

# NADIIIAACORNER



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**NEWMAC**

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As sports organizations nationwide address the issues of recruitment, treatment, and quality of officiating, Division III is joining the conversation. The Division III Commissioners Association has partnered with The PICTOR Group to conduct a comprehensive study of this vital element of the student-athlete experience.

The desired outcome of this effort is a strategic plan focusing the division on how to move forward in addressing what commissioners believe is a crisis in officiating.

Phase One of the project is data collection that will produce a National Officiating Review document by mid-2020. The Pictor Group will work with a primary contact in each Division III conference office to gather data to assess the current state of officiating in DIII. Phase Two will produce a DIII Officiating Strategic Plan draft by September 2020 with an implementation goal of early 2021 through 2026.

The major research points of emphasis and goals of the plan identified by the DIIICA Officiating

Subcommittee include:

- A detailed analytical review of DIII sports including fees, number of officials (demographic breakdown), regional challenges, typical path to collegiate officiating, average tenure and coordinator of official's structure
- Greater awareness, involvement, and engagement by Division I, II, and III leadership
- Guidance and assistance from NCAA Office to bring appropriate constituency groups together for a larger conversation regarding officiating
- Develop a national recruiting plan and strategy to attract new officials
- Increase and coordinate efforts regarding national education, evaluation, retention and training of officials
- Identify sports that are in crisis based on the number of officials available to work collegiate games and prioritize resources
- Determine the effect of sportsmanship on officiating as a profession
- Determine next steps on how to address fan behavior

The sports targeted for this project include: men's and women's basketball, baseball, field hockey,

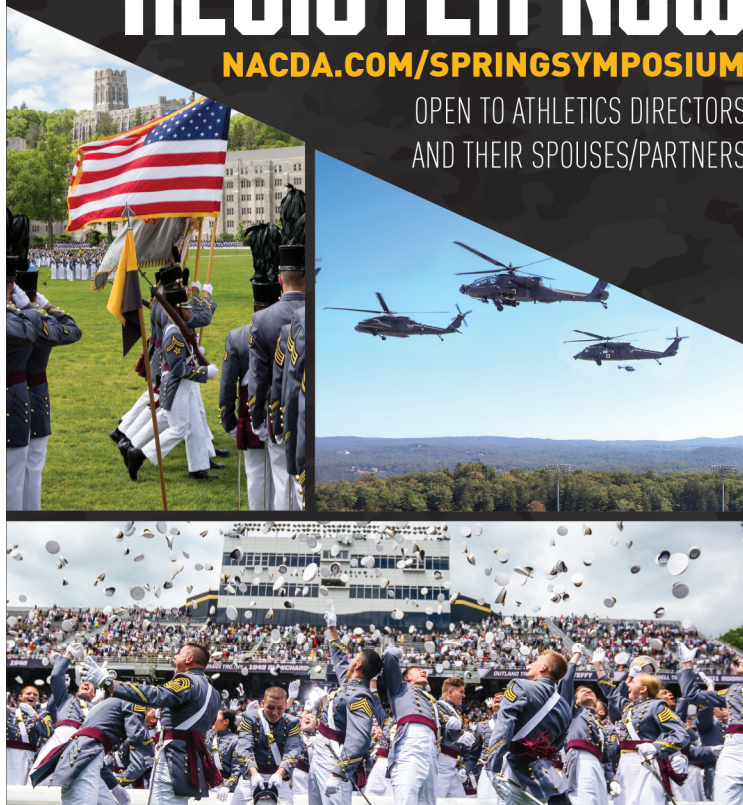
football, men's and women's ice hockey, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's swimming & diving, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's track and field, men's and women's volleyball and wrestling. A large majority of Division III conferences are contributing funds from the NCAA Division III Strategic Initiatives Grant to launch this project. We are very grateful to the NCAA for grant funding for this project.

We have reached a critical time in collegiate athletics where there are not enough officials to work our games and there are not enough new officials being trained to address the shortage. The DIIICA is bringing this challenge to our Division and to the NCAA because it is something we need to address collaboratively and across all three divisions. I invite leaders of sport at all levels to engage with our effort to recruit new officials, to create greater awareness about officiating to the general public and to address other barriers within the profession.

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