



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE RELIEF COMMITTEE  
APRIL 2, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee information standards, guidelines and directives.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve the updated Legislative Relief Committee information standards, guidelines and directives, as specified. [See Attachment.]

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The Legislative Relief Committee's information standards, guidelines and directives do not account for recent trends in legislative relief waivers and represent guidance that has not been substantially amended in several years. An update to the committee's information standards, guidelines and directives is necessary to best address the needs of student-athletes involved in legislative relief waivers.

Specifically, when considering legislative relief waivers involving NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.4.2 (participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment), the committee removed the directive that misinformation or a lack of information provided from institutional personnel shall not, in itself, warrant relief of the legislation. The committee determined that a directive should be established to specify that misinformation provided by a Division II member institution may warrant relief in certain scenarios. Additionally, the committee determined that a directive should be established to provide relief when a student-athlete transfers because the student-athlete's original institution lost its regional accreditation.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of Legislative Relief Committee cases decided from August 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025, by the NCAA staff and committee.** The committee reviewed cases

decided by staff and the committee from August 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025. A total of 82 cases were submitted in Division II, with 64 of those cases decided by staff during this time period. Of the 64 cases decided, staff approved 37 cases, 19 of which were approved with conditions. There were five cases approved based on the totality of the circumstances, with the committee affirming staff's decision in all five cases. Additionally, staff denied 21 cases, six of which were appealed to the committee. The committee affirmed the staff decision in four cases and overturned staff's decision in two cases.

2. **Review of the Legislative Relief Committee information standards, guidelines and directives.** The committee discussed and provided feedback on its information standards, guidelines and directives. The committee recommended a change to its information standards, guidelines and directives regarding participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment. Specifically, the committee took action to remove the directive that misinformation or a lack of information provided from institutional personnel shall not, in itself, warrant relief of the legislation and to establish a new directive to specify that misinformation provided by a Division II member institution may warrant relief in certain scenarios. Additionally, the committee determined that a directive should be established to provide relief when a student-athlete transfers because the student-athlete's original institution lost its regional accreditation [see Nonlegislative Action Item]. Additionally, the committee recommended updates throughout its information standards, guidelines and directives regarding participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment to remove all references to the academic year in residence that a student-athlete must serve if they are charged with the use of a season of competition per the organized competition legislation due to the adoption of NCAA Division II Proposal No. NC-2026-5 (eligibility -- athletics eligibility -- seasons of competition:10-semester/15-quarter rule -- criteria for determining season of eligibility -- participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment -- elimination of academic year in residence requirement). Further, the committee recommended the addition of a directive for staff to approve legislative relief waivers tied to participation in organized competition before initial collegiate enrollment when a student-athlete experiences a personal hardship (e.g., injury/illness, financial hardship) which leads to the student-athlete's inability to avail themselves of the opportunity to compete during their legislated grace period.

Finally, the committee recommended a change to its information standards, guidelines and directives regarding four-year college transfers. In light of the adoption of Proposal No. EM-2025-1 (eligibility -- academic and general requirements -- transfer regulations -- four-year transfer -- four-year undergraduate transfer student-athletes) which amended the four-year college transfer legislation, the committee determined that holistic changes to its information standards, guidelines and directives were necessary to align with the legislation. Specifically, the committee recommended the elimination of the following sections of the information standards, guidelines and directives: (1) Assertions of Academic and Athletics Reasons; (2) Transfer-Residency Requirement Due to a Division II Student-Athlete Not Providing Written Notification of Transfer by the June 15 Deadline; and (3) Waiver Requests Involving Lack of Support from the Previous Institution. In addition, the committee recommended broadening the personal hardship and egregious behavior

guidelines to incorporate circumstances related to athletics reasons for transfer and education-impacting disabilities.

The committee will review an updated draft of its information standards, guidelines and directives during a future meeting to take formal action.

3. **Review of the Legislative Relief Committee's policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its policies and procedures.
4. **Approval of the Legislative Relief Committee's October 2, 2024, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its October 2, 2024, videoconference report, as written.
5. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors' most recent meeting.
6. **Review of proposals adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.** Staff provided an update regarding legislation adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.
7. **Review of the fall 2024 and winter 2025 NCAA Division II Executive Board and NCAA Division II Management Council summary of actions.** The committee received an update on the summary of actions from the fall 2024 and winter 2025 meetings of the Executive Board and Management Council.
8. **Future scheduled videoconferences.**
  - a. September/October 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
  - b. March 2026, videoconference; timing to be determined.

*Committee Chair:* Marcie Haduca Covell, California State University, East Bay  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Rachel Denton, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Jordan Lysiak, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee April 2, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jackie Armstrong, Point Loma Nazarene University.	
Rob Fiedler, University of Tampa.	
Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University.	
Marcie Haduca Covell, California State University, East Bay.	
Erin Harvey, Wilmington University (Delaware).	
<b>Absentees:</b>	

Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Rachel Denton and Jordan Lysiak.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Morgan Melchert, Angela Red and Megan Villanueva.