



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE RELIEF COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
 - None.
2. Nonlegislative items.
 - **NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee Previously Approved Incidental Expense Waiver List.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Approve the updated Legislative Relief Committee previously approved expense waiver list, as specified. [See Attachment.]
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. The Legislative Relief Committee's previously approved incidental expense waiver list is designed to provide additional flexibility for institutions and conferences to provide expenses to student-athletes without the necessity to file a legislative relief waiver. The current list was last updated in September 2020. Upon recent review and following the deregulation of NCAA Division II Bylaw 16 (awards, benefits and expenses for enrolled student-athletes) via NCAA Division II Proposal No. NC-2025-27 (awards, benefits and expenses for enrolled student-athletes -- modernization and deregulation), amendments to the list are necessary to ensure situations listed are not already expressly permitted through the legislation. Specifically, along with general updates to the committee name, bylaw citations and the use of gender-neutral terminology, the committee removed the previously approved incidental expense waiver, which allowed for the provision of transportation expenses for a student-athlete to attend the funeral of a former teammate or institutional staff member, as such action is now permitted via Division II legislation.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of Legislative Relief Committee cases decided from August 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026, by the NCAA staff and committee.** The committee reviewed cases decided by staff and the committee from August 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. A total of 58 cases were submitted in Division II, with 33 of those cases decided by staff during

this time period. Of the 33 cases decided, staff approved 22 cases, eight of which were approved with conditions. Additionally, staff denied eight cases, three of which were appealed to the committee. The committee affirmed the staff decision in all three cases.

2. **Discussion regarding extension of blanket waiver for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Review and Designee.** The committee reviewed a blanket waiver request involving Division II legislation related to the equity, diversity and inclusion review and designee, specifically, Bylaws 7.3.1.5.20 (athletics diversity and inclusion designee) and 7.3.5.2.6 (athletics diversity and inclusion designee). After discussion, the committee approved the issuance of a blanket waiver for the 2026-27 academic year, noting the following: (1) More than 20 states have passed legislation over the last two years that prevents dozens of member institutions in all three divisions from complying with these requirements. In turn, the NCAA has previously provided relief to these requirements on an individual basis as the laws become effective and member schools make operational adjustments to comply; and (2) On January 21, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) 14173 titled “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”. EO 14173 calls for the federal government to develop plans to investigate and consider significant enforcement actions against any college or university that may engage in “DEI discrimination” actions. Given the nationwide impact of the EO, blanket relief for all member schools from these requirements is necessary.

The blanket waiver approved by the committee is identical to the blanket waiver approved by the committee in February 2025 for the 2025-26 academic year.

3. **Review of the Legislative Relief Committee’s previously approved incidental expense waivers.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its previously approved incidental expense waiver list. Specifically, the committee amended the previously approved incidental expense waiver list to remove items that are no longer necessary to include following the deregulation of Bylaw 16 via Proposal No. NC-2025-27. [See Nonlegislative Action Item.]
4. **Review of the Legislative Relief Committee’s policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its policies and procedures.
5. **Approval of the Legislative Relief Committee’s September 30, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 30, 2025, videoconference report.
6. **Update on the Division II Operating Plan.** The committee received an update regarding the Division II Operating Plan, which runs from January 2026 through 2032.
7. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Board of Governors’ most recent meeting.

8. **Review of proposals adopted at the 2026 NCAA Convention.** Staff provided an update regarding legislation adopted at the 2026 NCAA Convention.
9. **Review of the fall 2025 and winter 2026 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 2025 and winter 2026 meetings of the Executive Board and Management Council.
10. **Future scheduled videoconferences.**
 - a. September/October videoconference; date and timing to be determined.
 - b. March 2027 videoconference; date and timing to be determined.

Committee Chair: Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University
Staff Liaison(s): Rachel Denton, Division II Governance and Member Services
Jordan Lysiak, Division II Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee March 12, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jackie Armstrong, Point Loma Nazarene University.
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).
Rob Fiedler, University of Tampa.
Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University.
Marcie Haduca Covell, California State University, East Bay.
Erin Harvey, Wilmington University (Delaware).
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Rachel Denton and Jordan Lysiak.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Terri Steeb Gronau, Taylor Koper and Angela Red.

Previously Approved NCAA Division II Incidental Expense (II)

Date Issued: March 12, 2026

Date Published: March 12, 2026

Item Ref No: 1

Educational Column:

Effective October 1, 2008, NCAA Division II institutions should note that the NCAA Division II Legislative Relief Committee has the authority to review incidental expense waivers per its policies and procedures.

The committee's policies and procedures permit institutions and conferences to process incidental expenses, without the need for a waiver, provided the specific fact pattern of the institution's or conference's expense request is identical to a request that has been previously approved. If there is no direct on-point precedent for approval of the expense, the institution or conference must submit a formal Legislative Relief Committee waiver application to the NCAA national office. Division II institutions may access the waiver application on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org).

Note: Incidental expense waivers are only available for student-athletes and do not apply to prospective student-athletes. If an institution or conference wishes to provide a benefit/expense to a prospective student-athlete that is normally impermissible under the legislation, the institution or conference may consider filing a Legislative Relief Committee waiver request for Bylaw 13.2 (offers and inducements) or Bylaw 13.12 (financial assistance to a prospective student-athlete or prospective student-athlete's high school).

Transportation Expenses.

1. Transportation expenses for an international student-athlete to renew their required documents (e.g., visa, passport).
2. Transportation expenses to student-athletes to attend a reception where their coach will be honored.
3. Transportation expenses to a student-athlete to return home for the birth of their child.
4. Necessary transportation expenses (e.g., flights to/from campus) for student-athletes to ensure their health and well-being during a catastrophic event*.

Misfortune Expenses.

1. To provide actual and necessary expenses to assist student-athletes for the replacement of items damaged or lost in a fire.
2. To reimburse a student-athlete for the replacement of a personal item (e.g., backpack, laptop) that was damaged during team travel.

3. Expenses to replace items belonging to a student-athlete that were stolen from the student-athlete's car, from the student-athlete's dormitory room or during team travel.
4. Expenses for the repair of a student-athlete's property (e.g., car, laptop, cell phone) that was damaged by an institutional staff member or student manager.
5. To reimburse a student-athlete for any cost paid for a foreign tour that is cancelled due to a catastrophic event*.

Miscellaneous Expenses.

1. To permit an institution's athletics staff member to purchase a baby gift for an expectant parent student-athlete on their team. The total value of the gift may not exceed \$50.
2. To permit an institution to provide housing and meals to a student-athlete during a catastrophic event.

* A catastrophic event as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency is "any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage or disruption severely impacting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale and/or government functions."

Legislative References

Legislative Cite	Title
13.12	Financial Assistance to a Prospective Student-Athlete or Prospective Student-Athlete's High School.