



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 16, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2021 NCAA Division II Legislation and Legislative Process.** The committee received an overview of the proposed Division II legislation for the 2021 NCAA Convention and developed pro-con lists for each proposal. The legislative timeline and legislative grid process were reviewed. Grids for the Convention proposals will be distributed by the committee to the schools in their respective conferences by September 29 and are to be returned to the conference’s national SAAC representative no later than October 19.
2. **Name, Image and Likeness Discussion.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on the NIL legislative proposals that were moved forward by the Division II Legislation Committee for sponsorship by the governance structure for a membership vote at the 2021 Convention.
3. **Follow-Up Discussion on Racial Injustice.** The committee held an open dialogue on the racial injustice happening in our country. In an effort to educate student-athletes on the importance of voting, the committee directed staff to investigate a partnership with the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE). RISE is a nonpartisan organization that partners with sports teams, conferences, community groups and leagues to improve civic engagement. The committee will focus on RISE’s pillar of voter education and in particular its RISE to Vote campaign, which will be added as a committee goal for 2020.
4. **Discussion on Nonqualifier Access to Practice.** The committee reviewed a potential legislative change to amend NCAA Division II Bylaws 14.3.1.6.1 (eligibility of aid, practice and competition – nonqualifier) and 14.5.4.3.4 (practice and receipt of athletics aid – nonqualifier) to permit nonqualifiers to practice in the first academic year of residence. The committee expressed support for the legislative change. The SAAC believes it is important for the mental health of nonqualifiers to practice with their team as they work to gain their eligibility.
5. **Feedback on NCAA Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Referral.** At the request of the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, the SAAC evaluated the possibility of institutions paying for student-athletes’ expenses while on campus during winter break. The committee expressed support for institutions providing monetary assistance, especially for student-athletes who are unable to return home due to COVID-19.

- 6. Discussion on Legislated 2020 Winter Break.** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee discussed whether the legislated 2020 winter break scheduled for Dec. 21-27 should be modified. The committee shared that the break offers an opportunity for physical and mental rest and to recharge for the spring semester. The committee also expressed that modifying the winter break would go against the division's Life in the Balance philosophy. Ultimately, the SAAC expressed support to maintain the 2020 winter break as scheduled.
- 7. Discussion on 2020-21 Participation Opportunities During Nonchampionship Segment.** The committee discussed whether student-athletes should have additional participation opportunities during the nonchampionship segment in the 2020-21 academic year. The committee shared that student-athletes use their nonchampionship segment semester to focus more on their academics (e.g., taking more classes). The committee also expressed support for not increasing the amount of participation opportunities given all that student-athletes are going through with COVID-19.
- 8. 2020 SAAC Goals Discussion.** The committee continued to discuss its overarching goal for 2020, the "Total Package Student-Athlete." The goal encompasses diversity and inclusion, Love2Play, mental health and professional development. In roundtable discussions, the committee reviewed the progress made in each goal category and reported out to the entire group.

 - a. Diversity and Inclusion.** The diversity and inclusion task force is interested in gathering statistics and information from the NCAA Office of Inclusion to use on future educational resources. The task force plans to create pamphlets related to various diversity and inclusion topics.
 - b. Love2Play.** The Love2Play initiative is to encourage young athletes to participate in multiple sports and have fun while they play. Due to COVID-19 health risks, the task force plans to focus on building a brand for Love2Play and building a social media presence.
 - c. Mental Health.** The mental health task force previously planned releasing a campaign encouraging member institutions and conferences to dedicate games to mental health awareness. This initiative has been postponed due to the impact of COVID-19. With the cancellation of some fall seasons, the task force will shift its focus to providing advice for those who have lost their season.
 - d. Professional Development.** The professional development task force is interested in contacting former student-athletes to provide testimonials sharing how they used their skills and experiences as student-athletes to succeed in their careers. The task force is creating a draft of its first informational document that will cover the do's and don'ts of resumes.

9. **Discussion with NCAA President Mark Emmert.** President Mark Emmert and the SAAC held an open dialogue about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial injustice issues on student-athletes. The committee shared with President Emmert the challenges that student-athletes are facing during these times.
10. **Discussion on Committee Term Length.** The SAAC will have a discussion at its November meeting about the committee's legislated three-year term length. Some committee members who rolled off in January suggested that the committee might operate more efficiently if third-year members rolled off after they graduate and exhaust their athletics eligibility. New members could then join the committee at its July meeting.
11. **SAAC Super Region Convention Update.** The committee was provided an update on the Super Region Convention for the Central Region scheduled for Nov. 20-22 in Chicago for institutions in the Great American Conference, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Great Lakes Valley Conference, Great Midwest Athletic Conference, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
12. **Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The committee discussed possibly delaying the 2020 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award due to the effects of COVID-19. After deliberation, it was decided the committee would move forward with honoring an exemplary mentor. Nominations must be submitted by Oct. 15.
13. **Division II Notification of Transfer Resource.** The committee viewed the final version of a notification of transfer resource that was created by the SAAC for Division II student-athletes. This document highlights the changes in the transfer process and includes an FAQ section highlighting several areas of the new legislation.
14. **Make-A-Wish® Update.** The committee was joined by Make-A-Wish CEO Richard Davis who expressed his appreciation for the partnership between Division II and Make-A-Wish. The committee also received an update on the partnership. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, wish granting has been affected. Make-A-Wish has pivoted to sharing messages of hope. While COVID-19 has negatively affected donations, the organization is focusing on creating a virtual toolkit for the Division II membership to connect student-athletes and wish recipients. Division II completed 10 wish reveals in the 2019-20 academic year.
15. **Team IMPACT® Update.** The committee was informed of the efforts of Team IMPACT to keep teams and children connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Team IMPACT shared that 40 children have been matched virtually. The implementation of virtual huddles, the Unstoppable Summer Sidekick initiative and student-athlete development were discussed.

16. **NCAA Postgraduate Internship Program.** The committee was informed of the postgraduate scholarships and internships available to student-athletes, including the application for the 2021-22 NCAA Postgraduate Internship Program, which opens in August 2020.
17. **SAAC Annual Reports.** Each year, SAAC representatives submit an annual report to their conference commissioner by Aug. 31. The reports are intended to highlight past, current and future initiatives of conference SAAC and national SAAC.
18. **SAAC Network.** The SAAC Network document was reviewed. Committee members were charged with confirming the information of their conference institutions by Sept. 15.
19. **Review of SAAC Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved changes to its policies and procedures.
20. **Meeting Reports.** The reports for the April, May and June SAAC meetings were reviewed and approved by the committee.
21. **Future Meetings.**
 - a. Fall 2020 conference call; date to be determined.
 - b. Nov. 19-22, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Chicago.
 - c. Jan. 12-16, 2021, in conjunction with NCAA Convention; Washington, D.C.
 - d. April 9-11, 2021; virtual.
 - e. July 16-18, 2021; SAAC/Management Council Summit, Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Alex Shillow, Texas A&M-Commerce, Lone Star Conference.

Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance.

Amanda Benzine, Championships and Alliances.

Julie Sargent, Academic and Membership Affairs.

Michael Woo, Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee July 16, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Alexia Autrey, King University (Tennessee), Conference Carolinas.	
Angel Bautista-Ponce, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Wiley Cain, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Ismael Contreras, Purdue University Northwest, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	

Father John Denning, Stonehill College, Northeast-10 Conference.
Gillian Edgar, Seattle Pacific University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.
John Michael Etheridge, Kentucky State University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Olivia Faught, Southern Arkansas University, Great American Conference.
Grant Foley, Delta State University, Gulf South Conference.
Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University, South Atlantic Conference.
Madison Heck, Georgian Court University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Teara Johnson, Winston-Salem State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Braydon Kubat, University of Minnesota Duluth, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Christian Leone, Nova Southeastern University, Sunshine State Conference.
Madeleine McKenna, California University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Grace Martin, West Virginia State University, Mountain East Conference.
Mary Northcutt, Carson-Newman University, South Atlantic Conference.
Mackenzie O'Neill, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
Micaiah Paige, Morehouse College, At-Large.
Kate Pigsley, Southern New Hampshire University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Leshlie A. Ramirez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Independent.
Jacob Renie, University of Indianapolis, Great Lakes Valley Conference.
Madison Schiller, California State University, East Bay, California Collegiate Athletic Association.
Alex Shillow, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Lone Star Conference.
Emma Svagdis, Azusa Pacific University, Pacific West Conference.
Billy Wildeman, Molloy College, East Coast Conference.
Absentees:
Jessica Chapin, American International College, Northeast-10 Conference.
Alexandria Rhodes, Georgia Southwestern State University, Peach Belt Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Tom Caillouette, Make-A-Wish America.
Richard Davis, Make-A-Wish America.
Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (chair, Management Council).
Devon Herlihy, Make-A-Wish America.
Amy VanRyn, Team IMPACT.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Amanda, Benzine, Ryan Jones, Julie Sargent and Michael Woo.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Michael Cioroianu, Mark Emmert, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Mckenzie Maneggia, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red, Lisa Rogers and Karen Wolf.