

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF AUGUST 21, 2019, TELECONFERENCE

<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>.

- 1. Legislative items.
 - Noncontroversial Legislation Eligibility 14.5.4.1 Transfer Regulations Two-Year College Transfers – Exceptions.
 - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. Approve noncontroversial legislation to expand the exception of Bylaw 14.5.4.1-(c) and permit immediate eligibility for a student-athlete who successfully completes the required two full-time semesters and 24-semester hours of transferrable-degree credit (or quarter equivalent) by enrolling one semester at a two-year institution and the other at the certifying Division III institution while not competing.
 - (2) <u>Effective date</u>. Immediate.
 - Rationale. The current legislation requires two-year college transfers to (3) serve an academic year-in-residence unless they qualify for an exception. For transfers who attend a four-year institution, then a two-year institution before enrolling at the certifying Division III institution (4-2-4 transfer), immediate eligibility can be gained by either: (1) The student-athlete having been academically and athletically eligible at the time of transfer from the first four-year institution; or (2) The student-athlete having successfully completed 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of transferrable-degree credit over at least two full-time semesters or three full-time quarters at the twoyear institution. By expanding the transfer exception to allow one of the two required full-time semesters to take place at the certifying institution, student-athletes will serve the equivalent of a year-in-residence before participation in competition, which was the rationale for the existing 4-2-4 transfer exception. Expanding the transfer exception will also allow student-athletes to begin acclimating to the four-year institution sooner and to demonstrate that they will be able to succeed academically at the Division III institution.
 - (4) <u>Budget impact</u>. None.
 - (5) <u>Student-athlete impact</u>. Increase the ways in which two-year college transfer student-athletes secure immediate eligibility to participate at Division III institutions.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- Approval of NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Guidelines.
 - (1) <u>Recommendation</u>. That Division III Management Council approve Subcommittee for Legislative Relief guidelines.
 - (2) <u>Effective date.</u> Immediate.
 - (3) <u>Rationale.</u> During its August 2019 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed an updated guidelines document. Specifically, the subcommittee approved making the currently required chief executive officer letter optional in cases involving transfer waivers. This change is consistent with the standards for other waivers, where staff has the discretion to determine if the actions in the case are egregious enough to warrant a letter, or whether institutional education and one-time approval conditions are sufficient.
 - (4) <u>Budget impact.</u> None.
 - (5) <u>Student-athlete impact.</u> None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and introductions. The subcommittee's chair, Kate Roy, welcomed its members and requested members review the subcommittee roster for accuracy.
- 2. Approval of March 2019 report. The subcommittee reviewed and approved its March 27 teleconference report.
- 3. Review cases decided from February 1, 2019, through July 31, 2019, by NCAA staff and the subcommittee. From February 1 through July 31, the subcommittee and/or staff received a total of 44 Division III waiver requests, 39 of which were decided and five of which were cancelled. The following is a summary of the decisions made by the staff and subcommittee:
 - **a.** Staff approved 27 waivers, 15 of which were approved with conditions. Of the 27 waivers approved, 23 waivers were approved based on totality of circumstances and/or student-athlete well-being and the remaining waivers were approved based on the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives.

- **b.** Staff denied eight waivers. Institutions appealed two of the staff denials to the subcommittee and the subcommittee affirmed the staff position in one case and overturned the staff position in the other.
- c. Four waivers were directly reviewed by the subcommittee and approved.
- 4. **Review of Division III previously approved waivers list.** The subcommittee reviewed the Division III Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Previously Approved Waivers Checklist [Reference: October 5, 2016, Item Ref: 2 Educational Column], which provides flexibility for an institution to grant relief of NCAA legislation and submit a report to its conference office rather than filing a formal legislative relief waiver request. The subcommittee took no action.
- 5. Review of Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Policies and Procedures. Staff provided the subcommittee with its policies and procedures for review. The subcommittee reviewed the document and took no action.
- 6. Review international ice hockey pilot blanket waiver for 2019-20 academic year. The subcommittee reviewed and approved the international ice hockey pilot blanket waiver for the 2019-20 academic year. The waiver relieves institutions from the requirement to execute the international student-athlete form for the 2019-20 academic year as required per Bylaw 14.1.5 (international student-athlete form) for those ice hockey student-athletes certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center pursuant to the 2019-20 International Ice Hockey Pilot. Staff noted that the blanket waiver is an extension of the waiver issued for the 2018-19 academic year in conjunction with the previous pilot.
- 7. Review elite participation directive for Bylaws 17.1.5 and 16.8.1.3. The subcommittee reviewed the current directive and staff positions for waivers of Bylaw 17.1.5 (out-of-season athletically related activities), in which the student-athlete has met the qualifying standards for elite competition events listed in Bylaw 16.8.1.3. Specifically, the subcommittee reviewed whether staff should continue to apply flexibility in cases where the qualifying event is not one listed in Bylaw 16.8.1.3 and/or the student-athlete is within a certain percentage of the qualifying standard for the elite event. The subcommittee determined that the current directive and position is most appropriate, and staff should continue to evaluate waivers that do not meet the directive on a case-by-case basis.
- 8. Review Bylaw 14.1.9 guideline for extenuating or extraordinary circumstances. The subcommittee reviewed the current guideline for extenuating or extraordinary circumstances for waiver requests of Bylaw 14.1.9 (graduate student/postbaccalaureate participation) that do not meet the compelling and exemplary academic success directive. The subcommittee confirmed that nonparticipation in intercollegiate athletics as the sole assertion for relief will not result in a waiver approval.

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- **9.** Future meetings. The chair reminded the subcommittee of its upcoming March 2020 meeting.
- 10. Other business. None.
- **11. Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 3:27 p.m. Eastern time.

Subcommittee Chair:Kate Roy, North Atlantic ConferenceStaff Liaisons:Corey Berg, Academic and Membership AffairsKaitlyn Purcell, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief August 21, 2019, Teleconference

Attendees:

Jason Fein, Bates College.

Lori Mazza, Western Connecticut State University.

Scott McGuinness, William and Jefferson College.

Kate Roy, North Atlantic Conference.

Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.

Mike Vienna, Emory University.

Absentees:

None.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Corey Berg and Kaitlyn Purcell.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Anyssa Barbosa, Louise McCleary and Jeff Myers.