



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 21-22, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **2022 NCAA Convention Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 17.1.6 – Playing and Practice Seasons – Required Day Off – Civic Engagement.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2022 NCAA Convention to amend NCAA Bylaw 17.1.6 (time limits for athletically related activities) to that specify that all countable athletically related activities shall be prohibited on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
 - (2) Effective date. Aug. 1, 2022.
 - (3) Rationale. This proposal is designed to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to participate in civic engagement (e.g., voting, volunteering, community engagement). By requiring an annual day off from countable athletically related activities each year, student-athletes will have focused time to civically engage, including time to vote in presidential and some congressional, state and local elections, and will have more opportunities to amplify their voice. This proposal supports the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee’s “Total Package Student-Athlete” goal that encourages student-athletes to be well-rounded students and exercise their right to vote. This proposal would not impact competitive or recruiting equity since the legislation would impact all institutions in the same manner.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Provides an annual day off from countable athletically related activities and the opportunity for civic engagement.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Establish Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Positions for 2021 NCAA Convention.** The committee reviewed the proposed 2021 Convention Division II legislation for the business session and determined its official positions on each proposal.

The committee discussed the concerns of its respective conferences and provided the student-athlete perspective.

The committee reviewed and discussed the following pieces of proposed legislation:

- a. **Proposal No. 2021-1 (2-1):** Various Bylaws – Student-Athlete Use of Name, Image and Likeness. **Committee Position: Supports.**
 - b. **Proposal No. 2021-2 (2-2):** Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements and Two-Year College Transfers – Elimination of Nonqualifier Qualification Status – Access to Athletics Aid and Practice for All Incoming Student-Athletes. **Committee Position: Supports.**
 - c. **Proposal No. 2021-3 (2-3):** Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements and Two-Year College Transfers – Nonqualifiers – Access to Athletics Aid. **Committee Position: Supports.**
2. **Preparation for 2021 Convention Division II Business Session.** The committee assigned members to speak on legislative proposals for the 2021 Division II business session.
3. **2021 Convention Overview.** The committee was presented with the 2021 Convention schedule. Due to the virtual setting, some programming is outside of the traditional Convention week.
4. **2021 Convention Education Sessions.** This year, three education sessions will be offered by Division II and the committee will host two of them, “Student-Athlete Social Justice and Activism” and “The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Student-Athlete Identity.”
5. **2021 Elections.** The committee will hold its annual elections during its January 12 committee meeting. The committee received a preview of the positions that will be open for election. Committee members will submit nominations for the open positions before the January committee meeting.
6. **Discussion Committee Term Length.** The committee discussed whether it should recommend legislation that would adjust when a student-athlete’s term of office on SAAC should conclude for current committee members and commence for new committee members. The committee believes the NCAA Convention is still a good time for committee members to roll off the committee and for new committee members to join. The committee acknowledged that priorities may change for committee members after they graduate from their institution and secure new opportunities. The committee asked staff to speak with committee members who are graduating about their plans for next steps, whether they can continue to manage their responsibilities with SAAC and stress that stepping away from SAAC is understandable. The committee voted to keep the current committee term length.

7. **Discussion on Creating Name, Image and Likeness Education Resources.** The committee discussed possible educational resources for Division II student-athletes should the proposed NIL legislation be adopted at the 2021 Convention. The committee recommended including information on how student-athletes can benefit from the legislation, important items for student-athletes to keep in mind with the legislation, and the differences in the legislation among the divisions. The committee recommended sharing education through infographics and an interactive NIL page on NCAA.org.
8. **Discussion with NCAA President Mark Emmert.** President Mark Emmert and the committee held an open dialogue about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NCAA and Division II institutions, e-sports, and the current climate surrounding NIL. The committee shared the challenges that student-athletes are facing during these times.
9. **Unity Mark and Anti-Racism Pledge.** The committee received an update on the creation of the national unity mark and anti-racism pledge spearheaded by the leadership of all three divisional SAACs and the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee. The unity mark and pledge have been shared with all conferences and institutions. Each institution is being sent patches containing the unity mark that can be placed on team uniforms and apparel. The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel has already approved the use of this additional patch on uniforms. Institutions who would like to purchase additional patches should contact Brian Rutt at The Emblem Source at brian@TheEmblemSource.com.
10. **National SAAC Branding.** The committee received information regarding the creation of a new brand for the three divisional SAACs. This opportunity would create a consistent brand across the three divisions, show unity amongst student-athletes and it could help educate student-athletes and the membership on the role of SAAC.
11. **Discussion on 2020 SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed the progress it has made towards accomplishing its “Total Package Student-Athlete” goals since the committee’s July meeting. In roundtable discussions, the committee discussed what each task force has accomplished and the steps each task force needs to take to achieve its goal by the committee’s January meeting.
 - a. **Diversity and Inclusion.** The diversity and inclusion task force discussed an initiative titled “Turning the Corner.” This initiative began on a committee member’s institution and the task force discussed possible ideas from the initiative that could be implemented at their own institutions. Turning the Corner is comprised of various student leaders from diverse backgrounds who work together to combat the racial injustice in their community.
 - b. **Love2Play.** The Love2Play initiative is to encourage young athletes to participate in multiple sports and have fun while they play. The committee is finalizing a one-

pager which includes the initiative's mission statement, potential consequences of early sport specialization and a personal testimony. In addition, the task force is interested in creating a dedicated webpage for the initiative on NCAA.org that would include the one-pager and examples of campus initiatives that support Love2Play.

- c. Mental Health.** Due to the health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health task force discussed virtual initiatives. The task force will investigate the possibility of creating a mental wellness module for Division II University that would explore conversations coaches can have with their team to encourage a positive team environment. The task force also discussed holiday themed resources they could share on their social media accounts.
 - d. Professional Development.** The professional development task force discussed publishing an information document online and making the resource available to student-athletes. The task force also discussed adding a professional development element to future SAAC Super Region Convention agendas.
- 12. Make-A-Wish®.** The committee was informed that Division II raised more than \$205,000 for Make-A-Wish despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Eight institutions are in the process of planning their wish reveals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Make-A-Wish has transitioned to offering a new virtual initiative for Division II institutions called "Workout for Wishes." Ten institutions have committed to the new initiative. In addition, the Division II Wishkit and a document containing pre-approved fundraising ideas have been updated for the 2020-21 academic year and are available on the Make-A-Wish page on NCAA.org. The committee learned that the 2021 Week of Wishes is scheduled for February 15-22.
- 13. Team IMPACT®.** The committee was informed that Team IMPACT received \$80,438.25 from the division's 2019-20 championship and enforcement fines. The committee also received an update of the efforts of Team IMPACT to keep teams and children connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Team IMPACT's goal for the 2020-21 academic year is to match 50 children with Division II teams. The organization is interested in adding more student-athletes to serve as fellows for the organization. As part of the fellows program, Team IMPACT has created a student-athlete development program. This program is open to Division II student-athletes, even those from teams who have not been assigned a child.
- 14. SAAC Super Region Convention.** The SAAC Super Region Convention for the Central Region planned for November 20-22 in Chicago has been postponed. NCAA staff are working to reschedule the program for November 2021 in Chicago. Student-athletes and administrators from active member 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 will be invited to participate.

15. **Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The committee was provided an update on the nominations received for the 2020 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award. The Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee selected Dr. Joan Davison of Rollins College as this year's honoree. Since the 2021 Convention is being held virtually, Dr. Davison will be honored in person at the 2022 Convention.
16. **2020-21 Division II Priorities.** The committee was informed of the Division II priorities for the 2020-21 academic year. The priorities include the division's COVID-19 response, championships initiatives, proposed NIL legislation, Division II University, Coaches Connection, student-athlete health and safety, NCAA Inclusion Forum, Division II brand activation and SAAC's 2020-21 goals.
17. **Scholarship Opportunities and Division II Degree Completion Program.** The committee was informed of postgraduate scholarships available to student-athletes, including the Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Graduate Scholarship, Jim McKay Graduate Scholarship, NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program and Walter Byers Graduate Scholarship. Committee members also received an update on the Division II Degree Completion Award Program, which is accepting applications until 5 p.m. Eastern time on February 1.
18. **Division II Committee Reports.** Committee members serving on Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Division II committees represented were the Academic Requirements Committee, Championships Committee, Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, Legislation Committee, Management Council and Presidents Council.
19. **Association-Wide Committee Reports.** Committee members representing Association-wide committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Association-wide committees represented were the Board of Governors, Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee.
20. **Other Reports.** The committee received updates on additional meetings that have occurred this fall, including the NCAA Diverse Student-Athlete Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force, NCAA Coaches Credentialing Curriculum Development Group, NCAA Student-Athlete COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, NCAA Summit on Gender Identity and Student-Athlete Participation, and the Uniform Law Commission NIL Drafting Committee.
21. **Division II Conference Reports.** Each committee member had an opportunity to discuss past, current and future initiatives of each conference SAAC. Committee members discussed successful ideas and could ask for feedback from their peers.

22. Three New Division II SAAC Representatives. The committee welcomed three new members to national SAAC.

- a. **At-Large** – Kiana Wiggins, Caldwell University, women’s tennis.
- b. **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** – Bianca Lockamy, Virginia Union University, women’s basketball.
- c. **Peach Belt Conference** – Zach Brown, University of North Georgia, men’s basketball.

23. Meeting Reports. The SAAC reports for the July, August and October meetings were reviewed and approved by the committee.

24. Future Meetings.

- a. Jan. 11-15, 2021, in conjunction with 2021 NCAA Convention.
- b. April 9-11, 2021; videoconference.
- c. July 16-18, 2021; SAAC/Management Council Summit, videoconference.
- d. Fall 2021 legislation videoconference; date to be determined.
- e. Nov. 18-21, 2021, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Chicago.
- f. Jan. 18-22, 2022, in conjunction with NCAA Convention; Indianapolis.

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

*Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.
Amanda Benzine, Championships and Alliances.
Lamarr Pottinger, Leadership Development.
Michael Woo, Academic and Membership Affairs.*

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee November 21-22, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Alexia Autrey, King University (Tennessee), Conference Carolinas.	
Angel Bautista-Ponce, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Zach Brown, University of North Georgia, Peach Belt Conference.	
Wiley Cain, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Jessica Chapin, American International College, Northeast-10 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.
Grant Foley, Delta State University, Gulf South Conference.
Olivia Graham, Southern Arkansas University, Great American Conference.
Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University, South Atlantic Conference.
Madison Heck, Georgian Court University, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Braydon Kubat, University of Minnesota Duluth, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Bianca Lockamy, Virginia Union University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
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.
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.
Kiana Wiggins, Caldwell University, At-Large.
Billy Wildeman, Molloy College, East Coast Conference.
Absentees:
Christian Leone, Nova Southeastern University, Sunshine State Conference.
Micaiah Paige, Morehouse College, At-Large.
Guests in Attendance:
Chris Graham, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (chair, Management Council).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Amanda Benzine, Haydyn Gibson, Ryan Jones, Lamarr Pottinger, Lisa Rogers, Michael Woo.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Michael Cioroianu, Mark Emmert, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Corbin McGuire, Stephanie Quigg, Karen Wolf.