



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Suspension of NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalties and loss of process to postseason competition for the 2019-20 NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate data collection.**

- (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Board of Directors suspend APP penalties and loss of access to postseason competition for the 2019-20 APR data collection due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate (i.e., for APR data submitted fall 2020 from the 2019-20 academic year).
- (3) Rationale. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020 has created uncertainty in higher education and intercollegiate athletics. This includes the way colleges and universities may deliver courses and educational programming for the 2020-21 academic year, the possibility of student-athletes not returning or not returning full time and changes to sport seasons. In addition, the NCAA has responded to membership concerns with blanket waivers and other accommodations that may impact earning eligibility and retention points in spring 2020 specifically as well as cohort composition in the 2020-21 academic year. Suspending the APR penalties and loss of access to postseason competition for one year may offer some relief to institutions concerned about the challenging environment created by COVID-19. The suspension will also allow institutions to focus on other issues facing college athletics at this time. The committee will determine if suspension of penalties for future APR data collections is needed at its October meeting.

During this time, institutions will still be required to submit APR data from the 2019-20 academic year. The regular verification, correction and adjustment process will also continue. The collection of the data will allow for continued analysis of academic trends and continued data driven decision-making. Also, during this time the committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the metric and its impact on teams, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities, limited-resource schools and

other schools and student-athletes that may face unique or especially difficult challenges during the pandemic.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Teams falling below the penalty benchmarks will be able to access to postseason competition and have no restrictions on in-season and out-of-season hourly limitations.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Full-time enrollment waiver scenarios related to the COVID-19 pandemic.** The committee reviewed several requests for relief from the full-time enrollment legislation due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee approved a blanket waiver to allow student-athletes who are not full time during the 2020 fall term to participate in up to eight hours of virtual nonphysical team activities per week, as permitted by the NCAA Division I Council-approved waiver. This waiver applies to any student-athlete enrolled less than full time regardless of the number of credits in which the student-athlete is enrolled, including zero credits.

The committee also discussed a waiver request to allow student-athletes in fall sports who graduate after the 2020 fall term to practice and compete with their teams without being enrolled during the spring term if the team's season was moved to the spring. The committee agreed to continue to discuss this request and to seek feedback from membership groups before making a final decision. The committee shared initial concerns with allowing student-athletes to participate through a whole season while not being enrolled in any academic coursework. The committee was comfortable discussing some type of relief to allow for participation while enrolled in a reduced course load. The committee also noted that the legislation allowing for competition after the final term was intended to allow student-athletes to complete an already in-progress season after graduating, not necessarily to allow a student-athlete to participate in an entire season while not enrolled in academic coursework.

2. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received reports from the Council's August 12 and August 19 videoconferences.
3. **Reports of the Committee on Academics' June and July videoconferences.** The committee reviewed the reports from its June 11 and July 30 videoconferences.
4. **Future meeting dates.**
  - a. October 21, 2020, videoconference;
  - b. February 18, 2021, videoconference; and

c. May 11-12, 2021, videoconference.

*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*

<b>NCAA Division I Committee on Academics September 17, 2020, Videoconference</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.
Brynn Carlson, Kansas State University.
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.
Eileen Daly, San Jose State University.
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.
Pat Elliott, Binghamton 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.
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.
Jessica Kumke, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University.
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.
Kim Record, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.
Ted White, University of Virginia.
Pamela Whitten, Kennesaw State University.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson and Binh Nguyen.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Susan Britsch, Marcus Brown, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Kelsey Gurganus, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Brandon Lee, Andy Louthain, Tom Paskus, Todd Petr, Angela Red, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Nick Sproull, Kathy Sulentic, Carrie Leger White, DeAnna Wiley, Quintin Wright and Katy Yurk.