



**NCAA Division I COVID-19 Actions for Consideration – 2020-21 Academic Year**

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*Last Updated: September 18, 2020 (Updates are highlighted in gray)*

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| 1. | Resources on the resocialization of collegiate sport: <a href="#">Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport</a> , <a href="#">Core Principles FAQ</a> , <a href="#">Action Plan Considerations</a> , <a href="#">Developing Standards for Practice and Competition</a> and <a href="#">Requirements for Each Division FAQ</a> . |
| 2. | Comprehensive chart tracking actions taken on Division I regulations and policies: <a href="#">Division I COVID-19 Action Chart</a> .  |
| 3. | Interpretative guidance on existing Division I legislation and action taken based on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: <a href="#">Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide</a> .  |

Potential Actions Identified for NCAA Division I Council Review		
Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility		
Bylaw Cite/Application/Questions	Points to Consider	Governance Groups to Review
<p><b>12.8.1.7 (Five-Year Rule Waiver)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: Institutions would be permitted to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for any student-athlete who was eligible to compete during 2020-21 and either did not compete or qualified for a season-of-competition waiver.</i></p> <p>Questions: Should the same measure of relief be provided to both winter and spring student-athletes? Should institutions be permitted to exempt, from institutional financial aid limits during 2021-22, athletics aid awarded to student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility during 2020-21 but for COVID-19 relief?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council approved a blanket waiver allowing institutions to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility to 2020-21 fall sport student-athletes based on COVID-19 impact.</li> <li>Flexibility for student-athletes to make decisions regarding competition during 2020-21 without concern for impact on their five-year clock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 13-14, 2020: NCAA Division I Council action anticipated.</li> <li>NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee, NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Oversight Committee and NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee will provide feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12.8.6 (Season-of-Competition Waiver – Competition While Eligible)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: Institutions would be permitted to self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for any student-athlete who competes while eligible</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council approved a blanket waiver allowing institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers for fall sport student-athletes for the 2020-21 academic year, regardless of the number of contests in which the student-athlete competes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 13-14, 2020: Council action anticipated.</li> <li>MBOC, WBOC and SAEC will provide feedback.</li> </ul>

<p>during 2020-21 and meets the established criteria.</p> <p>Options to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Student-athletes can compete in any or all of an institution's scheduled contests and qualify for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver.</li> <li>(2) Student-athletes can compete in up to 50-percent of the Bylaw 17 maximum and qualify for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver.</li> <li>(3) Student-athletes can compete in up to 30-percent of an institution's scheduled or completed contests and qualify for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver.</li> <li>(4) Other.</li> </ol> <p>Questions: Should the same measure of relief be provided to both winter and spring student-athletes? Should institutions be permitted to exempt, from institutional financial aid limits during 2021-22, athletics aid awarded to student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility during 2020-21 but for COVID-19 relief?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexibility for student-athletes to compete during 2020-21 academic year despite potential COVID-19-related reductions of cancelations.</li> </ul>		
<b>Membership</b>			
<b>Bylaw Cite/Questions</b>	<b>Points to Consider</b>		<b>Governance Groups to Review</b>
<p><b>20.02.5.2 (Multisport Conference -- Sports Sponsorship)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: For the 2020-21 academic year, Division I conferences would not be required to meet sports</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions that have chosen to cancel or reduce fall sport seasons as a result of COVID-19 may be unable to meet minimum contest and participant requirements for sports sponsorship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential that waiving sports sponsorship requirements allows institutions to reduce sports sponsorship, which is a tenet of the Division I philosophy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket waiver to be considered by the Council.</li> <li>• NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee will review and provide initial</li> </ul>

<p><i>sponsorship requirements to be considered multisport conferences.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual institutions – or entire conferences – that make the decision to cancel a sport(s) season as a result of COVID-19 may be unable to meet sports sponsorship requirements.</li> </ul>		<p>feedback no later than October 6, 2020.</p>
<p><b>20.9.5 (Three Season Requirement)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: For the 2020-21 academic year, an institution would not be required to conduct at least one sport in every sport season.</i></p> <p>Question: Current legislation requires reclassifying institutions to fully comply with Division I membership and legislative requirements. If Council waives requirements for existing Division I institutions, should SVPC consider those reduced standards in its assessment of reclassifying institutions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional flexibility as institutions make decisions about competition for the 2020-21 academic year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until a critical mass of institutions elect to cancel fall seasons, should these waivers be reviewed on a case-by-case basis?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket waiver to be considered by the Council.</li> <li>• SVPC will review and provide initial feedback no later than October 6, 2020.</li> </ul>
<p><b>20.9.6 (Sports Sponsorship)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: For the 2020-21 academic year, institutions would not be required to meet sport sponsorship minimums, provided the reason an institution was unable to meet those minimums was a result of canceled sport season(s) due to COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Question: Current legislation requires reclassifying institutions to fully comply with Division I membership and legislative requirements. If Council waives requirements for existing Division I institutions, should</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions that have chosen to cancel or reduce fall sport seasons as a result of COVID-19 may be unable to meet minimum contest and participant requirements for sports sponsorship.</li> <li>• Waiving the overall sports sponsorship legislation (as opposed to the minimum contest and participant legislation) gives institutions additional flexibility to make decisions in the best interests of their student-athletes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential that waiving sports sponsorship requirements allows institutions to reduce sports sponsorship, which is a tenet of the Division I philosophy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket waiver to be considered by the Council.</li> <li>• Council elected NOT to waive sports sponsorship requirements in April 2020.</li> <li>• SVPC will review and provide initial feedback no later than October 6, 2020.</li> </ul>

<p>SVPC consider those reduced standards in its assessment of reclassifying institutions?</p>			
<p><b>20.9.6.3 (Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: In sports other than basketball, the waiver would reduce the minimum contest requirements for each winter sport during the 2020-21 academic year by 50 percent.</i></p> <p>Question: Should the same reduction apply to championships eligibility?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar flexibility was provided for fall sports, both in terms of minimum contest requirements and championships selection eligibility.</li> <li>• Would help institutions avoid the need to schedule additional contests near the end of a season due to early season cancellations.</li> <li>• Scheduling flexibility based on COVID-19 impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential that waiving minimum contests allows institutions to intentionally reduce the number of scheduled contests, thereby reducing student-athlete opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket waiver to be considered by the Council, possibly during its October meeting.</li> <li>• NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will provide feedback.</li> <li>• SVPC will provide feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>20.9.9.1 (Sports Sponsorship [FBS])</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: For the 2020-21 academic year, FBS institutions would not be required to meet sport sponsorship minimums, provided the reason an institution was unable to meet those minimums was a result of canceled sport season(s) due to COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Question: Current legislation requires reclassifying institutions to fully comply with Division I membership and legislative requirements. If Council waives requirements for existing Division I institutions, should SVPC consider those reduced standards in its assessment of reclassifying institutions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions that have chosen to cancel or reduce fall sport seasons as a result of COVID-19 may be unable to meet minimum contest and participant requirements for sports sponsorship.</li> <li>• Waiving the overall sports sponsorship legislation (as opposed to the minimum contest and participant legislation) gives institutions additional flexibility to make decisions in the best interests of their student-athletes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential that waiving sports sponsorship requirements allows institutions to reduce sports sponsorship, which is a tenet of the Division I philosophy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket waiver to be considered by FBS members of Council.</li> <li>• SVPC will review and provide initial feedback no later than October 6, 2020.</li> </ul>

<b>Executive Regulations</b>				
<b>Bylaw Cite/Questions</b>	<b>Points to Consider</b>		<b>Governance Groups to Review</b>	
<p><b>31.3.4.4 (Additional Requirements – Sports Other than Basketball)</b></p> <p><i>Impact of waiver: For the 2020-21 academic year, in sports other than basketball, a conference (both multisport and single sport) would not be required to include six institutions that sponsor the sport and conduct conference competition together in order to be considered for automatic qualification.</i></p> <p>Question: Should there be a minimum number of institutions that conduct conference competition together?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference sponsorship of a sport is impacted by institutions that have chosen to cancel or reduce sport seasons.</li> <li>• Requiring conferences to include six sponsoring institutions may conflict with an institution’s autonomy to cancel or reduce seasons based on the health and safety of its student-athletes.</li> <li>• The “grace period” in the current legislation was not designed to address a global pandemic.</li> <li>• Waiver would be consistent with relief provided by the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee related to revenue distribution.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A legislated “grace period” exists that allows a conference to retain automatic qualification for a period of two years, provided conference sponsorship of that sport does not fall below five Division I institutions.</li> <li>• Allowing conferences access to automatic qualification without six sponsoring institutions may create competitive inequities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 13-14, 2020: Council action anticipated.</li> <li>• CCA22 requests this blanket waiver and does not believe it is appropriate to require conferences to use the grace period under these circumstances and recommends that conferences retain access to automatic qualification, provided they had six institutions that <i>intended</i> to sponsor a given sport (consistent with the approach used by the Board Finance Committee related to revenue distribution).</li> <li>• COC will provide feedback.</li> </ul>

<b>Items Not Currently Identified for Council or Council Coordination Committee Action or Review</b>	
<b>Items that Will Be Addressed by Other Groups within the Governance Structure</b>	
<b>Bylaw Cite</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p><b>14.2 (Full-Time Enrollment)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics determined that, in general, requests to waive the full-time enrollment requirements should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, it will continue to review full-time enrollment requirements for the 2020-21 academic year, including whether blanket relief is appropriate to accommodate certain groups of student-athletes (e.g., graduated student-athletes with remaining eligibility) and/or particular situations (e.g., access to practice and/or virtual nonphysical countable activities while competition is not conducted). In considering relief beyond the current case-by-case review of less-than-full-time waiver requests managed by the NCAA Division I Progress Toward Degree Waivers Committee, the Committee on Academics will consider options that minimize future eligibility implications.</li> </ul>

<b>14.4.3.6-(a) (Missed-Term Exception)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee on Academics will allow the missed term exception to apply to any term in which outside competition occurs under certain circumstances, consistent with the blanket waiver approved by the Council Coordination Committee during its August 5, 2020, teleconference to permit, in sports other than basketball and football, a student-athlete to participate in noncollegiate, amateur competition on an outside team during the 2020 fall term.</li> </ul>
<b>14.4.3.7 (International Competition Waiver)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff recommends that conferences be allowed to process international competition waivers for progress-toward-degree requirements for continuing student-athletes who were impacted by the rescheduling of the 2020 Summer Olympics.</li> <li>The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics will determine whether to allow conferences to process international competition waiver requests for regular terms during the 2020-21 academic year for student-athletes who received an international competition waiver during the 2019-20 academic year prior to the rescheduling of the 2020 Summer Olympics.</li> </ul>
<b>14.5.5.1 (Four-Year College Transfers)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief will continue to review requests to waive transfer eligibility requirements on a case-by-case basis. The CLR considered whether blanket relief of the transfer requirements is appropriate, but ultimately noted blanket waiver relief could perpetuate uninformed transfer decisions that do not necessarily secure participation opportunities for affected student-athletes and potentially jeopardize a student-athlete's access to an athletics scholarship and normal progress toward a degree.</li> </ul>
<b>15.5.1 (Counters)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee for Legislative Relief will continue to review requests from institutions seeking relief of the counter legislation on a case-by-case basis. Specifically, institutions seeking relief from the requirement that a student-athlete be counted in maximum award limitations based on receipt of athletically related financial aid should submit facts and mitigation to the Committee for Legislative Relief through its normal waiver process.</li> </ul>
<b>Revenue Distribution -- Board of Directors Finance Committee Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NCAA Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee agreed to allow the intent to sponsor sports during the 2020-21 academic year to be sufficient for the 2022 Sports Sponsorship Fund eligibility, similar to the approach used for the 2020 spring season.</li> </ul>