

Convention Recap

NACE 2019 NATIONAL E SPORTS CONVENTION



July 25, 2019

After many months of preparation, the 2nd Annual NACE Convention was a huge success. Thank you to our 370 attendees – which included NACE members, non-NACE members, and vendors – for joining us in Harrisburg last week. Attendance increased by more than 100 percent over 2018.



While this was NACE's second annual convention, it was the first that included the establishment of legislation and bylaws for the association. Representatives from NACE member institutions attended multiple sessions to learn about and discuss legislative proposals. During the recent months, NACE leadership groups created numerous proposals to rewrite and change the association's constitution and bylaws. This convention was the final vote to decide upon these changes.



Aside from legislative items, the conference featured numerous professional development panels. Some topics included marketing, coaching, outfitting an esports arena, and nutrition and exercise. While many of the current members attended legislative sessions, other attendees sat in on educational panels to learn how they can begin or further establish their programs.



It wasn't all business, though. On the second night, Harrisburg University and Boise State University faced off in a featured Overwatch match-up. The stage was set by N3rd Street Gamers, who also broadcasted the event. While Harrisburg walked away with the victory, it was a great demonstration of intense competition between two skilled teams. Following the competition, attendees were able to attend a minor league baseball game between the Harrisburg Senators and the Portland Sea Dogs on Thursday night.

Legislative Items

The third day of the conference included voting by NACE membership and both the constitution and bylaws passed with great margins. Below are highlights from the new constitution and bylaws that will be used going forward.

Student Eligibility

- Introduced an Intent to Compete (ITC) form that will serve as a binding one-year contract between the institution and the student.
 - The ITC must be renewed each year to remain valid.
 - First year (high school and non-college) students may be signed beginning September 1st, and transfers may begin signing on February 1.
 - NACE will provide a centralized database to hold all signed ITC forms.
- Students must be enrolled full-time at a NACE institution.
- There are no longer initial or continuing academic eligibility requirements.
- Each student will have a running clock equal to 5 years of eligibility, beginning the academic year the student's first ITC is in effect. All students will begin with 5 years of eligibility, regardless of the amount of time they have played prior to the 2020-21 academic year.
- Students will be required to complete an Eligibility Certificate, which WILL be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic year. This certificate includes verification and a FERPA waiver.

Recruitment, Contact, and Transfers

- A student cannot be contacted by another NACE member institution until their ITC to expired.
- Until a student is signed, they are considered a prospective student. Prospective students are not restricted as to who they can speak with.

Financial Aid and Assistance

- The maximum financial aid/scholarships an institution can provide and current or prospective student cannot exceed: Tuition + Books and Fees + Room and Board.
- There is no limit to the amount a student can earn from a person or organization other than the institution.
- An institution is permitted to decide how they wish prize money to be allocated.
- Institution is unrestricted in providing expenses "incidental to intercollegiate competition." This includes travel, lodging, meals, awards, apparel, and necessary medical expenses.
- Institution is unrestricted in providing expenses related to the student's membership on the intercollegiate team, such as student leadership activities, team-building outings/meals, and mission trips.

NACE Leadership

Delegates approved the following individuals for the Board of Directors and Competition Council:

Board of Directors:

- Ashley Jones (Park University)
- Shaun Byrne (St. Clair College)
- Michael Glover (ECPI University)
- Kevin Reape (University of Missouri)
- Joshua Young (PA College of Technology)
- Samanga Amarasinghe (Bellevue University)
- Chris Haskell (Boise State University)
- James McGhee (Randolph-Macon College)
- Eugene Frier (Texas Wesleyan University)
- Jim Carr (CEO of the NAIA)

Competition Council:

- Michael Jones (Drury University)
- Joey Gawrysiak (Shenandoah University)
- Trieu Lai (St. Clair College)
- David Shapiro (Lebanon Valley College)
- Aaron Shockley (Central Methodist University)
- Adam Antor (Aquinas College)
- Chad Smeltz (Harrisburg University)
- Joshua Buchanan (Ashland University)
- Joseph Rudy (Coker College)
- Joshua Myers (ECPI University)

The membership also approved the implementation of the Eligibility Enforcement Committee and the Appellate Review Committee. Both of these will be open for nominations within the upcoming weeks.