



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON STUDENT-ATHLETE REINSTATEMENT
MAY 7, 2024, IN-PERSON MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of season-of-competition waiver – competition while eligible guidelines involving coach’s documented misunderstanding and coach’s error.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement reviewed its guidelines specific to season-of-competition waivers – competition while eligible, where institutions assert coach’s documented misunderstanding of the legislation or coach’s error as mitigation. The committee noted cases are fact-specific and encouraged staff to evaluate the totality of the circumstances of each case in weighing the detrimental impact on the student-athlete in competing in a minimal amount of competition and any competitive advantage gained. Specific to coach’s documented misunderstanding of the legislation, the committee noted the institution’s rules education efforts are an important aspect in determining whether a coaching staff member misunderstood the legislation. Additionally, the committee encouraged the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff to issue a letter to the institution’s chancellor or president, notifying the senior administrator about a coach’s misunderstanding of legislation and the relief staff provided as a result of the misunderstanding. Specific to coach’s error, the committee confirmed the intent of the guideline was to capture circumstances when a coach inadvertently, in the moment, placed a student-athlete into competition (e.g., mass/“heat of the moment” substitutions), rather than scenarios where a coaching staff member makes a strategic decision (e.g., depth chart, roster availability) to place a particular student-athlete into a contest and subsequently regrets their action of triggering the use of a season.
2. **Review of season-of-competition waiver – competition while eligible cases specific to 2021 spring sports and COVID-19 asserted mitigation.** The committee reviewed season-of-competition waiver – competition while eligible cases specific to 2021 spring sports where institutions seek to restore the use of a season of competition given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their season. The committee noted that staff should continue to evaluate the amount of competition a student-athlete had available during the 2021 spring season. The committee reaffirmed that relief should not be provided solely because a student-athlete received COVID-19 relief from another association (e.g., two-year colleges) during the 2021 spring season. Further, the committee reviewed the most common assertions submitted as a basis for relief in these cases and agreed that while it will continue to review requests on a case-by-case basis, these assertions in and of themselves will not likely result in relief from the legislation without the demonstration of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances. Finally, the committee directed staff to develop educational resources to further assist the membership in evaluating the merits of particular scenarios.

3. **Review of reinstatement previously approved list.** The committee approved additions to the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Previously Approved Request List. Specifically, the committee approved three circumstances that permit the NCAA Eligibility Center to provide relief for prospective student-athletes during the amateurism certification process: (1) Entering into a two-way player contract; (2) Entering contracts that promise above actual and necessary expenses in future years; and (3) Entering an athletics scholarship agent or scouting service agreement. The committee agreed the approved waiver list should be made available on the student-athlete reinstatement homepage, the resource tab within Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO) and Legislative Services Database for the Internet (LSDBi) and be provided to the NCAA Division I Collegiate Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators. (Attachment)
4. **Review of cases decided from August 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024.** The committee reviewed cases staff processed during the 2023-24 academic year. The committee noted the overall increase in cases being submitted since the 2020-21 academic year. Specifically, in each of the last two academic years, there has been over a 33% increase in total cases submitted. The committee specifically noted the 180% increase in season-of-competition waivers since the 2022-23 academic year. The committee noted that staff approves over 77% of submitted cases and half of the approved cases were decided as a flexible decision. Of the 42 cases appealed to the committee, the committee affirmed staff on 88% of cases. The committee noted staff's decisions overwhelmingly align with the committee's approach to waivers and student-athlete reinstatement cases.
5. **Review of sports wagering legislation.** The committee received an update on the current review of sports wagering legislation.
6. **Division I governance and eligibility review update.** The committee received a governance and eligibility review update from the vice presidents of NCAA Division I governance and academic and membership affairs. The Division I governance structure and strategic priorities are being reevaluated to best address critical issues in intercollegiate athletics. Similarly, the association's eligibility review will primarily focus on student-athlete experience and well-being, the ability for institutions to govern themselves and to recognize the inherent differences amongst Division I institutions.
7. **Review of NCAA Divisions, I, II and III Committees on Student-Athlete Reinstatement policies and procedures.** The committee provided initial feedback on a comprehensive review of the committees' policies and procedures. Based on the committee's initial feedback, staff will draft updated policies and procedures for review during a future meeting.
8. **Legal affairs update.** The committee received an update from the managing director of office of legal affairs.

9. **Review Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement December 2023 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its December 2023 meeting.
10. **Other business.** The committee selected Marielle vanGelder as its next chair (effective September 1, 2024) and Terry Porter as its vice chair (effective immediately).
11. **Future meetings.** The committee established the following future meeting dates and locations:
 - November/December 2024, videoconference; and
 - May/June 2025, Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Rick Christensen, Duquesne University.
Staff Liaisons: Connor Bush, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement May 7, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Rick Christensen, Duquesne University.	
Ashley Cozad, University of North Florida (student-athlete).	
Jason Greco, University of Utah.	
Laura Hue, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis.	
Terry Porter, Towson University.	
Marielle vanGelder, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Support Staff in Attendance:	
Cynthia Alanis, James Bullock, Tianna Hill, Maison Hubbard, Liz Perry and Jess Rigler.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Michelle Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Jennifer Henderson, Dave Schnase and Leeland Zeller.	