



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **2021 NCAA Convention Legislation - NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.3.1.6.1 and 14.5.4.3.4 - Eligibility - Freshman Academic Requirements and Two-Year College Transfer Regulations - Nonqualifiers - Access to Athletics Aid.**

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2021 NCAA Convention to amend NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.3.1.6.1 (eligibility for aid, practice and competition – nonqualifier) and 14.5.4.3.4 (practice and receipt of athletics aid - nonqualifier) to permit a nonqualifier to receive athletics aid during their first academic year in residence; further, to specify that a two-year college transfer who does not meet requirements for practice and competition may receive athletics aid immediately on transfer from a two-year college.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2021, for student-athletes enrolling in a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2021.
- (3) Rationale. This proposal would allow access to institutional athletics aid to all incoming student-athletes and two-year college transfers regardless of their initial-eligibility status. During the last three certification cycles, 97 percent of all initial-eligibility waivers for nonqualifiers were granted access to athletics aid. Given the high percentage of approvals, this legislative change would allow an institution to make the determination as to whether to provide institutional athletics aid during the required academic year in residence or on transfer from a two-year college. Institutional athletics aid provided to a nonqualifier would count toward the individual limit and team maximum equivalency limits, which would eliminate any recruiting or competitive advantage.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. Institutions would be limited to awarding the maximum limits on financial aid for individuals and teams.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. A student-athlete who was certified as a nonqualifier would be allowed to receive institutional athletically related financial aid during the initial year of enrollment or following transfer from a two-year college.

2. Nonlegislative item.

- **Previously Approved Waiver Checklist - Addition of Sport-Specific Coach to Individuals Defined in Personal Hardship Criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council amend the previously approved waiver checklist of the Division II progress-toward-degree requirements to expand the current list of individuals death, diagnosis of terminal illness or hospitalization would create a personal hardship for a student-athlete to include a sport-specific coach.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. In many cases, a student-athlete's sport-specific coach serves as a role model and mentor, much like a secondary family member. A death, diagnosis of terminal illness or hospitalization of a sport-specific coach may have a direct academic impact on a student-athlete. This addition to the previously approved checklist of the progress-toward-degree requirements would allow institutions to self-apply relief on campus during what could be a very difficult and sensitive time and meets the intent of the checklist.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Varies. The time required to receive waiver relief may be reduced because the institution may apply the directive instead of filing a waiver request.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion regarding nonqualifier financial aid access.** The committee received an update on feedback received regarding legislation that restricts athletics aid to nonqualifiers and two-year college transfers who do not meet the transfer requirements, in the initial year of enrollment. As a result of the discussion, the committee recommended sponsorship of 2021 Convention legislation to permit nonqualifiers to receive athletics aid during their first year of enrollment [see Legislative Action item]. Further, the committee directed staff to gather feedback related to providing access to practice for nonqualifiers. The committee agreed it would be appropriate to seek additional feedback from the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Division II Coaches Connection groups and will review the feedback during its June teleconference.
2. **Review of Graduation Rates and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rates.** Staff provided an annual review of trends in current graduation rates and academic success rates. Overall, the federal graduation rate for student-athletes on scholarship has increased by four percent since 2011 and remains higher than the general student-body. In September 2019, following a review of factors contributing to the low ASRs among African-American male student-athletes, the committee directed staff to gather feedback from the Faculty Athletics Representative Association during its November 2019 meeting for continued discussion. Staff provided an update on feedback received and was directed to continue the review for further discussion.

3. **Discussion regarding national academic recognition.** At the request of the membership, the committee reviewed the possibility of expanding the NCAA Division II Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence to include a recognition of the teams with the highest ASR in their sport. The committee agreed that more information was needed and requested that staff provide additional data to revisit the topic during its June teleconference.
4. **Update on NCAA Division II Academic Performance Census data submission.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions that requested extensions of their APC deadline for the 2019-20 academic year. A total of 16 institutions requested extensions in 2019.
5. **Review of institutions failing to submit APC data by the deadline.** Staff reviewed the list of institutions that failed to submit APC data by the fall 2019 deadline. The list included: Kentucky State University and West Liberty University. Both institutions are subject to the penalty set forth in NCAA Constitution 3.3.4.16 (failure to submit data). The committee reviewed a request from Kentucky State University to waive the penalty set forth in Constitution 3.3.4.16 for failing to submit APC data by the original deadline of 15 weeks after the institution's first day of classes of the fall term, or by the extended deadline. The committee denied the waiver request due to lack of extenuating circumstances. Staff also reviewed the current waiver process and a chart detailing the history of all APC waiver requests to assist the committee in developing a standard of review. The committee directed staff to complete a legislative history of the penalty structures of the ASR and the APC for review during its June teleconference.
6. **Name, image and likeness update.** Staff provided an update on name, image and likeness issues discussed at the 2020 Convention. The committee provided feedback on the various concepts to be discussed with the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee in March. The committee will continue to receive updates at future meetings.
7. **Update on the impact of new initial-eligibility standards.** Staff provided an update on the impact of new initial-eligibility standards that took effect August 1, 2018. There was no substantial impact in the first year of data following the legislative change. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of the group that changed from full qualifier to partial qualifier status after the legislative change, as their academic performance was lower than predicted.
8. **Update on 2019-20 initial-eligibility certification data.** The committee received an update on academic certification data that reflects the new Division II initial-eligibility standards that took effect August 1, 2018. The data included the last three years of certifications and indicated a minimal impact after applying automatic waiver criteria.
9. **Review of 2019-20 NCAA Division II initial-eligibility waiver data and discuss 2020-21 partial-approval policy.** The committee received an overview of the data related to initial-eligibility waivers processed for the 2019-20 certification cycle and discussed whether to permit a student-athlete with a partially approved initial-eligibility waiver for athletics aid to also gain access to practice. The committee agreed that a guideline change should be delayed pending membership feedback on a potential legislative change.

10. **Update on ACT/SAT validity study.** Staff provided an update related to the NCAA's ongoing validity study of use of the ACT and SAT in initial eligibility scales. Staff will continue to update the committee on next steps during its June teleconference.
11. **Feedback on previously approved waiver checklist.** Staff reviewed feedback it received from the membership regarding clarifying and expanding the current checklist. The committee approved the addition of the death, diagnosis of terminal illness or hospitalization of a student-athlete's sport-specific coach to the list of individuals who would create a personal hardship for the student-athlete. The committee also discussed the criteria for high achieving student-athletes to determine whether the certification of high achieving student-athletes entering the final season of competition could include attendance at a two-year institution during the academic year prior to the deficiency. The committee did not approve this change. [See Nonlegislative Action item].
12. **Update on academic advising initiative grant program.** Staff updated the committee on the inaugural year of the academic advising initiative grant program. The three institutions that received grant funding for the 2019-20 cycle included: University of Mount Olive; University of Wisconsin-Parkside; and Southern Wesleyan University.
13. **Review of 2019 GOALS survey results.** NCAA research staff provided a review of the five key areas related to issues regarding Division II student-athlete satisfaction.
14. **Update on NCAA Division I academic misconduct interpretation issues.** Staff provided an update regarding recommendations by a Division I working group designed to review the current interpretation and application of academic misconduct legislation. The committee will continue to receive updates and measure any potential impact to Division II. The committee also received an update on transfer legislation being considered by the Division I membership.
15. **Update on Division II educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2020-21 educational initiatives that included dates and locations for 2020-21 NCAA Regional Rules Seminars and Regional Compliance Seminars.
16. **Review of the October 2019 NCAA International Student Records Committee report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the October 2019 International Student Records Committee meeting.
17. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee September 2019 report and November 2019 electronic communication.** The committee reviewed and approved reports from the September 2019 in-person meeting and the November 2019 electronic communication.
18. **Review of the 2019 Academic Requirements Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the updated roster.
19. **Discussion regarding the NCAA Division II Presidents Council and Division II Management Council January 2020 Summary of Actions.** The committee received an update from the January 2020 meetings of the Management Council and Presidents Council.

- 20. Review of NCAA Division II newly adopted legislation.** The committee reviewed the 13 proposals that were adopted at the 2020 Convention.
- 21. Election of committee chair.** The committee elected Jessica Swiney, registrar, King University, to serve as chair, effective September 1, 2020.
- 22. Future meeting schedule.**
- a. June 2020; teleconference, date to be determined.
 - b. September 16; in-person meeting; Indianapolis.
 - c. February 8, 2021; in-person meeting; Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Christina Whetsel, Augusta University

*Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs
Markie Cook, Research*

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 10, 2020, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Timothy Briles, Georgian Court University.	
Christopher Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
David Haase, University of West Georgia.	
Felicia Johnson, Virginia Union University.	
Tim Ladd, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Cheryl Lovell, Adams State University.	
Doug Peters, Minnesota State University Moorhead.	
Kelli Peterson, Cameron University.	
Jessica Swiney, King University.	
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University.	
Christina Whetsel, Augusta University.	
Absentees:	
Olivia Fought, Southern Arkansas University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Jake Renie, University of Indianapolis.	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Susan Britsch and Markie Cook.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ashley Beaton, Lydia Bell, Emily Capehart, Jenny Collins, Alyson Grady, Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Maritza Jones, Jordan Lysiak, Mike Massa, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red, Gregg Summers and Karen Wolf.	