



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF
MARCH 16, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Guideline for Assertions of Injury/Illness (Student-Athlete's Relative or Legal Guardian).**
 - (1) Recommendation. To update the guideline for waivers seeking relief of NCAA Bylaw 14.5 (transfer regulations) based on assertions of injury/illness, as specified. [See Attachment.]
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. The guideline for assertions of injury/illness has not been updated since 2013. The NCAA academic and membership affairs staff has received waivers seeking relief of the transfer year in residence requirement that involved an asserted injury or illness to the student-athlete's grandparent(s) or other non-immediate family member(s) as the primary basis for relief. The current guideline states that staff should consider relief of the legislation for circumstances involving an injury or illness to a student-athlete's immediate family member, which does not include grandparents or other relatives. Extending the guideline to grandparents and relatives outside of the student-athlete's immediate family is necessary due to differences in familial relationships that are unique to each student-athlete.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Relief of the transfer year-in-residence requirement will be considered for circumstances involving a medically documented debilitating injury or illness to a student-athlete's relative.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief roster.** The committee reviewed the updated roster.

2. **Review of the September 26, 2017, Committee for Legislative Relief report to the NCAA Division II Management Council.** The committee reviewed the September 2017 report and approved it as written.
3. **Review of October 2017 and January 2018 NCAA Division II Management Council and Presidents Council Summary of Actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the Management Council and Presidents Council October 2017 and January 2018 meetings.
4. **Review of NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Conflict of Interest policy and reiterated the importance of committee members recusing themselves if a conflict exists.
5. **Review of the Division II Strategic Plan and NCAA website.** The committee reviewed a progress report on the implementation of the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan and corresponding educational materials on the NCAA website.
6. **Review of Committee for Legislative Relief cases decided from August 1, 2017, through January 31, 2018, by the NCAA staff and committee.** The committee reviewed cases decided by staff and the committee from August 1, 2017, through January 31, 2018. A total of 209 cases were submitted in Division II and 182 cases were decided by staff and the committee during this time period. Of the 182 cases decided, staff approved 136 cases, 70 of which were approved with conditions. Eight of the 136 cases were approved based on the totality of the circumstances. Of the eight cases approved based on the totality of the circumstances, seven were approved based on a new NCAA Eligibility Center process for amateurism certifications when a high school graduation date cannot be determined. [See Informational Item No. 7.] The committee reviewed another case based on the totality of the circumstances and noted that the case should be archived. Additionally, the staff denied 41 cases, 17 of which were appealed to the committee. The committee affirmed the staff decision in 15 cases.
7. **Discussion regarding the NCAA Eligibility Center process for amateurism certifications when a graduation date cannot be determined.** The committee received an update regarding the NCAA Eligibility Center process for amateurism certification when a graduation date cannot be determined (e.g., loss or destruction of high school records). In these situations, the institution may request a legislative relief waiver with a signed disclaimer form and objective documentation from an academic authority confirming when the student-athlete started the ninth grade. An NCAA Eligibility Center staff member will participate in the committee's September 2018 teleconference to provide additional information about the required documentation and implementation of the new policy.

8. **Review of newly adopted legislation.** The committee received an update regarding NCAA Proposal No. 2018-4 (playing and practice seasons – football – preseason practice – first practice date – championship segment). Specifically, it was noted that although Proposal No. 2018-4 was limited to the date that football preseason practice may begin and did not address other aspects of the blanket waivers approved for the 2017 preseason (the use of footballs during walkthroughs, meetings during the three-hour break between sessions involving physical activity), the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to incorporate the other aspects of waiver relief approved for the 2017 preseason into the preseason practice legislation. It was also noted that the Management Council will review the noncontroversial proposal in legislative form at its meeting in April 2018.
9. **Update on waivers approved for natural disasters.** The committee received an overview of the natural disaster waivers processed by the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff between August 1 through November 30, 2017. The waiver requests were related to the hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico during fall 2017 and fell into two categories: (1) Requests for an additional exhibition contest in basketball to raise money for hurricane relief efforts; and (2) Requests for an extension of the nonchampionship segment and tryouts due to institutional closures. A total of 29 cases were submitted in Division II, of which 27 were approved, one denied because the contest was scheduled prior to the first permissible contest date and one withdrawn by the applicant institution. The approved waiver requests were approved on a one-time basis and with conditions.
10. **Update on discussion regarding transfer requirements for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics student-athletes.** The committee received an overview of the feedback received from the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee regarding a possible academic requirement for NAIA transfer student-athletes. The committee also received an update regarding a potential legislative change to eliminate the requirement to receive written consent to use the one-time transfer exception from NAIA institutions. The committee was informed that the Legislation Committee agreed that a legislative change is not necessary at this time. The Legislation Committee directed staff to continue to monitor waivers regarding student-athletes transferring from NAIA institutions and it will review the issue at its November 2018 in-person meeting.
11. **Chair election.** The committee elected Audra Kedy, Great American Conference, to serve a two-year term as chair, effective September 1, 2018.
12. **Future meeting date.** Staff noted that a teleconference is anticipated in September 2018 and additional information will be provided at a later date.

Committee Chair: Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Staff Liaison(s): Chelsea Crawford, Academic and Membership Affairs
Geoff Bentzel, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief March 16, 2018, Teleconference	
Attendees:	
Marcus Clarke, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Laura Clayton Eady, University of West Georgia; Gulf South Conference.	
Audra Kedy, Great American Conference.	
Hayley Ross-Treadway, University of Illinois at Springfield; Great Lakes Valley Conference.	
Absentees:	
Joshua Doody, Notre Dame de Namur University; Pacific West Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Geoff Bentzel and Chelsea Crawford.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Maritza Jones, Stephanie Quigg Smith and Karen Wolf.	