



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

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Summer Athletics Aid and Benefits for Football Student-Athletes.**
 - (1) Recommendation. For the summer of 2021, the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee recommends that the NCAA Division I Council adopt a blanket waiver of NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 benefits and expenses legislation to allow additional flexibility to provide a football student-athlete with funds up to the amount he would have received to cover meals, lodging and expenses (other than tuition/fees and books) through a summer athletics scholarship.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student-athletes, the Football Oversight Committee recommends returning to the flexible approach that was used for the summer of 2020.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. Will vary based on institutional decisions.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Reduction in student-athlete time demands.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the Football Oversight Committee's March 11 Report.** The Football Oversight Committee reviewed and approved its March 11, 2021, videoconference report.
- 2. NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee Update.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update on the site selection process for the NCAA Division I Football Championship. The Football Oversight Committee approved recommendations from the Championship Committee to preapprove up to 16 potential preliminary-round host sites approximately two weeks before the championship selection meeting. From the selected sites, eight would be chosen to serve as first-round sites based on the makeup of the bracket. The Championship Committee recommendation was approved by the Football Oversight Committee to ensure that all preliminary round sites are properly certified for

COVID-19 testing and have adequate time to coordinate the necessary logistical and operational requirements.

3. **Spring Football – Open Practices and the Temporary Recruiting Dead Period.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update on recent interpretive guidance provided by NCAA academic and membership affairs staff regarding prospective student-athletes attending practices that are open to the general public. The guidance, first published in the NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide on March 19 and applicable to all sports, permits a prospective student-athlete to attend a practice session that is open to the general public provided the prospective student-athlete's attendance is not at the direction of an institutional staff member (e.g., invitation extended or solicited). Feedback shared by the Football Oversight Committee ranged from concerns about prospective student-athletes attending practices during the temporary recruiting dead period to not being permitted to send a prospective student-athlete information that the institution has already made publicly available to the potential for abuse resulting from this type of activity being permitted while recruiting activities (official and unofficial visits, contacts and evaluations) remain prohibited due to the temporary recruiting dead period.
4. **Football Oversight Committee Subgroup Updates.** The Football Oversight Committee received updates on the work on two of its three current subgroups:
 - a. **Football Practice Calendar Review.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update from the football practice calendar subgroup. The subgroup provided an update on the recent survey of NCAA Division I head football coaches on current practice structures (preseason, in-season and out-of-season). Based on the survey results, which was completed by 77% of Division I head football coaches, there is support for additional time for skill instruction. There is also support for a period for noncontact skill development before the preseason, provided that period does not negatively impact student-athlete time demands. The survey feedback will assist the subgroup in developing its recommendations regarding the structure of the playing and practice season. The subgroup also received feedback from the NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group on potential changes to the playing and practice season.
 - b. **Comprehensive Recruiting Review.** The Football Oversight Committee received an update from the comprehensive recruiting review subgroup and shared feedback from their conferences on recommendations related to virtual team activities, on-campus evaluations, and modifications to the telephone call legislation. Based on membership feedback, the Football Oversight Committee supported the short-term sustainability recommendations identified by the subgroup for virtual team activities. The Football Oversight Committee also supported the subgroup's recommendation for a long-term review to consider legislative changes that would permit a committed prospective student-athlete to participate in virtual team

activities at his discretion and to allow a virtual unofficial visit for an uncommitted prospective student-athlete.

The Football Oversight Committee will gather additional feedback on the subgroup's other recommendations ([Attachment](#)) and engage in further discussion during its April 1 meeting.

5. **NCAA Division I Football Student-Athlete Connection Group Update.** Ryan Cassidy provided the Football Oversight Committee with an update from the March 24 Student-Athlete Connection Group videoconference. The Student-Athlete Connection Group discussed recent agenda items from the Football Oversight Committee meetings.
 - a. **Football Practice Calendar Review.** The Student-Athlete Connection Group received an update on the Football Oversight Committee's playing and practice season review. The group supports having a period for noncontact skill development before the preseason practice period because it allows student-athletes to have a gradual progression between summer athletic activities and the preseason. The group also supports a break period between the period for noncontact skill development and the start of preseason practice.
 - b. **Football Rules Update.** The Student-Athlete Connection Group received an update on two recommendations from the NCAA Football Rules Committee regarding changes to overtime rules and an expansion of the sideline team area. NCAA staff also updated the group on discussions around blocking below the waist, feigning injuries, uniforms and taunting.
 - c. **Comprehensive Recruiting Review.** The Student-Athlete Connection Group received an update on concepts and recommendations from the Comprehensive Recruiting Review subgroup.
6. **NCAA Football Rules Committee Update.** The Football Oversight Committee deferred the Football Rules Committee update to its April 1 meeting.
7. **Future Meetings and Teleconferences.**
 - a. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, April 1; Videoconference.
 - b. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, April 8; Videoconference.

After the April 8 videoconference, the Football Oversight Committee will begin meeting every other week.

Report of the Division I Football Oversight Committee

March 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.

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee March 25, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
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.	
David Cutcliffe, Duke University, Head Football Coach.	
Troy Dannen, Tulane University.	
Patrick Fields, University of Oklahoma.	
Jean Gee, University of Montana.	
Bret Gilliland, Mountain West Conference.	
Doug Gillin, Appalachian State University.	
Michael Hamrick, Marshall University.	
Shane Lyons, West Virginia University.	
Chrissi Rawak, University of Delaware.	
Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley Conference.	
Absentees:	
Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois University, Head Football Coach.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham.	
Kyle Moats, Missouri State University.	
Jennifer Williams, Alabama State University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Ty Halpin and Kris Richardson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Michael Bazemore, Geoff Bentzel, Jennifer Fraser, Anthony Holman, Chris Howard, Chris Johnson, Greg Johnson, Jessica Kerr, Jobrina Marques, Binh Nguyen, John Parsons, Greg Pottorff and Chad Tolliver.	

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee Recruiting Review Subgroup Recommendations as of March 25, 2021



1

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021

- During its March 22 meeting, the subgroup revised its March 11 recommendation.
- The revisions to the recommendation are reflected in the following slides.



2

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021 (cont.)

Initial Recommendation.

- The PSA is a high school junior (class of 2022), high school senior (class of 2021), two-year college transfer or four-year college transfer.
- The on-campus evaluation is conducted during an official or unofficial visit after the PSA's scholastic season has concluded.

Revised Recommendation.

- The PSA is a high school junior (class of 2022), high school senior (class of 2021), two-year college transfer or four-year college transfer.
- The on-campus evaluation is conducted during an unofficial visit after the PSA's scholastic season has concluded.

NCAA

3

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021 (cont.)

Initial Recommendation.

- The on-campus evaluation activities (other than the medical examination or evaluation) may not exceed two hours.
- Did not specify how many PSAs may participate in an on-campus evaluation.

Revised Recommendation.

- The on-campus evaluation activities (other than the medical examination or evaluation) may not exceed one hour.
- Clarifies that only one PSA may participate in each on-campus evaluation.
 - It is permissible to conduct multiple, independent on-campus evaluations at the same time.

NCAA

4

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021 (cont.)

Initial Recommendation.

- For the on-campus evaluation, the institution may provide practice equipment and clothing to the PSA on an issuance-and-retrieval basis.
- Did not specify what type(s) of activities were permissible.
- Did not specify whether protective equipment may be worn.

Revised Recommendation.

- For the on-campus evaluation, the institution may not provide practice equipment and clothing.
- For the on-campus evaluation, the institution may use practice equipment.
- All on-campus evaluation activities must be noncontact.
- No protective equipment may be worn during the on-campus evaluation.



5

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021 (cont.)

- These elements of the March 11 recommendation remain unchanged.
 - During June and July 2021 only, an on-campus evaluation may be conducted when football camps and clinics are permissible.
 - FBS: June 1-27; July 25-31.
 - May occur outside of the institution's ten-day period for camps.
 - FCS: June 1-July 31.
 - The institution's football SAs may not participate in the on-campus evaluation.
 - Weight-training, conditioning and review of practice and game film are the only permissible summer athletic activities.
 - Maximum of eight hours per week with not more than two hours per week spent on film review.
 - Skill instruction is not permissible.



6

Recommendation: Permit On-Campus Evaluations in June and July 2021 (cont.)

- Before participating in an on-campus evaluation, the PSA is required to undergo a medical examination or evaluation administered in accordance with the requirements in NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.11.2.1-(g) (On-Campus Evaluations -- Basketball).
 - Administered or supervised by a physician (e.g., family physician, team physician). A nurse practitioner whose state medical licensure allows for health care practice independent of physician supervision may complete the medical examination without supervision by a physician.
 - The examination or evaluation shall include a sickle cell solubility test unless documented results of a prior test are provided to the institution or the PSA declines the test and signs a written release.
 - The examination or evaluation must be administered either within six months before participation in the on-campus evaluation or within six months before the PSA's initial participation in practice, competition or out-of-season conditioning activities during the immediately completed season.
 - The medical examination or evaluation may be conducted by an institution's regular team physician or other designated physician as a part of the on-campus evaluation.

NCAA

7

Recommendation: Increase Evaluation Days for 2021 Fall Evaluation Period

- The subgroup recommends increasing the number of evaluation days from 42 to 70 for the 2021 fall evaluation period.
 - The increase is recommended due to the loss of all evaluation days during the 2020-21 academic year.
 - Permitting 70 evaluation days would allow all countable coaches to evaluate for seven of the 14 weeks in the football season.

NCAA

8

Recommendation: Telephone Calls Through December 31, 2021

- Recommend blanket waiver to permit all institutional staff who have passed the appropriate recruiting exam to initiate telephone calls to PSAs through Dec. 31, 2021.
- The recruiting exam requirement is not intended to apply to individuals who only initiate or return telephone calls to PSAs in accordance with a legislated exception in Bylaw 13.1.3.4.1.1 (Exceptions -- Before Commitment).



9

Recommendation: Telephone Calls Through December 31, 2021 (cont.)

- President or Chancellor/Faculty Athletics Representative/Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator.
 - It is permissible for an institution's chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, director of athletics and senior woman administrator to return (as opposed to initiate) telephone calls from a PSA (or the PSA's family members). Under such circumstances, there are no restrictions on the content of the conversation that may occur during the call; however, any return call is subject to any applicable limitations on the number of telephone calls that an institution may place to a PSA.
- Academic Advisors.
 - It is permissible for academic advisors (including academic advisors within the athletics department) to make calls to a PSA (or the PSA's family members) related to admissions or academic issues, subject to any applicable limitation on the number of telephone calls an institution may place to a PSA.
- Compliance Administrators.
 - It is permissible for a compliance administrator to make telephone calls to a PSA (or the PSA's family members) with no limit on the timing or number of such telephone calls, provided the calls relate only to compliance issues.



10

Recommendation: Telephone Calls Through December 31, 2021 (cont.)

- Noncoaching Staff Members and Noncountable Coaches -- Telephone Calls in Conjunction with Official Visit.
 - A noncoaching staff member or a coach who does not count toward the numerical limitations on head and assistant coaches in Bylaw 11.7.6 may initiate telephone calls to a PSA or those individuals accompanying the PSA during the five days immediately preceding the official visit and during the official visit.
- Noncoaching Staff Members and Noncountable Coaches -- Telephone Calls in Conjunction With an Unofficial Visit.
 - A noncoaching staff member or a coach who does not count toward the numerical limitations on head and assistant coaches in Bylaw 11.7.6 may initiate telephone calls to a PSA (or those individuals accompanying the PSA) beginning the day immediately preceding the unofficial visit until the conclusion of the visit.



11

Recommendation: Amend Telephone Call Legislation

- Permit telephone calls at the institution's discretion beginning the Sunday after the AFCA Convention during the PSA's junior year.
 - **Examples:** Jan. 16, 2022, for the Class of 2023; Jan. 15, 2023, for the Class of 2024.
- Permit any number of uncommitted PSAs to participate on a telephone call.
- Permit SAs to participate in telephone calls with a coach and PSAs or at the direction of a coach.
- These changes support sustainability by allowing more communication between the coaching staff and PSA before the first permissible date for an official visit (Apr. 1 of a PSA's junior year).



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**The Football Oversight Committee Will Discuss
Feedback on These Recommendations During its
April 1 Meeting**

