



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
JUNE 4, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- **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 Practice.**

- (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 nonqualifiers to practice in the first academic year of residence. Further, the committee recommends two separate proposals, one for nonqualifier access to athletics aid and practice and one for nonqualifier access to athletics aid only (which would only be voted on if the first proposal is defeated).

[Note: The Division II Presidents Council and Management Council approved, in concept, the committee's legislative recommendation from its February 2020 in-person meeting to permit a nonqualifier to receive institutional athletics aid during their first academic year in residence.]

- (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 practice to all incoming student-athletes and two-year college transfers in their first year of enrollment regardless of their initial-eligibility status. During the last **six** certification cycles, 97 percent of all initial-eligibility waivers for nonqualifiers were granted access to athletics aid, at a minimum. This legislative change would allow an institution to make the determination as to whether to permit nonqualifiers to practice in their first year of enrollment. Access to practice may help institutions with retention, enrollment management and a feeling of belonging for student-athletes.
- (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 practice during their first academic year of residence or following transfer from a two-year college.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Discussion regarding nonqualifier access to practice.** The committee received an update on feedback from the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Division II Coaches Connection groups related to providing access to practice for nonqualifiers during the first academic year of residence. As a result of the discussion, the committee recommended sponsorship of 2021 NCAA Convention legislation to permit nonqualifiers to practice during the first academic year of residence. Staff also provided the committee with an update that the Presidents Council and Management Council approved, in concept, its legislative recommendation from the February 2020 in-person meeting to permit a nonqualifier to receive institutional athletics aid during their first academic year in residence during the spring 2020 quarterly governance meetings.
- 2. Review of the Academic Requirements Committee April 10 and 23, 2020, video conference reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports of the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee's April videoconferences as presented.
- 3. Review of the NCAA Division II Presidents Council and NCAA Division II Management Council April/May 2020 Summary of Actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the April/May 2020 meetings of the Presidents Council and the Management Council.
- 4. Review of March 2020 NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award Committee Report.** The committee reviewed the report of the Division II Degree Completion Award Committee's March 2020 meeting. The committee selected 90 awardees and eight alternates for the 2020-21 academic year. Changes were made to the rubric and will be implemented during the 2021-22 selection process.
- 5. Update regarding actions taken by the NCAA Division II Administrative Committee related to academic regulations and policies.** The committee received an update on the actions taken by the Administrative Committee on issues related to academic regulations and policies.
- 6. Review of 2020-21 Division II Two-Year College Transfer and Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Directives.** The committee reviewed and approved the two-year college transfer and progress-toward-degree waiver directives for the 2020-21 academic year.
- 7. Review of 2020-21 Previously Approved Waiver Checklist.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2020-21 waiver checklist to include the death, diagnosis of terminal

illness or hospitalization of a student-athlete's coach to the list of individuals who would define personal hardship, and to clarify that high achieving students entering their final season of competition, could not include attendance at two-year institution during the academic year prior to the deficiency.

8. **Review of 2020-21 NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers' policies and procedures for the 2020-21 academic year.
9. **Review of Initial-Eligibility Waiver Statistics for 2019-20.** The committee was provided an update on initial-eligibility waiver statistics for the 2019-20 academic year.
10. **Review of 2020-21 Division II Initial-Eligibility Waiver Directive.** The committee reviewed and approved the initial-eligibility waiver directive for the 2020-21 academic year.
11. **Review of 2020-21 NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers' policies and procedures for the 2020-21 academic year.
12. **Review of Prospective Student-Athlete Review Statistics for 2019-20.** The committee was provided an update on prospective student-athlete review statistics for the 2019-20 academic year.
13. **Review of April 2020 NCAA Student Records Review Committee Report.** The committee reviewed the report of the Student Records Review Committee's April 2020 teleconference.
14. **Review of 2020-21 Student Records Review Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the Student Records Review Committee's policies and procedures for the 2020-21 academic year.
15. **Review of April 2020 NCAA International Student Records Committee Report.** The committee reviewed the report of the International Student Records Committee's April 2020 teleconference.
16. **Review of 2020-21 International Student Records Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the International Student Records Committee's policies and procedures for the 2020-21 academic year.

17. **Review of April 2020 NCAA High School Review Committee Reports.** The committee reviewed the reports of the High School Review Committee's April 2020 video conference and electronic vote.
18. **Review of 2020-21 High School Review Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the High School Review Committee's policies and procedures for the 2020-21 academic year.
19. **Update on ACT/SAT Validity Study.** Staff provided an update on the timetable for research related to use of the ACT and SAT in initial-eligibility scales. Specifically, staff noted that the study is postponed due to factors related to staff resources and changes related to the ACT/SAT as a result of COVID-19.
20. **Update on the Academic Portal.** Staff reviewed changes to the academic portal including the removal of several fields in the form. Additionally, the committee was given an update on the status of graduation rates submission. The committee was reminded that this will be the first year that Academic Performance Census data for the 2020-21 academic year will include all student-athletes on squad lists, not just those in the cohort definitions.
21. **Review of 2020-21 Committee Roster and Subcommittee Appointments.** The committee appointed Bennett Cherry, faculty athletics representative, California State University, San Marcos, to the Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers and Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers, effective September 1, 2020. The committee appointed Karen Hjerpe, director of athletics, California University of Pennsylvania to the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers, effective September 1, 2020. The committee appointed Jessica Swiney, registrar, King University, to the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee, effective September 1, 2020.
22. **Update on Division II Education Initiatives.** Staff provided the committee with an update that due to budgetary and travel limitations the in-person NCAA Regional Rules Seminars have been cancelled for the 2020-21 academic year; however, the seminars will be conducted virtually in May/June 2021.
23. **Future Scheduled Meetings.**
 - a. September 16, 2020: videoconference.
 - b. February 8, 2021: in-person meeting; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Committee Chair: Christina Whetsel, Augusta University
Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs
Markie Cook, Research

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee June 4, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Timothy Briles, Georgian Court University.	
David Haase, University of West Georgia.	
Tim Ladd, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Cheryl D. Lovell, Adams State University.	
Kelli J. Peterson, Cameron University.	
Jessica Swiney, King University.	
Christina Whetsel, Augusta University, chair.	
Absentees:	
Olivia Fought, Southern Arkansas University.	
Felicia Johnson, Virginia Union University.	
Doug Peters, Minnesota State University Moorhead.	
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Susan Britsch and Markie Cook.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Allie Grady, Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Maritza Jones, Mike Massa, Sarah Overpeck, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red and Karen Wolf.	