



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **Waiver of Summer School Enrollment Requirements.** The NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council adopt a blanket waiver to permit football student-athletes to engage in required athletic activities during summer 2021 without being enrolled in summer school. The Football Oversight Committee noted that the same blanket waiver was adopted for summer 2020 and recommends another blanket waiver for summer 2021 to provide short-term sustainability and due to uncertainty surrounding course availability as a result of the impact of COVID-19. The review of summer school enrollment requirements for summer athletic activities was referred to the Football Oversight Committee as a part of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum's sustainability review. The Football Oversight Committee recommends that the Council take action now due to the timing of campus decisions regarding enrollment in summer coursework.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review of the Football Oversight Committee's February 11 Report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its February 11, 2021, videoconference report.
2. **NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee Update.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update from the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee about selections and bracketing for the 2021 Division I Football Championship. The Football Oversight Committee approved recommendations from the Championship Committee to reduce the size of the championship bracket from 16 to 14 teams should participation drop below 50% during the spring 2021 term. Eleven of the 14 teams would be automatic qualifiers and three would receive at-large invitations. Additionally, the Football Oversight Committee approved an adjustment to the selection criteria to eliminate a financial guarantee requirement to host preliminary round contests due to uncertainty surrounding attendance.
3. **NCAA Division I Football Competition Committee and NCAA Football Rules Committee updates.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update on upcoming Division I Football Competition Committee and NCAA Football Rules Committee meetings in early March. Although 2020-21 is not a rules adjustment year, changes may be considered to enhance student-athlete health and safety or improve a rules change from the previous cycle. During these meetings, the Football Competition Committee and Football Rules Committee will review and discuss overtime rules, feigning injuries, simplification of blocking below the waist rules, remote coaching, player-to-coach communication technology and student-athlete behavior and uniforms.

4. **Review of Legislative Relief Waiver Requests.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and provided feedback on two legislative relief waiver requests involving relief of the first contest legislation (e.g., week zero) and out-of-season activities legislation.
5. **NCAA Division I Presidential Forum Sustainability Review.** The Football Oversight Committee received updates on the work of the subgroups focused on assigned areas related to the Division I Presidential Forum Sustainability Review.
  - a. **Presidential Forum Sustainability Review.**

The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved the subgroup's recommendations related to short-term sustainability items. In addition, the Football Oversight Committee reviewed sustainability issues the subgroup identified as requiring long-term review or for which no action was recommended by the subgroup. The Football Oversight Committee members agreed to seek feedback from their conferences on these recommendations. [[See Attachment A](#)]. The Football Oversight Committee will engage in further discussion on the recommendations at its March 11 meeting.
  - b. **Football Practice Calendar Review.**

The Football Oversight Committee received an update from the subgroup. The subgroup's initial focus is to include subject experts and learning from preparation for the 2020 fall season during the pandemic. In addition to engagement from the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport, the subgroup has invited several current football head coaches to contribute to the discussions. Initially, the subgroup is focusing on the summer/fall time period.
  - c. **Comprehensive Recruiting Review.**

The Football Oversight Committee reviewed the subgroup's short-term and long-term recommendations related to recruiting. The Football Oversight Committee members agreed to seek feedback from their conferences on these recommendations. [[See Attachment B](#)]. The Football Oversight Committee will engage in further discussion on the recommendations at its March 11 meeting.
6. **Future Meetings and Teleconferences.**
  - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, March 11; Videoconference.
  - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, March 25; Videoconference.

Report of the Division I Football Oversight Committee

February 25, 2021, Videoconference

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*Committee Chair: Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.*

*Staff Liaisons: Ty Halpin, NCAA Championships and Alliances.*

*Kris Richardson, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs.*

<b>NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee February 25, 2021, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Mark Alnutt, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York.	
Whit Babcock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.	
Sandy Barbour, Pennsylvania State University.	
Todd Berry, American Football Coaches Association.	
Greg Byrne, University of Alabama.	
Ryan Cassidy, Rutgers University, NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	
Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois University, Head Football Coach.	
David Cutcliffe, Duke University, Head Football Coach.	
Troy Dannen, Tulane University.	
Jean Gee, University of Montana.	
Bret Gilliland, Mountain West Conference.	
Doug Gillin, Appalachian State University.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.	
Kyle Moats, Missouri State University.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Chrissi Rawak, University of Delaware.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Greg Byrne, University of Alabama.	
Patrick Fields, University of Oklahoma.	
Michael Hamrick, Marshall University.	
Jennifer Williams, Alabama State University.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Michael Bazemore, Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, Jennifer Fraser, Chris Howard, Chris Johnson, Greg Johnson, Jessica Kerr, John Parsons, Greg Pottorff, Anne Rohlman and Chad Tolliver.	

# NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee

## Presidential Forum Sustainability Review

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### PF Sustainability: Short-Term Review

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Review Timeline</u>	<u>Mechanism for Change</u>
Review of summer access for football student-athletes.	Immediate review. Response needed for 2021 summer term.	Subgroup recommended an extension of the 2020 Summer Blanket Waiver to provide a quick response to an immediate problem.
Review of Sports Sponsorship Requirements.	Short term review.	Subgroup would like to allow the COVID-19 legislative relief to expire. The subgroup raised concerns specific to competitive equity (i.e., FBS vs. FCS institutions below the legislated scholarship limits) if a longer-term change of the legislation were to occur.
FBS Attendance Requirement.	Short- and long-term review.	Council action changed the rule for 2020-21 and 2021-22. Subgroup noted a long-term review is necessary to determine the necessity of the current legislation.

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## PF Sustainability: Long-Term Review

Topic	Review Timeline	Mechanism for Change
Student-athlete award limitations.	Long-term review.	Subgroup did not recommend any immediate changes. Additional review by the NCAA office of legal affairs would be appropriate.
Limitations on actual and necessary expenses (e.g., overnight lodging) for practice and competition.	Long-term review or institutional discretion.	Subgroup did not recommend an action. Further, the subgroup noted the importance of institutional and conference decisions on individual financial matters.
Full-time enrollment of graduate students.	Long-term collaborative review with the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics.	Subgroup recommended a collaborative review of full-time enrollment with input from the Committee on Academics. The subgroup noted a potential legislative change to permit less than full-time enrollment for graduate student-athletes.
Regular season final contest.	Long term review.	Subgroup did not recommend a change to the legislation. However, the subgroup discussed the impact of the last regular season contest during the institution's final examination period.
FBS competitions against FCS institutions below scholarship minimum.	Long term review.	Subgroup would like to allow the COVID-19 legislative relief to expire. However, future discussions may occur if the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact membership.

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## Presidential Forum Sustainability - No Review

Topic	Review Timeline	Mechanism for Change
Review automatic qualification requirements.	No review necessary.	Subgroup did not recommend any changes to the current legislation.
Review regular season conference competition requirements.	Review would be necessary if COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact institutions and conferences.	No immediate change is recommended; however, future discussions may occur if the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact membership.
Review automatic qualification requirements.	No review necessary.	Subgroup did not recommend any changes to the current legislation.
Maximum number of competitions.	No review necessary.	The subgroup did not recommend any changes.

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# Questions and Discussion



# NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee

## Recruiting Review Subgroup Feedback on Concepts



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## Telephone Calls

### Support Short-Term Change

- Permit any institutional staff member to initiate a telephone call with a PSA.
  - The change provides more information to PSAs during the temporary recruiting dead period.
  - Support six-month extension, beginning with the expiration of the temporary recruiting dead period.
    - Individuals initiating calls should have to pass the recruiting test.
  - Do not support long-term due to staff size concerns.

### Support Long-Term Change

- Permit any number of uncommitted PSAs to participate on a telephone call.
  - In the virtual environment, the current publicity restriction seems outdated.
- Permit SAs to participate in telephone calls with a coach and PSAs or at the direction of a coach.
  - SAs provide valuable information.
- Permit telephone calls to be made at the institution's discretion to a junior PSA beginning the Sunday after the AFCA Convention in January.



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# Contacts and Evaluations

## Does Not Support

- Permit contact with a PSA when an institutional coaching staff member visits a PSA's educational institution during a permissible recruiting period.
  - Disruptive at educational institutions and virtual engagement is sufficient.
- Permit in-person, off-campus contact with a PSA to occur beginning January 15 of the PSA's junior year.
  - Potentially undermines sustainability efforts and virtual engagement is sufficient.

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# Recruiting Calendar

## Support Short-Term Change

- If possible, the expiration of the temporary recruiting dead period on June 1.
  - Institutional camps.
  - Class of 2022 prospective student-athletes should have an opportunity to attend camps.

## Support Long-Term Review

- Establish more stringent off-campus recruiting restrictions (e.g., additional dead period and/or quiet periods).
  - Impact on coaches.
  - Concern over potential changes to transfer and amateurism legislation.

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## **Recruiting Calendar (cont.)**

### **Support Short-Term Change**

- Due to the impact of the temporary recruiting dead period, there may be a need to provide additional evaluation days and recruiting opportunities for Fall 2021.

### **Does Not Support**

- Adjust the recruiting calendar, as follows:
  - Reducing the number of evaluation days and recruiting opportunities.
  - Change April 15-May 31 evaluation period to a contact period.
  - In-person contact at PSA's educational institution between April 15-May 31.
  - Establish a limit of three recruiting opportunities (contact or evaluation) for PSA's junior year.
  - Eliminate off-campus recruiting restriction on head coaches during spring evaluation period.
  - Increase the number of recruiting person days during the spring recruiting periods from 168 to 252.



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## **Visits**

### **Support Short-Term Change**

- Permit institutions discretion to reimburse PSAs for personal expenses incurred as a result of cancellation of official and unofficial visits.
  - Recommend limiting relief to official visits, and only until Fall 2021.

### **Support Long-Term Review**

**NOTE:** Current legislation for these two concepts should remain in place until data is obtained regarding the average number of official visits taken by PSAs and used by institutions.

- Reducing the maximum number of official visits from five to three.
- Establishing limits on the number of official visits an institution is permitted to conduct each year.

### **Does Not Support**

- Reducing time permitted for official visits from 48 hours to 36 hours with a two-night maximum for lodging paid by institutions.



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# Virtual Camps and Clinics

## Support Long-Term Review

- Permit an institution's coaching staff member to participate in institutional and noninstitutional virtual camps and clinics that do not include PSAs.
- Long-term review is needed to clarify the interaction between telephone call restrictions and virtual camps/clinics involving individuals who do not meet the definition of a PSA.
- Support continued engagement with coaches' peers (e.g., coaches clinics).

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# Complimentary Admissions, Speaking Engagements & Recruiting/Scouting Services

## Support Short-Term Change

- Revise the current recruiting/scouting service rules to include a vetting process and regulation on digital and live content providers.
- Permit institutions to use digital ticketing to provide complimentary admissions to PSAs and individuals on SA pass list.

## Does Not Support

- Permit a coaching staff member to provide a prerecorded message to meetings/banquets involving PSAs if initiated outside the institution and there is no recruiting presentation.

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# Questions and Discussion

