



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Approval of Official Interpretation – Football Preseason Contact Restrictions.

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that the 75 minutes of contact permitted for preseason activities after the six-day acclimatization period is a per student limitation. Each student-athlete is limited to 75 minutes of contact in any on-field preseason practice session conducted during any one on-field practice session. This permits the 75 minutes of contact to occur at different times during that session for different groups of student-athletes. For example, one group of student-athletes may engage in contact drills during the first 75 minutes of practice while another group of student-athletes may engage in contact drills during the last 75 minutes of practice. Additionally, the 75-minute limitation applies to both full and thud contact.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaw 17.11.3.3 (Preseason Activities After Six-Day Acclimatization Period).]

- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. During its February 2022 meeting, the committee reviewed the January 25, 2022, education column for Proposal No. 2022-7 (2-7) Playing and Practice Seasons – Football – Practice Modifications and identified the question and answer regarding the time limit for contact during preseason practice to be elevated to an official interpretation. The committee believes that elevating this to an official interpretation will help institutions correctly understand and appropriately apply the legislation.

- (4) Budget Impact. None.

- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Promotes the health and safety of student-athletes.

b. Approval of Official Interpretation – Preseason Scrimmages, Exhibition and Joint Practices during Football Preseason.

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that the preseason scrimmages, exhibitions, joint practices permitted in the sport of football are considered part of preseason and each scrimmage, exhibition, joint practice session must count as one of the eight allowable on-field full padded practice sessions. This also requires that these activities would count as contact practices when considering that an institution may not conduct more than two consecutive days of full contact. However, the preseason scrimmages, exhibitions, joint practices are not subject to the 75-minute contact limitations.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.1.4.5.1 (Standard Contest or Date of Competition Exemptions) 17.11.3.3 (Preseason Activities After Six-Day Acclimatization Period) and 17.11.4.1 (First Contest - Exception.)]

- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

- (3) Rationale. During its February 2022 meeting, the committee reviewed the January 25, 2022, education column for Proposal No. 2022-7 (2-7) Playing and Practice Seasons – Football – Practice Modifications and recommended that the question concerning preseason scrimmages, scrimmages and joint practices be written as an official interpretation. The committee believes the official interpretation will help to ensure the consistent application of the new legislation for preseason activities.

- (4) Budget Impact. None.

- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Promotes the health and safety of student-athletes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review February Report.** The committee reviewed the report from its February 9-10, videoconference.
2. **Timeline for reviewing legislative concepts.** The committee reviewed and approved a timeline for its review of legislative concepts for Bylaws 13, 14 and 17 along with identifying outside groups to provide feedback concerning the concepts. The committee reaffirmed its intention to provide final recommendations to the respective councils by July/August 2022.

3. **Deregulation of social media in Bylaw13.** The committee started its review of a legislative concept that would deregulate the use of social media within Bylaw 13, focusing specifically on whether recruiting should remain a private process between the prospective student-athlete (PSA) and the institution. The committee considered what privacy currently means in the realm of social media use by PSAs and recent NCAA legislatives changes. The committee had initial discussions concerning the implications if recruiting was not private. The committee requested staff prepare options and anticipated impacts of such options for review at a future meeting. The committee also requested that staff seek feedback from identified groups regarding this concept.
4. **Future Meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
5. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 12:59 Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Bill Regan, Academic and Membership Affairs
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee March 16, 2022, Videoconference.
Attendees:
Matt Hill, University of Northwestern-St. Paul.
Keri Alexander Luchowski, North Coast Athletic Conference.
Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology.
Michael A Mattia, Gettysburg College.
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University. (SAAC)
Mila Su, Plattsburgh State University.
Patrick B. Summers, New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
Kurt J. Beron, University of Texas at Dallas.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Sarah Turner.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary and Joan Nissen.