



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5.2, 14.5.3.2, 14.5.3.3 – Eligibility – Transfer Regulations – Conditions Affecting Transfer Status – Attendance at a Branch School or Second Campus that Conducts an Intercollegiate Athletics Program.**
  - (a) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.5.2 (conditions affecting transfer status), 14.5.3.2 (branch school) and 14.5.3.3 (second campus of institution) to specify that a student triggers transfer status if he or she was enrolled at a branch school or second campus of an institution that conducted an intercollegiate athletics program and transfers to any institution, including the parent institution.
  - (b) Effective date. Immediate.
  - (c) Rationale. Several NCAA institutions operate multiple campuses, and, in some cases, they are operating more than one athletics department. Current legislation in all three divisions indicates that a student is not considered a transfer if they move from a branch school that conducts an intercollegiate athletics program to the parent institution. However, this legislation is inconsistent with guidance provided to member institutions that conduct an athletics program at a branch school. In addition, current legislation does not address the transfer status of a student who attends a second campus of an institution that also conducts an intercollegiate athletics program. This proposal will reduce confusion by clarifying that a student-athlete should always be treated as a transfer, even if transferring within an educational system.
  - (d) Estimated budget impact. None.
  - (e) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would be required to meet applicable transfer requirements to be eligible at the parent or second campus.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Discussion regarding academic requirements for a two-year college transfer utilizing return to original institution exception.** The committee discussed the application of the two-year college transfer legislation and agreed to issue the following official interpretation and incorporate into the Division II Manual:

**Two-Year College Transfer Regulations – Return to Original Institution After Completion of Requirements (II).**

The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that a student-athlete with a previous progress-toward-degree deficiency who returns to their original institution after full-time attendance at a two-year institution may be immediately eligible for competition without rectifying the original deficiency provided the two-year college transfer requirements have been met prior to participation.

[References: Division II Bylaws 14.5.4.1 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid – graduation from two-year college), 14.5.4.3 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid – all others, qualifiers, partial qualifiers and nonqualifiers), 14.5.4.5 (two-year college transfer regulations), 14.5.4.6 (exceptions or waivers for transfers from two-year colleges) and 14.5.4.6.4 (return to original institution exception)]

- 2. Discussion regarding application of two-year college legislation for student-athletes who graduate from a two-year college.** The committee discussed the application of the two-year college transfer legislation and agreed to issue the following official interpretation and incorporate it into the Division II Manual:

**Application of Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid – Graduation from Two-Year College (II).**

The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that the requirements of the two-year college transfer legislation applicable to a two-year college transfer who has previously attended a four-year institution as a full-time student during his or her academic career, shall only consider associates degrees earned at a two-year college after the last full-time enrollment at a four-year college.

[References: Division II Bylaws 14.5.4.1 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid – graduation from two-year college and 14.5.4.1.1 (application).]

3. **Review of 2020 Convention Division II proposals.** Staff provided a review regarding the 13 proposals that will be presented for a membership vote at the upcoming Convention. Additionally, the Division II Presidents Council referred the following membership-sponsored proposal to the committee for review. The committee agreed to take the following position on the proposal:
  - Proposal No. 1-3 Recruiting – Letter-of-Intent Programs, Financial Aid Agreements – Transcript Prior to National Letter of Intent or Written Offer of Athletics Aid – Elimination of Current Transcript Requirement. The Division II Academic Requirements Committee agreed to oppose this proposal. The committee noted the importance of having current academic information for a prospective student-athlete prior to offering a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement, which ensures that the institution can make informed decisions on how to allocate scholarship dollars and prospective student-athletes can be properly advised on their academic status. The committee acknowledged that a current transcript is no longer required for official visits; however, there is a minimal financial impact associated with an official visit (e.g., lodging, meals, transportation) compared to the cost of an athletics scholarship.
4. **Discussion regarding nonqualifier financial aid access.** The committee discussed whether it is appropriate to begin a review of legislation that restricts financial aid to nonqualifiers in the initial year of enrollment. The committee reviewed initial eligibility waiver data that indicates a significant number of these waivers are approved to provide athletically related financial aid to student-athletes who request relief. The committee agreed it would be appropriate to seek additional feedback during fall meetings (e.g., Division II Athletics Directors Association, Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators, Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) and to continue the discussion at the February 2020 in-person meeting.
5. **Discuss change to Academic Performance Census cohort.** The committee reviewed membership feedback related to potential changes to the APC cohort. Results indicate that 77 percent of all respondents favor the inclusion of all student-athletes who appear on an eligibility list in the collection of data. The committee agreed to change the APC cohort definition to include all student-athletes that appear on the eligibility list and identify individuals who participate on the junior-varsity level only. Further, staff was asked to consider collecting data on junior-varsity participants for future use.

6. **Preview of Federal Graduation Rate and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate data.** The committee received a preview of the Federal Graduation Rate and ASR data that will be released to the public in mid-October. NCAA research staff presented data on trends in the Federal Graduation Rate and ASR.
7. **Review of study on trends in Academic Success Rates of African-American male student-athletes.** The committee received an update related to the study of factors contributing to the low ASRs among Division II African-American male student-athletes. The analysis revealed that high-school core grade-point average is the best predictor of graduation success, not only for African-American males but for all Divisions I and II student-athletes.
8. **Update on the impact of Path to Graduation changes in two-year college transfer legislation.** The committee reviewed statistics related to the impact that 2016 Path to Graduation changes to academic requirements has had on student-athlete progress. Initial results indicate the changes have resulted in improved academic preparation of two-year transfers and increased academic success of two-year transfers at Division II institutions.
9. **Discussion regarding branch campuses.** The committee discussed current branch campus legislation and whether it should recommend sponsorship of noncontroversial legislation to specify that a student-athlete triggers transfer status if they participate in athletics at a branch campus and then transfer to the parent institution. The committee agreed to sponsor noncontroversial legislation to specify that a student would trigger transfer status if he or she was enrolled at a branch school or second campus of an institution that conducted an intercollegiate athletics program and transfers to any institution, including the parent institution [see Legislative Action Item].
10. **Update on the SAT and ACT 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. It is anticipated initial data will be presented during the February 2020 meeting and potential recommendations will be available in summer and fall 2020.
11. **Review of waiver precedent archiving process.** Staff reviewed the current retention policy as it relates to the archiving of academic waivers in the Requests/Self-Reports Online system. Current retention practice is three years. The committee confirmed three years is appropriate and requested staff update the policies and procedures.
12. **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. Recommendations for the addition of clarifying language has been drafted and will be voted on by the Division I membership during the 2020 Convention. If adopted, the committee would be asked to review the clarifying language during its February 2020 meeting.

13. **Overview of the NCAA transfer portal.** The committee received a demonstration of updates made to the transfer portal that are currently available to the membership.
14. **Update on Division II educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2019-20 educational initiatives that include Division II University user data and new modules, as well as dates and locations for 2019-20 NCAA Regional Rules Seminars and Regional Compliance Seminars.
15. **Review of 2019-20 Division II priorities.** Staff provided an update on the 2019-20 Division II priorities.
16. **Review of the June 2019 Academic Requirements Committee teleconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its June 2019 teleconference report.
17. **Review of the July/August 2019 NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Presidents Council summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the July and August 2019 meetings of the Management Council and the Presidents Council.
18. **Campus updates and issues.** The committee discussed academic updates and issues at their institutions.
19. **Future meeting schedule.** The committee affirmed February 10-11, 2020, as the dates for its winter 2020 in-person meeting. Staff will review and communicate available dates for its June 2020 teleconference and September 2020 in-person meeting.

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

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee September 12, 2019, In-Person Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Timothy Briles, Georgian Court University.	
Olivia Fought, Southern Arkansas University.	
Felicia Johnson, Virginia Union University.	
Tim Ladd, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Laura Liesman, Georgian Court University.	
Kelli Peterson, Cameron University.	
Eric Schoh, Winona State University.	
Travis Smith, University of Indianapolis.	
Jessica Swiney, King University.	
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University.	
Christina Whetsel, Augusta University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Cheryl Lovell, Adams State University	
<b>NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Susan Britsch and Markie Cook.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Emily Capehart, Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Maritza Jones, Jordan Lysiak, Susan Peal, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red, Karen Wolf and Michael Woo.	