



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- a. **2027 NCAA Convention Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 15.4.2.1.1.1 -- Financial Aid -- Maximum Institutional Grant-In-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Equivalency Sports -- Maximum Equivalency Limits -- Men's Sports -- Overall Limit -- Elimination of Overall Limit.**
- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2027 NCAA Convention to eliminate the limit of 60 total awards in all men's sports other than football and basketball in any academic year.
 - (2) Effective date. August 1, 2027.
 - (3) Rationale. Following the adoption of the new constitution at the 2022 Convention, the NCAA Division II President's Council, now named the NCAA Division II Executive Board, established the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee, which was charged with starting and leading the work to review the division's rules and policies and make recommendations to ensure that changes were consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution. The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee was tasked with reviewing various bylaws, which included Bylaw 15. Currently, an institution may not provide more than 60 total awards in all men's sports other than football and basketball in any academic year. This proposal does not change team equivalency limits and institutions will remain responsible for adhering to Title IX requirements. Finally, Division I previously had an overall equivalency limit in Division I men's sports, but that limit was eliminated in 1985.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. Potential increased costs for institutions that choose to add sports or additional scholarships within legislated team equivalency limits.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
- b. **Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 13.1.1.3.1 -- Recruiting -- Contacts and Evaluations -- Contactable Prospective Student-Athletes -- Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes -- Notification of Transfer -- Elimination of June 15 Deadline.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the June 15 deadline for when a student-athlete must provide their institution with written notification of transfer.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, a student-athlete must provide written notification of transfer by June 15 and complete an educational module before they may be placed into the NCAA Transfer Portal. Prior to the adoption of NCAA Division II Proposal No. EM-2025-1 (eligibility -- academic and general requirements -- transfer regulations -- four-year transfer -- four-year undergraduate transfer student-athletes), a student-athlete was required to provide written notification of transfer by June 15 in order to have access to the one-time transfer exception. However, with the removal of the four-year college transfer exceptions, if a student-athlete does not provide written notification of transfer by June 15, there is no penalty. After reviewing data regarding the number of student-athletes entering the Transfer Portal after June 15, the Legislation Committee determined that the June 15 deadline was no longer necessary. Additionally, the committee noted that having a deadline with no penalty creates confusion among the membership, and this proposal will eliminate that confusion.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 15 -- Financial Aid -- Books and Supplies.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to eliminate books from the full grant-in-aid and equivalency calculation.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Following the adoption of the new constitution at the 2022 Convention, the NCAA Division II President's Council, now named the NCAA Division II Executive Board, established the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee which was charged with starting and leading the work to review the division's rules and policies and make recommendations to ensure that changes were consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution. The Legislation Committee was tasked with reviewing various bylaws, which included Bylaw 15. Currently, an institution may provide a student-athlete with athletics aid that covers the cost of required books and supplies; however, it must be included in the full grant-in-aid and equivalency calculations. After reviewing feedback from the Division II membership, the Legislation

Committee determined it would be appropriate to allow institutions to provide books as a permissible benefit under Bylaw 16.3 (academic, career and other support services). Further, institutions are already allowed to provide other educational expenses for their student-athletes at their discretion and therefore should be able to provide books. Finally, this proposal will ease the compliance burden regarding calculating equivalencies.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

d. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 15.1.1 -- Financial Aid -- Eligibility for Athletics Aid -- Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Athletics Aid -- Exception to the 10-Semester/15-Quarter Limit.

(1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit an institution to award a student-athlete with athletics aid beyond 10-semesters/15-quarters provided the student-athlete has received an extension of eligibility.

(2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.

(3) Rationale. Following the adoption of the new constitution at the 2022 Convention, the NCAA Division II President's Council, now named the NCAA Division II Executive Board, established the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee which was charged with starting and leading the work to review the division's rules and policies and make recommendations to ensure that changes were consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution. The Legislation Committee was tasked with reviewing various bylaws, which included Bylaw 15. Currently, a student-athlete may be awarded athletics aid for a maximum of 10-semesters/15-quarters. After reviewing feedback from the Division II membership, the Legislation Committee determined that allowing an institution to award a student-athlete with athletics aid beyond the 10-semesters/15-quarters if the student-athlete has received an extension of eligibility was appropriate. Further, the ability to award student-athletes with athletics aid beyond the 10-semesters/15-quarters would provide student-athletes with additional support to graduate.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. This proposal will provide student-athletes with the ability to receive athletics aid beyond 10-semesters/15-quarters when they have received an extension of eligibility.

e. Noncontroversial Legislation -- Bylaw 17.4.6.3 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- Number of Contests -- Annual Exemptions -- Region Challenge Event -- Out-Of-Region Opponents from Contiguous States.

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit contests against an out-of-region opponent from a contiguous state to be exempted as part of a region challenge event in basketball.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, an institution may not exempt any contests played in a region challenge event if an out-of-region institution participates in the event. Regional Advisory Committees count contests against out-of-region opponents from contiguous states as in-region contests when completing rankings, therefore, contests against out-of-region opponents from contiguous states should be allowed to be exempted from region challenge events. Often, one or more conferences in a region shut out the third conference from participating in the region challenge events. Allowing the participation of out-of-region opponents from contiguous states in a region challenge event and permitting those contests to still be exempt, would provide more equitable opportunities for teams from all the conferences in the region. The committee also noted this proposal may result in cost savings due to decreased travel.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes attending institutions in contiguous states may have the opportunity to participate in a region challenge event against institutions in other conferences.

2. Nonlegislative Item.

- **Request for Feedback Regarding Bylaw 17 Concepts.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Management Council request that the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Division II Athletics Health Care Administrators, Division II Coaches Connection groups, Division II Faculty Athletics Representatives, Division II Conference Commissioners Association and the Division II Athletics Directors Association provide feedback on whether it is appropriate to amend Bylaw 17, as specified. [See Attachment.]

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As part of the work of the Implementation Committee, the Legislation Committee was charged with reviewing Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons). The committee completed its review during its May 20-21, 2025, videoconference and is requesting membership feedback on the recommended amendments to Bylaw 17.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion regarding Legislation Committee positions on the Division II Membership-Sponsored Proposals Sponsored for the 2026 Convention.** During its summer meeting, the Management Council, referred nine membership-sponsored proposals for the committee to review. Of the nine, the council directed the committee to review two of the membership-sponsored proposals and determine whether the proposals could be recommended as noncontroversial legislation instead. The committee recommended sponsoring one of the two membership-sponsored proposals as noncontroversial legislation (see Legislative Action Item No. 1e). The committee agreed to take the following positions on the proposals:

- a. Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Football Recruiting Dead Period. The committee agreed to support the proposal. The committee noted that this change would support the Life in the Balance philosophy in Division II. Specifically, the committee noted that this change would give football coaches and support staff a greater work-life balance and a break from recruiting. Additionally, the committee noted that this change would better align with the football recruiting calendar in Division I.

[Note: Chris Ratcliff, Rogers State University, recused himself from the vote on this proposal.]

- b. Financial Aid -- Eligibility for Athletics Aid -- Eligibility of Student-Athletes For Athletics Aid -- Retroactive Athletics Aid -- Issuance of Retroactive Athletics Aid. The committee agreed to support the proposal. The committee noted that membership feedback supports allowing an institution to provide retroactive athletics aid and it provides flexibility for student-athletes.

[Note: Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University, recused herself from the vote on this proposal.]

- c. Playing and Practice Seasons -- General Playing-Season Regulations -- Time Limits For Athletically Related Activities -- Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations -- Nonchampionship Segment -- Baseball. The committee agreed to oppose the proposal. The committee noted that this change could result in other sports seeking more time to participate in countable athletically related activities (CARA). Additionally, the committee noted this proposal goes against the Life in the Balance philosophy in Division II. Finally, the committee noted that the current weekly hour limitation (four hours per day and 15 hours per week) is still appropriate.
- d. Playing and Practice Seasons -- Baseball -- Number of Contests -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional -- Student-Athlete. The committee agreed to oppose the proposal. The committee noted the impact this change would have on the Life in the Balance philosophy in Division II. Additionally, the committee noted that the rationale for the proposal does not directly correlate to a need for increased contests in baseball (e.g., Division I baseball roster increase).
- e. Playing and Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- First Permissible Contest. The committee agreed to support the proposal. The committee noted that standardizing the length of the season would be beneficial for teams and coaches. Specifically, it creates a clear time frame for coaches to build their schedule. Under current legislation, the first permissible contest date can fall later in November which makes it difficult for coaches to schedule their contests during the compressed time frame; therefore, this proposal will provide more flexibility in scheduling.

[Note: Chris Ratcliff, Rogers State University, recused themselves from the vote on this proposal.]
- f. Playing and Practice Seasons -- Golf -- Number of Dates of Competition -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional -- Student-Athlete. The committee agreed to take no position.

[Note: Matt Green, Flagler College; and Chris Ratcliff, Rogers State University, recused themselves from the vote on this proposal.]
- g. Playing and Practice Seasons -- Soccer -- Preseason Practice and First Date of Practice -- Championship Segment. The committee agreed to oppose the proposal. The committee noted the impact this change would have on the Life in the Balance philosophy in Division II. The committee noted this change would result in financial hardship for institutions. Specifically, the committee noted that this proposal would bring student-athletes to campus earlier which would result in institutions having to pay for housing and food for those additional days. The committee also noted concerns that this may prompt other sports to request to start their season earlier. Finally, the committee noted the rationale does not clarify why four additional days are necessary to implement a transition period, versus establishing a transition period within the current soccer practice season.

[Note: Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University, recused themselves from the vote on this proposal.]

- h. Playing and Practice Seasons -- Softball -- Number of Contests -- Maximum Limitations -- Institutional and Student-Athlete -- Nonchampionship Segment. The committee agreed to oppose the proposal. The committee noted the impact this change would have on the Life in the Balance philosophy in Division II since this may prompt other sports to increase the number of contests/dates of competition in their sport. Additionally, the committee noted that this change would create an increased burden on athletic trainers and other athletics administrators. The committee also noted that this change would not ease the burden on compliance administrators, because compliance administrators would still need to monitor dates of competition used in the nonchampionship segment. The committee also noted that softball recently changed their date formula which moved their championship one week later to align with Divisions I and III, giving the sport one extra week of regular season participation. The change in the date formula provided softball student-athletes with the opportunity to compete in more contests. Finally, the committee noted that softball's current maximum limitation of 56 contests can be used between the nonchampionship and championship segments.
2. **Review draft concepts of Bylaw 17 (playing and practice seasons).** The committee discussed next steps regarding membership feedback on potential Bylaw 17 concepts. Specifically, the committee recommended seeking feedback from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Athletics Health Care Administrators, Coaches Connection groups, Faculty Athletics Representatives, Conference Commissioners Association and the Athletics Directors Association. [See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2.]
3. **Review of Transfer Portal data regarding the June 15 written notification of transfer deadline.** The committee reviewed data regarding the June 15 written notification of transfer deadline. Based on the data, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 13.1.1.3.1 (notification of transfer) to eliminate the June 15 deadline. [See Legislation Action Item No. 1b.]
4. **Review of membership feedback regarding Bylaw 15 (financial aid).** The committee reviewed membership feedback regarding the committee's Bylaw 15 review. The committee determined whether, based on the feedback, a legislative change was necessary.

Based on the feedback, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to permit an institution to award a student-athlete with athletics aid beyond 10-semester/15-quarters provided the student-athlete has received an extension of eligibility. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1d]. Additionally, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to remove books from the full grant-in-aid and equivalency calculation. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1c.]

Finally, the committee recommended that the Management Council sponsor legislation for the 2027 Convention to eliminate the overall 60-equivalency limit for all men's sports other than football and basketball. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1a.]

5. **Review of the 2025-26 Division II Priorities.** The committee received an update on the Division II priorities for the upcoming year.
6. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors most recent meeting.
7. **Update from the Executive Board and Management Council summer 2025 meetings.** The committee received an update on the actions taken at the Executive Board and Management Council summer 2025 meetings.
8. **Review of the May 5, 2025, May 20-21, 2025, and June 16, 2025, videoconference meeting reports.** The committee reviewed and approved its May 5, 2025, May 20-21, 2025, and June 16, 2025, videoconference meeting reports.
9. **Review of the Legislation Committee Legislative Review Subcommittee's May 16, 2025, and July 25, 2025, electronic votes.** The committee reviewed and approved the Legislative Review Subcommittee's May 16, 2025, and July 25, 2025, electronic voting reports.
10. **Review of the Legislation Committee Interpretations Subcommittee's June 2, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the Interpretations Subcommittee's June 2, 2025, videoconference report.
11. **Subcommittee assignments.** The committee appointed Laura Dahlby Nicolai, associate commissioner and senior woman administrator at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, to the Interpretations Subcommittee, effective immediately.
12. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. November 17-18, 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - b. March 10-11, 2026, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.
 - c. June 16-17, 2026, videoconference; timing to be determined.

Committee Chair: Chris Ratcliff, Rogers State University

Staff Liaison(s): Rachel Denton, Division II Governance and Member Services
Chelsea Hooks, Division II Governance and Member Services
Megan Villanueva, Division II Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division II Legislation Committee September 3, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Matt Green, Flagler College.	
Ashley Grimm, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University.	
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University.	
Jennifer Mercurio, Florida Institute of Technology.	
Sandee Mott, Texas Woman's University.	
Laura Dahlby Nicolai, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	
Kristina Ortiz, Georgian Court University.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Christopher Ratcliff, Rogers State University.	
Deborah Rodgers, Tuskegee University.	
Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University.	
Kevin Schriver, Southwest Baptist University.	
Melissa Thacker, Cameron University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Rachel Denton, Chelsea Hooks and Megan Villanueva.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Taylor Koper, Mariah Murdock, Angela Red and Courtney Wengryn.	



**NCAA Division II Legislation Committee
Bylaw 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons)
Priority Two and Three Items**

DIVISION II BYLAWS	ACTION	RECOMMENDATION/FEEDBACK REQUEST	FEEDBACK GROUPS
Bylaw 17.02.1 (countable athletically related activities). Bylaw 17.02.17 (voluntary athletically related activities).	Amend.	(1) Place the subsections under Bylaw 17.02.17 under Bylaw 17.02.1; (2) Simplify Bylaw 17.02.17 to state that no coaches may be present during a voluntary athletically related activity; and (3) Determine via educational column or Official Interpretation that social media interactions (e.g., likes, retweets) do not trigger countable athletically related activities (CARA).	No feedback requested.
Bylaw 17.1.6.3.1 (sports other than football).	Potentially amend.	Outside of the playing season, in sports other than football, student athletes are limited to eight hours of CARA per week, of which not more than four hours may be spent on team activities. Is the limit of four hours per week on team activities still appropriate?	Athletics Health Care Administrator, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Coaches Connection groups and Faculty Athletics Representatives.
Bylaw 17.4.6.3-(j) (annual exemptions -- region challenge event).	Potentially amend.	Currently, a region challenge event must be played during the weekend of the first permissible contest date. Should region challenge events be permitted at any time during the playing season?	Men's Basketball Coaches Connection, Women's Basketball Coaches Connection and Conference Commissioners Association.
Bylaw 17.4.6.4-(b) (discretionary exemptions -- USA club team).	Potentially eliminate.	Current legislation permits an institution to exempt a contest against a "club" member of USA Basketball played in the facility in which the member institution regularly plays its home contests. Are institutions still using this discretionary exemption/is this discretionary exemption still applicable?	Men's Basketball Coaches Connection and Women's Basketball Coaches Connection.
Bylaw 17.4.9.2 (maximum number of student-athletes on outside team) and Bylaw 17.11.10.1.1 (out-of-season, noncollegiate, amateur competition).	Eliminate.	In basketball and football, to eliminate the limit on the number of student-athletes from the same institution who may participate on an outside team.	No feedback requested.

DIVISION II BYLAWS	ACTION	RECOMMENDATION/FEEDBACK REQUEST	FEEDBACK GROUPS
Bylaw 17.4.9.5 (celebrity sports activity).	Eliminate.	Bylaw 17.4.9.5 is no longer necessary since basketball student-athletes may permissibly participate in celebrity sports activities per Bylaw 17.4.6.3-(f) (annual exemptions -- celebrity sports activity).	No feedback requested.
Bylaw 17.32.1.4.1 (additional basketball restriction).	Eliminate.	In basketball, to eliminate the restriction that an institution uses their once-in-four-years foreign tour opportunity if they participate in a contest per Bylaw 17.4.6.6 (once-in-four-years exemption -- contests in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico or Canada).	No feedback requested.
Bylaw 17.32.1.5 (eligibility of student-athletes).	Amend.	Permit an ineligible student-athlete to go on a foreign tour and participate in practice sessions but not competition, provided the student-athlete is eligible for practice.	No feedback requested.
Bylaw 17.32.1.7 (maximum number of contests/competition dates).	Potentially amend.	Are the current limits on permissible contests/dates of competition during a foreign tour still appropriate? Currently, the limits are: three football games, 10 basketball games and 10 contests/dates of competition for all other sports. Note: If the numbers remain the same, the committee recommends consolidating the number for basketball and all other sports.	Coaches Connection groups, Athletics Directors Association and SAAC.
Bylaw 17.32.2 (sanctioned outside-team tours).	Eliminate.	Eliminate the legislation regarding participation in international competition while on an outside team because participation on an outside team is already governed in other areas of the legislation.	No feedback requested.
Figure 17-4 (future winter break periods).	Amend.	Amend Figure 17-4 to clarify that it is impermissible to provide travel expenses during the legislated winter break period; however, an institution may continue to provide permissible benefits outlined in Bylaw 16.5 (housing and meals).	No feedback requested.
Various sport-specific bylaws (annual exemptions -- celebrity sports activity).	Amend.	Eliminate the restriction that only two players from an institution's team may participate in a celebrity sports activity.	No feedback requested.

DIVISION II BYLAWS	ACTION	RECOMMENDATION/FEEDBACK REQUEST	FEEDBACK GROUPS
Various sport-specific bylaws (limitations on countable athletically related activities and transportation - - winter break).	Amend.	Reorganize the legislation to consolidate sport-specific references to the winter break legislation and place all regulations regarding the winter break period under Bylaws 17.02.18 (winter break) and 16.8.2 (nonpermissible).	No feedback requested.
Various sport-specific bylaws (noncollegiate, amateur competition -- in season).	Amend.	Reorganize the legislation to remove sport-specific references regarding participation on an outside, amateur team during an institution's playing season because the legislation is already captured in Bylaw 14.4.7 (outside competition, effects on eligibility).	No feedback requested.
Various sport-specific bylaws (involvement of coaching staff).	Amend.	In team sports, to permit a member of the institution's coaching staff to be involved with an outside team that involves a student-athlete on the institution's team during the summer.	Coaches Connection groups and SAAC.
Various sport-specific bylaws (equipment issue, squad pictures).	Eliminate.	For all sports, to eliminate the equipment issue and squad pictures legislation given the Bylaw 16 deregulation.	No feedback requested.