

# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III COMMITTEE ON STUDENT-ATHLETE REINSTATEMENT MAY 14, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE

#### ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review philosophy statements. The NCAA Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement reviewed the Division III philosophy statement and the student-athlete reinstatement philosophy statement.
- **Review November 2019 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its November 2019 in-person meeting.
- **3. Governance update.** The committee received a governance update from the managing director for Division III on the impact of COVID-19 on the division and related membership resources; the use of student-athlete name, image and likeness; and concussion-related litigation.
- 4. Previously approved waivers and reinstatement requests. The committee received an update on the previously approved waivers and reinstatement request checklist and added a previously approved waiver request that institutions may approve only if they circumstances of the particular case appear on the list and satisfy all established criteria. The committee affirmed that if the circumstances of a particular case do not appear on the previously approved request list or if the circumstances do not satisfy all established criteria, the institution must submit a waiver or student-athlete reinstatement request to the NCAA staff through RSRO.
- 5. Consideration of COVID-19 related student-athlete reinstatement issues. The committee reviewed the impact of COVID-19 on issues related to student-athlete reinstatement.
  - a. The committee noted staff should continue to request contemporaneous medical documentation, as required by the legislation, when processing requests involving an injury or illness. The committee noted in circumstances where an institution asserts required documentation is unavailable or cannot be obtained due to the impact of COVID-19, staff may provide flexibility where appropriate. The committee will review and revisit the challenges associated with obtaining contemporaneous medical documentation due to COVID-19 during its December 2020 meeting.

- b. The committee agreed staff should provide flexibility in permitting spring sport student-athletes with unfulfilled withholding conditions from spring 2020 to count the number of contests/dates of competition withheld during the 2019-20 season toward the number of contests/dates of competition required by the withholding condition, provided the student-athlete was otherwise eligible to compete, and:
  - (1) The institution completed a portion of the season in the student-athlete's spring sport during the 2019-20 academic year;
  - (2) The institution withheld the student-athlete from all competition in that sport during the 2019-20 season; and
  - (3) The student-athlete did not have an opportunity to use a season of competition during the 2019-20 academic year because the remainder of the institution's season was canceled due to COVID-19.
- **6. Financial aid update.** The committee reviewed student-athlete reinstatement cases involving financial aid violations processed between September 16, 2019, and March 23, 2020 and directed staff to continue to review student-athlete reinstatement requests involving financial aid violations on a case-by-case basis.
- 7. Flexible case review. The committee reviewed recent reinstatement staff decisions that provided relief from established case precedent and/or committee guidelines and archived Request/Self-Report Online Case No. 1083837. All other cases were accepted and will remain available as precedent within RSRO consistent with NCAA Divisions I, II and III Committees on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Policies and Procedures.
- **8.** Review of competition while less than full-time guidelines. The committee reviewed its current guideline specific to competition while less than full-time and affirmed the guideline applies as long as the student-athlete was still attending courses when the ineligible competition occurred, regardless of whether a student-athlete re-enrolls in courses and/or completes the academic term.
- **9. Waivers involving military service.** The committee reviewed waivers involving student-athletes who served in the military and updated its waiver guidelines to direct the staff to consider a student-athlete's military service on a case-by-case basis.
- 10. NCAA Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Guidelines. The committee reviewed and approved revisions to the NCAA Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Guidelines.

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- 11. **Future meetings.** The committee established the following future meeting dates and locations:
  - a. December 1-2, 2020, Indianapolis.
  - b. Spring 2021, TBD.

Committee Chair: Angela Marin, University of Texas at Dallas.

Staff Liaisons: Stephanie Grace, Academic and Membership Affairs.

Zach Romash, Academic and Membership Affairs.

## NCAA Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement May 14, 2020 Meeting

#### **Attendees:**

Hannah Durst, Baldwin-Wallace University

Matt Hill, University of Northwestern – St. Paul

Barbara MacLeod, Ohio Wesleyan University.

Angela Marin, University of Texas at Dallas.

Russell Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology.

Brian Williams, State University of New York at New Paltz.

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

None.

## **NCAA Support Staff in Attendance:**

Cynthia Alanis, Etta Billon, Stephanie Grace, Maison Haines, Sarah Otey, Liz Perry, Ta'Shia Phillips, Adam Replogle, Jess Rigler, Brad Rochman, Zach Romash, Julie Sargent and Danielle Teetzel

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for a portion of the meeting:

Louise McCleary and Jeff Myers