



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 16, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Playing and Practice Seasons – Sports Other than Football and Basketball.** The NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee recommended that the NCAA Division I Council take action related to the playing and practice season for sports other than football. Specifically, the committee recommended that the Council adopt temporary emergency legislation permitting an institution to break up its playing seasons into multiple segments (e.g., two or more) for the 2020-21 academic year. In reaching this decision, the committee noted the importance of maintaining consistency with the flexibility provided to playing and practice seasons in the fall of 2020.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Temporary COVID-19 Recruiting Dead Period.** The committee recommended that the Council extend the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period beyond the current end date of January 1, 2021. Specifically, the committee agreed that permitting limited recruiting activities on a sport-by-sport basis may be appropriate between February 1 and April 15, 2021. The committee's rationale for providing a range of dates at this time is that, due to the uncertain state of the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming months, it would prefer that a decision on the extension be made in January 2021 when more information is available. Further, the committee acknowledged that maintaining uniformity across sports remains an important consideration; however, after reviewing feedback from coaches' associations, the committee recognized that the unique needs and capabilities of each sport may warrant a sport-by-sport approach.
2. **Virtual Recruiting During the Temporary COVID Recruiting Dead Period.** The Student-Athlete Experience Committee discussed the current state of virtual recruiting and indicated that identifying additional opportunities for institutions to engage with prospective student-athletes during the temporary recruiting dead period remains important. The committee provided electronic feedback after its November meeting indicating support for the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee's recommendation to the Council to expand virtual recruiting activities.
3. **Extension of COVID-19 Financial Aid Exemptions Waiver.** The Student-Athlete Experience Committee discussed a recommendation from the Southeastern Conference to extend a waiver of the financial aid limitations to permit institutions to exempt the athletics aid of any student-athlete in his or her final year of eligibility, provided the student-athlete has received a COVID-19 eligibility extension waiver and remained enrolled at the same institution. The committee did not support Council taking action on the concept during its November 18, 2020, meeting but will continue to discuss such an exemption of the 2021-22 athletics aid of spring sport student-athletes at a future meeting.

- 4. Extension of Baseball Blanket Waiver of Financial Aid and Varsity Squad-Size Limitations.** The Student-Athlete Experience Committee discussed and provided partial support for a recommendation from the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee to extend a blanket waiver of baseball financial aid and varsity squad-size limitations as a result of changes to the Major League Baseball Draft. Specifically, the Student-Athlete Experience Committee supports a blanket waiver in baseball for the 2021-22 academic year only, to allow institutions to: (1) Increase the varsity squad size limitation (i.e., 35-man roster) to 40; (2) Increase the annual counter limit from 27 to 32; and (3) Renegotiate athletics aid agreements to provide less than 25 percent.
- 5. Spring Sports Season-of-Competition Waiver Request.** The Student-Athlete Experience Committee discussed the current status of spring sports and whether permitting season-of-competition waivers and extensions of eligibility is appropriate for spring sport student-athletes during the 2020-21 academic year. The committee ultimately agreed that there have not been any significant changes to the spring championship structure or playing season that warrant additional relief at this time. The committee will continue to monitor whether season-of-competition waiver and extension-of-eligibility requests are necessary during the spring of 2021.
- 6. Midyear Initial and Transfer Enrollee Waivers.** The committee discussed and provided feedback to staff on midyear initial and transfer enrollee waiver scenarios, which the Council recommended be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Overall, the committee stressed the importance of protecting the safety of student-athletes but recognized that an institution's unique situation may warrant flexibility and discretion. The committee also indicated a preference to provide relief if it is documented that a prospective student-athlete planned to graduate high school in December 2020 (e.g., statement from high school guidance counselor), prior to the decision to move fall championships or conference competition to the spring term.
- 7. NCAA Division I Transfer Waiver Working Group.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Division I Transfer Waiver Working Group on the uniform transfer eligibility proposal, which has been introduced into the 2020-21 legislative cycle. As part of its comprehensive transfer eligibility package, the Council also referred a review of the concept of guaranteed degree-completion athletics aid for four-year transfer student-athletes within the division's forthcoming comprehensive financial aid review to this committee.
- 8. Future videoconferences.**

 - a. Monthly videoconferences via Microsoft Teams.**

 - (1) Noon Eastern time Monday, December 21.

(2) 1 p.m. Eastern time Monday, February 15, 2021.

b. Videoconferences as part of Council meetings.

(1) 1 p.m. Eastern time Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Committee Chair: Justin Sell, South Dakota State University
Staff Liaisons: D.J. Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs
Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs
Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs
Quintin Wright, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee November 16, 2020, Videoconference
Attendees:
Ross Bjork, Texas A&M University, College Station.
Kim Capriotti, Jacksonville University.
Charles Cobb, Georgia State University.
Alicia Cooperman, James Madison University (Student-Athlete).
Shawn Heilbron, Stony Brook University.
Chris May, St. Louis University.
Erik Price, Pac-12 Conference.
Justin Sell, South Dakota State University.
Jaunelle White, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
Katie Willett, Big East Conference.
Absentees:
Vedika Anand, Wagner College (Student-Athlete).
Blake James, University of Miami (Florida).
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
D.J. Brown, Brandy Hataway, Karen Metzger and Quintin Wright.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jenn Fraser, Marnae Mawdsley, Michelle Hosick and Jerry Vaughn.