



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 28, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review February Report.** The committee reviewed the report from its February 7 and 9 videoconferences and March 1 email feedback.
2. **Review Individual Sport Student-Athlete Declaring as Professional Staff Interpretation.** The committee reviewed a new staff interpretation clarifying that a student-athlete cannot professionalize themselves solely by declaring as a professional during event registration. The committee approved the following staff determination:

Individual Sport Student-Athlete Declaring as a Professional (III).

The academic and membership affairs staff determined that a student-athlete participating in an individual sport does not become ineligible for intercollegiate athletics in their sport by solely declaring themselves as a professional when registering for athletics events. The student-athlete becomes a professional and will jeopardize their amateurism status by receiving prize money above actual and necessary expenses or payment (directly or indirectly) for their athletics participation.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 12.02.4 (Professional Athlete), 12.1.6.2 (Nonpermissible Activities -- After Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment) and 12.1.8 (Prohibited Forms of Pay)]

3. **Discuss Transfer Year in Residence.** The committee continued its discussion on the transfer regulations in Division III. The committee specifically addressed whether a year in residence should be the default condition (subject to exceptions) for any transfer student-athlete. The committee reviewed feedback from the Faculty Athletic Representative Advisory Group and the Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, and reviewed waiver case volume for those seeking relief of the year of residence legislation, as well as transfer portal data. The committee agreed that:
 - (a) A year in residence should not be the default position for transfer student-athletes; and
 - (b) The certifying institution should certify transfer student-athletes per institutional policy. The certifying institution would determine if the student-athlete's academic status at the previous institution is relevant as opposed to a requirement that eligibility upon transfer is dependent upon previous academic eligibility.

The committee determined further discussion is needed regarding two-year transfer regulations and transfer student-athletes serving a disciplinary suspension and it will reconsider these issues during its June meeting to determine if a legislative recommendation is warranted. The committee is asking for initial direction from the council on this position prior to seeking membership feedback ahead of the June meeting. It is also noted that National SAAC will review this issue prior to the April council meeting.

4. **Update on Seasons of Participation.** Staff provided the committee with the feedback received from the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief pertaining to the seasons of participation, specifically as it relates to non-Division III graduate/postbaccalaureate student-athletes. Staff noted the Subcommittee supported the committee’s recommendation for legislating the Bylaw 14.1.8 blanket waiver criteria and extended the 2023-24 academic year blanket waiver in the interim.
5. **Future Meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
6. **Other Business.** The committee agreed to review and approve the 2024-25 NCAA Division III compliance forms via email.
7. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 3:24 p.m. Eastern.

Committee Chair: Michael Mattia, Gettysburg College.
Staff Liaison(s): Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee March 28, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
	Kurt J. Beron, University of Texas at Dallas.
	Rachana Bhat, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.
	Harry Dumay, Elms College.
	Crystal Gibson, St. Mary’s College of Maryland.
	Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology.
	Michael A Mattia, Gettysburg College.
	Danielle O’Leary, William Peace University.
	Sarah Otey, Ohio Athletic Conference.

Absentees:
Jack Langan, Cornell College.
Andrea R. Ricketts-Preston, Mount Holyoke College.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Corey Berg, Jeff Myers, Becca Trovato and Sarah Turner.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Kameron Jones, Louise McCleary and Joan Nissen.