



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE  
MAY 12, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

a. Mental Health Hardship Waiver Pilot Program.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council extend the mental health hardship waiver pilot program for the 2026-27 academic year by allowing student-athletes access to a hardship waiver based on mental health assertions, as specified, for an additional year.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate, for hardship waivers with mental health assertions during the 2026-27 academic year.
- (3) Rationale. The rise in mental health concerns amongst student-athletes remains an area of importance for the Association. Furthermore, allowing student-athletes ongoing access to the mental health hardship waiver pilot program, while awaiting the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee's recommendation regarding the Division II seasons of competition and period of eligibility rules, assists the Association in its efforts to better support student-athletes with mental health concerns asserted as the reason they competed limitedly and broadens the documentation standards.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will continue to have a specific waiver type available for their institutions to file when mental health is asserted as the reason the student-athlete competed limitedly.

b. NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee Guidelines.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Management Council approve the updated guidelines, as specified [Attachment].
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. An update to the committee's guidelines is necessary to best address the needs of student-athletes involved in student-athlete reinstatement waivers. Specifically, the guidelines were amended to clarify that violations in which a student-athlete practices or competes prior to receiving a final academic certification, and is subsequently certified as an academic qualifier, should be treated as institutional violations, per NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.01.9 (responsibility to monitor and report), but shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Eligibility review.** The committee received an overview of the Division I age-based eligibility concept, NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2026-6 (eligibility -- athletics eligibility - - seasons of competition: 10-semester/15-quarter rule -- five seasons of competition in 10- semesters/15-quarters) and reviewed Division II-specific data. The committee provided feedback on the Division I age-based eligibility concept and its potential impact on Division II. Based on its discussions, the committee determined that it would be interested in exploring a similar age-based eligibility model in Division II.

[Note: Members of the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee and Legislation Committee joined the videoconference for this agenda item and discussion.]

2. **Review of Division II legislation adopted at the 2026 NCAA Convention.** The committee received an update on proposals adopted at the 2026 NCAA Convention relevant to student-athlete reinstatement.
3. **Review of concepts related to harm reduction strategies.** The committee continued its discussion on ways to address penalties for student-athletes who engage in prohibited sports wagering activities and may be experiencing issues related to problem gambling. Specifically, the committee provided feedback on a potential concept that would offer alternative options to penalties related to sports wagering activities. Under this proposed concept, if the violation does not involve an integrity concern and if this is the student-athlete's first sports wagering violation, the student-athlete could qualify for relief from the current sports wagering penalties provided a student-athlete engages with appropriate licensed clinical evaluation or support. Upon its review, the committee requested additional clarification on the proposed concept. Finally, the committee reviewed its sports wagering

guidelines and determined that a change is not necessary at this time. The committee will continue its discussion at a future meeting.

4. **Review of Mental Health Hardship Waiver Program.** The committee reviewed a recommendation from staff and agreed to extend the mental health hardship waiver pilot program for the 2026-27 academic year. [See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2.a.]
5. **Review of the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee Guidelines.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its guidelines. [See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2.b.]
6. **Review of the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee's policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved an updated version of its policies and procedures.
7. **Update regarding referrals from the Division II Operating Plan.** The committee received an update regarding the Division II Operating Plan, which runs from January 2026 through 2032.
8. **Review of the winter and spring 2026 NCAA Division II Executive Board and Management Council summary of actions.** The committee received an update on the summary of actions from the winter and spring 2026 meetings of the Executive Board and Management Council.
9. **Review of student-athlete reinstatement cases approved based on totality.** The committee reviewed recent Division II governance and member services staff decisions that provided relief from established case precedent and/or committee guidelines.
10. **Update from the NCAA office of legal affairs.** The committee received an update from the office of legal affairs.
11. **Election of new chair.** The committee elected Shareef Amer, director of athletics, California State University, San Bernardino, as chair, effective September 1, 2026.
12. **Approval of the December 2, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its December 2, 2025, videoconference report.

**13. Future meetings.**

- a. November/December 2026, videoconference; date and timing to be determined.
- b. May/June 2027, videoconference; date and timing to be determined.

*Committee Chair: Lynn Griffin, Coker University.*

*Staff Liaison(s): Jess Rigler, Division II Governance and Member Services.*

<b>NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee May 12, 2026, Videoconference</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Shareef Amer, California State University, San Bernardino.
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos (Management Council chair).
Lynn Griffin, Coker University.
Jerry Haywood, Fort Valley State University.
Mariah Hughes, Point Loma Nazarene University.
Chad Williams, Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro.
Denise Wisniewski, Chestnut Hill College.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Jen Cole, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Robert Coleman, St. Mary’s University (Texas); Eric Gobiell, Assumption University; Matt Green, Flagler College; Ashley Grimm, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; Drew Howard, Florida Southern College; Jason Jones, Catawba College; Abbie McCants, Coker University; Jennifer Mercurio, Florida Institute of Technology; Laura Dahlby Nicolai, Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Krista Plummer, Northwood University; Deborah Rodgers, Tuskegee University; Suzanne Sanregret, Michigan Technological University; and Melissa Thacker, Cameron University.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Jess Rigler.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jeremy Christoffels, Rachel Denton, Terri Steeb Gronau, Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones, Taylor Koper, Jackson Marcotte, Mariah Murdock, Angela Red, Katelyn Skarr, Jared Tidemann and Megan Villanueva.