

**NCAA COMMITTEE ON COMPETITIVE SAFEGUARDS AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CONSENSUS-BASED GUIDANCE
SUPPORTING STUDENT-ATHLETE HEALTH, SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE**

Approved by NCAA Board of Governors: January 2023

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING CONSENSUS-BASED GUIDANCE.

When requested by a Board of Governors recognized committee, CSMAS or a division, the Association shall identify and promulgate guidance, rules and policies based on consensus of the medical, scientific, sports medicine and sport governing communities. The following policies and procedures outline the threshold and method in which such guidance will be identified and provided to the membership:

1. Threshold for Recommending Identification / Maintenance of Consensus-Based Guidance.

- a. An issue aligns with proposed NCAA strategic priorities for student-athlete physical and mental health, safety, and performance:

- (1) Mental and physical health.
- (2) Sport-related illness and injury.
- (3) Performance and training.
- (4) Education and policy.

AND

- b. One or more evaluative criteria satisfied:

- (1) Involves an issue characterized by new or rapidly evolving information with relevance to Association commitments to student-athlete health and safety.
- (2) Impacts a core Association-wide value(s).
- (3) Directly supports the constitutional responsibilities assigned to member schools in support of student-athlete physical and mental health, safety and performance.

2. **Consensus-Based Guidance Identification: Advisory Groups.**

- a. Consensus-based guidance will be identified through a process involving the creation of expert advisory groups. Advisory groups should:
 - (1) Be constituted to reflect the landscape of relevant medical, scientific, sports medicine and sport governing communities.
 - (2) Represent the Association's three divisions.
 - (3) Be organized around broad, rather than specific topical areas (e.g., mental health vs. anxiety or depression).
 - (4) Work with topics that are expected to require regular attention, review and monitoring, and regular and substantive updates in order for guidance to remain both contemporary and maximally useful to the Association and its member schools.
- b. Advisory groups are not indicated for topics that are either 1) sport-specific and/or 2) narrow in both scope and impact. They should be reserved for the identification of new guidance or the substantive update/revision to existing guidance.

3. **Advisory Group Structure.** As noted, advisory groups should be constituted to facilitate consensus from topically relevant medical, scientific, sports medicine and sport governing communities. When possible, a core of professional organizations representing those professions essential to the delivery of athletic healthcare in the collegiate setting (e.g., medicine; athletic training; mental health) shall be included in all advisory groups. This core group would be supplemented with additional organizations or individuals with relevance and/or expertise germane to the topic, subject to feedback from CSMAS.

Advisory groups should also include representation from the three divisional governance structures, as well as representatives from divisional student-athlete advisory committees.

- 4. **Process Oversight.** Any group created by CSMAS for the purpose of developing consensus-based guidance will be overseen by CSMAS.
- 5. **Meeting Structure.** Advisory groups will meet as needed to identify consensus-based guidance. Advisory groups will then on a semi-regular basis for the purpose of reviewing and updating existing guidance and monitoring developments relevant to the designated topic.
- 6. **Possible Outcomes and Deliverables.**
 - a. Consensus-based guidance (previously referred to as *Interassociation Recommendations*) identified and published for membership consideration.

- (1) All guidance will be socialized with appropriate membership bodies (e.g., divisional councils) prior to final publication.
 - (2) Recommendation to CSMAS to request BOG consider guidelines for association- wide policy.
- b. Peer-reviewed manuscript - reflecting the content of the consensus guideline.
 - c. Other policy and/or legislative recommendations.
 - d. Other collateral in support of membership socialization and education efforts - as recommended by CSMAS.