



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
JUNE 18, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- **Blanket Waiver – Prospective Student-Athletes Joining Virtual Team Meetings.**

(1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council Subcommittee on Legislative Relief approve a blanket waiver to permit a committed prospective student-athlete (e.g., provided a financial deposit with the institution in response to its offer of admission) to participate in virtual team meetings provided the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The team meeting is being conducted in a manner consistent with the flexibility provided by the Division III Administrative Committee (March 13, 2020 directive and March 26, 2020 clarification), and

(b) Prospective student-athletes may attend and participate in virtual team meetings until the first day of classes for the fall term or the team's first day of practice, whichever is earlier

(2) Rationale. In response to COVID-19, Division III governance committees provided the membership with flexibility regarding their interaction with student-athletes (allowing student-athlete participation in virtual team meetings during the summer). This action was taken to foster student-athlete well-being by maintaining the connection between coaches and student-athletes. Current Division III legislation does not permit prospective student-athletes who have committed to attend a Division III institution to join these virtual team meetings. However, the rationale for providing institutions with the necessary flexibility to support the student-athletes' well-being is equally true for prospective student-athletes transitioning from high school to college. Specially, permitting prospective student-athletes who have committed to attend a Division III member institution to participate in virtual team meetings conducted before the beginning of practice or the fall term will allow prospective student-athletes to connect with their future team members and coaches.

(3) Budget Impact. None.

(4) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review May report.** The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed the report from its May 21, 2020, videoconference.
2. **Transfer portal update.** NCAA staff provided an update on the functions of the NCAA Transfer Portal and data regarding how it has been used in Division III.
3. **Review of recruiting communication.** The committee continued its discussion of recruiting communication with multiple prospective student-athlete using virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom, Skype). After reviewing feedback from the Division III membership and considering the questions received from the membership regarding the blanket waiver issued by the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief permitting virtual recruiting with multiple prospective student-athletes, the committee concluded the following:
  - a. Using virtual platforms to communicate with multiple prospective student-athletes is an effective and efficient way for Division III institutions to recruit and should continue for the upcoming academic year;
  - b. Student-athletes are an important part of the recruiting process and 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;
  - d. The membership should be able to promote the virtual recruiting event publicly, but may not promote the specific participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes (e.g., can share on institutional social media accounts informational details about the event but cannot share particular prospective student-athletes involvement); and
  - e. Virtual recruiting should augment existing recruiting options (e.g., official visits) rather than replace them.

The committee asked the staff to prepare additional information for its consideration regarding whether there should be times in which virtual recruiting should not be permissible and whether coaches should be permitted to participate in virtual events initiated by an outside group, club, team or organization. The committee will continue to review and develop this concept at its next videoconference with the aim of providing a recommendation to the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief concerning its current virtual recruiting blanket that is set to expire August 1.

4. **Future meetings.** The committee reviewed dates and times for upcoming meetings and videoconferences.
5. **Other business.** Staff provided an update re the 2020-21 NCAA Division III Compliance Forms.
6. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 1:04 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 June 18, 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.	
Patrick B. Summers, New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference.	
Mila C. Su, Plattsburgh State University of New York.	
Anthony Francois, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Jeff Myers, Kaitlyn Purcell and Bill Regan.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Corey Berg, Louise McCleary, Joan Nissen and Susan Peal.	