Please note this is the most up-to-date edition of the 2020 NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide. Updates will be made to this document on a continuous basis following the weekly teleconferences of the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee.
DIVISION I COVID-19

QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 11 – Athletics Personnel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Letter of Intent 26
NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership

**Question:** If a Division I institution continues practice and/or competition during the 2019-20 academic year, will it still be covered by the NCAA's catastrophic injury insurance program?

**Answer:** The NCAA's cancellation of winter and spring championships in 2020 does not impact the NCAA catastrophic injury insurance program.

**Reporting Requirements.**

**Question:** Are active Division I institutions still subject to the reporting requirements under NCAA Constitution 3?

**Answer:** Yes. Although the submission deadlines have been waived, the associated conditions and obligations of membership remain in effect. Consistent with the blanket waiver approved by the committee, institutions that need additional time to report the required information (forms, survey, etc.) are encouraged to contact the appropriate staff liaisons to discuss their circumstances. As it relates to Constitution 3.2.4.20.1 (concussion safety protocol) the NCAA Sports Science Institute staff will provide additional information to the membership regarding the review of institutional concussion safety protocols.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 11 – Conduct and Employment of Athletics Personnel

**Question No. 1:** May an institution temporarily reassign a volunteer coach to a paid position in the athletics department in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g., cancellation of all scheduled camps and clinics)?

**Answer:** No. An institution may not temporarily reassign a volunteer coach to a paid position in the athletics department.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution compensate a volunteer coach who was planning to work camps and clinics that have been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

**Answer:** No. An institution may not compensate a volunteer coach for work not performed.

**Question No. 3:** Is a student assistant coach for a team with a spring championship eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as a student-athlete?

**Answer:** Yes. A student assistant coach who is deprived of the opportunity to participate during the spring 2020 semester is eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as
a spring student-athlete. The NCAA Division I Coordination Council Committee took action to allow institutions to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for spring-sport student-athletes, effectively extending each student's five-year "clock" by one year.

**NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility**

**Outstanding Amateurism Certification Conditions.**

**Question:** Does the cancellation of the spring season affect an amateurism certification condition (for example, being withheld from a certain amount of competition) that was not completed before the season was cancelled?

**Answer:** At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to amateurism withholding conditions. Any changes to such withholding conditions will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.

**Promotion of Relief Opportunities.**

**Question:** May a student-athlete, or group of student-athletes, promote fundraising efforts of charitable organizations where all proceeds are intended for specific relief purposes?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the requirements of the promotional activities legislation (Bylaw 12.5) are met. If student-athletes are interested in being involved with fundraising activities that do not satisfy the promotional activities legislation, please contact the academic and membership affairs staff. The staff continues to work with member schools to ensure student-athletes and communities impacted by COVID-19 are supported.

**NCAA Rules Related to NBA Pre-Draft Process.**

**Question:** May a men's basketball student-athlete enter into an agreement with an NCAA-certified agent and declare for the 2020 NBA Draft?

**Answer:** Yes. Once a men's basketball student-athlete has requested an evaluation from the NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee, he may enter into an agreement with an NCAA-certified agent and declare for the 2020 NBA Draft. As a reminder, per current NBA rules, a student-athlete must request a UAC evaluation no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time April 16, 2020, and declare for the NBA Draft as an early entrant no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time April 26, 2020.

*At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to the 2020 NBA pre-draft process. NCAA staff members are in regular contact with the NBA. Any changes to the NBA Draft process that impact NCAA rules will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.*
Athletics Activity Waivers.

**Question:** With the Olympics postponed until 2021, will those students who have spent the last year training for the Olympics be able to use a second year to train for the Olympics and get a second athletics activity waiver?

**Answer:** At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to the 2021 Olympics. Any changes related to the Olympic year that impact NCAA rules will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.

**Application of NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extension of Eligibility.**

**Question No. 1:** Which sports are considered spring sports?

**Answer:** Baseball, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Rowing, Softball, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field, Beach Volleyball, Men's Volleyball and Women's Water Polo.

**Question No. 2:** Which sports are considered winter sports?

**Answer:** Men's and Women's Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Men's and Women's Gymnastics, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey, Rifle, Skiing, Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field and Wrestling.

**Question No. 3:** What is a season-of-competition waiver?

**Answer:** A season-of-competition waiver restores a used season when a student-athlete participates limitedly and cannot complete the season due to extraordinary circumstances. There are certain legislative criteria that must be satisfied for a season-of-competition waiver to be approved.

**Question No. 4:** What is an extension-of-eligibility waiver?

**Answer:** An extension-of-eligibility waiver extends a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility ("clock").

**Question No. 5:** What does the Division I Council's action allowing institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers permit?

**Answer:** Due to the impact of COVID-19, competition in many sports was canceled. The Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers in certain circumstances. Please see below for specific guidance:
Sprin Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for all spring sport student-athletes who competed during the 2019-20 academic year and were eligible for competition during spring 2020.

Winter Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may not self-apply season-of-competition waivers for winter sport student-athletes (i.e., winter sport student-athletes will not have their use of a season in 2019-20 restored through the Council's actions).

Question No. 6: May an institution self-apply the season-of-competition waiver if the institution later resumes its spring 2020 season?

Answer: No. If the institution resumes its season, then it has, by definition, not canceled its season due to COVID-19. As a result, the waiver will not apply.

Question No. 7: Would an institution need to file a hardship waiver request with its conference office for a spring sport student-athlete who used a season of competition during the 2019-20 academic year and sustained a season-ending injury before the season was canceled due to COVID-19?

Answer: No. The institution may self-apply the season-of-competition waiver based on the criteria outlined above.

Question No. 8: What does the Council's action allowing institutions to self-apply extensions of eligibility permit?

Answer: Due to the impact of COVID-19, competition in many sports was canceled. The Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply extensions of a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility in certain circumstances. Please see below for specific guidance:

Spring Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may self-apply an extension of eligibility for all spring sport student-athletes who were eligible for competition during spring 2020.

Winter Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may not self-apply extensions of eligibility for winter sport student-athletes (i.e., winter sport student-athletes will not have their clock extended through the Council's actions).

Question No. 9: Are institutions permitted to self-apply season-of-competition waivers and extensions of eligibility for equestrian student-athletes?

Answer: No. Equestrian is not a sport with a spring NCAA championship. Institutions are permitted to submit waivers for equestrian student-athletes through Requests/Self-Reports Online if the institution believes the student-athlete had a legislatively defined denied participation opportunity.
Question No. 10: Does the self-applied extension-of-eligibility waiver apply to all spring sport student-athletes, or only those who exhaust eligibility at the conclusion of the 2020 spring term?

Answer: The self-applied extension-of-eligibility waiver applies to all spring sport student-athletes. Please note, an extension of eligibility is a sport-by-sport application. Therefore, student-athletes may only use the self-applied extension in their spring 2020 sport.

Question No. 11: Will season-of-competition waivers and/or extension requests approved by other organizations (for example, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: NCAA institutions cannot self-apply relief for student-athletes who were competing for other organizations (see examples above) during 2019-20. The NCAA institution is required to submit a season-of-competition waiver or extension request through RSRO for review by the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting

Telephone Calls.

Question No. 1: May an institution's coach video call a prospective student-athlete to conduct a tour of the institution's athletics and on-campus facilities?

Answer: Yes. A coach may video call a prospective student-athlete to conduct a campus tour. A video call (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) is considered a phone call. However, telephone recruiting restrictions (e.g., first opportunity to contact) continue to apply to prospective student-athletes and coaching staff members.

Question No. 2: May an institution's coach conduct a group video call with multiple uncommitted prospective student-athletes?

Answer: No. A coach may not conduct group conversations with uncommitted prospective student-athletes (as on Zoom, Skype or FaceTime) as these interactions are not private between the sender and recipient. Further, recruiting activities like telephone or video calls may be conducted only by the head or assistant coaches who count towards the institution's coaching limitations; therefore, institutional staff members not permitted to make telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete are not permitted to participate in a video call. This analysis applies regardless whether there is interaction between the prospective student-athlete and the coach (e.g., the prospect is hidden or muted).

Question No. 3: May an institution's coach engage in a video call with multiple coaches of prospective student-athletes (e.g., high school coaches, club coaches)?
**Question No. 4:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period when campus visits are not permitted, may an institutional staff member direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to an uncommitted prospective student-athlete for purposes of discussing the campus experience?

**Answer:** No. An institutional staff member may not direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to an uncommitted prospective student-athlete at any time.

**Question No. 5:** May an institutional staff member direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to a committed (e.g., one who has signed a National Letter of Intent, received a written offer of admission or made a financial deposit) prospective student-athlete?

**Answer:** Yes. A student-athlete may make phone calls to a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution. Please note: This activity is a required athletically related activity and may not occur on a required day off.

**Question No. 6:** May committed prospective student-athletes virtually participate in athletically related activities (e.g., team building, entertainment)?

**Answer:** No. Prospective student-athletes are not permitted to engage virtually in athletically related activities in the same manner as student-athletes.

**Question No. 7:** May a committed or uncommitted prospective student-athlete use video call software to observe a team position meeting in any sport?

**Answer:** No. NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.1.3.5.2 does not allow an enrolled student-athlete to participate in a telephone call with a prospective student-athlete at the direction of a coaching staff member. Therefore, a prospective student-athlete may not use audio or video call software to listen to or observe a team position meeting if that meeting is scheduled or arranged by the coaching staff. Further, Bylaw 14.2.1.1.1 does not permit a committed or uncommitted prospective student-athlete to engage in meetings (e.g., review of playbook, chalk talk, film review).

**Question No. 8:** May an institution's coach engage in a virtual speaking engagement (e.g., banquet) that involves prospective student-athletes (e.g., Zoom meeting with a club team)?

**Answer:** No. A coach may not conduct group conversations with prospective student-athletes (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) because group conversations are not private between the sender and recipient. Further, recruiting activities like telephone or video calls, may be conducted only
by a head or assistant coach who counts towards the institution's coaching limitations; therefore, institutional staff members not permitted to make telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete are not permitted to participate in a video call.

**Question No. 9:** Does an institution's coach creating and sending a prospective student-athlete a link for a video call (e.g., Zoom, GoToMeeting) constitute the institution initiating the video call?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 10:** May a coach conduct a group video call with multiple committed prospective student-athletes (individuals who have signed a National Letter of Intent, received a written offer of admission or made a financial deposit)?

**Answer:** Yes. It is permissible for a coach to conduct a video call with multiple prospective student-athletes, including transfers, who have committed to the institution. The restrictions in Bylaw 13.1 no longer apply once a prospective student-athlete meets the exception in Bylaw 13.02.13.1.

Contacts and Evaluations.

**Question No. 1:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution per Bylaw 13.02.5.5.2?

**Answer:** Yes. A coaching staff member may have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution. While NCAA rules permit off-campus contact, institutions should follow all applicable governmental and public health guidance and/or directives that are issued.

**Question No. 2:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has entered the transfer portal?

**Answer:** No. A coach may not have in-person, on- or off-campus contact with any uncommitted prospective student-athlete during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period. However, it remains permissible to make phone calls and send electronic correspondence during a dead period.

Campus Visits.

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete to take a previously scheduled official or unofficial visit during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** No.
**Question No. 2:** May an institution reimburse a prospective student-athlete for official visit expenses incurred if the official visit was canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

**Answer:** Yes. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee took action to allow prospective student-athlete to be reimbursed for a canceled visit due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note: Providing reimbursement does not count as the prospective student-athlete's official visit to the institution.

**Question No. 3:** During the temporary COVID-19 dead period, may an institution’s coach assist the admissions office with campus tours for all prospective students?

**Answer:** No. A coach may not assist the admissions office with campus tours during a dead period.

**Question No. 4:** At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution conduct an official visit without obtaining a transcript due to the prospective student-athlete's educational institution closing for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** Generally, an institution may not provide a prospective student-athlete an official visit without first obtaining the prospective student-athlete's transcript. However, if a prospective student-athlete's educational institution has closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, an institution that is unable to obtain the prospective student-athlete's transcript and documents its reasonable attempts to obtain the transcript may provide the prospective student-athlete an official visit despite not having the prospective student-athlete's transcript on file with the institution. This flexibility is available from the date the prospective student-athlete's educational institution cancels classes for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year until the prospective student-athlete's education institution reopens.

**Question No. 5:** May an institution roll over unused official visits from the 2019-20 academic year to the 2020-21 academic year limitations as a result of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** No. An institution may not roll over unused official visits from the 2019-20 academic year to the 2020-21 academic year, unless otherwise permitted in the legislation. With the adoption of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2019-36, in football, the institutional limits for official visits reset on April 1, 2020, and an institution may retain a maximum of six unused visits from the 2019-20 cycle to use in the 2020-21 cycle.

**Recruiting Calendars.**

**Question:** At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, will recruiting calendars remain the same?
**Answer:** Yes. Institutions must follow each sport's recruiting calendar and recruiting periods. The NCAA Division I Committees and Council may provide additional guidance with regards to future changes to recruiting calendars.

**Camps and Clinics.**

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for an institution to conduct an institutional camp or clinic during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution's coach work an online/virtual camp and clinic during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** No. Institutional staff members are not permitted to work camps and clinics conducted in any format (e.g., online, virtual) during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period.

**Miscellaneous.**

**Question No. 1:** May an institution's coach be involved with a local sports club during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the involvement is otherwise permissible. All local sports club legislation applies during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period. For example, sports with specific restrictions during a dead period (e.g., volleyball) must adhere to those restrictions.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution host a virtual coach's clinic with high school coaches, provided the high school coaches pay any associated fees related to the clinic (e.g., use of the virtual conferencing system)?

**Answer:** Yes. A coach may host a virtual coaches clinic, provided the clinic follows all NCAA legislation.

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**NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility**

**Full-Time Enrollment.**

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for a student-athlete who is enrolled part time for the remainder of the spring 2020 term to participate in countable athletically related activities (for example, video meetings)?
**Question No. 1:** Are student-athletes who either used the final-term exception to be less than full time during spring 2020 term(s) or used the final term before the experiential learning requirement during the 2019-20 academic year able to retain their remaining eligibility if they do not graduate due to the COVID-19 impact?

**Answer:** Yes, relief from the normal application of Bylaws 14.2.2.1.3 and 14.2.2.1.4 (i.e., loss of remaining eligibility when graduation does not occur) may be self-applied to allow returning student-athletes to retain their remaining eligibility if they do not graduate due to the impact of COVID-19.

**Question No. 4:** Can student-athletes who used Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 during the 2020 spring term but did not graduate due to COVID-19 be less than full time again during fall 2020 if they remain on track to graduate at the conclusion of fall 2020?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** Will a student-athlete who has completed their undergraduate degree and qualifies for the NCAA Division I Council's action pertaining to season-of-competition and/or extension of eligibility due to COVID-19 be required to meet full-time enrollment requirements should they choose to return during the 2020-21 academic year to use their remaining athletics eligibility?

**Answer:** Yes. When the Council elected to allow institutions to self-apply season of competition waivers and extensions of eligibility for spring sport student-athletes, they noted that all relevant academic eligibility requirements and any relevant transfer eligibility requirements will continue to apply. Waivers of academic requirements, including full-time enrollment, may be filed on a case-by-case basis through Requests/Self-Reports Online.
Question No. 1:  Will there be any flexibility provided for student-athletes who are not academically eligible for fall 2020 competition due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. Flexibility already exists for relief from application of progress-toward-degree legislation due to catastrophic events through the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist. In this circumstance, this authority allows institutions to self-apply a waiver for a student-athlete whose academic progress was impacted by COVID-19, directly or indirectly, during the 2019-20 academic year. This waiver can be self-applied by the membership for the following academic deficiencies that occur as a result of COVID-19: the six-hour rule, 18-hour rule, 24-hour rule, grade-point average and percentage-of-degree requirements.

Question No. 2: Does the flexibility provided in the previously approved waiver checklist apply to the nine-hour requirement for football student-athletes?

Answer: No. An institution will need to file a waiver through RSRO for any football student-athlete who did not successfully complete nine hours or earn the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate eligibility point during the 2019 fall term and did not regain eligibility using Bylaws 14.4.3.1.6.1 or 14.4.3.1.6.2.

Question No. 3: Can the previously approved waiver checklist be self-applied to waive good academic standing?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: How does an institution's decision to convert its traditional grading scale to "pass/fail" or "satisfactory/unsatisfactory" for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year affect continuing student-athletes' eligibility for competition during the 2020 fall term?

Answer: Conversion to a "pass/fail" or "satisfactory/unsatisfactory" grading scale does not impact an institution's ability to use credit hours earned when certifying a student-athlete's continuing academic eligibility. Specifically, there are no NCAA limitations or restrictions on the use of "pass/fail" courses to meet progress-toward-degree minimums. NCAA staff notes, institutional policy will continue to dictate how modified grading scales are calculated in an institution's grade-point average. If such an institutional grading scale conversion impacts a student-athlete's ability to meet specific progress-toward-degree requirements by the start of the 2020 fall term, the previously approved waiver checklist may be self-applied (see above Question and Answer No. 1).

Question No. 5: Does it matter if an institution's own policies allow any student to "opt in" to a modified grading scale for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: No. A student-athlete, like any student, can make whatever decision is allowed consistent with the institution's policies and approach to grading scale modifications for the 2019-
20 academic year. Student-athletes should work with their own institutional academic advising staff to make decisions about whether to "opt in" or "opt out" of modified grading scales that are made available to students.

**Question No. 6:** Are there any resources available to assist institutions in providing academic support to student-athletes who are no longer on campus or enrolled in online courses instead of in-class courses?

**Answer:** Yes, the following resources may assist the membership in supporting student-athletes adjusting to a remote learning environment for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year:

- **Enforcement resource** "[NCAA Tips for Remote Learning](#)."

- **N4A – The National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals resource.**

- **NCAA Division I Committee on Academics/N4A resource.**

**Question No. 7:** Is a midyear transfer student-athlete whose initial term(s) of enrollment at the certifying institution occurred during spring 2020 required to meet minimum GPA requirements by the start of fall 2020 (per Bylaws 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.3.1)?

**Answer:** Yes; however, if COVID-19 impacted a midyear transfer student-athlete's ability to meet GPA requirements by the start of the 2020 fall term, the institution may self-apply a waiver of Bylaw 14.3.3.3 using the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#).

**Question No. 8:** Must a student-athlete have entered the 2020 spring term(s) academically eligible for an institution to self-apply waiver relief using the previously approved waiver checklist for academic deficiencies that exist at the start of the fall 2020 term?

**Answer:** No. The [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#) may be self-applied to the aforementioned progress-toward-degree requirements for fall 2020 academic certifications, regardless of whether the impacted student-athlete was academically eligible entering the 2020 spring term(s).

**Two-Year College Transfers.**

**Question:** Will there be any additional flexibility provided for 2-4 transfer student-athletes who do not meet 2-4 transfer requirements going into the fall 2020 term due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Flexibility will be provided on a case-by-case basis through the waiver process in RSRO.
Four-Year College Undergraduate Transfers

**Question No. 1:** Is there flexibility for a four-year transfer student-athlete who would not have been academically eligible had they remained at their previous four-year institution due to COVID-19, to still use the one-time transfer exception and receive athletics aid at the four-year institution to which they transfer in fall 2020 (per Bylaws 14.5.2.10-(c) and 14.5.5.4)?

**Answer:** Yes, if COVID-19 impacted a four-year transfer student-athlete's ability to leave their previous institution academically eligible, the institution from which the student-athlete departs may self-apply the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist to waive any progress-toward-degree deficiencies existing at the time of transfer. The institution is expected to maintain documentation to demonstrate it used the previously approved waiver criteria to certify the student-athlete's outgoing eligibility.

**Question No. 2:** If a four-year transfer student-athlete does not meet percentage-of-degree requirements at the institution to which they transfer at the start of fall 2020, may the new institution apply the previously approved waiver criteria to certify the transfer student-athlete's academic eligibility?

**Answer:** No. Four-year transfer student-athletes who do not meet percentage-of-degree requirements at the institution to which they transfer are not academically eligible to compete. The certifying institution has the ability to request a progress-toward-degree waiver through RSRO.

**Initial Eligibility/NCAA Eligibility Center.**

**Question:** Will there be any flexibility in terms of the requirement for submission of official documents for initial-eligibility certification due to disruptions in international mail and school closures?

**Answer:** Submission of official academic records is important for the accuracy of initial-eligibility certification and official records should be submitted whenever possible. Given the unique circumstances, we anticipate that some flexibility will be provided. Please continue providing official academic records through one of the approved channels (ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/submitting-international-documents). If only unofficial records are available, please submit them through any available channel in the event that they are needed for future evaluation.

The NCAA Eligibility Center has received a number of inquiries regarding potential adjustments to the initial eligibility certification process as a result of closures, cancellations, and changes due to COVID-19. The EC is working closely with the governance structure and making progress toward national solutions to the issues raised for both Divisions I and II. We look forward to communicating the details of these adjustments in the next several days upon complete review through our governance processes.
NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.

**Question No. 1:** Are institutions required to submit APP data for the spring 2020 term?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutions are required to submit APP data for all regular academic terms in the 2019-20 academic year, including the spring/winter 2020 term(s). The data is needed for academic policy decisions.

**Question No. 2:** Will there be any flexibility provided for eligibility points lost due to COVID-19 during the winter/spring 2020 term(s)?

**Answer:** Yes. Current APP policy allows for student-athletes who receive waivers of progress-toward-degree requirements to be awarded the eligibility point, as they are considered academically eligible.

If an institution self-applies the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist for a student-athlete impacted by COVID-19 (i.e., regular winter/spring 2020 term), the student-athlete can be awarded the eligibility point. Points lost that cannot be addressed via the waiver process because there is no competition pending can be addressed through an adjustment request.

**Question No. 3:** Does the "natural disasters" circumstance that warrants an adjustment to lost eligibility or retention points include COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes, for the purposes of adjustment requests, natural disasters include catastrophic events as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA defines catastrophic events as "any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage or disruption severely impacting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale and/or government functions." COVID-19 meets the definition of a catastrophic event, and therefore natural disaster.

**Question No. 4:** What is the documentation standard for adjustment requests related to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Current APP policy requires all adjustment requests be accompanied by contemporaneous supporting documentation for lost point(s). Depending on the facts related to the mitigation, required documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Letters from treating physicians;
- Contemporaneous medical documentation;
Letters from appropriate institution officials;

Letters from student-athlete/family members; or

Evidence of employment/termination/financial difficulties.

Staff has the authority to use its discretion in requesting other documentation to support the cited mitigation.

**Question No. 5:** Beyond the 2019-20 data, can COVID-19 be cited in future adjustments requests as mitigation for lost points (for example, mitigation for transfers who do not enroll in the next possible term)?

**Answer:** Yes. Such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 6:** Could COVID-19 be considered extraordinary mitigation in the future for teams facing first-year penalties or first-time loss of access to postseason competition?

**Answer:** Yes. COVID-19 meets the definition of a catastrophic event, and therefore could be presented as mitigation like a natural disaster described as extraordinary mitigation in the penalty waiver directive. The institution would have to identify the points the team lost due to the catastrophic event, and the impact would likely have to be on multiple academic years.

**Question No. 7:** How are teams facing loss of postseason competition in spring 2020 impacted by the cancellation of spring championships?

**Answer:** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics’ policy requires that a penalty or loss of access to postseason competition be applied in the academic year following the release of the applicable APR data, unless otherwise specified. In this case, teams that lost access to the spring 2020 postseason fulfilled that requirement despite those championships being canceled.

**Question No. 8:** Will a student-athlete who was on track to exhaust eligibility and/or graduate after the spring 2020 term be included in the APR cohort for 2020-21 if the student-athlete returns to the institution due to receiving an additional season of competition?

**Answer:** Yes. That is consistent with the Committee on Academic’s current policy of including all student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics in the APP cohort, even if they have graduated or received a clock extension.

**Question No. 9:** Will student-athletes be expected to graduate within five years (10 semesters/15 quarters) of enrollment for APR purposes?
Answer: Yes. If the reason for not graduating within five years (10 semesters/15 quarters) of enrollment is related to COVID-19, that can be offered as mitigation when requesting an adjustment to the lost eligibility point.

**Question No. 10:** If the financial aid (tuition, fees, room, board, books) awarded to a spring sport student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 during the 2020-21 academic year comes from the NCAA Student Assistance Fund (SAF) will they need to be included in the teams APR cohort?

**Answer:** Yes.

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**NCAA Division I Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid**

**Impact of Season-of-Competition Waiver and Clock Extensions on Team Financial Aid Limits.**

**Question No. 1:** Are the team maximum financial aid limits or annual signing limits increasing for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** Will student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year if they return to their same institution?

**Answer:** Yes, up to a financial aid award equivalent to the aid counted toward team financial aid limits during 2019-20. For example, a student-athlete who counted as a .75 equivalency toward the team financial aid limit for 2019-20 (regardless of whether awarded as equivalency, dollar amount or by element) may have an award of up to a .75 equivalency exempted from the team financial aid limit for 2020-21. Receipt of the exempt aid will not trigger counter status, and the student-athletes would not need to be included in any applicable team counter limits.

**Question No. 3:** Will student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year if they transfer to a new institution?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 4:** Must aid be renewed for a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and return to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Institutions may renew, reduce or not renew at their discretion.
Question No. 5: In the sport of baseball, does the minimum equivalency legislation apply to financial aid awarded to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: Is an institution that chooses to reduce or to not renew financial aid based on athletics for a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year required to provide the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: May an institution use the NCAA Student Assistance Fund to provide financial aid for the 2020-21 academic year to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns for 2020-21?

Answer: Yes. There will not be a separate Student Assistance Fund distribution for 2020-21; therefore, those NCAA funds distributed by the conference to the institution will not be subject to Student Assistance Fund restrictions. That distribution remains subject to conference policies and procedures. Further, any Student Assistance Fund funds that remain from previous distributions may be used, subject to conference policies and procedures, to provide financial aid to those student-athletes for the 2020-21 academic year. Any financial aid awarded to those student-athletes for the 2020-21 academic year that includes money from the distribution or from a previous distribution is considered financial aid that is based on athletics.

Question No. 8: Has the legislated July 1 financial aid renewal deadline been extended?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2020-21 applicable to a student-athlete who was anticipated to compete and exhaust eligibility in 2019-20, but who had not competed prior to the cancellation of the season?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2020-21 applicable to a student-athlete who used or would have used their final season of competition in 2019-20, but whose five-year clock would not expire until 2020-21?

Answer: Yes.
Question No. 11: For a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20, may an institution replace other countable aid from 2019-20 with athletics aid or funds from the NCAA Student Assistance Fund (SAF) for 2020-21 without triggering counter status?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete's total equivalency for 2020-21 does not exceed the student-athlete's equivalency for 2019-20. For example, a student-athlete whose .75 team equivalency consisted of .50 athletics aid and .25 countable need-based institutional aid in 2019-20, but whose institutional need based aid is not available in 2020-21, may exempt up to .75 team equivalency consisting entirely of athletics aid in 2020-21.

Question No. 12: Subject to individual and team financial aid limits, for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year, may an institution provide retroactive aid for 2019-20 to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and exempt the entire amount of aid that counted toward the team financial aid limit for 2019-20 exempt from that limit for 2020-21?

Answer: Yes, all financial aid counted toward the team financial aid limit during 2019-20 may be considered when determining what may be exempted from the 2020-21 team financial aid limit.

Question No. 13: If a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 uses a missed term exception for fall 2020, how does the institution determine how much aid of that student-athlete's aid may be exempted from the team's financial aid limit during 2020-21?

Answer: All financial aid counted toward the team financial aid limit during 2019-20 may be considered when determining what may be exempted from the 2020-21 team financial aid limit. For example, if the student-athlete counted as .25 toward the team financial aid limit for 2019-20 and uses a missed term exception for the fall 2020 semester, the institution may exempt countable aid of up to .50 that is awarded to that student-athlete for the spring 2021 semester because that award equals .25 for the 2020-21 academic year.

Institutional Closures/Moves to Distance Learning and 2019-20 Financial Aid.

Question No. 1: May an institution continue to provide off-campus room and board to student-athletes if the institution moves to distance learning for a portion, or the remainder, of a regular academic term?

Answer: Yes. And, athletics is encouraged to remain in contact with the institution's financial aid office to remain aware of any changes the institution makes to the cost-of-attendance calculations for its off-campus students to determine whether the amount provided for off-campus room and board needs to be adjusted.

Question No. 2: If an institution requires all its students to return home for the term, and does not release room and board for any of its students, but does not recalculate cost of attendance, does NCAA legislation require athletics aid to be provided?
Answer: No. NCAA legislation will not supersede institutional determinations related to institutional aid for all students under the circumstances.

Question No. 3: Will institutional decisions regarding student-athlete health and safety needs, including providing traditional elements of financial aid (for example, room and board) impact 2019-20 financial aid calculations?

Answer: No. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 4: May money from the NCAA Student Assistance Fund be used to pay for student-athlete health and safety needs, including providing traditional elements of financial aid (for example, room and board)?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 5: Are student-athletes able to receive a prorated refund of their on-campus room and board for the time they are not able to access campus?

Answer: Yes, provided other students who are receiving institutional scholarships or other awards that cover room and board (for example, President's Award) are also receiving prorated refunds for the same purpose. Further, there would not be a requirement to recalculate equivalency if cost of attendance was not recalculated for students generally.


Note: The questions and answers below apply to agreements issued without a National Letter of Intent. Institutions are directed to the NLI section of this document for questions related to the issuing and signing of NLIs.

Question No. 1: Can an institution's regular financial aid authority continue to issue and allow a prospective student-athlete to accept/sign a financial aid agreement not based on athletics?

Answer: Yes. The prohibition only applies to an institutional financial aid agreement awarded based on athletics ability, participation or achievement. Further, the emergency legislation does not restrict the institution from making written offers of admission or restrict a prospective student-athlete from submitting a financial deposit in response to an institution's offer of admission.
Question No. 2: Does the prohibition apply to all prospective student-athletes (high school, two-year, four-year, graduate student transfers)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: Is a financial aid agreement issued and signed before March 18 valid?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: Is a financial aid agreement issued on or before March 18 and signed on March 18 valid?

Answer: Yes. An agreement issued on or before March 18 and signed on March 18 is valid.

Question No. 5: Are financial aid agreements issued before March 18 and signed after March 18 valid?

Answer: No. Regardless of when it was issued, a financial aid agreement signed on or after March 19 is not valid. Institutional financial aid agreements cannot be issued to a prospective student-athlete or signed by a prospective student-athlete from March 19 until the period established by the emergency legislation ends on April 15.

Question No. 6: For international students, can financial aid agreements be issued and signed after March 18 to demonstrate athletic financial support to the prospective student-athlete's embassy?

Answer: While the emergency temporary legislation is in effect, the athletics department is encouraged to work with the institution's international admissions office to determine what type of documentation may be used to support the institution's international admissions process. As a reminder, the emergency temporary legislation does not affect an institution's ability to issue a written offer of admission or a prospective student-athlete's ability to submit a financial deposit in response to an institution's offer of admission.

Question No. 7: With NLIs able to be issued and signed beginning on April 15, 2020, are institutional athletics aid agreements issued without an NLI also able to be issued and signed beginning on April 15?

Answer: Yes.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes
Recognizing that the current circumstances are not contemplated by existing NCAA rules and that institutions must navigate these circumstances while taking into consideration state and local laws and unique institutional risks, policies and requirements, institutions are encouraged to focus on the well-being of their student-athletes. The awards-and-benefits legislation is not intended, at its core, to prevent an institution from providing the resources to support its own student-athletes through a personal emergency; therefore, such circumstances do not require a consistent national standard. A flexible approach is warranted when an institution is supporting a student-athlete's personal well-being and the benefit is limited to a specific, extreme circumstance (e.g., national pandemic) beyond the student-athlete's control. Institutions are encouraged to work with applicable institutional medical, legal and risk management personnel to determine how best to address individual student-athlete needs and corresponding institutional considerations and may contact staff through RSRO to assist with these or any other questions.

**Question No. 1:** May an institution provide a student-athlete with meals, lodging and or transportation if required to depart campus or if campus services are interrupted?

**Answer:** Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

**Question No. 2:** May a student-athlete who cannot return home (for example, due to travel restrictions) temporarily stay with a member of the institution's staff (for example, a coach)?

**Answer:** Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution provide boxed food delivery services or food related gift cards to a student-athlete who was required to remain at home, return home or is otherwise unable to access campus due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution cover shipping books and other necessities to a student-athlete who was required to remain at home, return home or is otherwise unable to access campus due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.
Question No. 5: For those winter championships that were cancelled before initial competition for any or all institutions identified for participation, may a conference still provide conference championship participation awards?

Answer: Yes, provided the winter conference championship participants had been identified before the cancellation.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons

Question No. 1: Does an institutional staff member with current certification in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) need to be present any time a student-athlete is participating in physical countable athletically related activity?

Answer: Yes. Therefore, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity.

Question No. 2: May an institutional strength and conditioning coach or coaching staff member distribute workouts to student-athletes to use for voluntary athletically related activities?

Answer: Yes, provided the workouts are approved by applicable institutional athletics and/or medical personnel and otherwise adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). As a reminder, an institutional staff member may not supervise or conduct such workouts and it is not permissible for an institutional staff member to post (for example, social media) images and/or video of student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities.

Question No. 3: May a student-athlete film voluntary athletically related activities and report back to coaching staff members while home and enrolled in online classes?

Answer: No. A student-athlete may not report voluntary athletically related activities to institutional coaches or staff members. However, student-athletes may post to their own social media account a voluntary athletically related activity, not at the direction of an institutional staff member. This action does not constitute reporting back to an institutional staff member.

Question No. 4a: What effect does the cancellation of all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships have on playing and practice seasons for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: All sports are considered out-of-season for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. Required countable athletically related activities (for example, film review sessions or team meetings) during this timeframe must adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional
requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). As a reminder, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity (See Question No. 1, above).

**Question No. 4b:** Are sports required to cease countable athletically related activities beginning the week prior to final examination period?

**Answer:** Yes, in sports other than football all countable athletically related activities outside the playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the institution's final examination period for the applicable academic term through the conclusion of the institution's academic term.

**Question No. 5:** In the sport of baseball, is a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns for 2020-21 subject to the varsity squad size limitation – championship segment legislation?

**Answer:** No. The NCAA Division I Coordination Council Committee approved a waiver to allow institutions to exclude those student-athletes from the varsity squad size limit of 35 for the 2020-21 academic year, provided the student-athlete received a season of competition waiver and/or an extension of eligibility based on COVID-19 and the student-athlete is participating on the same team as he was in 2019-20. Those returning student-athletes are still required to be declared as varsity squad members to continue to participate in countable athletically related activities following the institution's declaration of its varsity squad.

**Question No. 6:** Does an institution's decision to conduct classes remotely (e.g., online) trigger the start of a vacation period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 7:** May an institution post images and/or video to social media of student-athletes engaged in out-of-season required countable athletically related activities (e.g., review of film, chalk talk, etc.) while at home and taking online classes?

**Answer:** Yes, an institution may post images and/or video on social media of student-athletes engaged in permissible out-of-season countable athletically related activities. As a reminder, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity (see Question No. 1 above).

**Foreign Tours.**

**Question No. 1:** If an institution cancels a foreign tour as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, may the institution reimburse student-athletes and family members for prepaid expenses associated with the foreign tour?
Answer: Yes. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee approved a waiver to allow student-athletes (and their family members) to be reimbursed for expenses associated with a canceled foreign tour.

Question No. 2: May an institution reschedule a foreign tour to occur during the academic year and outside the declared playing and practice season?

Answer: Yes. However, the foreign tour must occur during the institution's declared vacation period.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership

Sports Sponsorship/Scheduling Requirements.

Question: Are institutions subject to the Division I sports sponsorship requirements, the three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: No. As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on institutional sport seasons, the Division I Council Coordination Committee has approved a blanket waiver of the minimum sports sponsorship requirements, three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2019-20 academic year.

Reclassification/Multidivisional Membership Requirements.

Question: Will deadlines be extended for the submission of the following: strategic plans and annual reports due June 1 for institutions in the reclassifying process; application and strategic plans due June 1 for institutions planning to apply for reclassification from Division II to Division I; and compliance reviews due July 31 for multidivisional institutions?

Answer: Yes. The committee has approved a blanket waiver of submission deadlines for reclassifying and multidivisional members. The waiver provides the NCAA staff flexibility to work with impacted institutions to establish reasonable time frames for submission of required information.

National Letter of Intent


All Division I and II sports will be in a signing period from April 15-August 1, 2020, including Division I basketball and football.

Please refer to the following questions and answers regarding the National Letter of Intent signing period starting April 15, 2020. (Updated on April 8, 2020)
Question No. 1: With NLI signing resuming on April 15, 2020, can the NLIs be sent to prospective student-athletes before April 15, 2020?

Answer: No, NLIs cannot be sent (electronic or mail) until April 15, 2020. Compliance offices can start populating NLIs in the NLI portal before April 15, but these cannot be sent until April 15. If you populate the NLI in advance, make sure the issuance date on the NLI is no earlier than the first date the NLIs have resumed (April 15). To do this you will need to select the appropriate issuance date which will then be recorded on the NLI.

Question No. 2: What time on April 15 can the NLI be sent to a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: There is not a designated time when the NLI can be sent to a prospective student-athlete; however, the NLI cannot be sent prior to April 15.

Question No. 3: What time on April 15 can the prospective student-athlete and parent/legal guardian sign the NLI?

Answer: The prospective student-athlete and parent/legal guardian cannot sign the NLI until 7 a.m. (prospective student-athlete's local time) on April 15. This time is consistent with the time of signing on the initial NLI signing date.

Question No. 4: Since athletics aid agreements must accompany the NLI, does the financial aid authority's signature date on the athletics aid agreement have to be the same date as the NLI issuance date?

Answer: No, the NLI issuance date and the financial aid authority's signature date does not have to be the same date. If you are preparing NLIs in advance to send to a prospective student-athlete on April 15, the financial aid authority's signature date may be before the date listed on the NLI as the issuance date.

Question No. 5: Can the director of athletics or designee's signature on the NLI and the financial aid authority's signature on the athletics aid agreement be an electronic signature?

Answer: Yes, these signatures can be electronic or digital signatures. The institutional signatures do not have to include an authentication code. It is permissible to place a signature stamp on the NLI or aid agreement such as what you see when pasting a signature on a letter or form. Additionally, as many compliance offices are using electronic means to send the NLIs and aid agreements, digital or electronic signatures are permissible for the prospective student-athlete and parent/legal guardian signatures provided the signature includes the authentication code.

Question No. 6: What is permissible if using a signature platform such as Adobe pdf to type a signature?
Answer: Some platforms allow the prospective student-athlete to select a signature font or type a signature. In these platforms, the signature will include an authenticated code. The signature is permissible provided it can be verified with the authenticated code. If the prospective student-athlete or parent/legal guardian signature does not include such verification, the signature cannot be accepted. Some platforms allow the use of a stylus, mouse or finger to sign. This is a replica signature, so this is permissible without the authenticated code.

Question No. 7: If I do not have an electronic platform for sending and receiving NLIs besides through scanner and email, what are other permissible methods for receiving the NLI from the prospective student-athlete?

Answer: It is permissible for a prospective student-athlete to take a photo of the NLI signature page and the athletics aid agreement signature page. This photo can then be sent by text or email. The compliance administrator can then save that photo as a pdf and upload in the NLI Portal.

Question No. 8: Does the seven-day signing deadline still apply?

Answer: Yes, the prospective student-athlete will have seven days from the issuance date to sign the NLI. For example, an NLI issued on April 15, 2020, must be signed by April 22, 2020. If the seven-day signing deadline expires, another NLI can be issued to the prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 9: Does the 14-day conference submission deadline still apply?

Answer: Yes, the signing institution must upload the NLI with the athletics aid agreement within 14 days of the final signature. For example, an NLI signed on April 15, 2020, must be uploaded by April 29, 2020.

Question No. 10: Is the NLI signing year extended since there was a time period when NLIs could not be signed and the recruiting dead period has been extended?

Answer: Yes, only for Division I basketball and football since these sports had regular signing periods that previously ended on April 1 (football) and May 20 (basketball). These sports will be aligned with all other Division I and II sports with the signing year ending on August 1, 2020.

Question No. 11: If a prospective student-athlete signs an athletics aid agreement without the NLI, can a prospective student-athlete later sign an NLI?

Answer: Yes, if a prospective student-athlete signs the athletics aid agreement without an NLI, the prospective student-athlete can later sign an NLI. The institution would attach the previously signed aid agreement to the NLI, and another aid agreement would not be signed. In this case, the prospective student-athlete's signature date on the aid agreement would precede the prospective student-athlete's signature date on the NLI.