



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
FEBRUARY 5-6, 2019, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Holistic review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics continued its holistic review of the APR and GSR structure and related policies. The committee reviewed several areas of focus and will advance options for the membership to provide feedback following the May in-person committee meeting. [Informational Item No. 1]
2. **Commission on College Basketball – implementation of the Division I men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance.** The committee continued its work on the implementation of the Division I men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institution having completed at least two years of enrollment. The committee reviewed and approved several operational items, provided feedback on the online application developed for student-athletes who attended limited-resource institutions, and discussed educational and communication plans. [Informational Item No. 2]
3. **Academic integrity.** The committee received an overview of the concepts recommended by the NCAA Division I Academic Misconduct Working Group to the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum in its January 2019 final report. The committee provided feedback for the Presidential Forum to consider as it reviews and potentially refines the recommended concepts at its April meeting. [Informational Item No. 3]
4. **Comprehensive review of postgraduate student-athletes.** The committee continued its review of the academic enrollment requirements for postgraduate student-athletes, with updated data and initial feedback from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the NCAA Division I Council. The committee refined its guiding principles for additional review and feedback by the Board of Directors. [Information Item No. 4]
5. **Update on the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program.** The committee received its annual update on the outcomes of the AASP grant recipients. The committee also received a preview of forthcoming enhancements to the program’s annual conference and targeted programming for administrators and student-athletes. [Informational Item No. 5]
6. **Academic summit.** The committee received an update on planning efforts for an academic summit focused on current and future issues facing higher education. The committee discussed its target date and audience for such an event. [Information Item No. 6]

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items for Council.**
 - **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.6.1 Academic Eligibility – Graduate Student/Post-Baccalaureate Participation – One-Time**

Transfer Exception – No Access to or Receipt of Athletics Aid – Baseball, Basketball, Football and Men’s Ice Hockey.

- (1) **Recommendation.** In baseball, basketball, football and men’s ice hockey, to permit a student-athlete to utilize the graduate one-time transfer exception if the student-athlete’s undergraduate institution did not offer athletics aid (e.g., Ivy League, military academy) or the student-athlete never received athletics aid while enrolled at the undergraduate institution.
- (2) **Effective date.** Immediate.
- (3) **Rationale.** Currently, a student-athlete who participates in the sport of baseball, basketball, football or men’s ice hockey and either graduates from an institution that does not offer athletics aid (e.g., Ivy League, military academy) or was never the recipient of athletics aid as an undergraduate is required to utilize the legislative relief waiver process in order to be eligible for competition as a graduate student at a different institution. The legislative relief waiver criteria include additional requirements beyond that of the current legislated graduate one-time transfer exception (e.g., must demonstrate the student-athlete’s undergraduate institution does not offer the desired graduate degree program). As a result, a student-athlete who either earns an undergraduate degree from an institution that does not offer athletics aid or was never a recipient of athletics aid must satisfy more stringent criteria to be eligible than a graduate student-athlete at a different institution. The proposal would not change the nonrenewal of athletics aid expectation that currently applies to student-athletes who were on athletics aid as undergraduate students.
- (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
- (5) **Student-athlete impact.** All student-athletes without access to athletics aid or who were never recipients of athletics aid will have an equal opportunity to qualify for the graduate one-time transfer legislative exception.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Holistic review of the APP.** The committee continued its holistic review of the APP, informed by the guiding principles of the program. This review was endorsed by the Board of Directors in August 2018, with the acknowledgement that the APP involves a multitude of elements that speak to student-athlete academic success, especially the APR. The board expressed interest in ensuring that any recommended modifications maintain the validity of the APR as a valid predictor of graduation.

In October 2018, the committee received an overview of data and policy that inform the current APP and identified the following areas of focus:

- a. APR and GSR cohort composition.
- b. Postgraduate student-athletes in the APR cohort.
- c. Adjustment for APR retention points lost to professional sports departures.
- d. Delayed graduation points.
- e. Components and calculation of the APR.
- f. Accounting for transfers (and the 2.60 adjustment).
- g. APP penalty structure and filters.
- h. APP public recognition.
- i. Head coaches' APR.
- j. Other topics identified by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.

The committee determined that the Subcommittee on Data would vet and prepare each policy area for full committee discussion. The plan is to have each policy area reviewed and prepared for full committee consideration at its meeting in May. The committee noted that it will not recommend any APR policy modifications until all substantive areas are reviewed.

Following the October 2018 meeting, the Subcommittee on Data reviewed four of the identified policy items, including APR and GSR cohort composition, postgraduate student-athletes and their impact on the APR, professional sports adjustment for the APR retention point and delayed-graduation points. In each case, the NCAA research staff provided and reviewed relevant data to aid the subcommittee's assessment of each policy.

The committee discussed and provided initial feedback on the policy areas reviewed by the Subcommittee on Data. The committee will review additional topical areas at its spring meeting and will forward concepts to the membership for review and feedback. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 11-b]

2. **Commission on College Basketball – implementation of the Division I men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance.** The committee reviewed and approved several operational items designed to assist the Division I membership with the implementation of men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree assistance legislation.

In April 2018, the Commission on College Basketball recommended the NCAA establish a fund to pay for the degree completion of student-athletes with athletics scholarships who leave member institutions after at least two years of enrollment. The Commission stated that colleges and universities must fulfill their commitment to student-athletes to provide not only the opportunity for athletics competition, but also an education. Institutions must promise student-athletes that the option to receive an education will exist, even after their athletics careers are finished. In August 2018, the Board of Directors approved a student support and degree completion fund as a condition of Division I membership. Following its adoption, the committee was charged with operationalization of the new legislation, which becomes effective August 1, 2019.

Following its October 2018 meeting, the committee began collecting operational questions pertaining to the degree completion assistance. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals served in an advisory role in evaluating the identified operational issues and advancing key issues for deliberation by the full committee. These issues focused on clarifying minimum enrollment requirements for returning former student-athletes, continuing eligibility requirements, including for those former student-athletes changing degree programs, and interaction with existing institutional policies. [Attachment A]

Additionally, the committee reviewed and provided feedback on the online application developed for limited-resource institutions to request financial assistance in meeting the new obligation of Division I membership. The committee noted the online application should ensure ease of application for former student-athletes seeking to utilize available resources to complete their undergraduate degree. Lastly, the committee received an update on the educational and communication strategy designed to ensure former men's and women's basketball student-athletes are aware of the new degree completion assistance. The committee noted the forthcoming Division I basketball tournaments present an ideal opportunity to target communication.

3. **Academic integrity.** The committee received an overview of the concepts recommended by the Academic Misconduct Working Group to the Presidential Forum at its January 2019 meeting. In April 2018, the Board of Directors included academic integrity as an area of focus within its Strategic Areas of Emphasis for 2018-2023 and assigned oversight to the Presidential Forum. The purpose of the review is to clarify the NCAA's role in addressing issues of academic integrity within the context of institutional autonomy over academic matters. The Academic Misconduct Working Group provided seven concepts for the Presidential Forum to consider as it continues its assessment of the division's approach to academic integrity issues.

The committee focused on five of the seven concepts recommended by the Academic Misconduct Working Group. The committee supported the clarifying bylaw revisions devised to ensure the current legislative framework is applied consistent with its original intent. The committee noted the recommended clarifications preserve the 2016 legislation's intent to incentivize institutions to operate in good faith when academic integrity issues arise involving student-athletes. To that end, the committee reiterated how NCAA infraction outcomes, specifically the penalties or lack thereof associated with academic misconduct violations, impact institutional confidence in the current legislative framework. The committee noted the working group's phase I recommendations pertaining to applicable infractions policies could encompass how NCAA penalties best reflect the varying nature of academic integrity violations that arise on campus.

The committee supported the broader review of how interpretative issues are identified, managed and resolved throughout the infractions process. The committee noted that an ancillary component to that review might include consideration of how institutional expertise is represented on the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions hearing panels chosen for cases involving academic integrity issues.

The Committee on Academics similarly supported the recommendation to equip institutions with the tools to devise an institutional approach to adequately minimize the risk of academic misconduct impacting their student-athletes. The committee noted a continued willingness to partner with existing subject-matter experts in devising or endorsing campus-based best practices (i.e., National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals Academic Integrity Assessment).

The committee discussed the recommended values-based academic integrity authority intended for egregious academic actions that are not otherwise addressed by existing NCAA legislation. The committee was generally supportive of equipping the NCAA with a tool to address the rare but egregious, academic behaviors that fall outside the normal purview of the legislation.

Lastly, the committee expressed concern regarding the recommendation to authorize the Committee on Infractions review and consideration of institutional policies (or the lack thereof) when evaluating whether conduct constitutes impermissible academic assistance. Specifically, the committee noted such an authorization, without limiting parameters or oversight, may be perceived as overreaching in this aspect of the legislation that often intersects with broad areas of academic freedom.

The Committee on Academics will continue to provide feedback to the Presidential Forum as it continues to review and refine concepts designed to fortify the NCAA's approach to academic-integrity issues.

4. **Comprehensive review of postgraduate student-athletes.** The committee continued its review of the postgraduate academic enrollment options for student-athletes who complete their undergraduate degrees with athletics eligibility remaining. This review originated as a referral from the NCAA Division I Council Transfer Working Group. Currently, a student-athlete's academic options are dictated by whether they remain at their undergraduate institution or seek to use any remaining athletics eligibility at a new institution. Specifically, student-athletes who enroll at a new institution after completing a baccalaureate degree are required to pursue a graduate or professional degree program (e.g., master's degree, law school, etc.) whereas student-athletes who remain at their undergraduate institution may pursue any post-baccalaureate or graduate enrollment option available to continuing students (e.g., second baccalaureate degree, optional minor, graduate certificate program, etc.).

Following its October 2018 meeting, the committee requested updated data from the membership on the academic trends and outcomes for this growing population of Division I student-athletes. The committee also sought review of initial guiding principles from the Board of Directors, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Council.

The committee received a preview of the recently collected data on postgraduate student-athletes and considered the feedback from the various governance entities. The committee noted that while other concepts have been proposed to address the postgraduate environment (e.g., NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2018-106), it continues to support an academic-based approach that offers all postgraduate student-athletes the flexibility to pursue academic opportunities that best align with their interests, qualifications and future career goals.

Specifically, the committee suggests that exploring broader academic options for all postgraduate student-athletes, including those who enroll at a different Division I institution, may have a greater likelihood of improving the academic experiences and outcomes for student-athletes in certain sports.

The committee refined the following guiding principles for additional feedback from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Administrative Committee.

- a. There should continue to be academic expectations for all postgraduate student-athletes (e.g., pass six hours per term of degree-applicable credit and remain in good academic standing);
 - b. All student-athletes should have access to academic educational options that best align with their interests, qualifications and future career, in addition to better preparing student-athletes for transitioning into life after college; and
 - c. There should be flexibility in academic paths for all postgraduate student-athletes to pursue after successfully completing an undergraduate degree.
5. **AASP update.** The committee received an update on the academic outcomes for grant recipients of the program. NCAA staff reviewed the types of grants awarded through the program and data pertaining to three classes of grant recipients. Specifically, three institutions were featured as success stories, with highlights of their uses for the grant money, such as updates to academic buildings and computer labs.
- The committee reviewed updates on future educational and outreach opportunities. Specifically, staff emphasized the updates to the annual conference, which will include an academic-eligibility certification workshop for institutional staff members and student component with the Leadership Enhancement and Academic Development (L.E.A.D.) Academy. The conference will aim to be practitioner-based with student learning. Additionally, the committee received an update on the HBCU Initiative and the development of the AASP best practices booklet, which is available on ncaa.org.
6. **Academic summit.** The committee received an update from the working group on its progress in planning an academic summit focused on current and future issues facing higher education. An objective of the summit is to establish and foster a collaborative partnership with external organizations dedicated to higher education that may help the Committee on Academics and the NCAA identify and discuss trends and issues in higher education impacting the general student body and student-athletes. These discussions may impact future strategic initiatives for the committee and the Association. The committee noted such programming would be valuable for campus provosts, noting college presidents and chancellors most commonly transition directly from the provost position. The summit is slated for early 2020.
7. **Review of Council-governance proposals in the 2018-19 legislative cycle.** The committee reviewed academic-related proposals in the 2018-19 legislative cycle and provided its position

and feedback to the NCAA Division I Legislation Committee to consider during its February 2019 in-person meeting. [Attachment B]

8. **Modification to the processing of APR adjustment and correction requests.** The committee approved a recommendation from the Subcommittee on Data to modify operational issues related to the processing of correction and adjustment requests. Specifically, the committee approved the recommended policy change to allow institutions to submit correction and adjustment requests upon the NCAA Academic Portal's opening for the new academic year; however, the requests will not be processed until after the APR public release date (mid-May). [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 11-a]
9. **Modification to the composition of the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee approved a recommendation from the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics to modify its composition requirement pertaining to ad hoc committee members. Specifically, the committee approved the recommended policy change to remove the chairs of the reporting academic committees as ad hoc members; however, the chairs will be asked to participate in policy/legislative discussions that impact their respective area. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 12-c]
10. **Review of the math requirement for two-year college transfer student-athletes.** The committee received an update on the ongoing Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics' review of a membership request pertaining to the transferable math requirement for two-year college transfer student-athletes who are nonqualifiers or academic redshirts. The committee supported continued review of an approach that provided greater flexibility for student-athletes pursuing academic degree programs with quantitative reasoning requirements in lieu of an additional math requirement. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 12-b]
11. **Report from the Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the October 22, November 19, December 3, December 17, 2018, and January 14, and January 28 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Data.
 - a. Review of APR adjustment and correction requests processing issues. On its December 17, 2018, teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed an operational issue related to the processing of correction and adjustment requests.

With the roll-out of the academic-based revenue distribution, or NCAA Division I Academic Unit, in 2020, having firmly established data in time for the public release and the generation of the distribution checks is critical. The most recently reported and publicly released APR data is one of three criteria that an institution may use to qualify for the Academic Unit. Because of the Academic Portal's limitations, NCAA staff recommended that member institutions continue to be able to enter data from the fall term/quarter and that corrections and adjustments can be requested at that time, but no corrections or adjustments will be processed by the staff until after the APR release date. This will allow member institutions to enter their fall APR data and submit any adjustment requests related to that data into the portal but will prevent data from changing that has been considered final.

The subcommittee recommended the committee amend its policies and procedures pertaining to the processing of adjustment and correction requests to clarify that once an institution has completed the 2017-18 APR data submission process and moved to “final submit” status, APR data for the 2018-19 academic year may be entered. Further, while corrections and adjustments may be requested at this time, no corrections or adjustments will be processed by the staff until after the APR public release date (mid-May).

- b. Holistic review of the APP. On its November 19, December 3, December 17, 2018, and January 14 and January 28 teleconferences, the subcommittee reviewed four policy areas and the timeline for its holistic review of the APP.

(1) APR/GSR cohort composition.

The subcommittee reviewed data concerning cohort inclusion for the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate, Graduation Success Rate, Academic Success Rate and Federal Graduation Rates. The subcommittee discussed instances where teams or sports may be underrepresented in the aggregate data because of the way an institution manages athletics aid. The subcommittee forwarded the following options for APR and GSR cohort inclusion with points to consider to the committee for further discussion:

- (a) Maintain the current definitions for both the APR and GSR cohorts.
- (b) Adopt a cohort definition that includes recruited and aided student-athletes on all teams.
- (c) Adopt a cohort definition that includes all student-athletes counted in the participation report.
- (d) Adopt a cohort definition that includes student-athletes who receive a minimum amount of athletics aid.

In general, the subcommittee was opposed to including nonaided, nonrecruited student-athletes to the APR/GSR cohort. The subcommittee requested additional data regarding recruited, nonaided participants.

(2) Postgraduate student-athletes in the APR.

The subcommittee revisited the issue regarding postgraduate student-athletes in the APR cohort. The subcommittee acknowledged that in the past support has been for including any student-athlete in the cohort that competes (including a postgraduate student-athlete). The subcommittee reviewed three options regarding postgraduate student-athletes representation in the APR:

- (a) APR retention point is no longer automatically awarded to graduate/post-baccalaureate student-athletes;
- (b) APR retention point is removed from the APR calculation for graduate/post-baccalaureate student-athletes; and

- (c) APR retention point is removed from the APR calculation for postgraduate student-athletes pursuing undergraduate or nondegree seeking graduate work, but the APR retention point must be earned for student-athletes who are accepted and enrolled in degree-granting graduate programs.

The subcommittee agreed to continue discussion regarding options b and c. Finally, the subcommittee began a discussion regarding options for postgraduate transfers and the impact on academic accountability.

(3) Professional Sports Adjustment.

The subcommittee examined the research and data associated with application of the professional sports adjustment. This adjustment to a lost retention point is available when a student-athlete does not return to an institution because he or she is pursuing professional sports as a vocation. The subcommittee forwarded four options regarding the professional sports adjustment to the committee for further discussion:

- (a) Continue with the current adjustment criteria.
- (b) Require student-athletes to have at least 50 percent of progress-toward-degree completed in addition to the current criteria to have a lost APR retention point adjusted.
- (c) Require three years of college attendance, in addition to the current criteria, to have a lost APR retention point adjusted.
- (d) Remove the current pro-departure adjustment completely.

(4) Delayed-graduation points.

The subcommittee examined the research and data concerning delayed-graduation points. This point is available when a student-athlete returns to the institution and graduates, after having lost a point in their last term in the APR cohort. The subcommittee's discussion was rooted in several questions around graduation, both delayed and graduation from a future school. The subcommittee forwarded three options regarding delayed-graduation points to the committee for further discussion:

- (a) Maintain the current delayed-graduation point model.
- (b) Consider a delayed-graduation point that allows the delayed graduation to occur at another institution.
- (c) Consider a model in which a student-athlete's graduation from a second institution has value at the first institution if the student-athlete departed the first institution and, in that departure, lost points that were not adjusted.

- c. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Review. On its October 22 and December 3, 2018, teleconferences, the subcommittee acted on one data review

and approved the list of institutions to undergo a data review and the timeline for the 2019 data review process. The 2019 data review cycle will involve 35 institutions, three of which have required data reviews based on the results of their last data review. The data review process provides institutions with targeted education focused on eligibility certification as a result of issues identified in the data review.

- d. APR adjustment appeal. On its November 19, December 3, 2018, and January 28 teleconferences, the subcommittee reviewed three appeals of APR adjustment requests.

12. Report from the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics. The committee reviewed the reports of the November 7, December 19, 2018, and January 16 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.

- a. Referral from the NCAA Division I Committee on Legislative Relief to modify the graduate one-time transfer exception. On its January 16 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed a referral from the Committee on Legislative Relief to review the nonrenewal of athletics aid provision of the graduate one-time transfer exception. The provision currently applies to the sports of football, basketball, baseball and men's ice hockey and limits access to the legislative exception to those student-athletes who received athletics aid as an undergraduate. The Committee on Legislative Relief requested the subcommittee consider a legislative amendment to allow student-athletes in the aforementioned sports to meet the remaining provisions of the graduate one-time transfer exception if he or she did not have athletics aid at the undergraduate institution from which they graduated. Currently, a student-athlete who either attends an institution that does not offer athletics aid or is not a recipient of athletics aid is required to utilize the legislative relief waiver process to remain eligible for intercollegiate athletics as a graduate student at a different institution.

The subcommittee discussed the referral and agreed that student-athletes who never had access to athletics aid as undergraduates were in a comparable financial position to those student-athletes whose financial aid was not renewed. Further, the subcommittee noted the Committee on Legislative Relief's recommendation was fair, consistent with the intent of the identified provision and promoted student-athlete well-being.

The subcommittee recommended the Committee on Academics request the Council to sponsor legislation to permit student-athletes in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, or men's ice hockey to utilize the graduate one-time transfer exception if the student-athlete's undergraduate institution did not offer athletics aid or the student-athlete never received athletics aid. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1]

- b. Review of transferable math requirement for two-year college transfer student-athletes. On its November 7, 2018, and January 16 teleconferences, the subcommittee reviewed a request from the membership to review the two-year college transferrable math requirement for nonqualifiers and academic redshirts. The institution stated that in some cases, a collegiate-level course that transfers into one institution as math transfers

into another institution as statistics. Student-athletes who transfer to institutions with very specific curriculums and academic department differences (e.g., quantitative reasoning degree requirements, split departments of math and statistics) are often required to enroll and complete the additional “math” course required by the two-year transfer legislation. This includes student-athletes who have already completed a statistics or quantitative reasoning course that fulfills a core-graduation requirement in their desired degree program and otherwise have no need for the additional math course. The institution asked the subcommittee to consider a modification to allow quantitative reasoning courses to be used to satisfy the two-year college transferable math requirement even though the institution does not consider these math courses.

The subcommittee discussed the issue and noted the purpose served by the transferable core requirements in predicting academic success upon transfer to a Division I four-year institution. While the subcommittee did not recommend immediate legislative change or interpretative flexibility, they sought input from the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A) leadership. The N4A was supportive of providing some flexibility in this area while still ensuring that the purpose of academic preparation is still protected. The subcommittee will revisit this topic and discuss possible modifications to the legislation or the current waiver directive during future teleconferences.

- c. Review of Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics’ composition requirements. On its December 19, 2018, teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed its current composition, which included the chairs of the subcommittee’s reporting committees as ad hoc members (i.e., Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee, 2-4 Transfer Waivers Subcommittee, High School Review Committee, Student Records Review Committee, Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee and International Student Records Committee). The subcommittee noted the ad hoc members do not regularly participate on the subcommittee’s biweekly teleconferences, as the subcommittee’s work does not typically impact the ad hoc members’ committees.

The subcommittee recommended the committee modify the composition policy to remove the chairs as ad hoc members of the subcommittee. The subcommittee chair would retain the ability to request a committee chair’s presence on particular teleconferences when appropriate.

- d. Review of conditions affecting transfer status, progress-toward-degree application and start of a student-athlete’s five-year clock. On its December 19, 2018, teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the application of full-time enrollment in different parts of the legislation. There are different analyses for determining full-time enrollment for purposes of a student-athlete starting the five-year clock, being responsible for a full-time term for progress-toward-degree requirements and for triggering transfer status at an institution. The subcommittee decided there should be a reasonable, consistent analysis between these three areas.

As this item is part of the subcommittee's ongoing bylaw modernization project, the subcommittee will recommend the committee request the Council to introduce legislation to resolve this inconsistency at a future date.

- e. Review of graduate programs that begin after the start of a regular academic term. On its November 7, 2018, teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed several interpretive requests that have been received on how to treat graduate transfers who enroll in a graduate program that begins after the start of the regular academic term (e.g., graduate program begins in October when the regular term begins in September). In all these cases, the institution has an established program and policies that allows any student to be admitted and start enrollment during the term.

The subcommittee agreed that student-athletes are permitted to enroll in a graduate program after the start of the "regular" academic term and practice and compete provided:

- (1) The institution has an established program that allows student-athletes to be admitted and start enrollment during the term;
- (2) The student-athlete is admitted according to established policies of the graduate program; and
- (3) The student-athlete does not begin practicing or competing during the in-progress term until after the student-athlete begins classes, as opposed to being accepted or enrolled.

13. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee received a report from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.
14. **Update on APP penalties and waivers based on submission of 2017-18 APR data and summary of teams using APR penalty filters.** The committee received a preliminary overview of the teams that have utilized the limited-resource institution filter to avoid APP penalties and/or loss of access to postseason competition. The use of the APR penalty filters will be incorporated into the on-going comprehensive review of the APP. Additionally, the committee received a preview of teams currently subject to penalties and/or loss of access to postseason competition during the 2019-20 academic year based on their multi-year APR, which includes the 2017-18 data as the fourth year.
15. **Update on the Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** The committee received a review of educational initiatives and outreach from the fall 2018 and a preview of initiatives planned for spring 2019. Such initiatives and outreach include presentations at conference meetings, campus visits and resources housed on ncaa.org. The committee confirmed staff should be proactive in reaching out to conference offices to provide further education.

The committee received a preview of data related to the spring 2019 mock eligibility reports. Data highlighted included institutional and conference outcomes, the metric in which institutions qualified, and an estimate of how many institutions would have qualified based on 2017-18 data. The data indicated that more institutions would have qualified for the Academic Unit this year than initially estimated.

16. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 modernization.** The committee received an update on the efforts to modernize Bylaw 14, including efforts to editorially refresh the legislative language for improved clarity, in conjunction with the focus on identifying how to substantively modernize the rules to better support the needs and realities of Division I student-athletes. Future substantive areas of review include but are not limited to: conditions that affect transfer status and application of progress-toward-degree requirements, online coursework and curriculums, adjacent terms impact on full-time enrollment and credit-hour requirements, international competition implications and exchange or temporary student participation.
17. **Update on summer athletics financial aid eligibility provision for incoming student-athletes.** The committee received an update that the Council agreed to introduce legislation into the 2019-20 legislative cycle to allow coursework paid for with summer athletics aid to be used by an incoming transfer student-athlete to meet percentage-of-degree requirements at the Division I institution to which he or she transfers. Both the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee supported the concept.
18. **Update on academic educational programming and initiatives for member institutions.** The committee received an update on the educational programming and technology designed to assist institutions in academic certification efforts on campus. Specifically, online modules outlining Division I academic-eligibility rules and highlighting best practices for the certification of student-athletes will be made available to the membership in early 2019.
19. **Update on the Committee for Legislative Relief four-year undergraduate transfer waiver directive.** The committee received an update from the Committee on Legislative Relief regarding its transfer waiver guidelines, directives and information standards used to analyze undergraduate four-year college transfer waiver requests for immediate eligibility. In April 2018, the Council approved a modification to the four-year college undergraduate transfer waiver directive to incorporate an academic analysis and permit immediate eligibility to be provided as a type of waiver relief in limited circumstances. The modification was supported by the Committee on Academics.

At its forthcoming February meeting, the Committee on Legislative Relief will review the guidelines and information standards used to analyze specific types of mitigation commonly asserted through the transfer waiver process.

20. **Research update.** The committee received an update from the NCAA research staff on a recently released report regarding the graduation success rate calculation and data.

21. **Sports wagering update.** The committee received an update on the national office's continued efforts to assess the impact of sports wagering on the collegiate environment.
22. **Board of Directors report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' October 2018 and January 2019 meetings.
23. **Presidential Forum report.** The committee a report from the Presidential Forum's October 2018 and January 2019 meetings.
24. **Council report.** The committee received a report from the Council's October 2018 teleconference and January 2019 in-person meeting.
25. **Reports of the Committee on Academics' October 2018 in-person meeting report.** The committee reviewed the reports from its October 2018 meeting.
26. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's January meeting.
27. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. May 13-14 – Indianapolis; and
 - b. October 8-9 – Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: John DeGioia, Georgetown University
Staff Liaisons: Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics February 5-6, 2019, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.	
Jerry Bovee, Weber State University.	
Greg Burke, Northwestern State University.	
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.	
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.	
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.	
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.	
Rhonda Hatcher, Texas Christian University.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.	
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Randy Woodson, North Carolina State University.	
Kurt Zorn, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Absentees:	
Frank Bonner, Gardner-Webb University.	
Morgan Chall, Cornell University.	
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.	
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Nicholas Clark, Coastal Carolina University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson and Binh T. Nguyen.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Andy Cardamone, Greg Dana, Maria DeJulio, Judy Delp, Doug Healey, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Andy Louthain, Felicia Martin, Karen Metzger, Nick Mutebi, Tom Paskus, Darryl Peal, Todd Petr, Tiese Roxbury, Naima Stevenson, Kathy Sulentic, Jerry Vaughn, Danielle Walter, Carrie Leger White, Stan Wilcox, DeAnna Wiley, Quintin Wright, Frank Yeboah and Katy Yurk.	



**Operational Issues Related to the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball
Student-Athlete Degree Completion Assistance**

The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics reviewed and approved the following operational issues related to the implementation of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance.

1. The name of the fund for limited-resource institutions should be Former Student-Athlete Degree Achievement Fund.
2. Former men's and women's basketball student-athletes will have primary responsibility to complete and submit applications for funding. Institutions will nominate former student-athletes who meet the legislated criteria.
3. For the application process for funding for LRIs, the following information will be required:
 - Required information and documents with initial application.
 - (1) Proof of admission (or a commitment to deliver later if this is not yet determined).
 - (2) Attestation form signed by the student-athlete stating the following:
 - (a) He or she is not eligible for funding from any other degree completion program or professional sports contract, team or league;
 - (b) He or she was last enrolled full time at the institution within the previous 10 years;
 - (c) Major; and
 - (d) Legal release statement to allow for academic information to be shared with the NCAA related to this program.
 - (3) Attestation form signed by an institutional authority that the student-athlete meets the following requirements:
 - (a) Student-athlete has been readmitted to the institution;
 - (b) Credit hours and terms of enrollment completed during previous enrollment;
 - (c) Confirmation the student-athlete was eligible for competition at the time of departure; and
 - (d) Confirmation the student-athlete received athletically related financial aid during his or her previous enrollment.

- (4) Graduation plan: a term-by-term plan listing courses required for graduation through completion of the degree program.
 - (a) Terms on the graduation plan may be full- or part-time terms, but a complete plan with a path to graduation must be submitted;
 - (b) Graduation plans must show continuous enrollment until graduation;
 - (c) Graduation plans must be signed by an advisor or other academic authority at the institution; and
 - (d) Graduation plans must clearly present the number of hours required for completion of the degree.
 - (5) Confirmation from financial aid of the amount required to cover tuition, fees and books for the upcoming term.
 - (6) Official transcript.
 - (7) Degree audit.
- 4. A former student-athlete is no longer eligible for degree completion funding once the institution's LRI status expires.
- 5. An institution reclassifying to Division I can be included in the LRI calculations in year one of the reclassifying process for purposes of determining eligibility for the degree completion funding only.
- 6. There will be no external review (e.g., NCAA) to verify that the former student-athlete left the institution academically eligible to return.
- 7. An institution is required to provide degree completion assistance to ALL eligible student-athletes regardless of timing, funding availability, etc.
- 8. An institution may establish an application process as long as deadlines are not set earlier than the NCAA's deadline for the Former Student-Athlete Degree Achievement Fund (LRI funding).
- 9. The following information will be submitted by ALL member institutions following the completion of a term when a former student-athlete receives degree completion assistance funding:
 - a. Major;
 - b. Total credit hours required for degree;

- c. Cumulative credits hours earned toward degree;
- d. Credit hours attempted;
- e. Credit hours earned;
- f. Degree applicable credit hours;
- g. Term GPA; and
- h. Cumulative GPA.

The information will be submitted on a term-by-term basis by institutions receiving LRI funding and at the end of the academic year for all other institutions. The mechanism for reporting the information to the NCAA will be determined at a later date.

- 10. Former men's and women's basketball student-athletes may return to the institution as part-time students to complete their degree and receive funding.
- 11. A former student-athlete who returns to the institution to complete his or her degree is not required to have continuous enrollment (full- or part-time) in order for funding to be provided. The former student-athlete is permitted to discontinue enrollment one time and remain eligible for future funding; however, the individual will be required to submit a full application upon re-enrollment.
- 12. There should be no limitation on the number of online courses a former men's or women's basketball student-athlete may be enrolled in in order to receive degree completion assistance.
- 13. The former student-athlete is not required to be enrolled in a minimum number of credits in order to receive degree completion assistance.
- 14. In order to document that a former student-athlete exhausted other funding options, it is recommended that institutions attempt to secure documentation from the professional basketball league noting the student-athlete explored funding options with the organization.
- 15. Former student-athletes must earn a 2.0 term GPA (both full- and part-time students) or higher in order to continue to receive funding for the next term. If such benchmarks are not met, the former student-athlete can re-apply for funding at the next opportunity.
- 16. In general, the former student-athlete should not have a negative impact on the team's academic rates (i.e., NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate, Graduation Success Rate, Federal Graduation Rate) and most former student-athletes will meet a current policy to be excluded from a cohort upon their re-enrollment. As other cases arise, they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the Committee on Academics.
- 17. Student-athletes who are ineligible when they originally depart the institution who return to the institution on his or her own and are able to regain eligibility status ("get well") would now require an institution to provide degree completion assistance. Further, those student-athletes

would be eligible to apply for the Former Student-Athlete Degree Achievement Fund if their original institution meets the definition of LRI.

18. Institutions may require non-academic requirements in order for a former student-athlete to continue to receive funding.
19. Former student-athletes are eligible for funding for the number of degree credits remaining when they submit their original request for funding upon return to the institution based on the degree program requirements they were in at the time of departure from the institution. Subsequent changes to major or grades earned that require the student-athlete to complete additional credits are at the expense of the former student-athlete.

**NCAA Division I Committee on Academics
2018-19 Council-Governance Proposals
Final Positions and Feedback to NCAA Division I Legislative Committee**

Proposal: 2018-74
Title: FINANCIAL AID -- MAXIMUM INSTITUTION GRANT-IN-AID LIMITATIONS BY SPORT -- COUNTERS -- AID AFTER DEPARTURE OF HEAD COACH -- CONTINUED PARTICIPATION FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR
Intent: To specify that a student-athlete who receives athletically related institutional aid in subsequent academic years after the departure of a head coach from the institution is not a counter in a year in which he or she does not participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided: (a) The student-athlete's participated in the applicable sport and received athletically related institutional financial aid during the coach's tenure at the institution; and (2) The student-athlete does not participate in the applicable sport beyond the next regular academic year (including completion of the championship season in spring sports) after the departure of the head coach.
Source: Atlantic 10 Conference
Effective Date: Immediate
Rationale: In sports, such as basketball, in which it is common for a coach to leave later in the academic year, the time frame for a student-athlete to decide whether to remain at the institution is compressed. Current legislation only allows institutions to provide athletics aid to a student-athlete (and not count it) if the decision is made for the subsequent academic year. Adding an additional year to the application of this exception provides the student-athlete and the new head coach with a full year after the departure of the previous head coach to make a decision. Allowing institutions to provide noncountable financial support to a student-athlete after he or she has had sufficient time to consider options, encourages academic success and student-athlete well-being. This proposal furthers the Division I Commitment to Student-Athlete Well-Being and the Commitment to Sound Academic Standards.
Committee Comments/Position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less disruptive to academic enrollment of student-athletes. • May help schools who experience coaching changes with student-athlete retention efforts. • Support.

Proposal: 2018-71
Title: FINANCIAL AID -- EXEMPTED INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID -- INSTITUTIONAL NEED-BASED AID
Intent: To specify that institutional need-based grants awarded based on a student-athlete's demonstrated financial need are exempt and not counted in determining the institution's financial aid limitations; further, to specify that such aid is not exempted for purposes of determining a football or basketball student-athlete's counter status.
Source: Big East Conference
Effective Date: August 1, 2019.

Rationale: Currently, federal and state grants that are awarded based on a student's demonstrated financial need, regardless of whether an institution is responsible for selecting the recipient, are considered exempted institutional financial aid. However, the legislation limits the opportunities for student-athletes who have a demonstrated financial need to accept institutional need-based grants. Removing the requirement to include institutional need-based awards in a team's equivalency computations would have a positive impact on student-athlete well-being by reducing the financial burden on student-athletes and their families and eliminating situations in which student-athletes are required to choose between athletics aid and institutional need-based grants. These grants would still be required to count toward a student-athlete's individual limit and safeguards (e.g., defined awarding criteria for all candidates, predetermined federal methodologies for calculating students with financial needs, audits) are already in place for determining a recipient's need, thus minimizing the potential for abuse.

Committee Comments:

- Could better accommodate some legitimate circumstances when student-athletes demonstrate a financial need; however, this proposal should be considered broadly within a larger review to deregulate financial aid.
- **Generally supportive of increasing student-athletes' access to additional sources of athletics aid.**

Proposal: 2018-70

Title: FINANCIAL AID -- DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS AND MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL GRANT-IN-AID LIMITATIONS BY SPORT -- TEAM LIMITS -- INSTITUTIONAL ATHLETICS AID AND USOC/NGB AID ONLY

Intent: To specify that only athletically related institutional financial aid and educational expenses awarded by the U.S. Olympic Committee or a U.S. national governing body (or, for international student-athletes, the equivalent organization of a foreign country) shall count toward maximum institutional grant-in-aid limitations.

Source: American Athletic Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference and Mid-American Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2019

Rationale: In order to provide greater access to nonathletically related aid to student-athletes who participate in equivalency sports, this proposal establishes the principle that only athletically related institutional aid or educational expenses from an Olympic Committee or national governing body will count toward team limits. In baseball, student-athletes who are counters must receive institutional aid from any source (e.g., athletics and academic) that is equal to or greater than 25 percent of an equivalency, but only the athletically related aid will count against the team limit. For a baseball student-athlete who receives athletically related institutional aid equal to less than 25 percent but are also receiving other institutional aid (e.g., need-based grant), this proposed change will require some additional monitoring to ensure the student-athlete's overall institutional aid is equal to or exceeds 25 percent, but the overall benefit to a student-athlete to receive any institutional aid for which he or she qualifies outweighs the minimal monitoring burden. It is appropriate to defer and rely on institutional financial aid policies that exist outside of athletics to allocate nonathletics based institutional aid, which is in the best interests of student-athletes. A student-athlete should not be forced to turn down nonathletics aid he or she could receive through the normal institutional

process and for which a general student with a similar background (e.g., demonstrated financial need) may qualify.

Committee Comments:

- This proposal should be considered broadly within a larger review to deregulate financial aid.
- **Generally supportive of increasing student-athletes' access to additional sources of athletics aid.**

Proposal: 2018-72

Title: FINANCIAL AID -- MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL GRANT-IN-AID LIMITATIONS BY SPORT -- EXCEPTION -- RECEIPT OF INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Intent: In equivalency sports, to specify that academic honor awards that are part of an institution's normal arrangements for academic scholarships, based solely on the recipient's high school record and awarded independently of athletics interests and in amounts consistent with the pattern of all such awards made by institutions, are exempt from an institution's equivalency computation; further, to specify that academic honor awards that are part of an institution's normal arrangements for academic scholarships, either based solely on the recipient's cumulative academic record from all collegiate institutions previously attended or based on the recipient's high school record and cumulative academic record from all collegiate institutions previously attended, awarded independently of athletics interests and in amounts consistent with the pattern of all such awards made by the institution, are exempt from an institution's equivalency computation.

Source: Sun Belt Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2019

Rationale: Exempting institutional academic scholarships from team equivalency calculations would provide student-athletes with greater access to financial aid, lessening the impact of rising costs of higher education. Institutions will continue to ensure that academic honor awards are provided through the institution's normal arrangements for academic scholarships without regard to a student's participation in athletics. Federal financial aid guidelines and the NCAA limitation on the amount of aid an individual may receive will continue to apply.

Committee Comments:

- In general, the committee noted there is value in having academic parameters/specifications for academic scholarships in order to ensure curb abuse; however, this proposal should be considered broadly within a larger review to deregulate financial aid.
- **Generally supportive of increasing student-athletes' access to additional sources of athletics aid.**

Proposal: 2018-57

Title: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- SUMMER ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES -- SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOTBALL
Intent: In sports other than football, to permit a student-athlete or prospective student-athlete who is enrolled in summer school to engage in required weight-training, conditioning and skill-related instruction for up to eight weeks, as specified.
Source: Sun Belt Conference
Effective Date: Immediate
Rationale: This proposal provides opportunities for both academic and athletic improvement and may increase retention and graduation rates. Specifically, this proposal may allow student-athletes from all sports increased access to summer school and an opportunity to enhance the critically important relationship between coach and student-athlete. Further, it is fair to expect that enhancing the coach and student-athlete relationship will also enhance the student-athlete's connection with the institution. Allowing limited athletically related activities in a structured environment will establish stronger relationships and enhance the overall student-athlete experience. In fall sports, it may also help better prepare student-athletes for participation in regular in-season practice sessions.
Committee Comments/Position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems contrary to recent time demands efforts/principles to provide more time back to student-athletes for non-athletics-based opportunities (e.g., study abroad, internships). • May have unintended impact of limiting access to summer internships, study abroad and other valuable experiences and creating the expectation for student-athletes to be available all summer for athletic activities. • May further put pressure on institutional financial resources. • Oppose.

Proposal: 2018-43
Title: RECRUITING -- CONTACTS AND EVALUATIONS -- TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES -- OFF-CAMPUS CONTACT DURING FIRST YEAR OF ENROLLMENT
Intent: To eliminate the prohibition on off-campus, in-person contact with a prospective student who was not a qualifier and who is in his or her first year of full-time enrollment at a two-year college.
Source: American Athletic Conference
Effective Date: August 1, 2019
Rationale: The current legislation restricting an institution from having in-person, off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who is a nonqualifier during his or her first year of enrollment at the two-year institution is unnecessary and counterproductive. If contact at the two-year college is allowed, it is more likely that a coach will have the opportunity to work with the prospective student-athlete and his or her advisors (e.g., coach, academic counselor) to evaluate the academic record and review transfer and admission requirements. In addition, eliminating the current restriction alleviates concern regarding unintentional contact with a nonqualifier on a two-year college campus. This proposal does not change the prohibition on official visits for a

nonqualifier in his or her first year of enrollment at a two-year college. Therefore, the rationale of the original legislation continues to apply in that such a prospective student-athlete should have the opportunity to spend sufficient time on academics during his or her first year at the two-year institution.

Committee Comments/Position:

- Could be disruptive to nonqualifiers' focus on academics.
- Partial deregulation could cause more problems/confusion than solve.
- Unclear how this proposal is beneficial to the student-athlete.
- Other means available by which two-year prospective student-athletes can be appropriately evaluated and advised academically.
- **Oppose.**

Proposal: 2018-59

Title: RECRUITING -- SPORTS CAMPS AND CLINICS -- EDUCATIONAL SESSION -- BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL -- ELIMINATE REQUIREMENT

Intent: In basketball and football, to eliminate the requirement that an institution's camps or clinics must include an educational session.

Source: Atlantic Coast Conference and Big Ten Conference

Effective Date: Immediate

Rationale: Eliminating the required educational sessions will provide consistency for camps in all sports and allow educational sessions to be conducted at the institution's discretion. Information on the topics that are a required part of the educational sessions is now made readily available to prospective student-athletes through various other avenues.

Committee Comments/Position:

- Seems inconsistent with recent Basketball Reform efforts to provide prospects with greater access to information, especially information related to NCAA eligibility.
- How much burden does this currently places on institutional camp administration? How is this information comparably being delivered to prospects?
- There is value in prospects getting information delivered in-person and access to personnel for questions.
- **Oppose.**

Proposal: 2018-41

Title: ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF COMPETITION -- HARDSHIP WAIVER -- ELIMINATE FIRST HALF OF SEASON REQUIREMENT

Intent: To eliminate the hardship waiver requirement that an injury or illness must occur prior to the first competition of the second half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship, as specified.
Source: Mid-American Conference
Effective Date: August 1, 2019, for any incapacitating injury or illness, or other extenuating circumstance occurring on or after August 1, 2019.
Rationale: Under the current hardship waiver legislation, if an incapacitating injury or illness occurs during the second half of the playing season, the student-athlete does not qualify for a waiver. This proposal, in the interests of student-athlete well-being, would provide the opportunity for a student-athletes to receive a hardship waiver for an incapacitating injury or illness that occurs at any time during the playing season; however, a student-athlete must meet other legislated requirements (i.e., participation limit and medical documentation standard). This proposal recognizes that increased flexibility is warranted in the hardship waiver legislation based on the fact that football student-athletes are now permitted to compete in up to four contests at any point during the playing season without being charged a season of competition.
Committee Comments/Position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal should be considered separate from the recent action taken in football that allows for student-athletes to compete in up to four contests without triggering the use of a season of competition. (Proposal No. 2017-17) • No position.

Proposal: 2018-39
Title: ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF COMPETITION: FIVE-YEAR RULE -- CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASONS OF COMPETITION -- DELAYED ENROLLMENT -- EXCEPTION - NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION -- ESTABLISHED REGIONAL COMPETITION -- SPORTS OTHER THAN MEN'S ICE HOCKEY AND SKIING
Intent: In sports other than men's ice hockey and skiing, to specify that, for a maximum of one year after a prospective student-athlete's first opportunity to enroll full time in a collegiate institution following the grace period, an individual's participation in (1) officially recognized competition from which participants may be selected to a national team that will participate in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games (Universiade), World University Championships; and (2) established regional competition (e.g., North American Championships, European Championships), shall be exempt from the application of the delayed enrollment legislation.
Source: Southeastern Conference
Effective Date: August 1, 2019; Applicable to a student-athlete who initially enrolls full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2019.
Rationale: This proposal accounts for the qualifying procedures of various national governing bodies which will provide prospective student-athletes with the opportunity to qualify for their country's national team without being subject to the delayed enrollment legislation. Current legislation allows an individual to participate in events which qualify for elite level competition but does not provide an opportunity to participate in qualifying events that are not considered direct

qualifying events. As a result, an individual must weigh the potential of jeopardizing his or her collegiate eligibility against the opportunity to potentially participate as part of his or her national team in a world class event. In addition, many countries require individuals to qualify and participate in established regional events in order to qualify and participate in future, high caliber events.

Committee Comments/Position:

- None.
- **No position.**

Proposal: 2018-106

Title: FINANCIAL AID -- MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL GRANT-IN-AID
LIMITATIONS BY SPORT -- COUNTERS -- BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL --
GRADUATE TRANSFERS

Intent: In basketball and football, to specify that a graduate transfer student-athlete who receives athletically related financial aid and enrolls at the certifying institution with one season of eligibility remaining shall be a counter for two academic years; further, to specify that if a graduate transfer student-athlete successfully completes all degree requirements prior to the start of his or her second academic year of enrollment, he or she shall not be considered a counter for the subsequent academic year.

Source: NCAA Division I Council (Transfer Working Group)

Effective Date: August 1, 2019

Rationale: Current legislation allows a graduate transfer student-athlete to be excluded from annual counter limitations once the student-athlete exhausts his athletics eligibility. While the number of basketball and football graduate transfers has grown, the current rules have not adequately held programs accountable for the academic outcomes of this cohort of student-athletes. This proposal seeks to achieve greater institutional accountability and encourage more thoughtful decision making by institutions who recruit basketball and football student-athletes for graduate school. Furthermore, this proposal aligns with the division's commitment to student-athlete well-being and sound academic standards for all student-athletes.

Committee Comments/Position:

- Overall, committee was not in support of the proposal.
- Concern with overall concept that proposal requires a graduate transfer to be treated as a counter for two years.
- Concern over proposal not being tied to providing graduate student-athlete with athletics aid.
- Will not change behavior for coaches are comfortable "using" a counter spot for a graduate transfer.
- Favored expanded opportunities for postgraduate student-athletes that do not differentiate between returning postgraduate student-athletes and postgraduate transfer student-athletes.
- Concern proposal does not address issue of institutions admitting graduate transfer student-athletes into graduate programs and "taking slots" from other students.

- Unsure of how this will improve the academic behavior of student-athletes in these three sports.