



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
JULY 15, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- **Blanket Waiver – Virtual Recruiting with Multiple Prospective Student-Athletes.**

(1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council (or Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief on behalf of Management Council) extend and modify the existing blanket waiver, which permits Division III institutions to use virtual platforms to conduct recruiting activities involving multiple prospective student-athletes. The waiver should be extended while the governance structure explores potential legislative change and should coincide with that process. The waiver should reflect the following principles:

- (a) Using virtual platforms to communicate with multiple prospective student-athletes is a beneficial recruiting tool for Division III institutions and should continue to augment, rather than replace, existing recruiting options;
- (b) Student-athletes should be involved in virtual recruiting, provided their involvement is voluntary, occurs only during the academic year and does not result in any missed class time;
- (c) Virtual recruiting with multiple prospective student-athletes should be treated similar to the current legislation regarding contacting a prospective student-athlete via a telephone call (e.g., no timing or age restrictions);
- (d) The membership should be able to promote the virtual recruiting event publicly, but not promote or publicize the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes; and
- (e) Coaches and institutional athletics staff members should be permitted to participate in virtual recruiting events with multiple prospective student-athletes, including outside groups, clubs, teams

and organizations, regardless of whether the event could otherwise occur on campus or who initiates the event.

- (2) Rationale. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief issued a blanket waiver that permitted Division III member institutions to use virtual platforms to conduct recruiting activities with multiple prospective student-athletes, when such activities would have normally taken place on campus but were not possible in their traditional format due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Because the blanket waiver overlapped with the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee's review of the division's recruiting legislation, the committee began its review by focusing on virtual recruiting. As part of its review, the committee solicited and reviewed feedback from the membership regarding its experience with virtual recruiting. That feedback indicated that virtual recruiting has become an effective and cost-efficient means of recruiting for Division III institutions. Additionally, the committee considered challenges associated with virtual recruiting identified by the membership such as involvement of student-athletes, publicity of virtual recruiting events and monitoring virtual recruiting events/activity.

In response to the feedback it received and the committee's belief that virtual recruiting has become an essential tool for the recruitment of prospective students and student-athletes, the committee believes the current waiver should be extended and modified to reflect the above principles. The extension and modification of the current blanket waiver for virtual recruiting is designed to provide institutions with flexibility to continue to recruit prospective student-athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic and determine whether a legislative proposal permitting virtual recruiting with multiple prospective student-athletes should be introduced in the 2021-22 legislative cycle.

- (3) Budget Impact. Potential reduction of costs associated with on and off campus recruiting.
- (4) Student-Athlete Impact. Expand student-athlete involvement in recruiting on a voluntary basis.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review June report.** The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed the report from its June 18, 2020, videoconference.
2. **Future meetings.** The committee reviewed dates and times for upcoming meetings and videoconferences.
3. **Other business.** Staff provided an update re. the 2020-21 NCAA Division III Compliance Forms.
4. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 12:56 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* Angie Morenz, Blackburn College

*Staff Liaisons:* Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs

Kaitlyn Purcell, Academic and Membership Affairs

Bill Regan, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee July 15, 2020, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Amy Backus, Case Western Reserve University.	
Matt Hill, University of Northwestern – St. Paul.	
Allie Littlefox, Mills College.	
Angie Morenz, Blackburn College.	
Joseph Pavlow, Rosemont College.	
Mila C. Su, Plattsburgh State University of New York.	
Anthony Francois, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Bill Regan and Patrick B. Summers, New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Jeff Myers and Kaitlyn Purcell.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Lauren Frost and Louise McCleary.	