



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF
MARCH 24, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **2021-22 Academic Year – Eligibility Waiver – Full-Time Enrollment – Requirement for Practice or Competition – Bylaw 14.1.8.1.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve a blanket waiver for the 2021-22 academic year allowing a student-athlete to participate while enrolled less than full time as follows:

- (a) For two semesters, provided they complete their degree requirements at the end of the second semester and the first semester they are enrolled in at least six credit hours.
- (b) If they have already graduated or graduate midyear, then they enroll in at least six credit hours each semester of a second baccalaureate or graduate program; or the equivalent of six credit hours in classes that progress the student's career or academic goals as approved by an institutional academic authority outside of athletics.

[The above criteria would apply to quarter schools on the same equivalent basis.]

(2) Effective date. The 2021-22 academic year.

(3) Rationale. As a result of the uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year, student-athletes were effectively granted an additional year and season of eligibility. The NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief recognized for students that are close to graduation a certain level of enrollment flexibility is appropriate to allow these students to use this additional year during the 2021-22 academic year. The recommendation maintains a base level of enrollment thereby ensuring that Division III athletics constitutes students competing against students, while providing flexibility that supports graduation and participation. This blanket relief does not address all situations and therefore it does not preclude institutions from seeking

individual relief for their student-athletes that don't satisfy the criteria in this recommendation. Finally, the recommendation would be applicable only for the 2021-22 academic year. The subcommittee acknowledged, however, that the eligibility impact of student-athletes during the past year will have multiyear implications and they will continue to evaluate the appropriateness of enrollment flexibility beyond the 2021-22 academic year.

- (4) Budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Will provide flexibility for student-athletes to utilize their full athletics eligibility, including COVID-19 related relief from the 2020-21 academic year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The chair, Chuck Brown, welcomed the subcommittee members at 1:03 p.m. and requested members review the roster for accuracy.
2. **Approval of August 2020 report.** The subcommittee reviewed and approved its August 17 teleconference report.
3. **Review cases decided from August 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, by NCAA staff and the subcommittee.** From August 1 through January 31, the subcommittee and/or staff received a total of 124 Division III waiver requests, 116 of which were decided and 8 of which were withdrawn. The following is a summary of the decisions made by the staff and subcommittee:
 - a. Staff approved 86 waivers, 40 of which were approved with conditions. Of the 86 waivers approved, 48 waivers were approved based on totality of circumstances and/or student-athlete well-being; and 35 waivers were approved based on the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives.
 - b. Staff denied 18 waivers. Institutions appealed eight of the staff denials to the subcommittee, and the subcommittee affirmed the staff position in five cases and overturned the staff position in three cases.
 - c. Four waivers, including two blanket waivers, were directly reviewed by the subcommittee and approved.

4. **Review of Division III previously approved waivers list.** The subcommittee reviewed edits to the 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 approved the document, as amended, and instructed staff to post the update to LSDBi.
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 of Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Information Standards, Guidelines and Directives.** Staff provided the subcommittee with its information standards, guidelines and directives for review. The subcommittee reviewed the document and took no action.
7. **Discussion of student-athlete mental health in waiver directives and guidelines.** Jerry Vaughn, associate director of academic and membership affairs for Division I, provided the subcommittee with a recap of the Division I process that resulted in the creation of a waiver guideline centered around student-athlete mental health. The subcommittee instructed staff to consult with Division II about its process and directed staff to monitor legislative relief waiver requests with assertions of student-athlete mental health and/or egregious behavior over the next six months, at which time, the subcommittee will revisit the discussion.
8. **Discussion of additional relief related to COVID-19.** The subcommittee considered the application of COVID-19 relief for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year. Specifically, the subcommittee determined that it is appropriate to honor 2020-21 COVID-19 relief from other divisions/associations for purposes of the “season of participation” criteria of the graduate participation directive.
9. **Future meetings.** The chair reminded the subcommittee of its upcoming August 2021 meeting.
10. **Other business.** None.
11. **Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 3:06 p.m. Eastern time.

Subcommittee Chair: Chuck Brown, Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College.
Staff Liaison: Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.

NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief March 24, 2021, Videoconference
Attendees:
Cheryl Aaron, Wentworth Institute of Technology.
Chuck Brown, Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College.
Tom DiCamillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Lori Mazza, Western Connecticut State University.
Scott McGuinness, William and Jefferson College.
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University.
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.
Absentees:
Bill Stiles, Alvernia University.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Corey Berg
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lauren Frost, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Jerry Vaughn.