

## REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MARCH 18-19, 2025, IN-PERSON MEETING

#### **ACTION ITEMS.**

- 1. Legislative items.
  - a. Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.4 -- NCAA Division II Membership and Institutional Control -- Financial Donations from Outside Organizations -- Relationships with Third-Party Organizations.
    - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 7.4 (financial donations from outside organizations), as specified.
    - (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
    - Rationale. Currently, the legislation permits an institution or conference to enter into a sponsorship/partnership agreement with a third-party organization (e.g., professional sport leagues) so long as the organization is not identified as a sponsor. There have been ongoing discussions on ways the national office may build relationships with third-party organizations. Deregulating Bylaw 7.4 will provide institutions, conferences and the national office with the discretion to enter into agreements with a third-party organization, while maintaining appropriate guardrails.
    - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
    - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
  - b. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 14.2.6 -- Eligibility -- Academic Eligibility -- Eligibility for Male Students or Male Student-Athletes to Practice with Women's Teams.
    - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit a male practice player to receive travel expenses to participate in practice sessions in conjunction with an institution's away-from-home competition.
    - (2) <u>Effective Date</u>. Immediate.
    - (3) Rationale. Currently, male practice players may not receive any benefits or expenses set forth in Bylaw 16 (awards, benefits and expenses for enrolled student-athletes), including travel expenses in conjunction with an institution's away-from-home competition. It is common for male practice players to participate in practice sessions with women's teams for a variety of reasons such as roster depletion due to injury/illnesses. Allowing institutions the discretion to provide male practice players with travel

expenses to participate in practice sessions for an institution's away-fromhome competition will ensure the team can adequately prepare for an opponent in the same manner it would for a home competition.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
- c. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 17.02.15 -- Playing and Practice Seasons Definitions and Applications -- Tryouts -- Enrolled Student.
  - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to clarify that a medical examination for a currently enrolled student must be administered within six-months prior to participation in a tryout.
  - (2) Effective date. August 1, 2025.
  - (3) Rationale. With the adoption of NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2025-2 (recruiting and playing and practice seasons -- tryouts and general playing-season regulations -- mandatory medical examinations -- timing of medical examination), the timing of when a medical examination needs to be conducted prior to a tryout will be extended from six months to one year, effective August 1, 2025. However, since Bylaw 17.1.5 (mandatory medical examination) is a common provision, the timing by which a medical exam must occur prior to a tryout for a currently enrolled student will remain at six months, which conflicts with the legislation outlined in Bylaw 17.02.15 (tryouts -- enrolled student). Amending this bylaw will eliminate any confusion regarding the application of the common provision to currently enrolled students who are participating in a tryout.
  - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
  - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
- 2. Nonlegislative items.
  - a. Request to approve the 2025-26 Amateurism Fact-Finding Policies and Procedures.
    - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. That the NCAA Division II Management Council approve the 2025-26 Fact-Finding Policies and Procedures. [Attachment A]
    - (2) Effective date. Immediate.

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- (3) <u>Rationale</u>. The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee Legislative Review Subcommittee is charged with making factual determinations as part of the amateurism certification process. The policies and procedures outline that any revisions must be approved by the Management Council.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete well-being. None.

## b. Legislative referral to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Management Council request the Division II Women's Basketball Committee review Bylaw 17.32.1.8 (opponents) for consideration of a potential legislative change to permit Division II women's basketball teams to compete in one game against any opponent (e.g., NCAA, NAIA) during an institutional foreign tour.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Under current legislation, a team may not compete against other member institutions or American teams during a foreign tour. Allowing women's basketball teams to compete in one contest against any team while on a foreign tour will provide Division II institutions with additional opportunities to participate in guaranteed games during a foreign tour. Further, the recommendation will result in compelling matchups, which can drive additional interest in the sport. Finally, this recommendation will increase the exposure of Division II institutions, as the recruitment of international student-athletes continues to increase in women's basketball.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
- c. Request for feedback from the NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators -- Bylaw 15.
  - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. That the Management Council request that the Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators provide feedback on whether it is appropriate to amend Bylaw 15, as specified.
  - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
  - (3) <u>Rationale</u>. As part of the work of the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee, the Legislation Committee was charged with reviewing

Bylaw 15 (financial aid). The committee completed its review during its March 18-19, 2025, in-person meeting and requested feedback on whether amending Bylaw 15 is appropriate. Specifically, the committee is recommending, amending Bylaw 15.1.1 (eligibility of student-athletes for athletics aid) to permit a student-athlete to receive athletics aid beyond 10-semesters/15-quarters as specified; deregulating Bylaw 15.1.1.3 (retroactive athletics aid), to allow an institution to award retroactive athletics aid; amending Bylaw 15.2.2.3 (financial aid from an established and continuing program) to allow a student-athlete to receive financial aid through an established and continuing program with no restrictions; eliminating Bylaw 15.4.2.1.1.1 (overall limit) to allow an institution to award more than an equivalent of 60 total awards in all men's sports other than football and basketball; and amending Bylaw 15.4.2.2 (equivalency computations) to allow an institution to provide a student-athlete books as

a permissible benefit rather than part of a student-athlete's athletics aid.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) <u>Student-athlete well-being</u>. None.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Discussion regarding Division II legislation adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.
  - a. Proposal No. 2025-2 (recruiting and playing and practice seasons -- tryouts and general playing-season regulations -- mandatory medical examinations -- timing of medical examination). The committee discussed whether Bylaw 17.02.15 (tryouts -- enrolled student) should be amended to alleviate potential confusion amongst the membership regarding the timing of when a medical examination for currently enrolled students must occur. The committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 17.02.15, to specify that a medical examination for currently enrolled students must be administered within six months prior to participation in a tryout. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1c].
  - b. Proposal No. 2025-5 (eligibility -- athletics eligibility -- seasons of competition: 10-semester/15-quarter rule -- criteria for determining season of eligibility -- minimum amount of competition -- participation during initial year of collegiate enrollment). The committee reviewed and discussed the educational column associated with the adoption of Proposal No. 2025-5. Specifically, the committee discussed whether the educational column should be updated to clarify the application of the 30% calculation as it relates to a region challenge event in basketball. The committee recommended staff update the educational column to

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clarify that contests played in a region challenge event in basketball should be included when determining the 30% calculation.

- 2. Discussion regarding potential interactions between NCAA and third-party organizations. The committee continued its discussion regarding potential collaborations that would allow more opportunities for institutions and the NCAA to engage with third-party organizations (e.g., professional sports leagues). The committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 7.4 (financial donations from outside organizations) to provide more opportunities for institutions and the NCAA to engage with these entities. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1a.] The committee will review a draft of the legislative recommendation at its May 20-21 videoconference.
- 3. Discussion regarding the Implementation Committee's Legislative Process and Compliance Subcommittee priority two and three items. The committee continued its review on Bylaw 15 (financial aid) and reviewed data specific to the Division II equivalency limits. Based on the financial aid data from the NCAA Division II Institutional Performance Program, the committee determined a legislative change to the equivalency limits was not necessary at this time [Attachment B]. Further, the committee recognized that the potential action from the NCAA Division II Eligibility Review Working Group on the seasons of competition and period of eligibility legislation may require the committee to revisit the equivalency limits. The committee also discussed next steps regarding membership feedback on potential Bylaw 15 concepts. Specifically, the committee recommended that the Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators assist with gathering feedback on its recommended concepts. [See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2c.] Additionally, the committee continued its review of Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons) and will continue its discussion at its May 20-21 videoconference.
- 4. Review of the 2025-26 NCAA Eligibility Center Amateurism Certification Process Policies and Procedures and the 2025-26 Amateurism Fact-Finding Policies and Procedures. The committee reviewed and approved updates to the 2025-26 NCAA Eligibility Center Amateurism Certification Process Policies and Procedures and approved the 2025-26 Amateurism Fact-Finding Policies and Procedures. [See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2a.] [See Attachment A.] The committee also determined that the Legislative Committee Legislative Review Subcommittee shall have final authority to review and approve the Eligibility Center Amateurism Certification Process Policies and Procedures and the Amateurism Fact-Finding Policies and Procedures moving forward.
- 5. Review of the February 11, 2025, videoconference report of the Legislation Committee Legislative Review Subcommittee. The committee reviewed and approved the Legislative Review Subcommittee's February 11, 2025, videoconference report. The committee approved the subcommittee's recommendation for sponsorship of one noncontroversial proposal [Legislative Action Item No. 1b] and the referral of one legislative concept to the Division II Women's Basketball Committee [Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2b].

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6. Review of the February 24, 2025, videoconference report from the Legislation Committee Interpretations Subcommittee. The committee reviewed and approved the Interpretations Subcommittee's February 24, 2025, videoconference report. The committee approved the subcommittee's recommendation to issue an official interpretation and agreed to incorporate the interpretation into the Division II Manual.

# Removal of the Contact Prohibition Due to an Institution's Closure or Discontinuation of a Sports Program (II).

Date Issued: February 24, 2025

Date Published: Item Ref: 6

The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee Interpretations Subcommittee determined that a signed prospective student-athlete may be released from the contact prohibition once an institution announces its closure or discontinuation of the signed prospective student-athlete's sport. Once an institution publicly announces its closure or the discontinuation of the signed prospective student-athlete's sport, an institution must remove the prospective student-athlete's signed status from the appropriate NCAA application within seven business days of the announcement.

[References: NCAA Bylaws 13.1.1.2 (signed prospective student-athletes) and 13.1.1.2.1 (duration of contact prohibition)]

- 7. Review of the Legislation Committee's policies and procedures. The committee reviewed and approved updates to its policies and procedures.
- 8. Discussion on Division II recruiting calendars. The committee discussed the recruiting calendars for the 2025-26 academic year. Specifically, the committee discussed the deregulation of Bylaw 13 (recruiting) and the impact on the recruiting calendars moving forward. The committee recommended staff consolidate the recruiting calendars for the 2025-26 academic year.
- **9. Update on sports wagering review.** The committee received an update regarding the ongoing discussions related to the review of the sports wagering legislation.
- **10. Division II University update.** The committee received an update on the upcoming launch of the 2025-26 Coaches Certification Learning Plan. Specifically, the committee was notified that the NCAA Coaches Assist for Sexual Violence Prevention course would not be included in the learning plan. The committee did not recommend adding an additional course to replace the NCAA Coaches Assist for Sexual Violence Prevention course.
- 11. Overview of the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) Assist Platform. The committee received an overview of the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) Assist Platform.

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- **12. Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the most recent Board of Governors meeting.
- 13. Update from the NCAA Division II Executive Board and Management Council winter 2025 meetings. The committee received an update on the actions taken at the Executive Board and Management Council winter 2025 meetings.
- **14. Approval of the November 18-19, 2024, in-person meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its November 18-19, 2024, in-person meeting report.
- **15. Vice chair election.** The committee elected Ashley Grimm, associate director of athletics, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, as vice chair, effective immediately.
- **16. Subcommittee appointment.** The committee appointed Sandee Mott, director of athletics, Texas Woman's University, to the Interpretations Subcommittee, effective immediately.
- 17. Future meeting dates.
  - a. 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern time, May 5, 2025, videoconference.
  - b. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time, May 20, 2025, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time, May 21, videoconference.
  - c. November 17-18, 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
  - d. March 10-11, 2026, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Audra Kedy, Great American Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Chelsea Hooks, Academic and Membership Affairs

Rachel Denton, Academic and Membership Affairs Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs

## NCAA Division II Legislation Committee March 18-19, 2025, In-Person Meeting

## **Attendees:**

Matt Green, Flagler College.

Ashley Grimm, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Audra Kedy, Great American Conference.

Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University.

Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).

Deborah Rodgers, Tuskegee University.

Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.

Kevin Schriver, Southwest Baptist University.

Melissa Thacker, Cameron University.

## Absentees:

Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University.

Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University.

Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.

Christopher Ratcliff, Rogers State University.

## **Guests in Attendance:**

Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University.

Grace Hoeppner, Michigan Technological University.

## NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:

Rachel Denton, Chelsea Hooks and Megan Villanueva.

## Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Jeremy Christoffels, Danielle Day, Mike DeCesare, Terri Steeb Gronau, Molly Hansen, Brittney Jackson, Angela Red, Jared Tidemann and Sarah Turner.



## NCAA DIVISION I PREENROLLMENT AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATION COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

NCAA DIVISION III
INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR AMATEURISM FACT-FINDING

2025-26 AMATEURISM FACT-FINDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Legislated Duties. The NCAA Division I Preenrollment Amateurism Certification Committee (Division I Bylaw 21.10.6.6.4.2), Division II Legislation Committee Legislative Review Subcommittee (Division II Bylaw 8.4.3.5.2) and Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee Subcommittee for Amateurism Fact-Finding (Bylaw 21.9.5.8.2 [international prospective student-athletes only]) shall be responsible for making a determination of facts related to a PSA's amateurism certification, per the policies and procedures set forth herein.

## 2. Responsibilities.

- **a.** Develop policies and procedures regarding the amateurism fact-finding process.
- **b.** Determine fact-finding requests related to a PSA's amateurism certification.
  - Adhere to amateurism fact-finding policies and procedures.
- **c.** Provide annual fact-finding statistics to the Division I Legislative Committee, Division II Legislation Committee and Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee.
- **3. Composition and Reporting Lines.** The Division I Preenrollment Amateurism Certification Committee consists of seven members (Division I Bylaw 21.10.6.64.1.1), including four members from autonomy conferences (Division I Bylaw 9.2.2.1.1) and one member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee reports to the Division I Legislative Committee, which approves amateurism fact-finding policies and procedures.

The Division II Legislative Review Subcommittee consists of five members from the Division II Legislation Committee, and the Division II Management Council approves amateurism fact-finding policies and procedures.

The Division III Subcommittee for Amateurism Fact-Finding consists of five members from the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, which approves amateurism fact-finding policies and procedures.

- 4. Terms. Division I Preenrollment Amateurism Certification Committee members are appointed to one four-year term, which generally commences on September 1 after appointment. A committee member may be appointed to an additional term after three years have elapsed. An individual who has served two terms on the committee may not serve further. Service on the Division II Legislative Review Subcommittee runs concurrently with Division II Legislation Committee terms. Service on the Division III Subcommittee for Amateurism Fact-Finding runs concurrently with Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee terms.
- **5. Resignation.** If a committee member resigns, the individual must provide written notice to the staff liaison. Thereafter, procedures to solicit a new member will be initiated, and a new committee member will be appointed.

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**6. Chair Selection.** The staff liaison solicits nominations from committee members, and the committee appoints a chair and vice chair based on majority vote. The committee chair and vice chair serve in such capacity for the remainder of each individual's term.

#### 7. Duties.

#### a. Chair.

- (1) Review materials before each videoconference.
- (2) Conduct committee videoconferences (e.g., identify conflicts of interest, lead discussion and deliberation).
- (3) Determine whether to hear a fact-finding request submitted after the deadline.
- (4) Provide notice of inability to participate in a videoconference.
- (5) Recuse from fact-finding requests, as appropriate (e.g., conflict of interest).
- (6) Adhere to policies and procedures.

*Note:* The vice chair may assume such duties if the chair is unavailable or has a conflict of interest.

#### **b.** Committee members.

- (1) Review materials before each videoconference.
- (2) Participate in all videoconferences.
- (3) Provide notice of inability to participate in a videoconference.
- (4) Recuse from fact-finding requests, as appropriate (e.g., conflict of interest).

*Note:* Student-athlete members may not participate in making a determination of facts.

(5) Adhere to policies and procedures.

## c. NCAA staff.

- (1) Review and process amateurism certifications.
- (2) Provide complete materials for fact-finding requests.
- (3) Objectively present information related to fact-finding requests.
- (4) Notify the institution of the fact-finding determination.

**8. Authority.** The committee only has authority to make factual determinations related to a PSA's amateurism certification, per the policies and procedures set forth herein. Accordingly, it may not interpret legislation, determine whether a violation occurred, issue or waive amateurism certification conditions, certify the PSA's amateur status or amend the PSA's review summary outside the scope of the fact-finding request.

## 9. Fact-Finding Requests.

- a. **Precluded.** By requesting an interpretation (or seeking a joint interpretation), submitting a legislative relief waiver or seeking student-athlete reinstatement, the institution acknowledges agreement with the facts in the review summary and is precluded from submitting a fact-finding request. In addition, a PSA's expected date of high school graduation (determined by the Eligibility Center), the expense methodology used to evaluate compensation, relevance, editorial revisions, additional facts, context and/or mitigation may not be the subject of a fact-finding request.
- **b. Permitted.** An institution may request fact finding if it disagrees with the accuracy of one or more facts specified in the PSA's posted amateurism review summary (one fact-finding request may be submitted per posted review summary). Staff may request a factual determination if there is conflicting documentation regarding an essential fact that would preclude a final amateurism certification from being issued.
- **c. Timing.** The institution has 30 calendar days after a review summary has been posted to the PSA's Eligibility Center account to provide written notice of its intent to seek a factual determination. A fact-finding request submitted after 30 calendar days must include a letter of explanation, and the chair has discretion to determine whether the request will be heard. If the chair has a conflict of interest or is unavailable, the vice chair (or the remaining committee members by majority vote if the vice chair has a conflict of interest or is unavailable) shall determine whether to hear such a request.
  - Staff may request a factual determination at any time if conflicting documentation regarding an essential fact precludes a final amateurism certification from being issued.
- **d. Written Notice Intent to Seek Factual Determination.** The institution may initiate a fact-finding request by providing written notice to the committee's staff liaison. Such notice must identify the specific fact(s) at issue in the posted review summary (one fact-finding request may be submitted per posted review summary).
  - Staff may initiate a fact-finding request by providing written notice to the institution's primary or secondary contact for the PSA's amateurism certification. Such notice must specify the conflicting documentation and the essential fact(s) at issue.
- e. Request Form. After written notice has been provided, staff will complete the Amateurism Fact-Finding Request Form and send it to the institution, which must provide required signatures (athletics director, senior compliance administrator and PSA) on the Form and

submit written statements from the institution and the PSA. The institution may also submit information and/or documentation that has been provided to the Eligibility Center as part of the PSA's amateurism certification. If new information and/or documentation is submitted, the fact-finding process is tabled, and the information and/or documentation will be reviewed in accordance with the amateurism certification policies and procedures.

The Amateurism Fact-Finding Request Form must also specify whether the institution and PSA elect to participate on the fact-finding videoconference. If so, each must identify one representative who may present to the committee (the institution's representative must be an institutional employee or a non-staff representative retained by the institution).

**f. Scheduling.** After the committee's staff liaison has received a complete Amateurism Fact-Finding Request Form, the materials will be posted on a secure website. The applicable fact-finding committee for the division will review the request during its next regularly scheduled videoconference, as follows:

Committee	Videoconference	Submission Deadline (EST)	
Division I Preenrollment Amateurism	Thursday	Prior Thursday (3 p.m.)	
Certification Committee	(Biweekly)		
Division II Legislation Committee	Tuesday	Prior Tuesday (3 p.m.)	
Legislative Review Subcommittee	(Monthly)		
Division III Interpretations and	Thursday		
Legislation Committee Subcommittee for	Thursday	Prior Thursday (3 p.m.)	
Amateurism Fact-Finding	(Biweekly)		

## 10. Fact-Finding Videoconferences.

- **a. Participants.** Attendance will be limited to the PSA, the PSA's designated representative (if applicable), an individual from the institution's compliance office, the institution's representative (if applicable), committee members and NCAA staff.
- **b.** Conflicts/Quorum. At the beginning of the videoconference, the committee chair must identify any conflicts of interest and ensure minimum quorum requirements (over half of voting committee members) are met. The committee's staff liaison will permit the institution, PSA and representatives to join the videoconference once the committee chair has called the institution's fact-finding request.
- c. Presentations/Questions. The committee chair provides 10 minutes for the staff to present to the committee, followed by 10 minutes for the institution and/or PSA's designated representatives to present to the committee (such representatives may allocate the 10 minutes between them). The committee chair may end a presentation or the videoconference at any time if new information and/or documentation is presented.

After presentations, the committee may ask questions to the designated representatives and/or the PSA. When the committee has obtained all information necessary for deliberation, the committee chair will direct all participants except the committee's staff liaison to depart from the videoconference.

**d. Deliberation.** The committee chair will lead the deliberation, during which the staff liaison may answer procedural questions. The committee may not consider or discuss any information or documentation outside of the posted materials and the information presented on the videoconference. Also, it may not consider or discuss potential interpretations or outcomes (e.g., violations, penalties) based on its factual determination(s).

The committee may decline to proceed with a vote if it believes missing information or documentation is essential and should reasonably be provided.

- **e. Decision.** Factual requests are decided by majority vote of all committee members present and voting. Committee voting is private (specific votes and vote counts will not be shared).
- **f.** Communication/Certification. After the committee renders a decision, staff provides the decision to the institution as soon as reasonably possible. The committee's factual determination shall be used, along with all other facts in the review summary, as the basis for completing the PSA's amateurism certification.
- 11. Reconsiderations. The institution may request reconsideration after the committee's fact-finding determination (via the Decision Inquiry Process) based on new relevant information (supported by contemporaneous documentation) that was not reasonably available to any involved individual at the time of the previous fact-finding determination (threshold). The reconsideration request must include a decision inquiry form (obtained via the committee's staff liaison), a statement on letterhead that explains why the institution believes the information meets the threshold and supporting documentation.

Staff has discretion to determine whether the institution's reconsideration request meets the threshold and may consult the committee chair as part of its review. If the request meets the threshold, staff will validate the new information, review any facts that may be affected and reevaluate the certification. If the review summary is updated, the institution has 30 calendar days (after it has been reposted) to request fact finding regarding the updated facts in the review summary.

**12. Appeals.** The Division I Preenrollment Amateurism Certification Committee's factual determination shall be final, binding and conclusive and shall not be subject to further review by any other authority (Division I Bylaw 21.10.6.6.4.3).

The Division II Legislative Review Subcommittee's factual determination may be appealed to the Division II Management Council Subcommittee. The Division III Subcommittee for Amateurism Fact-Finding's factual determination shall be final, binding and conclusive and shall not be subject to further review by any other authority.

13. Conflict of Interest. The NCAA is a voluntary Association comprised of colleges, universities, conferences and other organizations, and governed through a membership-led committee structure. Within the governance structure, committee members must carefully balance their responsibilities to their respective institutions and/or conferences with the obligation to advance the interests of the Association, the division or the sport, and ultimately enhance the student-athlete experience. While the fiduciary obligations of committee members to their own institution, their conference and to the Association ordinarily are not in conflict, it is recognized that as a representative membership organization, committee members' fiduciary obligations are first to their institution, second to their conference and third to the Association. NCAA committee service involves important ethical and moral obligations. Committee integrity is critical to the decision-making process and includes trust, confidentiality and honesty in all issues and aspects of service and representation. NCAA committee members shall disclose any conflict or potential conflict between their respective personal, professional, institutional, conference or business interests and the interests of the Association that may affect or otherwise threaten such integrity, in any and all actions taken by them on behalf of the Association, for committee evaluation under this statement. When considering disclosures, keep in mind those may result in an "excess benefit transaction" under Section 4958 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") or other tax or other laws that may apply.

In addition to any fiduciary obligation to their institution and conference, committee members also have a fiduciary duty to the Association not to use knowledge or information obtained solely due to service on that committee to the disadvantage of the Association during the term of committee service. Further, a committee member shall not participate in the committee's discussion or vote on any action that might bring direct or indirect personal financial benefit to the member or any organization (other than the member's institution or conference) in which the member is financially interested. A committee member should also not participate in a discussion or vote for which the member's institution or conference is to be accorded a special benefit beyond benefits shared with other institutions or conferences or is to receive a penalty or disqualification. A violation of either of the above rules by a member of the committee shall not invalidate the action taken by the committee if, following disclosure of the conflict of interest, the committee authorizes, ratifies or approves the action by a vote sufficient for the purpose, without counting the vote of the committee member with the conflict of interest, and the appropriate oversight body approves the action.

A committee member is responsible for advising the chair of any actual or potential conflicts of interest or obligations which he/she may have hereunder and should recuse him/herself from participating in proceedings, as may be warranted by this policy. Abuse of one's position as a member of a committee may result in dismissal from that position. Where such abuse appears evident, a committee member will be notified by the committee chair and will have the opportunity to present a rebuttal or details of the situation.

**14. Confidentiality.** Committee members may not communicate any information regarding a specific fact-finding request to anyone other than NCAA staff or other committee members. This includes, but is not limited to, communication with institutional staff members or non-staff representatives. Also, fact-finding videoconferences may not be recorded.

Staff must maintain confidentiality in all fact-finding requests. However, if the institution, PSA or an involved individual comments publicly, staff may confirm such information and/or address erroneous or incomplete information.

Any information and/or documentation submitted as part of a fact-finding request may be shared with other national office staff members (e.g., enforcement).

15. Speaking Agent. The president of the Association and the chair of the NCAA Board of Governors are the only individuals authorized to speak on behalf of the Association except as outlined below. An individual representing a member institution or conference who speaks or opines on an Association issue only has the authority to express the view of that individual or the member institution or conference unless the individual has been designated by the Board of Governors of the Association as a speaking agent of the Association on that issue. Committee chairs are hereby designated as speaking agents of their committees regarding issues within their committees' jurisdiction on which there is consensus, except that positions of advocacy on behalf of the committee or the Association to be communicated in writing or orally to persons or entities external to the Association must have prior approval by the Board of Governors or the president of the Association. The president of the Association is hereby granted authority to designate additional speaking agents of the Association.

## A. Equivalency Per Sport – Men

Sport	Equivalency -Median	Bylaw 15 Equivalent Limit
Baseball	6	9
Basketball	8	10
Cross Country/Track and Field*	4	12.6
Fencing	3	4.5
Football	26	36
Golf	2	3.6
Gymnastics	0	5.4
Ice hockey	16	13.5
Lacrosse	6	10.8
Rifle	0	3.6
Skiing	3	6.3
Soccer	6	9
Swimming and Diving	3	8.1
Tennis	3	4.5
Volleyball	3	4.5
Water Polo	3	4.5
Wrestling	5	9

<sup>\*</sup>Financial Reporting System reports cross country as cross country and track and field.

## B. Equivalency Per Sport – Women

Sport	Equivalency -Median	Bylaw 15 Equivalent Limit
Acrobat and Tumbling	2	9
Basketball	8	10
Beach Volleyball	2	5
Bowling	1	5
Cross Country/Track and Field*	4	12.6
Equestrian	1	15
Fencing	2	4.5
Field Hockey	4	6.3
Golf	2	5.4
Gymnastics	4	6
Ice Hockey	8	18
Lacrosse	4	9.9
Rowing	4	20
Rugby	1	12
Skiing	2	6.3
Soccer	6	9.9
Softball	5	7.2
Stunt	1.7	9
Swimming and Diving	3	8.1
Tennis	3	6
Triathlon	1	5
Volleyball	5	8
Water Polo	3	8
Wrestling	2	10

*Financial Reporting System reports cross country as cross country and track and field.