within 15 days. The player may not play for the new team in an NWBA game until notification of approval has been received. Games prior to a Division III Committee decision may result in sanctions for the player and the team. Sanctions will be recommended by the Division III Committee to the Division III Commissioner, who will determine appropriate sanctions.
- (e) If a player does not agree with the decision of the Committee, he/she may appeal to the NWBA Judicial Committee (see NWBA bylaws: appeals process).
- (f) For During Season Transfer, after September 1, relocation to a new area must take place.
- (g) No transfers will be approved after December 31.

Section 6: National Tournament

- (a) Division III has officially concluded the season with a National Tournament each year. A point system has been adopted by the Division III delegates to aid the Division III Committee in seeding these tournaments.
- (b) **D3 POINT RANKING SYSTEM**
The following criteria shall be considered when ranking teams for the Division III National Invitational Tournament.
 - 1. The results of all games played.
 - 2. Head-to-head competition among D3 teams
 - 3. Records against common opponents
 - 4. Polling Coaches

5. Roster changes

To that end the following point system is proposed:

POINTS FOR GAMES PLAYED

Division III teams must play 10 games against other Division III teams to get a base point total and average. Division III teams will be awarded 1 point for each game played regardless of the opposing teams Division. Division III teams may play, (1) D 3 teams, (2) CD teams, (3) Women's Division teams, (4) Youth Division teams, and (5) Developmental teams. Teams will still earn one (1) point for each game played but only your Division III games will be weighted as before. Further, game scores from games played in September must be reported to the Division III Commissioner and verified by October 15; October games by November 15; etc. Games reported late **WILL NOT COUNT** toward base points or seeding the Division III National Tournament.

Rationale: Division III has grown from 8 to **65** teams since this system was first approved. If Division III teams can play a base of 10 games within Division III the point system and subsequent ranking is more creditable. Depending on a teams location, they may geographically or financially only be able to schedule games with teams in close proximity to them regardless of NWBA Division. By allowing play across Divisional boundaries, D3, Developing, Women, and Youth teams can all develop simultaneously in a geographic area.

POINTS FOR STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Since win-loss percentage is part of the Division III ranking criteria, the D3 Committee does not want to have teams scheduling only teams they can defeat. Division III teams will be awarded 3 points for victories over Division III teams. Since teams from CD to D3 may fluctuate and no quantitative data is in place, a win (3 points) against a D3 team will be applied to a teams base points and average. A win by a D3 team over a CD team results in three (3) experience points. Only games against other Division III teams will be applied toward your 10 base games; your base points; and base point average. In hopes of gaining parity within Division III, 2 experience points will be awarded regardless of a win or loss for Division III teams that play Division III teams ranked in the Division III Top 20 from the previous season. Additional games not against Division III teams, will be given one (1) game experience point for each game played. Teams with the same base point average can be seeded higher if one team has more game experience points than another.

POINTS FOR WIN-LOSS PERCENTAGE

If a number of Division III teams have the same point total and the same number of games played, their win-loss percentage will be used to determine seeding for the D3 National Tournament.

Section 7: Responsibilities to Sponsor the Division III National Invitational Tournament

The sponsor of the Division III National Invitational Tournament shall:

- (a) Arrange for and underwrite the expense involved in the provisioning of a suitable gymnasium facility and equipment for all games.

- (b) Communicate to all Division III teams all pertinent information regarding the game times and site of the tournament at least 6 weeks prior to the tournament.
- (c) Charge no more than \$225 per team in entry fees.
- (d) Hire a minimum of 10 NWBA officials, pay them a minimum of \$500 each to officiate the tournament as well as account for their lodging and \$35 each per day meal allowance during the tournament.
- (e) Promote the tournament to the best of its ability with all proceeds with the exception of NWBA Store merchandise and individual host/ vendor contracts to be used by the host in their community.
- (f) Arrange for adequate and suitable space to the conduct of the annual Division III delegates meeting.
- (g) Provide two new and unused NCAA Men's size and weight basketballs or equivalent, for all courts as game balls each day of the tournament. It is also suggested that a rack(s) of basketballs be available for teams to warm up with.
- (h) Provide official NCAA, NWBA or equivalent basketball scorebooks, which shall become part of the files of the NWBA at the completion of the tournament.
- (i) Arrange for the holding of a post-tournament awards dinner.
- (j) Arrange for the purchase and engraving of the following trophies and awards:

Awards	Number
Trophies	5 (varying in size from first to fifth place teams)
Individual players)	75 (15 per team varying in size from first to fifth place team
Individual	17 (5 for First, Second and Third All-Tournament Teams with a MVP and Sportsmanship Award)

Section 8: Organization

- (a) The Division III Commissioner is appointed to the office by the President of the NWBA upon the recommendation of the division. The Division III Commissioner of the NWBA serves the role and fulfills the same duties and responsibilities as outlined in Article 6.
- (b) Division III teams and their rosters shall be monitored by the Division III Commissioner. Teams not meeting the criteria of Division III or who would be better served in another division will be recommended to the Division III Committee for review. The recommendations of the Division III committee regarding the eligibility of a team for Division III will be forwarded to the Division III Commissioner for review.
- (c) The Division III Committee will consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and three at large members elected at the Division III delegates meeting.
- (d) The Division III Chairperson or their designate shall serve as the Division III member of the NWBA Board of Directors.
- (e) Terms of office for elected positions on the Division III Committee shall be three years. In year one, the Chairman and one at large member is elected. In year two the Vice-Chairman and one at large member is elected. In year three the Secretary and one at large member is elected.
- (f) Teams finishing in the **top four** from the previous Division III National Tournament must provide written justification to the Division III Committee stating why their team

should remain in Division III for the following season no later than **August 1**. **Teams failing to provide justification by the above deadline date will be allowed to play in the Championship Division.**

(g) No Championship Division teams that finished in the top 20 of the previous season's Championship Division shall be allowed to drop down to Division III.

(h) Championship Division teams not part of the previous season's top 20, may apply for probationary status in Division III. Probationary Division III status is applied to Championship Division teams seeking to move to Division III or newly formed teams considering Division III whose rosters cannot be adequately reviewed by the Division III Committee. Probationary status will allow teams to play regular season/conference games as a Division III team. Probationary D3 teams WILL NOT be eligible for the NWBA Division III tournament during their probationary (1 year) period.

(i) All current Division III teams as well as any Championship Division teams dropping down to Division III must make a formal written application prior to the August 15 team registration (roster) deadline. **Teams failing to provide formal written application by the deadline above may receive a change in team status (ex: Probationary, Championship Division), a \$150 fine or both based on a review by the Division III Committee.**

Section 9: Penalties

(a) The Division III Committee can make recommendations to the Division III Commissioner at any time during the season regarding any Division III team believed to have knowingly provided incomplete or inaccurate information on their roster, which would otherwise disqualify the team for membership in Division III. Fines, forfeiture of games or suspension from play for the remainder of the season may be assessed by the NWBA Executive Committee, if necessary.

(b) Teams falsifying information on a **NWBA Player Transfer** form will be ruled ineligible for post-season play for the current season. Fines, forfeiture of games or suspension from play for the remainder of the season may be assessed by the NWBA Executive Committee, if necessary.

(c) The Division III delegates have empowered the NWBA to assess a \$500 fine and impose a one year suspension from the Division III National Tournament upon any team that drops out of the Division III National Tournament once all slots have been filled and the entry deadline has passed.

Section 10: Autonomy

Division III has the responsibility and authority to govern its affairs, draft legislation and conduct business specific to Division III. No legislation shall be passed that is incongruent with the NWBA Bylaws