



2021 NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide

(Originally Released: April 1, 2020)

FINAL UPDATE: July 30, 2021

Updates are Highlighted in **Yellow**

Please note this is the final scheduled update to the 2021 NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide. In the coming weeks, academic and membership affairs will continue to migrate select content, particularly content that has application beyond the pandemic (e.g., livestreaming, financial aid exceptions, etc.), from this document to educational columns and interpretations. This is being done to ensure the content will be available through Legislative Services Database for the Internet (LSDBi). Questions about the application of the information in this document may be submitted to academic and membership affairs via Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO).

For more information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the following resources on the [NCAA's COVID-19 webpage](#):

1. Multiple [resources](#) on the resocialization of collegiate sport.
2. Comprehensive chart tracking actions taken on Division I regulations and policies: [Division I COVID-19 Action Chart](#) (final update posted on July 30, 2021).
3. Listing of potential COVID-19 related actions for consideration during the 2020-21 academic year: [Division I COVID-19 Actions for Consideration](#). (final update posted on May 26, 2021).

DIVISION I COVID-19
QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE
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Additional Resources.

[2020-21 NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championships Eligibility in Sports Other than Basketball or Football](#)

[2020-21 NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championships Policy for Replacement in Individual and Team Sports Other Than Basketball or Football](#)

[CSMAS Prevention & Performance Subcommittee 2020 Summer Access / Fall Preseason Transition Considerations](#)

[Division I Basketball 2020 Summer Access Model](#)

[Division I Football 2021 Fall/Spring Preseason Model](#)

[Navigating the NLI Status Under COVID-19 Circumstances](#)

NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership

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 eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as a student-athlete?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: May an institution's coach who has been furloughed due to COVID-19 continue to be involved in recruitment activities (telephone calls, texts, DM's Facetime, etc.) with prospective student-athletes and have contact/conversations (position meetings, academic meetings, etc.) with current student-athletes?

Answer: Individual institutions are responsible for determining what duties and/or role(s) individuals can or cannot conduct during the time period when they are furloughed. If an institution's policies, along with all applicable federal, state, and local laws (including without limitation all laws dealing with labor, compensation, and employment), allow furloughed employees to conduct these activities during the furloughed time period, then NCAA legislation

would not preclude a furloughed coach from being involved in such activities with current and prospective student-athletes. Further, these individuals remain subject to all recruiting, personnel, and playing and practice season legislation.

NCAA Division I Blanket Waiver Sport-Specific Noncoaching Staff Member Participation in Managerial Duties (Sports Other Than Football) and Women's Basketball Practice Players -- 2020-21 Playing Season (Effective September 8 in Basketball and September 9 Sports Other Than Football and Basketball). [This blanket waiver expires at the end of the 2020-21 playing season.]

Question No. 1: The blanket waiver requires that the institution's sport-specific noncoaching staff member position must have existed as of September 7. Is it required that the individual was hired in the position as of September 7?

Answer: No. The sport-specific noncoaching staff position must have existed prior to September 7. However, the individual could be hired into the position after September 7.

Question No. 2: Does the blanket waiver extend to voluntary athletically related activities?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Does the blanket waiver apply during a team's out-of-season segment?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: How long does the blanket waiver apply?

Answer: The waiver applies until the end of the team's playing season for the 2020-21 academic year or when the institution permits all student managers to attend practice or other countable athletically related activities, whichever is earlier.

Question No. 5: Is the waiver applicable to sports that do not have sport-specific noncoaching staff members?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: Once an institution's sport-specific noncoaching staff member is designated for managerial duties, may the designation switch to another sport-specific noncoaching staff member for any reason?

Answer: No. However, an institution may apply temporary replacement legislation in situations where the sport-specific noncoaching-staff member is not able to perform day-to-day responsibilities as a result of COVID-19 (e.g., quarantining).

Question No. 7: Does elimination or reduction of some or all student manager positions due to COVID-19 allow an institution to use the blanket waiver?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: If an institution is utilizing all its student managers but due to COVID-19 is splitting their attendance at practice throughout the week (e.g., some attend Sunday-Tuesday and the others attend Wednesday-Saturday), can the institution use the blanket waiver?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: May a strength and conditioning coach, department-wide administrator or staff member other than a sport-specific noncoaching staff member be designated as one of the individuals that may engage in managerial duties?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: In the sport of basketball, are the two noncoaching staff members who have been designated as student managers, and existing student managers for the 2020-21 season who are serving as male practice players, permitted to travel with the team and engage in managerial duties associated with away from home competition?

Answer: Yes.

Practice Players – Women's Basketball.

Question: In women's basketball, may student managers and the sport-specific noncoaching staff members serving as managers participate as practice players if the usual number of practice players available are reduced due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. The guidance provided above related to managers also applies to male practice players.

NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee June 2 Action Related to Men's and Women's Basketball Noncoaching Staff Engaging in Skill-Instruction Activities.

Question No. 1: What do "instructional" duties entail for purposes of applying the blanket waiver?

Answer: Instructional duties include providing technical and tactical instruction and making or assisting in making tactical decisions during summer athletics activities (i.e., weight training, conditioning and skill instruction), including participation in such activities as a practice player.

Question No. 2: Does the blanket waiver permit an undergraduate or graduate student manager to be designated as one of the up to two basketball-specific noncoaching staff members?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Does the blanket waiver permit basketball-specific noncoaching staff members to engage in managerial duties during the 2021 summer access period?

Answer: The blanket waiver permits no more than four coaches and noncoaching staff members combined to engage in providing instruction during summer athletics activities, including participation in such activities as a practice player. A noncoaching staff member who engages in managerial duties also counts toward the institution's limit of up to two basketball-specific noncoaching staff members who are permitted to provide instruction to student-athletes at any one time.

Question No. 4: Does the blanket waiver permit more than a total of four coaches and noncoaching staff members combined to provide instruction during summer athletics activities as long as no more than four individuals provide instruction at any one time?

Answer: No. The blanket waiver is intended to address situations where a countable coach is not in attendance at summer athletics activities. Therefore, if four coaches are present at summer athletics activities, then a noncoaching staff member cannot engage in summer athletics activities in any manner including, but not limited to, providing instruction or participation as a practice player. For example, if one coach is absent from summer athletics activities, then one noncoaching staff member may engage in summer access activities.

Question No. 5: If an institution's countable coach attends and observes the skill instruction activities from the sideline, can a basketball-specific noncoaching staff member provide instructions to student-athletes or participate as a practice player?

Answer: No. The blanket waiver is intended to address situations where a countable coach is not in attendance at summer athletics activities.

Question No. 6: The blanket waiver permits up to two basketball-specific noncoaching staff members to engage in instructional activities during summer athletics activities. May an institution designate more than two basketball-specific noncoaching staff members who will rotate into the designated up to two basketball-specific noncoaching staff member positions who may engage in instructional activities this summer?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: When does the blanket waiver expire?

Answer: The blanket waiver is applicable only during the institution's 2021 eight-week summer access period.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility

General Applications Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extensions of Eligibility.

Question No. 1: Which sports are considered fall sports?

Answer: Field hockey, football, men's water polo, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, rugby, triathlon and women's volleyball.

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

Answer: Acrobatics and tumbling, bowling, equestrian, fencing, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's gymnastics, men's and women's ice hockey, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's wrestling, rifle and skiing.

Question No. 3: 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. 4: 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. 5: What is an extension-of-eligibility waiver?

Answer: An extension-of-eligibility waiver extends a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility ("clock"). Please note, an extension-of-eligibility waiver applies on a sport-by-sport basis. Therefore, student-athletes may only use the self-applied extension in their spring 2020 sport.

Question No. 6: How should institutions report self-application of season-of-competition waivers and/or extension-of-eligibility waivers for student-athletes?

Answer: Institutions should document all self-applied relief so there is a record of such self-application; however, institutions are not required to report self-application to the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff.

Question No. 7: How should institutions apply student-athlete reinstatement withholding conditions that were either unfulfilled at the time spring seasons were canceled due to COVID-19, or were to occur during fall 2020 for a fall sport student-athlete?

Answer: If your institution has a student-athlete who has who has an unfulfilled withholding condition at the time the 2019-20 season was canceled, or an unfulfilled withholding condition as a result of the cancellation of fall sports during fall 2020, please contact the student-athlete reinstatement staff to discuss how that withholding condition applies.

Question No. 8: May an institution self-apply a season-of-competition or extension-of-eligibility waiver for students that competed as a member of an institution's club team during spring 2020, fall 2020 or winter 2021?

Answer: Yes, provided the institution sponsors the sport at the varsity level, the institution can certify the student would have been eligible to compete at the varsity level, and the student-athlete meets all other COVID-19 waiver requirements.

[Application of August 21, 2020, NCAA Division I Board of Directors Action and October 13-14, 2020, NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extensions of Eligibility for Fall and Winter Sports.](#)

Question No. 1: What does the Board of Directors' and Council's actions allowing institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers for fall and winter sport student-athletes permit?

Answer: Institutions may self-apply season-of-competition waivers for any eligible student-athlete who competes in a fall and/or winter sport during the 2020-21 academic year. The effect of this action provides five seasons of competition (including the 2020-21 season) to any fall and/or winter sport student-athlete who competes during 2020-21.

Question No. 2: May an institution self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for a fall and/or winter sport student-athlete who competes during the fall/winter sport's entire 2020-21 season?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: May an institution self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for a fall sport student-athlete whose team delays competition and competes only during spring 2021?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: May an institution self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for a fall and/or winter sport student-athlete whose team competes during both fall 2020 and spring 2021 (i.e., conducts regular season competition during both the fall and spring)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: Is there a threshold of competition beyond which a fall and/or winter sport student-athlete will not qualify for a self-applied season-of-competition waiver?

Answer: No. A fall and/or winter sport student-athlete may compete in his or her fall/winter sport team's entire season during the 2020-21 academic year and still qualify for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver, so long as the student-athlete's competition does not exceed the maximum amount of competition permitted.

Question No. 6: If a fall and/or winter sport student-athlete sustains a season-ending injury while competing during his or her fall/winter sport season (either during fall 2020 or spring 2021), does my institution need to file a hardship waiver with the conference office to restore use of that season of competition?

Answer: No. Any fall and/or winter sport student-athlete who competes during his or her fall/winter sport's season (either during fall 2020 or spring 2021) qualifies for a self-applied season-of-competition waiver, which restores the student-athlete's use of the 2020-21 season.

Question No. 7: What does the Board of Directors' and Council's actions allowing institutions to self-apply extensions of eligibility permit?

Answer: Institutions may self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for fall and/or winter sport student-athletes who are unable to compete, elect not to compete or who qualify for a season-of-competition waiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question No. 8a: Must a fall/winter sport student-athlete have been eligible to compete during the term in which competition took place, or was reasonably expected to take place, in order for an institution to self-apply an extension of eligibility?

Answer: Yes. An institution must be able to demonstrate the fall and/or winter sport student-athlete was otherwise eligible to compete either (1) during fall 2020; or (2) during a term in which the institution reasonably intended to conduct competition.

Question No. 8b: Does the phrase "otherwise eligible" mean a student-athlete must be enrolled full time during the 2020 fall term (fall sports) and/or the 2020 fall and 2021 spring terms for an institution to self-apply an extension?

Answer: An institution may self-apply an extension of eligibility for a fall sport student-athlete who is not enrolled full time during the 2020 fall term, and a winter sport student-athlete who is not enrolled full time during the 2020 fall term or 2021 spring term, so long as the institution verifies the student-athlete's reason for not enrolling full time is due to the impact of COVID-19, and the student-athlete meets all other eligibility requirements to have competed (e.g., progress toward degree requirements).

Question No. 9: Will season-of-competition waivers and/or extension requests approved by other organizations (e.g., National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) for 2020-21 fall and/or winter sport student-athletes be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: NCAA institutions may self-apply season-of-competition waivers and/or extension-of-eligibility waivers for 2020-21 fall and/or winter sport student-athletes via the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Previously Approved Request List, provided the student-athlete's enrollment and participation satisfy all the listed criteria in the previously approved request list.

Application of March 24, 2021, NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition for 2021 Spring Sports.

Question No. 1: What does Council's action allowing conferences and institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers for spring sport student-athletes permit?

Answer: Conferences and institutions that cancel or suspend 2021 spring sport seasons due to COVID-19 may self-apply season-of-competition waivers for any student-athlete who satisfies the below criteria:

- a. The student-athlete uses a season of competition in a spring sport during 2020-21 academic year;
- b. The student-athlete does not compete in more than three contests/dates of competition or 30% (whichever number is greater) of the maximum permissible contests/dates of competition as set forth in NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 in the applicable sport;
- c. The student-athlete is eligible for intercollegiate competition when they compete during the 2020-21 academic year; and
- d. The student-athlete and the institution's team end competition by the selection date for the NCAA championship in the applicable sport and does not compete in postseason competition during spring 2021.

Question No. 2: For purposes of the self-applied waiver, what is considered a cancelled or suspended season?

Answer: An institution may use its discretion to determine whether a sport season was cancelled or suspended due to COVID-19. Institutional decisions to schedule less than the Bylaw 17 maximum or cancelling or suspending individual contests or dates of competition do not necessarily constitute a cancelled or suspended season due to COVID-19.

Question No. 3: If an institution schedules fewer than the maximum permissible contests/dates of competition during spring 2021, how is a student-athlete's percent of competition calculated?

Answer: A student-athlete's percent of competition is based on the sport's Bylaw 17 maximum. Therefore, if an institution schedules fewer than, or is unable to compete in, the maximum amount of competition for that sport, the student-athlete's percent of competition is still based on the sport's Bylaw 17 maximum.

Sport	30% of Bylaw 17 Maximum
Baseball	17
Golf, Men's and Women's	8
Lacrosse, Men's and Women's	6
Rowing	6
Softball	17
Tennis, Men's and Women's	8
Outdoor Track and Field, Men's and Women's (Institution sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field.)	3
Outdoor Track and Field, Men's and Women's (Institution only sponsors outdoor track and field.)	6
Volleyball, Beach	5
Volleyball, Men's	9
Water Polo, Women's	7

Question No. 4: How is postseason competition defined for purposes of the self-applied waiver?

Answer: For purposes of the self-applied waiver, postseason competition is any collegiate competition that occurs after the selection date for the applicable sport's 2021 NCAA spring championships.

Question No. 5: Can a student-athlete who qualified for a self-applied spring 2020 COVID-19 season-of-competition waiver also qualify for the 2021 self-applied waiver?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: In sports with both individual and team championships, if an individual student-athlete on an institution's team qualifies for and participates as an individual in the NCAA championship, does he or she qualify for the self-applied waiver?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: In sports with both individual and team championships, if an individual student-athlete on an institution's team qualifies for and participates as an individual in the NCAA

championship but the institution's team does not qualify or participate as a team in the NCAA championship, do the nonparticipating student-athletes qualify for the self-applied waiver?

Answer: Yes, so long as all other criteria are satisfied (e.g., percent of season in which student-athlete participated).

Question No. 8: Does all participation need to occur prior to the second half of the season?

Answer: No, so long as all other criteria are satisfied (e.g., percent of season in which student-athlete participated).

Question No. 9: Will season-of-competition waivers approved by other organizations (e.g., National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) for 2020-21 spring sport student-athletes be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: No. Institutions may still submit season-of-competition waivers through RSRO for non-NCAA transfer student-athletes specific to 2020-21 spring sport student-athletes.

Question No. 10: If a student-athlete who qualifies for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver transfers to another Division I institution, does the new institution need to file a separate season-of-competition waiver for that student-athlete?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: In golf and tennis, may an institution self-apply the season-of-competition waiver if the student-athlete competed during fall 2020, or only during fall 2020?

Answer: Yes, so long as all other criteria are satisfied (e.g., percent of season in which student-athlete participated).

Application of NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extension of Eligibility – 2020 Spring Sports.

Question No. 1: What does 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. Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers in certain circumstances. Please see below for specific guidance:

Spring 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 Council's actions).

Question No. 2: May an institution self-apply the season-of-competition waiver if the institution later resumed its spring 2020 season?

Answer: No. If the institution resumed 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. 3: 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. 4: What does 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. 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 Council's actions).

Question No. 5: 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 RSRO if the institution believes the student-athlete had a legislatively defined denied participation opportunity.

Question No. 6: 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. 7: Will season-of-competition waivers and/or extension requests approved by other organizations (e.g., National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) for 2019-20 spring sport student-athletes be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: NCAA institutions may self-apply season-of-competition waivers and/or extension-of-eligibility waivers for 2019-20 spring sport student-athletes via the Student-Athlete Reinstatement Previously Approved Request List, so long as the student-athlete's enrollment and participation satisfy all the listed criteria in the previously approved request list.

Question No. 8: If a student-athlete who qualifies for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver and/or extension of eligibility transfers to another Division I institution, does the new institution need to file a separate season-of-competition waiver and/or extension-of-eligibility waiver for that student-athlete?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: In golf and tennis, may an institution self-apply the season-of-competition waiver if the student-athlete competed during the fall, or only in the fall?

Answer: Yes, so long as the student-athlete triggered use of a season of competition and was eligible to compete during spring 2020.

Outstanding Amateurism Certification Conditions.

Question: Does the cancellation of the spring season affect an amateurism certification condition (e.g., 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 NCAA academic and membership affairs staff. Staff continues to work with member schools to ensure student-athletes and communities impacted by COVID-19 are supported.

Institutional Promotions Involving Student-Athlete Athletics Activity.

Question: May an institution's athletics department post a bona fide promotional video to social media of one or more student-athletes engaged in a limited physical athletics activity (e.g., virtually passing a ball)?

Answer: Yes, provided participation in the bona fide promotional video is voluntary and the video is not created at the direction of an athletics department staff member, does not involve countable coaches and is otherwise consistent with institutional promotions involving student athletes. Under these circumstances, one or more student-athletes may participate in limited physical athletics activity related to their sport (e.g., kicking a ball, throwing a ball, juggling a puck) without such an activity triggering a countable athletically related activity.

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: The NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee has reviewed circumstances where a student-athlete uses both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years to prepare for the 2020 Summer Olympics, which were postponed until summer 2021 due to COVID-19, and directed staff to approve extension-of-eligibility waivers where the 2020-21 academic year is an asserted denied-participation opportunity based on the student-athlete's preparation for the postponed 2020 Summer Olympics, provided the student-athlete has already received an approved athletics waiver for the 2019-20 academic year.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting

Telephone Calls.

Question No. 1: May an institution's coach engage in a video call with multiple coaches of prospective student-athletes (e.g., high school coaches, club coaches)?

Answer: Yes. A coach may engage in a video call with multiple high school or club coaches, provided the institution does not incur any fee on behalf of any of the participants. Please note: All recruiting legislation continues to apply.

Question No. 2: 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.

NCAA Division I Council April 14-15 Action Related to Football 2021-22 Recruiting (Effective June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022).

Question: In sports other than football, who may initiate or participate on a video call with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: An institution's coach, full-time staff member or enrolled student-athlete may initiate or participate on a video call with a prospective student-athlete. Time spent by a student-athlete participating in recruiting calls is not required to count toward daily and weekly countable athletically related activity limits; however, required calls cannot occur on a required day off from required athletically related activities (RARA). [Updated based on November 18, 2020, NCAA Division I Council action and December 2, 2020, Blanket Waiver – Virtual Recruiting/Permissible Callers. (This Council action expires on June 1, 2021.)]

NCAA Division I Council April 14-15 Action Related to Telephone Calls – Application in Sports Other Than Football.

Question No. 1: In sports other than football, beginning June 1 through December 31, 2021, who may initiate or participate on a telephone/video call with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: The Council action allows any institutional staff member (e.g., athletic trainer, strength and conditioning coach) who has passed the recruiting certification exam to initiate or participate on telephone calls with a prospective student-athlete. The recruiting exam requirement does not apply to individuals who initiate or return telephone/video calls to a prospective student-athlete pursuant to an existing, legislated exception (e.g., academic advisors and compliance administrators).

Question No. 2: In sports other than football, may an institutional staff member who has not passed the recruiting certification exam initiate or participate on a video call with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Does the Council action allow a full-time institutional staff member to initiate or participate on a call during the conduct of an intercollegiate contest?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: In sports other than football, from June 1 through December 31, 2021, are sports required to apply the legislated limits on frequency of telephone calls?

Answer: Yes.

For information about the application of this Council action to the sport of football, please refer to the NCAA Division I Council April 14-15, 2021 Action Related to Football 2021-22 Recruiting (Effective June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022) section of this guide.

Livestream or On-Demand Videos [Added July 13, 2020].

Question No. 1: Does the June 20, 2019, staff interpretation on observation of prospective student-athletes via livestream, on-demand and/or video apply during a recruiting dead period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: During a recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach watch a livestream event in which prospective student-athletes are participating (e.g., tournament, team practice, etc.)?

Answer: An institution may watch a livestream event of prospective student-athletes, provided the criteria in the June 19, 2019, staff interpretation is met. If these criteria are met, watching the livestream event does not constitute a recruiting activity and is not restricted by recruiting periods. Further, the observation of prospective student-athletes on such a stream or video at an off-campus site (e.g., the coach's home) is not considered an "off-campus activity" and, therefore, is not considered an evaluation or recruiting activity. Note that during a recruiting shutdown period in women's basketball it remains impermissible for an institution's coach to watch a livestream event in which prospective student-athletes are participating (e.g., tournament, team practice, etc.). See NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2017-23 its associated educational column (5/4/18, Item 1) for additional information about the application of a women's basketball recruiting shutdown period.

Question No. 3: During a recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach purchase a livestream or on-demand video from a recruiting and scouting service, scholastic or nonscholastic organization, prospective student-athlete's coach, etc., for purposes of observing prospective student-athletes' practice or competition?

Answer: An institution's coach may purchase a livestream or on-demand video from a recruiting and scouting service, scholastic or nonscholastic organization, prospective student-athlete's coach, etc., provided:

- a. The livestream/video is made available in the same format to all Division I institutions desiring to purchase and at the same fee rate for all purchasers;
- b. The entity must publicly identify all applicable rates for the livestream/video; and
- c. Any additional information (e.g., packet, roster) regarding prospective student-athletes participating in the activity is included in the purchase price based on objective criteria (e.g., pricing may vary from Division I vs. Division II, Gold Level option vs. Silver Level

option) and is in a standardized format that ensures consistent distribution to all subscribers.

Question No. 4: During a recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach purchase a livestream or on-demand video for a specific event from a recruiting or scouting service that is not approved by the NCAA?

Answer: Yes. An institution may purchase a livestream or on-demand video of an event from a recruiting and scouting service that has not been approved by the NCAA. Specifically, the livestream or on-demand video must be for a single event and the coach cannot be required to subscribe to the recruiting and scouting service to access the livestream or on-demand video.

Question No. 5: May an institution purchase a livestream or on-demand video from an approved recruiting or scouting service that the institution does not subscribe to?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: During a recruiting dead period, may an event operator (e.g., scholastic or nonscholastic entity) sell access to a livestream of an event without becoming a recruiting or scouting service?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: May an event operator (e.g., scholastic or nonscholastic entity) provide an informational packet of the prospective student-athletes participating in the event as part of the access to the livestream or on-demand of an event?

Answer: Yes. An event operator may provide an informational packet that only includes demographic information for those prospective student-athletes participating in the event and not be considered a recruiting or scouting service. However, if the packet includes anything beyond demographic information about the prospective student-athletes participating in the event the event operator would be considered a recruiting or scouting service and would have to meet all applicable recruiting and scouting service legislation.

Campus Visits.

Question No. 1: 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 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. 2: 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 2020-21 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 2020-21 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 2020-21 academic year until the prospective student-athlete's education institution reopens. [Updated to reflect the entire academic year.]

Virtual Tours.

Question No. 1: May a prospective student-athlete and an institutional athletics department staff member engage in virtual (e.g., telephone, video) communication while the prospective student-athlete is on campus during a dead period?

Answer: No. If an athletics department staff member receives a virtual communication while the prospective student-athlete is on campus during a dead period, the staff member may not engage in any dialogue in excess of a greeting and the staff member must take the appropriate steps to immediately end the communication. However, existing flexibility would permit virtual communication in extenuating circumstances unrelated to recruitment (e.g., prospective student-athlete is lost or injured on campus).

Question No. 2: May an institution's coaching staff member conduct a virtual campus tour with a prospective student-athlete who is on campus during a dead period, even if no in-person contact occurs between the prospective student-athlete and the coaching staff member?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: May an institution's coach who is on-campus video call a prospective student-athlete who is not on the institution's campus 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 virtual campus tour. Because a video call is considered a telephone call, telephone call legislation (e.g., first opportunity to call) applies. In this scenario, the prospective student-athlete is not visiting the institution's campus and no in-person contact with a coaching staff member occurs.

Recruiting Calendars.

Question: At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period will recruiting calendars remain the same?

Answer: Yes. The Council agreed that the current recruiting dead period will expire on May 31 and that all sports will return to their legislated recruiting calendars on June 1. [Updated due to Council action on April 14-15, 2021.]

Camps and Clinics.

Question: During summer 2021 may an institution's coach participate in institutional and noninstitutional virtual camps or clinics that do not include prospective student-athletes?

Answer: Yes. An institution's coach may participate in institutional and noninstitutional virtual camps or clinics that do not include prospective student-athletes. Institutions should follow all applicable governmental and public health guidance and/or directives that are issued as well as institutional and conference rules related to COVID-19. [Note: Due to Council action on April 14-15, 2021, this will remain permissible until the institution's first day of classes for the 2021 fall term.]

General and Electronic Correspondence.

Question No. 1: During a dead period, may an institution's athletics department send a prospective student-athlete an itinerary for a visit to campus (e.g., campus tour, instructions on accessing athletics facilities) during a dead period?

Answer: No. Providing this type of information constitutes impermissible involvement in a prospective student-athlete's visit to campus during a dead period.

Question No. 2: During a dead period, may an institutional staff member provide a prospective student-athlete with a current student-athlete's contact information (e.g., phone number, social media profile) for the student-athlete to meet in-person with the prospective student-athlete on campus?

Answer: No. Although an institutional staff member may provide a current student-athlete's contact information to a prospective student-athlete, a coaching staff member may not arrange or facilitate an in-person meeting or visit between a prospective student-athlete and a student-athlete during a dead period.

Miscellaneous.

Question No. 1: May an institution host a virtual coaches' 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.

Question No. 2 May an institution's strength and conditioning coach post examples of workouts to social media and allow prospective student-athletes to view the example workouts?

Answer: Yes, provided the strength and conditioning coach's social media is open to the general public and the workout is not designed for a specific prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 3: If an institution's coach or staff member is unable to conduct the Recruiting Certification Test for Coaches in-person due to the impact of COVID-19, may an institution arrange for the exam to be proctored remotely (e.g., Zoom meeting)?

Answer: Yes. The Recruiting Certification Test for Coaches may be administered in accordance with established member conference procedures (e.g., Zoom meeting).

Question No. 4: May an institution's coach participate on a podcast with a scholastic or nonscholastic coach?

Answer: No. An institution's coach may not participate on a broadcast, including a podcast, that involves a prospective student-athlete or a prospective student-athlete's coach, regardless of the content of the broadcast.

Question No. 5: If a team meeting involving student-athletes is recorded, may an institution's coach send a copy of the recording to a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. An institution may send a prospective student-athlete a recording of countable athletically related activities in accordance with the audio/video materials exception in Bylaw 13.4.1.10.1. [See Council Coordination Committee action on Virtual Recruiting]

Question No. 6: May a prospective student-athlete who is not a committed prospective student-athlete be considered a student-athlete upon participation in virtual team activities?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: May an institution's coach conduct (e.g., arrange, instruct, communicate) an event (e.g., practice, combine) using an online format (e.g., Zoom, Go-To-Meeting, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, etc.) where prospective student-athletes participate in real time?

Answer: No, an institution's coach may not directly or indirectly be involved with conducting such activities. The coach's involvement in these activities would be considered a tryout per Bylaw 13.11.1.

Question No. 8: May an institution provide expenses (transportation after arriving at the institution's campus, meals and lodging), to a prospective student-athlete who, upon initial arrival at the institution to attend classes for a regular term or to participate in summer access activities or preseason practice, must satisfy state, local or campus health and safety requirements (e.g., quarantine period, COVID-19 testing or vaccination) associated with initial enrollment?

Answer: Yes. The expenses may be provided even if the prospective student-athlete is required to arrive during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period in order to satisfy applicable state, local or campus health and safety requirements (e.g., quarantine period, COVID-19 testing or vaccination) associated with initial enrollment. [Note: These expenses may not include expenses prohibited by the transportation prior to initial enrollment legislation. Earlier this month, the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee and the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees discussed whether relief should be provided from the normal application of the transportation prior to initial enrollment legislation due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. The committees did not support relief of the legislation.] [This update only impacts summer 2021.]

NCAA Division I Council April 14-15, 2020 Action Related to Proposal No. 2021-1 and Blanket Waiver for Student-Athlete Participation on Telephone Calls – All Sports (Effective April 14, 2021 Through the Conclusion of the 2021-22 Academic Year).

Telephone Calls.

Question No. 1: May an institution's coach participate (e.g., initiate or receive) on a telephone/video call that includes multiple committed and/or uncommitted prospective student-athletes?

Answer: Yes. Due to legislation adopted by the Council during its April 14-15, 2021, meeting (Proposal No. 2021-1 (Recruiting – Publicity Before Commitment– Telephone Calls With Multiple Prospective Student-Athletes), it will remain permissible for an institution's coach to participate on a telephone/video call with one or more committed or uncommitted prospective student-athletes (and their family members) after the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period ends. Sport-specific legislation surrounding the timing and frequency of calls continues to apply. Further, a call initiated by the institution's coach is considered a call to each prospective student-athlete on the call. Therefore, only prospective student-athletes the institution's coach is permitted to call may be on a call initiated by the institution's coach.

Question No. 2: Through the 2021-22 academic year, may a student-athlete initiate or participate in a recruiting telephone/video call with a committed or uncommitted prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. During its April 14-15, 2021, meeting, the Council approved a blanket waiver through the 2021-22 academic year to permit student-athletes in all sports to participate in recruiting telephone/video calls with a coach and prospective student-athlete or at the direction of

a coach, with the condition that a coach may not direct a student-athlete to make calls on the student-athlete's day off.

Virtual Team Activities.

Please refer to the Council's April 14-15 action in the Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide and the blanket waiver approved on April 28, 2021, regarding Virtual Nonphysical Countable Athletically Related Activities for additional information.

Question No. 1: May an institution arrange a telephone call (e.g., Zoom, GoToMeeting) with a prospective student-athlete to occur during the conduct of an intercollegiate contest?

Answer: No. An institution may not arrange for such a call to occur from the time the institution's team reports on call at the competition site until the competition has concluded and the team has been dismissed. Examples of an arrangement of a telephone call include, but are not limited to: (1) Coach sending a link, call-in number or other scheduling of a call; (2) Coach directly or indirectly asking or suggesting the prospective student-athlete to call; or (3) Coach using a third party (e.g., high school or nonscholastic coach) to recommend the prospective student-athlete to call.

Question No. 2: May an institution's coach receive a telephone call initiated by a prospective student-athlete during the conduct of an intercollegiate contest?

Answer: Yes. However, the call must be initiated by the prospective student-athlete and not arranged by the institution.

Question No. 3: Is it considered an impermissible gameday simulation if an institution's coach receives a telephone call initiated by a prospective student-athlete while the coach is participating in game-day activities (e.g., team walk, running out of the tunnel, on-field activities)?

Answer: No. A prospective student-athlete must be physically present for an impermissible gameday simulation to occur.

NCAA Division I Council April 14-15 Action Related to Football 2021-22 Recruiting (Effective June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022.)

On-Campus Evaluations.

Question No. 1: Who may participate in an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: High school prospective student-athletes in the 2021 and 2022 classes, two-year college transfers and four-year college transfers. The on-campus evaluation must be conducted during an unofficial visit after the prospective student-athlete's scholastic season has concluded.

Question No. 2: When may an on-campus evaluation occur?

Answer: An on-campus evaluation may occur when football camps and clinics are permissible. In football bowl subdivision (FBS), camps may be conducted between June 1-27 and July 25-31. In football championship subdivision (FCS), camps may be conducted in June and July. Additionally, the evaluation must occur after the prospective student-athlete's scholastic season has concluded.

Question No. 3: May an institution publicize the on-campus evaluation of a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: No. NCAA legislation prohibits an institution from publicizing (or arranging for publicity of) a prospective student-athlete's visit to the institution's campus.

Question No. 4: In FBS, may an institution conduct an on-campus evaluation outside of the institution's identified 10-day period for conducting institutional camps and clinics?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: What constitutes the "conclusion of a prospective student-athlete's scholastic season" for purposes of conducting an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: The "conclusion of a prospective student-athlete's scholastic season" refers to each individual prospective student-athlete's football season.

Question No. 6: Is a medical examination required?

Answer: Yes. Before participating in an on-campus evaluation, the prospective student-athlete is required to undergo a medical examination or evaluation administered in accordance with NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.11.2.1-(g) (On-Campus Evaluations -- Basketball).

Question No. 7: Is there a time limit for the on-campus evaluation?

Answer: Yes. The on-campus evaluation (other than the medical examination or evaluation) is limited to one hour.

Question No. 8: May an institution conduct more than one on-campus evaluation with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: May the one hour on-campus evaluation be divided and conducted on two different days of the prospective student-athlete's unofficial visit?

Answer: No. Conducting evaluations (or portions of an evaluation) on different days would constitute different, separate on-campus evaluations.

Question No. 10: Is there a limit on the number of on-campus evaluations an institution may conduct?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: May an institution conduct an on-campus evaluation with more than one prospective student-athlete at the same time?

Answer: No. However, it is permissible to conduct multiple, independent on-campus evaluations at the same time. For example, it would be permissible for multiple, independent on-campus evaluations to occur simultaneously in different areas of a practice field or facility.

Question No. 12: Who may conduct an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: Countable coaches and graduate assistant coaches.

Question No. 13: Is a sport-specific, noncoaching staff member allowed to be present during an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No. However, a student manager may be present.

Question No. 14: May current football student-athletes participate in or observe an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 15: May an institution provide a prospective student-athlete with equipment (e.g., shoes, protective equipment, etc.) or clothing for use during an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 16: May an institution provide a prospective student-athlete access to locker and shower facilities during an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: Yes. However, it is not permissible to personalize the locker or shower facility for the prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 17: May an institution provide the prospective student-athlete with food and/or beverages during an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: The institution may provide water and/or electrolyte replacement drinks (e.g., Gatorade, PowerAde) to the prospective student-athlete; however, it is not permissible to provide food to a prospective student-athlete during an unofficial visit. Therefore, it is not permissible to provide food to the prospective student-athlete during an on-campus evaluation.

Question No. 18: May an institution use practice equipment (e.g., footballs, cones, etc.) during an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: Yes. However, all evaluation activities are limited to noncontact activities and no protective equipment may be worn during an on-campus evaluation.

Question No. 19: May an on-campus evaluation be filmed by the institution?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 20: Which institutional staff members may film an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: In football, only countable coaches, student managers and video staff [for whom filming (e.g. practices) is part of their regular responsibilities] are permitted to film an on-campus evaluation.

Question No. 21: May an institution's strength and conditioning coach conduct warm-up activities with a prospective student-athlete prior to their participation in an on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No. A strength and conditioning coach may not attend or participate in an on-campus evaluation.

Question No. 22: May an institution use blocking sleds during the on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 23: May an institution conduct weightlifting activities (e.g., bench press) during the on-campus evaluation?

Answer: No.

Telephone Calls.

Question No. 1: Does the recruiting exam requirement apply to individuals who initiate, receive or participate on telephone calls with prospective student-athletes pursuant to an existing, legislated exception (e.g., academic advisors and compliance administrators)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Does the Council action permit a full-time institutional staff member to initiate or participate on a call to a prospective student-athlete during the conduct of an intercollegiate contest?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: From June 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022, who may call a prospective student-athlete and which class of prospective student-athletes may receive calls?

Answer: The following table explains the application of the football telephone call legislation through July 31, 2022.

	Through May 31, 2021	June 1 – July 31, 2021	August 1 – Dec. 31, 2021	Jan. 1 – 15, 2022	Jan. 16 – July 31, 2022
Who is Permitted to Call?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countable coaches. Noncoaching staff. Students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countable coaches. Noncoaching staff who have passed the NCAA coaches' certification exam. Student-athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countable coaches. Noncoaching staff members who have passed the NCAA coaches' certification exam. Student-athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countable coaches. Student-athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countable coaches. Student-athletes.
PSAs Who May be Called.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Seniors (Class of 2021). High School Juniors (Class of 2022). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Seniors (Class of 2021). High School Juniors (Class of 2022). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Seniors (Class of 2022). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Seniors (Class of 2022). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Seniors (Class of 2022). High School Juniors (Class of 2023).
Telephone Call Limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls may be made at the institution's discretion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls may be made at the institution's discretion by staff members who have passed the NCAA coaches' certification exam [Updated based on Blanket Waiver]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August: No calls to high school prospective student-athletes (Class of 2022). (Bylaw 13.1.3.1.2). September – December: One call per week outside of a contact period. Unlimited calls during a contact period. (Bylaw 13.1.3.1.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 1-15: One call per week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 16-31: One call per week. February: No calls. March: One call per week. April/May: Unlimited. June/July: One call per week.
Change from COVID-19 recruiting dead period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noncoaching staff members who have not passed the NCAA coaches' certification exam may not call. Students who are not student-athletes may not call. Normal application of Bylaw 13.1.3.1.2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noncoaching staff members who have not passed the NCAA coaches' certification exam may not call. Students who are not student-athletes may not call. Normal application of Bylaw 13.1.3.1.2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noncoaching staff members may not call. Students who are not student-athletes may not call. Limit on calls as specified in the April 15, 2021, Division I Council action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noncoaching staff members may not call. Students who are not student-athletes may not call. Limit on calls as specified in the April 15, 2021 Division I Council Action.

Application of Council April 14-15 Action Allowing Committed Prospective Student-Athletes (PSA) to Participate in Virtual Team Activities and Blanket Waiver Approved April 28 Allowing Committed Prospective Student-Athlete to Participate in Virtual Nonphysical Countable Athletically Related Activities (CARA). (Effective Summer 2021 through the 2021-22 Academic Year.)

**Please note, a PSA may only observe or participate in virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities) after completing all academic requirements for high school graduation or all transfer academic requirements.*

	Committed	Uncommitted	Council, Committee Action or Blanket Waiver
In sports other than basketball and football, during summer 2021 and through the 2021-22 academic year, may a PSA participate in virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA)?	*Yes	No	Council Action
In basketball and football, during summer 2021, may a PSA participate in virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA)?	No	No	Committee Action
In basketball and football, during the 2021-22 academic year, may a PSA participate in virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA)?	*Yes	No	Council Action
In sports other than basketball and football, during summer 2021, does participation in virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA) result in the PSA being considered a student-athlete?	*Yes	No	Blanket Waiver
In sports other than basketball and football, during summer 2021, may a PSA observe virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA) or live team activities?	*Yes	*Yes	Council Action
May a PSA who observed an institution's virtual or live team activities during summer 2020 or during the 2020-21 academic year observe virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA) or live team activities with the same institution during summer 2021?	No	No	Council Action
May a PSA who <u>did not</u> observe an institution's virtual or live team activities during summer 2020 or during the 2020-21 academic year observe virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA) or live team activities during summer 2021 once per institution?	*Yes	*Yes	Council Action
During summer 2021, does the observation of virtual team activities (virtual nonphysical CARA) or live team activities result in the prospective student-athlete being considered a student-athlete?	No	No	Blanket Waiver

Question No. 1: In basketball and football, during summer 2021, when may a prospective student-athlete be considered a student-athlete?

Answer: In basketball and football, to be considered a student-athlete for summer 2021, the individual may participate in required summer athletics activities before his or her enrollment at the institution, officially register, enroll and attend classes during the certifying institution's summer term prior to initial full-time enrollment at the institution or report to an institutional

orientation that is open to all incoming students within 14 calendar days prior to the opening day of classes of a regular academic year term. [See Bylaw 13.02.13 (Prospective Student-Athlete)]

Question No. 2: During the 2021-22 academic year, does the blanket waiver approved on April 28 apply when an incoming student-athlete participates in virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities?

Answer: No. Participation in such activities during the 2021-22 academic year does not result in the prospective student-athlete being considered a student-athlete.

Question No. 3: When does the Council April 14-15 action that allows an uncommitted and committed prospective student-athlete to virtually observe a virtual or live team activity once per institution expire?

Answer: The Council action expires the first day of classes at the institution for 2021 fall term (e.g., if the institution begins classes on August 1, then July 31 is the last date the Council action may be applied).

Question No. 4: When does the blanket waiver approved on April 28 expire?

Answer: The blanket waiver expires on the first day of classes at the institution for 2021 fall term or the start of the preseason practice period, whichever is earlier (e.g., if the institution begins classes on August 1, then July 31 is the last date the blanket waiver may be applied).

Campus Visits Occurring on or After June 1, 2021.

In general, if a prospective student-athlete or an individual accompanying the PSA tests positive for COVID-19 while visiting an institution, the institution has discretion to provide appropriate expenses to address their immediate health, safety and well-being.

Question No. 1: May an institution provide a prospective student-athlete with a COVID-19 test prior to the start of an official or unofficial visit?

Answer: Yes, provided a negative COVID-19 test is recommended or required by state, local or institutional health and safety protocols.

Question No. 2: During an official or unofficial visit, may an institution provide personal protective equipment (e.g., mask, face shield) and sanitizing products to a prospective student-athlete and individuals accompanying the prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. However, an institution may only provide the same personal protective equipment and sanitizing products a general prospective student would receive on a visit to campus.

Question No. 3: May an institution customize (e.g., prospective student-athlete's name or high school number) personal protective equipment for the prospective student-athlete to wear on an official or unofficial visit to the institution's campus?

Answer: No. An institution may only provide the same personal protective equipment and sanitizing products a general prospective student would receive on a visit to campus.

Official Visits.

Question No. 1: Prior to the end of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution provide expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) for a prospective student-athlete to arrive in the locale of the institution for an official visit?

Answer: Yes, provided the official visit does not begin during the dead period and the prospective student-athlete's transportation to campus is without delay for personal reasons or entertainment purposes. Note, it is not permissible for an institutional staff member to transport a prospective student-athlete during a recruiting dead period.

Question No. 2: May an institution provide expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) for a prospective student-athlete to take a COVID-19 test without triggering the start of the 48-hour period?

Answer: Yes, provided the reason for the early arrival to campus is in order to satisfy institutional, state or local health and safety protocols. However, the prospective student-athlete's transportation to campus must be without delay for personal reasons or entertainment purposes.

Question No. 3: Prior to a prospective student-athlete's arrival to campus, if it is recommended or required by institutional, state or local officials that an individual undergo a quarantine period (e.g., 10 days, negative COVID-19 test), may the institution provide expenses (transportation, meal and lodging) without triggering the start of the 48-hour period?

Answer: Yes. However, no recruiting activities (e.g., in-person contact, meal with institutional staff member) may occur.

Question No. 4: May a prospective student-athlete receive their COVID-19 vaccine while on an official visit?

Answer: Yes. Please note, normal official visit legislation applies (e.g., transportation limited to within 30 miles of campus, medical examinations only as permitted by Bylaw 13.11.2.6.1, no access to on-campus vaccine clinics that are only available to institutional staff or enrolled students, etc.).

Question No. 5: If a prospective student-athlete tests positive for COVID-19 while on an official visit to campus, may an institution provide expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) after the

conclusion of the 48-hour period for the prospective student-athlete to remain in the locale of the institution?

Answer: Yes, provided remaining in the locale of the institution's campus is recommended or required by institutional, state or local officials. Please see Bylaw 13.6.4.2.

Question No. 6: If a prospective student-athlete arrives in the locale of the institution's campus and tests positive for COVID-19 prior to the start of their official visit, may the institution begin the visit once the prospective student-athlete has received appropriate medical clearance (e.g., negative COVID-19 test, conclusion of quarantine period)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: If a prospective student-athlete is in transit or arrives in the locale of the institution's campus, tests positive for COVID-19 and elects to return home, does the cancelled visit count toward institutional and individual prospective student-athlete official visit limits?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division I Council May 19 Action Related to 2021 Men's Basketball Summer Recruiting Calendar.

Question No. 1: Is the Council action amending the July 2021 men's basketball recruiting calendar a permanent change or specific to 2021 only?

Answer: Council adopted temporary emergency legislation to amend the July 2021 recruiting calendar. The temporary legislation is immediately effective and is intended to be applicable for July 2021 only due to the postponement of the 2021 NCAA College Basketball Academy that was originally scheduled for July 20-25, 2021.

Question No. 2: Does the Council action change the June 2021 recruiting calendar?

Answer: No. June 1-30, 2021, is a quiet period other than the final two Friday (noon) through Sunday (6 p.m.) periods in June (i.e., June 18-20 and June 25-27, 2021) which are evaluation periods for approved scholastic and two-year intercollegiate events only. [See Bylaw 13.1.7.1.5.3 (June scholastic periods)]

Question No. 3: What types of events may an institution's coach attend for evaluation purposes during the July 8-11, July 16-18 and July 23-25 evaluation periods?

Answer: Consistent with the normal application of the legislation, during the July 2021 evaluation periods, an institution's coach may attend institutional basketball camps per Bylaw 13.12.1.1, noninstitutional organized events (e.g., camps, leagues, tournaments and festivals) that are certified per Bylaw 13.18, noninstitutional organized events that are approved, sponsored or

conducted by an applicable state, national or international governing body and are not organized and conducted primarily for a recruiting purpose (e.g., intrastate and interstate high school basketball games, state high school all-star games, international competitions and practices associated with such contests)

Question No. 4: May an institution's coach attend the National Basketball Players Association's Top 100 Camp in 2021?

Answer: If the NBPA Top 100 Camp is conducted in 2021, Division I coaches will be able to attend up to two days of the event for evaluation purposes. Once the dates are finalized, the 2021 men's basketball summer recruiting calendar will be updated on ncaa.org.

Question No. 5: During the basketball July evaluation periods, is there a legislated daily start and end time for evaluations?

Answer: No. There are no legislated daily start and end times for evaluations during the July evaluation periods. However, the NCAA's enforcement certification and approvals group (ECAG) policies stipulate that NCAA certified events must begin between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility

Full-Time Enrollment

NOTE:

- *During its May 12 videoconference, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics determined to not extend any forms of blanket relief of full-time enrollment requirements into the 2021-22 academic year.*
- *Waivers of full-time enrollment requirements for access to financial aid, practice and/or competition during the 2021-22 academic year may still be sought on an individual basis through RSRO.*
- *Applications described below are confined to the 2020-21 academic year as described and, updates will be made in future editions of the COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide.*

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 are either unable or choose not to graduate due to COVID-19?

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 are either unable to or choose not to graduate due to COVID-19.

Question No. 2: Can student-athletes who used Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 or Bylaw 14.2.2.1.4 during the 2020 spring term but did not graduate due to COVID-19 be less than full time again during fall 2020 if they enroll in all remaining requirements to graduate at the conclusion of fall 2020?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: 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, it 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. 4: May a student-athlete who is fulfilling an academic year of residence use the spring 2020 term to meet that requirement even if the student-athlete withdraws from full time to part time?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete began the regular 2020 spring term as a full-time student.

Question No. 5: Will a fall sport student-athlete who graduates after the 2020 fall term be allowed to participate (practice and compete) in their rescheduled season conducted during the 2021 winter/spring term(s) without enrolling in any classes?

Answer: No; however, the Committee on Academics approved a blanket waiver that allows a fall sport student-athlete who graduates after the 2020 fall term to participate during their rescheduled season conducted during the 2021 winter/spring term(s) provided the student-athlete is enrolled in a minimum of six hours of academic credit. Please see the Division I COVID-19 Action Chart for additional context on this recently authorized blanket waiver authority.

Question No. 6: Can a fall sport student-athlete whose season was not rescheduled to be conducted during the 2021 winter/spring term(s) qualify for the aforementioned blanket waiver?

Answer: No. A fall sport student-athlete whose season was ultimately conducted during the 2020 fall term [e.g., Bowl Subdivision Football (FBS)] does not qualify for the aforementioned blanket waiver.

Question No. 7: Are student-athletes who either used the final semester/quarter exception (Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3) or the final term before the experiential learning requirement exception (Bylaw

14.2.2.1.4) to be less than full time during the 2020 fall term able to retain their remaining eligibility if they are either unable or choose not to graduate due to COVID-19 at the end of the 2020 fall term?

Answer: Yes, relief from the normal application of Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 (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 are either unable to or choose not to graduate due to COVID-19 at the end of the 2020 fall term. A student-athlete who used Bylaw 14.2.2.1.4 to be less than fulltime during the 2020 fall term does not forfeit any remaining eligibility unless or until they do not complete all degree requirements during the following final semester or quarter.

Question No. 8: Can student-athletes who used Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 or Bylaw 14.2.2.1.4 during the 2020 fall term, but did not graduate due to COVID-19, be less than full time again during the 2021 winter/spring term if they enroll in all remaining requirements to graduate at the conclusion of 2021 winter/spring term?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete their degree, minor or certificate requirements during the 2021 winter/spring term.

2020-21 Enrollment Options

The following guidance is intended to clarify the eligibility implications of a continuing student-athlete who does not enroll full time for at least one term during the 2020-21 academic year, but has the intent to re-enroll as a student and potentially participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Question No. 1: Can a student-athlete who graduated prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year not enroll full time during the 2020 fall term and re-enroll as a full-time student and participate in intercollegiate athletics during the 2021 winter/spring term(s)?

Answer: Yes. If the student-athlete graduated prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year, existing legislation permits the student-athlete to not enroll or only enroll part time during the 2020 fall term and re-enroll as a full-time student and participate in intercollegiate athletics during the 2021 winter/spring term(s).

Question No. 2: Can a student-athlete who has not yet graduated prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year not enroll full time during the 2020 fall term and re-enroll as a full-time student and participate in intercollegiate athletics during the 2021 winter/spring term(s)?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete is academically eligible to compete entering the 2020 fall term, existing legislation allows the student-athlete to not enroll or only enroll part time during the 2020 fall term and re-enroll as a full-time student and participate in intercollegiate athletics during the 2021 winter/spring term(s).

Question No. 3: Will a student-athlete earn the spring 2020 APR retention point if they do not enroll during the 2020 fall term, but plans to re-enroll as a student during the 2021 winter/spring term(s)?

Answer: If the student-athlete does not graduate prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year, the student-athlete will not earn the spring 2020 retention point because they did not enroll as a full-time student during the 2020 fall term. However, the APR adjustment process remains available (See Academic Performance Program Q&A Nos. 2-4).

Question No. 4: Can a student-athlete who does not enroll full time during the 2020-21 academic year and participates in a sport other than basketball and football engage in outside competition representing him or herself or as a member of an outside noncollegiate, amateur team without jeopardizing their intercollegiate eligibility when they re-enroll as a full-time student next regular academic term?

Answer: Yes.

For additional information on the outside competition waiver recently extended by the Council Coordination Committee for student-athletes whose institution decides to not compete during the 2020-21 academic year, please see the Bylaw 17 – Outside Competition portion of this resource.

Question No. 5: Is a student-athlete who does not enroll full time during a regular term of the 2020-21 academic year eligible to practice, compete, or participate in countable athletically related activities (e.g., team meetings, strength and conditioning activities)?

Answer: No. A student-athlete who is not meeting full-time enrollment requirements or an available exception may not engage in practice, competition or other related countable athletically related activities. Currently, waivers of full-time enrollment requirements may be filed on a case-by-case basis through Requests/Self-Reports Online.

Question No. 6: Does participation in outside competition during either the 2020 fall term or 2021 winter/spring term(s) jeopardize an institution's ability to apply the missed-term exception during a future academic certification?

Answer: No. Based on recent guidance provided by the Council Coordination Committee and the Committee on Academics, a continuing student-athlete who participates in outside competition during the 2020-21 academic year while not enrolled as a full-time student can still use the missed-term exception during a future certification of the student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement, if necessary. As a reminder, student-athletes who do not begin classes while enrolled full time during any regular term of the 2020-21 academic year are not subject to progress-toward-degree credit-hour requirements associated with the 2020-21 academic year.

Question No. 7: Can an institution apply the missed-term exception during the 2020-21 academic year if the exception was previously used to maintain a student-athlete's academic eligibility?

Answer: Yes. Due to a waiver approved by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors on August 21, an institution may use the missed-term exception during a future certification of the student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement, even if the exception was used previously.

Question No. 8: May an institution provide institutional financial aid to a student-athlete who does not enroll full time during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: Yes. An institution may provide institutional financial aid to a student-athlete who is not enrolled full time during the 2020-21 academic year without seeking a less-than-full-time waiver request through Requests/Self-Reports Online. Blanket relief from full-time enrollment requirements is confined to eligibility for institutional financial aid only (per Bylaw 15.01.5). A student-athlete must still meet full-time enrollment requirements to practice, compete or participate in other related countable athletically related activities during the 2020-21 academic year.

Question No. 9: May a student-athlete participate in virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities, as permitted by and effective for the duration of the Council Coordination Committee-approved waiver, if they do not enroll full time during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: Yes. The Committee on Academics provided blanket relief to permit a student-athlete who is not enrolled full time to participate in up to eight hours of virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities (e.g., film review, chalk talk, team meetings) per week, without seeking a less-than full-time waiver request through RSRO. A student-athlete must still meet full-time enrollment requirements to practice, compete or participate in other countable athletically related activities during the 2020-21 academic year.

For additional information on the virtual, nonphysical countable activities waiver extended by the Council Coordination Committee, please see the Bylaw 17 portion of this resource.

Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements for Continuing Student-Athletes.

NOTE:

- *During its May 12 videoconference, the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics determined that relief from progress-toward-degree requirements for fall 2021 eligibility, that the certifying institution directly or indirectly relates to COVID-19, should be sought through filing a traditional progress-toward-degree waiver through RSRO.*
- *As a result, the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waiver Checklist may not be used for fall 2021 progress-toward-degree deficiencies that the certifying institution attributes to COVID-19.*
 - *However, the committee acknowledged that COVID-19 can still be put forward as mitigation when submitting a progress-toward-degree waiver through RSRO.*
- *Applications described below are confined to the identified contexts, and updates will be made in future editions of the COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide.*

Question No. 1: Will there be any flexibility provided for continuing 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 [including summer 2020 term(s)]. 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. [Please note the specifications for requesting waiver relief from progress-toward-degree requirements for incoming transfer student-athletes can be found in the sections below on Two-Year College Transfers and Four-Year Undergraduate Transfers, respectively.]

Question No. 2: Does the flexibility provided in the previously approved waiver checklist apply to the 2019 fall term 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:

- 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 transfer student-athlete still required to meet minimum GPA requirements after one regular term at the certifying institution (per Bylaws 14.4.3.3 and 14.4.3.3.1)?

Answer: Yes; however, if COVID-19 impacted a transfer student-athlete's ability to meet GPA requirements by the start of their second regular term at the certifying institution, the institution may self-apply a waiver of Bylaw 14.3.3.3 using the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#) or submit the waiver through RSRO.

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).

Question No. 9: Does the ability to apply the previously approved waiver due to catastrophic events mean that a blanket waiver is being applied for all student-athletes who are ineligible for the 2020 fall term?

Answer: No. An institution must still complete the analysis to ensure that the student-athlete meets the criteria of the previously approved waiver checklist. For example, the institution is required to put together and then maintain an academic recovery plan that among other things, demonstrates the student-athlete will recovery academically and stay on track to graduate within five years of initial full-time enrollment. If the institution determines that COVID-19 did not directly or indirectly contribute to the student-athlete's academic ineligibility entering the 2020 fall term, then it should not self-apply the previously approved waiver checklist.

Question No. 10: Will an institution be able to apply the previously approved waiver a second time based on the COVID-19 mitigation if a student-athlete is academically ineligible for a future term (e.g., was unable to earn six credit hours during the 2020 fall term)?

Answer: No. The previously approved waiver process requires an institution to create an academic recovery plan showing how the student-athlete will rectify the current deficiency and graduate within five years of full-time enrollment. If a student-athlete fails to meet a future progress-toward-degree requirement, the institution would need to submit the waiver through RSRO and provide mitigation that demonstrates why the student-athlete was unable to successfully follow their existing academic recovery plan.

Question No. 11: May an institution apply the previously approved waiver checklist for a baseball student-athlete who fails to meet progress-toward-degree requirements at the outset of the 2020 fall semester?

Answer: Yes. Normally the previously approved waiver checklist may not be used to self-apply relief from the specific provisions that require baseball student-athletes to be academically eligible at the outset of the fall term. However, based on the unique impact of COVID-19, an institution may self-apply relief from Bylaws 14.4.3.1.3.1, 14.4.3.1.4.2, 14.4.3.1.5, 14.4.3.2.3.1 and 14.4.3.3.2.1 using the previously approved waiver checklist for the 2020 fall term, consistent with the aforementioned guidance and checklist requirements.

Question No. 12: Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-20 academic year may have been the intended final academic year of the student-athlete's baccalaureate degree. As a result, Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7.1 may have been used to certify such a student-athlete's six-hour requirement during the 2019-20 academic year. Due to COVID-19 implications, some student-athletes otherwise on track to graduate, may have been unable to or chose not to graduate prior to the start of the 2020 fall term. If such a student-athlete returns as a full-time undergraduate student-athlete during the 2020-21 academic year, may an institution reuse Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7.1 to certify that student-athlete's six-hour requirement for the 2020 fall term?

Answer: Yes. In this limited context, Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7.1 may be used again to certify the student-athlete's six-hour requirement for the 2020 fall term, regardless of whether the certifying institution already used the exception to certify the student-athlete's six-hour requirement during the 2019-20 academic year.

Question No. 13: May waiver relief be sought for a student-athlete who does not meet progress-toward-degree requirements at the beginning of the 2020 fall term if competition is no longer conducted or the student-athlete elects to not compete during the fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer: Yes. If the student-athlete participates in a sport that was originally scheduled to compete during the 2020 fall term (e.g., soccer), an institution may still seek waiver relief if the student-athlete does not meet progress-toward-degree requirements at the outset of the 2020 fall term. An institution may either self-apply waiver relief using the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#), consistent with the aforementioned guidance and checklist requirements, or request a traditional progress-toward-degree waiver through RSRO.

Question No. 14: Does progress-toward-degree waiver relief allow an institution to consider a continuing student-athlete otherwise academically eligible for purposes of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extensions of Eligibility for Fall Sports?

Answer: Yes.

For more information on the recent Board of Directors Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extensions of Eligibility for Fall Sports, please refer to the Bylaw 12 portion of this resource.

Question No. 15: If a football student-athlete did not satisfy the nine-hour requirement during the 2019 fall term and did not regain their eligibility by the start of the 2020 fall term (via Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6.1 or 14.4.3.1.6.2), must the student-athlete be withheld from the first four football contests if the student-athlete's 2020-21 season is postponed until spring 2021?

Answer: Yes. The four-game withholding condition associated with the nine-hour requirement from the 2019 fall term continues to apply during the 2020-21 academic year, regardless of when the institution conducts its 2020-21 football season or how many games comprise the season. An institution retains the ability to seek a progress-toward-degree 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.

Question No. 16: If an institution has not used the previously approved waiver checklist to self-apply relief from a permissible progress-toward-degree requirement in the past, may it be used coming out of the 2020 fall term for a student-athlete whose academic progress was impacted by COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. The [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#) remains available and can be used once during a student-athlete's period of eligibility to self-apply relief from progress-toward-degree requirements provided the institution can certify the criteria for self-application have been met. (See above application guidance in Question No. 9).

Question No. 17: Can the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist apply to a student-athlete who does not meet eligibility for postseason competition requirements after the 2020 fall term (i.e., Bylaw 14.4.3.4.3)?

Answer: Yes, it could be used provided the previously approved waiver has not already been used for the student-athlete. In order to apply the waiver, the institution must conduct a thorough analysis of the student-athlete's situation. After a thorough analysis, the certifying institution must determine that the catastrophic event (e.g., COVID-19) directly or indirectly caused the deficiency.

Question No. 18: Can the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#) apply to the nine-hour requirement for football student-athletes who did not satisfactorily complete nine hours during the 2020 fall term?

Answer: Yes, it could be used provided the previously approved waiver has not already been used for the student-athlete. In order to apply the waiver, the institution must conduct a thorough analysis of the student-athlete's situation. After a thorough analysis, the certifying institution must determine that the catastrophic event (e.g., COVID-19) directly or indirectly caused the deficiency.

Question No. 19: Is a student-athlete entering their sixth year of full-time enrollment required to have graduated with their baccalaureate degree in order to maintain their academic eligibility to compete?

Answer: No; however, for APP purposes, to earn the eligibility point in the 10th semester/15th quarter the student-athlete is required to graduate. An adjustment can be requested for the lost point.

Question No. 20: In order to be eligible for competition, what academic eligibility requirements must a student-athlete entering their sixth year of full-time enrollment meet if they have not yet graduated with their baccalaureate degree?

Answer: A student-athlete entering their sixth year of full-time enrollment who has not yet graduated with their baccalaureate degree must have met the six-hour rule, the 18/27-hour rule, maintained the institutional GPA required for graduation, completed at least 80% of their degree program and be in good academic standing in order to maintain their academic eligibility into the first regular term of the student-athlete's sixth year. All normally applicable undergraduate progress-toward-degree requirements (and available exceptions) continue to apply until the student-athlete has earned their baccalaureate degree.

Two-Year College Transfers.

Question No. 1: Will there be any additional flexibility provided for 2-4 transfer student-athletes who do not meet 2-4 transfer requirements or percentage-of-degree requirements at the certifying institution going into the fall 2020 term due to COVID-19?

Answer: Flexibility of the 2-4 transfer requirements will be provided on a case-by-case basis through the waiver process in RSRO. Additionally, the certifying institution has the ability to request a progress-toward-degree waiver as it pertains to a percentage-of-degree deficiency through RSRO.

Question No. 2: What two-year college transfer requirements will a prospective student-athlete who qualifies for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver from the NCAA Eligibility Center be required to meet should they eventually transfer to a Division I institution?

Answer: A prospective student-athlete who qualifies for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver from the NCAA Eligibility Center will be considered a qualifier for purposes of assessing two-year college transfer requirements.

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 14.5.5.2.10-(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 per applicable progress-toward-degree requirements, waiver relief may be sought by the institution to which the student-athlete transfers for purposes of utilizing either the one-time transfer exception or receiving athletics aid at the certifying institution. If the certifying institution can determine that COVID-19 directly or indirectly contributed to the student-athlete's academic ineligibility at their previous institution, it may self-apply the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#). If the certifying institution is unable to determine that COVID-19 impacted the student-athlete's eligibility at their previous institution, the certifying institution retains the ability to request a traditional progress-toward-degree waiver through RSRO.

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.

Question No. 3: Does a blanket transfer waiver exist for student-athletes whose 2020 fall seasons have been postponed and/or canceled?

Answer: No. While the Council retains the authority to review future blanket waiver requests, currently there is no blanket transfer waiver for student-athletes impacted by fall season postponement or cancelation decisions. More information and initial feedback from the Committee for Legislative Relief pertaining to this question can be found in the [Division I COVID-19 Actions for Consideration](#) chart.

Question No. 4: Is a transfer waiver necessary for a four-year transfer student-athlete who transferred to their new institution at midyear (i.e., spring 2020) if their fall season of competition is postponed until spring 2021?

Answer: No. If a midyear transfer student-athlete concludes their year in residence prior to competing for the institution, a four-year transfer waiver is no longer necessary.

For more information on the application of the NCAA Division I Council September 16 and October 29 actions to the eligibility of fall sport midyear enrollees, please refer to the Bylaw 12 portion of this resource.

Question No. 5: Does the Transfer Year of Residence Blanket Waiver approved at the December 16, 2020, Council meeting apply to student-athletes who transfer from a non-NCAA, Division II or Division III institution?

Answer: No. However, an institution may file a legislative relief waiver in RSRO for a student-athlete who transferred from a non-NCAA, Division II or Division III institution. NCAA staff may provide relief if the student-athlete satisfies all other conditions of the blanket waiver and the certifying institution submits a statement from the previous non-NCAA, Division II or Division III institution indicating that it does not object to the student-athlete being immediately eligible.

Question No. 6: Will student-athletes who become eligible using this blanket waiver to compete during 2020-21 be permitted to take advantage of the COVID-19 season-of-competition waiver and extension of eligibility?

Answer: Yes. Transfer student-athletes who become eligible to compete in a fall or winter sport during 2020-21 may avail themselves of the COVID-19 season-of-competition waiver and extension of eligibility, provided they meet other relevant waiver criteria.

Question No. 7: Will football transfer student-athletes who become eligible using this blanket waiver be permitted to take advantage of the COVID-19 extension of eligibility even if the blanket waiver was not approved until after the conclusion of the institution's season?

Answer: Yes. A transfer football student-athlete who would have been eligible to compete during 2020-21 but for the timing of the transfer blanket waiver approval may avail himself of the COVID-19 extension of eligibility.

Initial Eligibility/NCAA Eligibility Center.

For questions related to initial eligibility, please see the question and answer document prepared by the NCAA Eligibility Center available on the EC Portal: [NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs](#).

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: 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. 8: 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. 9: 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.

Question No. 10: If a student-athlete does not graduate after five years (10 semester/15 quarters), and returns for a 6th year of eligibility, is the extension alone grounds for an adjustment to the lost eligibility point in the 10th semester/15th quarter?

Answer: No. The clock extension alone is not grounds for an adjustment to a lost eligibility point because the student-athlete did not graduate after five years of enrollment. The institution will have to document why graduation did not occur after five years.

Question No. 11: If a student-athlete returns for an additional year of eligibility and the athletics aid the student-athlete receives is not countable against team limits, is that student-athlete in the APR cohort?

Answer: Yes, consistent with the policy on noncounters, if the student-athlete otherwise meets the definition for inclusion in the APR cohort (enrolled full time or meeting a legislative exception), their eligibility and retention outcomes must be reported in the APR.

NCAA Division I Council March 17 Action Related to Summer Athletics Activities for Football and Basketball.

Question: In football and basketball, may incoming and continuing student-athletes engage in summer athletics activities without being enrolled for summer 2021?

Answer: Yes.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid

Impact of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act Grants on Financial Aid Limitations.

Question: Is there an individual or team limit impact for funds received by institutions pursuant to the CARES Act that are then disbursed to student-athletes?

Answer: If provided on a basis unrelated to athletics, then the funds provided by institutions to student-athletes pursuant to the CARES Act, or subsequent supplemental authorizations [e.g., Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act], are excluded from NCAA individual and team limit legislation.

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 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Will fall/winter student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2021-22 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 2020-21 (fall/winter student-athletes). For example, a student-athlete who counted as a .75 equivalency toward the team financial aid limit for 2020-21 (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 2021-22. 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 fall/winter student-athletes who would have exhausted in 2020-21 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2021-22 academic year if they transfer to a new institution?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Must aid be renewed for a fall/winter student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 and return to their same institution for the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: Institutions may renew, reduce or not renew at their discretion.

Question No. 5: Is an institution that chooses to reduce or to not renew financial aid based on athletics for a fall/winter student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 and returns to their same institution for the 2021-22 academic year required to provide the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: May an institution use the Student Assistance Fund to provide financial aid for the 2021-22 academic year to a fall/winter student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 and returns for 2021-22?

Answer: Yes, 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 2021-22 academic year. Any financial aid awarded to those student-athletes for the 2021-22 academic year that includes money from current or previous distributions is considered financial aid that is based on athletics.

Question No. 7: Has the legislated July 1 financial aid renewal deadline been extended?

Answer: No.

Question No. 8: Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2021-22 applicable to a student-athlete who was anticipated to compete and exhaust eligibility in 2020-21 (fall/winter sports), but who had not competed prior to the cancellation of the season?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2021-22 applicable to a student-athlete who used or would have used their final season of competition in 2020-21 (fall/winter sports), but whose five-year clock would not expire until 2020-21 or 2021-22, respectively?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: For a fall/winter student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21, may an institution replace other countable aid from 2020-21 with athletics aid or funds from the Student Assistance Fund for 2021-22 without triggering counter status?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete's total equivalency for 2021-22 does not exceed the student-athlete's equivalency for 2020-21. For example, a student-athlete whose .75 team equivalency consisted of .50 athletics aid and .25 countable institutional aid in 2020-21, but whose other institutional aid is not available in 2021-22, may exempt up to .75 team equivalency consisting entirely of athletics aid in 2021-22.

Question No. 11: Subject to individual and team financial aid limits, for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year, may an institution provide retroactive aid for 2020-21 to a fall/winter student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 and exempt the entire amount of aid that counted toward the team financial aid limit for 2020-21 exempt from that limit for 2021-22?

Answer: Yes, all financial aid counted toward the team financial aid limit during 2020-21 may be considered when determining what may be exempted from the 2021-22 team financial aid limit.

Question No. 12a: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete whose aid was counted toward a spring sport in 2020-21 (e.g., the choice to count aid toward lacrosse instead of soccer; the choice to count towards lacrosse instead of swimming), and who exhausts eligibility in that spring sport during 2020-21?

Answer: Yes. The student-athlete is only participating in the fall/winter sport (e.g., soccer or swimming) for 2021-22. Therefore, the exemption applies.

Question No. 12b: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete whose aid was counted toward their fall or winter sport in 2020-21 (e.g., football instead of basketball;

basketball instead of volleyball) and has exhausted in both sports, but who chooses to self-apply the available season-of-competition waiver and to participate in 2021-22 only in the sport to which they were not counted toward during 2020-21 (e.g., basketball and not football; volleyball and not basketball)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 13: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in their fall/winter sport in 2020-21, but who has remaining eligibility in their other sport?

Answer: Yes, but the student-athlete's participation must be limited to the sport in which they exhausted or would have exhausted if the aid did not count toward that sport's team equivalency.

Question No. 14a: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 in cross country and has remaining eligibility in indoor track and field and/or outdoor track and field if the student-athlete participates in indoor track and field and/or outdoor track and field (the sport(s) in which the student-athlete has remaining eligibility) in 2020-21?

Answer: Yes, provided the remaining eligibility in indoor track and field and/or outdoor track and field is also due to the application of COVID-19 season-of-competition relief, or an inability to use a season of competition due to cancellation of the applicable season due to COVID-19, and the student-athlete will exhaust eligibility in indoor track and field and/or outdoor track and field during the 2021-22 academic year.

Question No. 14b: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 in indoor track and field and has remaining eligibility in outdoor track and field and/or cross country if the student-athlete participates in outdoor track and field and/or cross country (the sport(s) in which the student-athlete has remaining eligibility)?

Answer: Yes, provided the remaining eligibility in outdoor track and field and/or cross country is also due to the application of COVID-19 season-of-competition relief, or an inability to use a season of competition due to cancellation of the applicable season due to COVID-19, and the student-athlete will exhaust eligibility in outdoor track and field and/or cross country during the 2021-22 academic year.

Question No. 15: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a situation where the fall/winter sport student-athlete has an existing multiyear financial aid agreement that will provide a higher equivalency in 2021-22 than what the student-athlete was awarded for 2020-21?

Answer: Yes, an institution may apply the exemption up to the greater of the aid awarded in 2020-21, the student-athlete's existing multiyear financial aid agreement awards for 2021-22 or the aid the institution would be required to provide according to the renewal legislation.

Question No. 16: How does the financial aid exemption apply to a fall/winter sport team's financial aid limit if an institution renews a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21 at an increase for 2021-22 (e.g., .70 equivalency in 2020-21 renewed at .90 equivalency for 2021-22)?

Answer: Any countable financial aid received in excess of the countable financial aid awarded for 2020-21 must be included in the team's financial aid limit for 2021-22.

Question No. 17: If changes to a fall/winter sport student-athlete's 2021-22 denominator (e.g., due to tuition differences between undergraduate and graduate school) result in a greater equivalency for a student-athlete previously provided a dollar amount or element-by-element agreement, may the institution exempt up to the new equivalency amount?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 18: If receipt of institutional aid resulted in either the reduction of, or release of obligation to provide, athletically related aid under a financial aid agreement in place for 2020-21 and the institutional aid is no longer available (e.g., noncountable academic aid only available for four years), may an institution exempt up to the equivalency awarded in the original 2020-21 financial aid agreement?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 19: For a fall/winter sport student-athlete, may an institution exempt countable financial aid awarded for 2021-22 to replace a counter's institutional noncountable aid that is no longer available?

Answer: No. The institution may only exempt countable aid in 2021-22 consistent with the expectation created in the 2020-21 athletics aid agreement. The new athletics aid would need to count toward team limits.

Question No. 20: In Football Championship Subdivision football, may a student-athlete whose aid would be exempt from the program's overall counter limits due to this exemption have his equivalency included when determining whether or not the FCS program satisfies the rolling two-year average of grants-in-aid needed for a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent to count a win against the FCS program toward deserving team status?

Answer: Yes. The student-athlete's equivalency must be included in the team's equivalency limit of 63 in order to be included when determining the program's rolling two-year average grants-in-aid, but the student-athlete may be excluded from the program's overall counter limit of 85.

Question No. 21: Does a student-athlete who received an extension of eligibility for non-COVID reasons before the 2020-21 academic year, providing the student-athlete a season-of-competition eligibility for 2021-22, qualify to have financial aid exempted during the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No. The intent of the NCAA Division I Council's action to exempt aid for certain student-athletes during the 2021-22 academic year is to allow institutions to accommodate student-athletes who are unexpectedly returning to the same institution during 2021-22 as a result of COVID-19. Student-athletes who previously received an extension of eligibility for non-COVID reasons that provides a season-of-competition eligibility for 2021-22 (or beyond) had a season-of-competition eligibility remaining regardless of the blanket COVID-related extension of eligibility. If the institution believes individual circumstances warrant relief, a legislative relief waiver may be filed in Requests/Self-Reports Online.

Extension of Baseball Blanket Waiver Approved June 9, 2020.

Below are frequently asked questions that accompanied the extension of the baseball blanket waiver approved June 9, 2020.

Question No. 1: Does the ability to renegotiate apply only to returning student-athletes?

Answer: No. Institutions are permitted to renegotiate with an incoming student-athlete (freshman or transfer) who previously signed an athletics aid agreement. (For National Letter of Intent impact, see administrative guidelines). It is not permissible to provide an incoming student-athlete who has not already signed an athletics aid agreement an athletics aid agreement for less than 25 percent of a full grant-in-aid.

Question No. 2: May an institution cancel or not renew a renegotiated agreement if the student-athlete renders themselves ineligible or voluntarily withdraws from the team?

Answer: Yes. The waiver does not prohibit an institution from reducing, canceling or not renewing renegotiated agreements for the specific reasons provided in the legislation. Those actions remain subject to the requirements of the hearing opportunity legislation.

Question No. 3: In 2022-23 can an institution award the average of the aid received during 2021-22 and the amount that would have been received by the student-athlete under the original aid agreement/renewal if that amount is less than a 25-percent equivalency?

Answer: No. The institution must renew the student-athlete's agreement for the 2022-23 academic year and provide at least a 25-percent equivalency or the average of the aid received during 2021-22 and the amount that would have been received by the student-athlete under the original aid agreement/renewal, whichever is greater. For example, a student-athlete whose 2020-21 aid agreement would have required renewal at 50 percent without such renewal being considered a reduction and whose renegotiated renewal was for 20 percent would need to be renewed for at least a 35 percent equivalency for 2022-23.

Question No. 4: Can less than a 25-percent equivalency be offered to a returning nonscholarship student-athlete who did not receive athletics aid during 2020-21?

Answer: The blanket waiver was intended to allow institutions to renegotiate previously issued athletics aid agreements. However, an institution would be permitted to provide less than a 25-percent equivalency to returning nonscholarship student-athlete. If the institution provides athletics aid to the student-athlete in 2022-23, they would be required to renew the student-athlete's agreement for at least a 25-percent equivalency. If the aid is not renewed for 2022-23, then the student-athlete must be provided a hearing opportunity and the institution must follow its normal policies and procedures for conducting the hearing.

Question No. 5: If an institution reduces a student-athlete's athletics aid for 2021-22, is the institution required to give the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

Answer: Yes. The student-athlete must be provided an opportunity for a hearing and the institution must follow its normal policies and procedures for conducting the hearing.

NCAA Division I Blanket Waiver Approved June 23, 2021 Related to NCAA Bylaws 15.3.2.3 (hearing opportunity) and 15.3.5.3 (reduction or nonrenewal not permitted).

Question No. 1: To which student-athletes does this Council-approved blanket waiver apply?

Answer: The blanket waiver applies to any underclassmen who received COVID-related relief and are provided the opportunity to use that relief in their final year at the same institution.

Question No. 2: Must financial aid based on athletics be renewed for the student-athlete's final year for an underclassman who received COVID-related relief and is being provided the opportunity to use that relief in their final year at the same institution?

Answer: Provided the blanket waiver's requirements are satisfied, the institution has discretion to renew, reduce or not renew that financial aid.

Question No. 3: If an institution chooses to reduce or to not renew financial aid based on athletics for an underclassman student-athlete who received COVID-related relief and is being provided the opportunity to use that relief in their final year at the same institution, is the institution required to provide the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Does this Council-approved blanket waiver apply only to decisions to renew, reduce or not renew financial aid based on athletics for the 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No. Provided the blanket waiver's requirements are satisfied, the blanket waiver may be applied to decisions to renew, reduce or not renew financial aid based on athletics for any academic year.

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 financial aid, 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: May an institution provide lodging and meal benefits to a student-athlete who remains in their locale and enrolls remotely at the institution, but who has limited or no home support?

Answer: The institution should first determine, in conjunction with their financial aid office, if there are financial aid adjustments or other options available to students generally that may be available to assist the student-athlete relative to room and board. Absent such adjustments or other options, 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, but should be aware of potential federal financial aid impacts on future semesters.

Question No. 6: Subject to meeting applicable state and municipal requirements, may an institution provide institutional access to student-athletes prior to providing similar access for the general student-body.

Answer: Yes. Provided the institution is complying with applicable health and safety legislation and policy, such arrangements are permissible. Institutions are encouraged to apply a flexible approach to the interpretation and application of legislation as it relates to institutional return to campus decisions.

Question No. 7: May institutional COVID-19-related housing decisions result in greater than 50 percent student-athlete concentration in specific dormitories or blocks within institutional or institutionally arranged housing?

Answer: Yes. Provided the institution is complying with applicable health and safety legislation and policy, such arrangements are permissible. Institutions are encouraged to apply a flexible approach to the interpretation and application of legislation as it relates to institutional student housing decisions.

Question No. 8: May an institution provide lodging and meal expenses for student-athletes that must engage in state, municipal or institutional health and safety protocols (e.g., mandated testing activities, required pre-return quarantine period)?

Answer: Yes, an institution may provide lodging and meal expenses for applicable mandated health and safety protocol periods. It remains important that schools proactively plan and account

for necessary staff, facilities, supplies and other health and safety resources as they look to implement this flexibility and the various other considerations that may be part of a safe return to, and continuation of, athletics activities on campus.

Question No. 9: May an institution provide 2021 summer vacation period lodging and meal expenses for student-athletes that must engage in state, municipal or institutional health and safety protocols (e.g., mandated testing activities, required prereturn quarantine period) prior to their ability to begin required physical activities as of the first permissible date (e.g., summer access, preseason, activities as of the first day of classes for the academic year)?

Answer: Yes, an institution may provide lodging and meal expenses for applicable mandated health and safety protocol periods prior to the first permissible date of required physical activities; however, institutions may not require student-athletes to participate in any physical activity prior to the first permissible date, and any voluntary physical activity or permissible nonphysical activity (e.g., filling out compliance forms) that may occur during this period should occur in a manner that complies with any applicable state, municipal or institutional safety requirements. It remains important that schools proactively plan and account for necessary staff, facilities, supplies and other health and safety resources as they look to implement this flexibility and the various other considerations that may be part of a safe return to athletics activities on campus. [Please reference Question No. 11 in the Miscellaneous area of the Bylaw 13 section of this guide for information about incoming student-athletes.]

Board of Directors' August 21, 2020, Actions Regarding the Board of Governors' Directives Related to Student-Athlete Well-Being – COVID-19-Related Medical Expenses.

Question: Does the emergency temporary legislation require institutions to cover COVID-19-related health costs related to infections that were the result of a student-athlete's athletics participation?

Answer: No. While payment of these expenses is permissible per NCAA Bylaw 16.4 (medical expenses), it is not required. Institutions are encouraged to help student-athletes understand what medical coverage might be available to them in the event that they contract COVID-19.

Complimentary Admissions and Ticket Benefits.

Question: As a means of adhering to COVID-19-related game day protocols, may an institution arrange an electronic or other socially distanced delivery system for administering complimentary admissions for individuals designated by the student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. An institution may arrange an electronic or social distanced delivery system (e.g., emailed tickets or electronic ticketing system) in order to facilitate athletics contest admissions for guests on a pass list. The institution remains responsible for ensuring admissions credentials are properly designated to reflect individuals on the pass list. Provided there is no ability for

individuals to assign admission credentials to individuals not designated, presentation of identification or provision of a signature at the point of access is not required.

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. 4: 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 Council 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. 5: Does an institution's decision to conduct classes remotely (e.g., online) trigger the start of a vacation period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: 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).

Question No. 7: May an institution's athletics department post a bona fide promotional video to social media of one or more student-athletes engaged in a limited physical athletics activity (e.g., virtually passing a ball)?

Answer: Yes, provided participation in the bona fide promotional video is voluntary and the video is not created at the direction of an athletics department staff member, does not involve countable coaches and is otherwise consistent with institutional promotions involving student athletes. Under these circumstances, one or more student-athletes may participate in limited physical athletics activity related to their sport (e.g., kicking a ball, throwing a ball, juggling a puck) without such an activity triggering a countable athletically related activity.

Question No. 8: May an institution's strength and conditioning coach post examples of workouts to social media and allow student-athletes to view them?

Answer: Yes, provided the strength and conditioning coach's social media is open to the general public and the workout is not designed for specific student-athletes. Please note, the strength and conditioning coach may not view student-athletes engaged in workouts or physical activities.

Question No. 9: If a student-athlete posts a voluntary athletically related activity on social media, may an institution's coach or athletics department staff member take an action of approval?

Answer: No, an institution may not take an action of approval (e.g., like, favorite, retweet, share, comment) on social media of student-athletes participating in voluntary athletically related activity. Taking an action of approval is a prohibited form of reporting and recognition.

Question No. 10: May an institution's coach and student-athlete engage in in-person, nonathletically related conversation while on-campus?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 11: In Bowl Subdivision Football, to address COVID-specific health and safety challenges (e.g., decreased availability of staff, physical distancing protocols), may an institution use its discretion to allow its other certified strength and conditioning coaches who are not included in the football program's limit of five strength and conditioning coaches to assist the football program?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 12: Must any individual performing strength and conditioning activities (e.g., flexibility, warm-up and physical conditioning) be certified through a nationally accredited strength and conditioning certification program?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 13: In all sports, may an institution use its discretion to allow a noncoaching staff member (e.g., director of operations) to perform COVID-related duties (e.g., sanitation, enforcement of physical distancing) during voluntary athletics activity?

Answer: Yes. However, a noncoaching staff member is not permitted to participate in on-court or on-field activity (e.g., assist with drills, signal plays). Additionally, any staff member providing this additional support is expected to be appropriately licensed, certified and/or otherwise qualified to perform the assigned COVID-related duties.

Question No. 14: May an institution's sport coach (e.g., head coach, volunteer coach, graduate assistant coach) be present during a student-athlete's voluntary athletically related activity?

Answer: No. However, existing exceptions (e.g., safety exception, FCS exception for countable coaches who are certified strength and conditioning coaches) still apply.

Question No. 15: May sports that are considered in-season, but student-athletes do not report to campus due to COVID-19, participate in more than eight hours of virtual, nonphysical countable athletically related activities during the declared week?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee waiver to permit a maximum of eight hours of virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities is not intended to be more restrictive than the normal application of the playing and practice season legislation for a sports program is in-season.

Question No. 16: If a sport is considered in-season, may a student-athlete participate in virtual, physical countable athletically related activities that are not conducted in the presence of an institutional staff member with current certification in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED)?

Answer: No. [See Bylaw 17.1.6 and Question No. 1 of the Playing and Practice Season section.]

Question No. 17: May an institution's sports team use Bylaw 17.1.2.1 to temporarily discontinue or pause a segment of the declared playing and practice season due to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., team quarantine) one or more time?

Answer: Yes. The segment could be temporarily discontinued or paused for a limited period (e.g., two weeks) during a team quarantine; however, the segment could not be temporarily discontinued or paused for the entire fall term.

Question No. 18: If a team temporarily discontinues or pauses a segment of the declared playing and practice season due to COVID-19, may the team participate in countable athletically related activities?

Answer: Yes. The exception allows the team to revert to out-of-season legislation.

Question No. 19: In sports other than basketball, cross country and football, are teams limited to two in-season segments of the declared playing season during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No. Council action permits the playing season to be divided into multiple segments. However, an institution's sports team may temporarily discontinue or pause a segment due to COVID-19 (e.g., team quarantine) similar to the legislated exception that exists for severe inclement weather. [Updated due to Council action on January 11, 2021.]

Question No. 20: If an institution has implemented an alternative learning model (e.g., hybrid, online, revised in-person) that includes a specific class time (e.g., Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m.) but has no requirement that a student "attend" the class at that time (i.e., asynchronous), may student-athletes participate in countable athletically related activities during the specific class time?

Answer: Yes, provided there is a clear policy for the class (e.g., course syllabus, course materials) that applies to all students and states there is no requirement to participate or "attend" during the specified class time.

Question No. 21: If an institution has implemented an alternative learning model (e.g., hybrid, online, revised in-person) that include a specific class time (e.g., Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10-11 a.m.) and requires students to "attend" the class at that time, may student-athletes participate in countable athletically related activities during that time?

Answer: No. A student-athlete may not participate in any countable athletically related activities during a time that is considered class time, regardless of the learning model and regardless of whether or not the instructor makes the material (e.g., lecture, class discussion, etc.) available for students to watch outside of class time.

Question No. 22: In team sports that limit the number of practices during a specified time (e.g., 30 preseason basketball practices, 15 spring football practices), may an institution count practices by individual student-athlete rather than by team?

Answer: Yes. While the number of practices is typically counted by team, flexibility during the 2020-21 academic year is appropriate to allow institutions to best manage the impact of COVID-19. For example, if five football student-athletes are withheld from a team practice, that practice does not count toward those five student-athletes' limit of 15 practices. All other legislation continues to apply (e.g., 42-day period for preseason basketball, 34-day period for spring football).

Question No. 23: If an institution's team participates in three contests or dates of competition during a seven-day period immediately prior to the week of the conference championship, may the team use the three contests in seven-day period exception? *Note: Current rules do not require a day off to be provided the week of a conference tournament/championship.*

Answer: Yes. The team may use the three contests in seven-day period exception. In applying this exception, the team must be provided either:

- (1) Two days off during the week immediately before the week that includes three contests or dates of competition during a seven-day period, or
- (2) One day off during the week of the conference tournament/championship.

FEBRUARY 2021							MARCH 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							28	29	30	31			

Example No. 1: Institution A's team's declared week is Sunday to Saturday. Institution A has contests scheduled on February 28, March 3 and March 6. Institution A's conference tournament will occur March 10-13.

Question: When must Institution A provide its team with a day off if Institution A is unable to provide the team with a day off during the week of February 28-March 6?

Answer: Institution A has three contests scheduled during its declared week; therefore, Institution A may provide its team with two days off during the week of February 21-27 or one day off during the week of the conference tournament (i.e., March 7-13).

Example No. 2: Institution B's team's declared week is Saturday to Friday. Institution B has contests scheduled on February 28, March 3 and March 6. Institution B's conference tournament will occur March 10-13.

Question: When must Institution B provide its team with a day off if Institution B is unable to provide the team with a day off during the week of February 27-March 5?

Answer: Institution B has three contests in a seven-day period (i.e., three contests occurring February 28-March 6); therefore, Institution B may provide its team with two days off during the week of February 20-26 or one day off during the week of the conference tournament (i.e., March 6-12).

Example No. 3: Institution C's team's declared week is Monday to Sunday. Institution C has contests originally scheduled for February 23, February 27 and March 2. Institution C's contest on February 23 is postponed until March 4 due to COVID-19. Institution C's conference tournament will occur March 11-14.

Question: When must Institution C provide its team with a day off if Institution C is unable to provide the team with a day off during the week of March 1-7?

Answer: Institution C has three contests in a seven-day period (i.e., three contests occurring February 27 – March 5); therefore, Institution C may provide its team with two days off during the week of February 22-28 or one day off during the week of the conference tournament (i.e., March 8-14).

Question No. 24: In men's gymnastics, are virtual contests approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel and NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee for selection purposes for the 2021 NCAA men's gymnastics championship subject to the designation of three hours of countable athletically related activity for the day of competition and able to use the missed class time exception?

Answer: Yes.

NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee April 15 and July 22 Action Related to Countable Athletically Related Activities (Effective April 20; Updated Due to NCAA Division I Council May 20, 21 and 22 Actions Related to Countable Athletically Related Activities) and NCAA Staff December 16, 2020, Legislative Relief Blanket Waiver Related to Participation in Required Virtual Nonphysical Countable Athletically Related Activities (Effective Upon the Student-Athlete's Return to Campus for Safety Protocols (E.G., Mandated Testing Activities, Required Quarantine Period) or the Opening Day of Classes of the Institution's 2021 Winter/Spring Term, Whichever is Earlier, Through One Week Before the Start of the Final Examination Period of the Institution's Spring 2021 term).

Question No. 1: In all sports, outside of the time period from 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, may an institution's coach require student-athletes to participate in eight hours of virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activities (e.g., film review, chalk talk, team meetings) per week?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee action allows institutions to require student-athletes in all sports to participate in a maximum of eight hours of virtual nonphysical countable athletically related activity per week. This action is effective April 20, 2020, through one week before the start of the final examination period of the institution's 2021 spring term. The waiver is intended to provide flexibility for institutions to apply it in any situation in which student-athletes are unable to participate in in-person countable athletically related activities (e.g., suspended practice activities, canceled or postponed fall and/or spring seasons; a student-athlete chooses to not return to campus and enrolls in online courses only). [Updated due to NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee action on July 22, 2020, and a blanket waiver approved on December 16, 2020.] [See Question No. 5 in Bylaw 14's "2020-21 Enrollment Options" section.]

Question No. 2: From April 20 through one week before the start of the final examination period of the institution's 2021 spring term, are institutions required to provide student-athletes a day off?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee action requires institutions to provide student-athletes with at least one day off per week. Also, all countable athletically related activities are prohibited from one week before the start of the institution's final examination period for the applicable academic term through the conclusion of the institution's academic term. [Updated due to NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee action on July 22, 2020, and a blanket waiver approved on December 16, 2020.]

Question No. 3: Does the Council Coordination Committee's action apply during an institutional vacation period or summer period that falls between April 20 and one week before the start of the final examination period of the institution's 2021 spring term?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee's action applies from April 20 through one week before the start of the final examination period of the institution's 2021 spring term, regardless of whether those dates include an institutional vacation period or summer period. [Updated due to NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee action on July 22, 2020, and a blanket waiver approved on December 16, 2020.]

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 Council Coordination Committee May 27 Action Related to Strength and Conditioning Coach Observing Virtual Voluntary Athletically Related Activity.

Question: May an institution's strength and conditioning coach virtually observe a student-athlete's voluntary workouts for health and safety purposes (e.g., proper form, technique) and have discussions with the student-athlete related to such workouts?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete initiates the request for the observation and/or discussion. The Council Coordination Committee May 27 action permits a strength and conditioning coach to observe virtually observe a student-athlete's voluntary workouts for health and safety purposes (e.g., proper form, technique) and have discussions with the student-athlete related to such workouts. A strength and conditioning coach is not permitted to conduct the voluntary workout. In addition, an institution that elects to permit a strength and conditioning coach to virtually observe a student-athlete's voluntary workouts should proactively take into consideration its overarching responsibility to protect the health of, and provide a safe environment for, each student-athlete and address how the strength and conditioning coach would respond in the event that an unsafe workout environment is observed or in the event that a medical emergency occurs during the observational session. Finally, institutions should be cognizant of applicable governmental and public health guidance and/or directives that are issued as well as institutional and conference rules related to COVID-19.

Outside Competition.

Question No. 1: May student-athletes participate in outside competition as an individual?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete may participate in outside competition as an individual in the student-athlete's sport, provided the student-athlete represents only himself or herself in the competition.

Question No. 2: In sports other than basketball and football, may student-athletes participate in outside competition during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No. Unless such participation meets a legislated exception, a student-athlete may not participate as a member of an outside team during the academic year. However, the Council

Coordination Committee approved a waiver of Bylaw 17.33 (outside competition, effects on eligibility) to permit, in sports other than basketball and football, a student-athlete to participate in noncollegiate, amateur competition on an outside team during the 2020-21 academic year if his or her institution will not engage in competition during the term. Regulations pertaining to permissible outside competition (e.g., limit on number of student-athletes from any one institution) continue to apply under the application of the waiver. An institution or conference may not provide expenses for such competition and the student-athlete must be in good academic standing. A student-athlete who remains enrolled at the institution may not miss class to participate in outside competition. All competition should adhere to federal, state, local and other applicable guidelines related to COVID-19. [Council Coordination Committee action; August 5, 2020, and extended on December 18, 2020.]

Question No. 3: Can a student-athlete who enrolls full-time during the 2020-21 academic year engage in outside competition representing a team, if the institution's team continues to compete during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No. Unless such participation meets a legislated exception, a student-athlete may not participate as a member of an outside team during the academic year.

Question No. 4: Can a student-athlete who did not enroll full time during the 2020-21 academic year and participates in a sport other than basketball and football engage in outside competition representing him or herself or as a member of an outside noncollegiate, amateur team without jeopardizing their intercollegiate eligibility when they re-enroll as a full-time student during the next regular academic term?

Answer: Yes. [Council Coordination Committee action; August 5, 2020, and extended on December 18, 2020.] [See Question No. 4 in Bylaw 14's "2020-21 Enrollment Options" section.]

Question No. 5: In sports other than basketball and football, if an institution's team is not competing during the 2020-21 academic year, may a student-athlete practice with the institution's team while also practicing and competing with an outside team?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee approved a waiver of Bylaw 17.33 (outside competition, effects on eligibility) to permit a student-athlete to participate in noncollegiate, amateur competition on an outside team during the 2020-21 academic year if his or her institution will not engage in competition during the term.

Question No. 6: Does the Council Coordination Committee waiver of Bylaw 17.33 exempt the maximum number of student-athletes from one institution on an outside team if the student-athlete(s) are only practicing, and not competing for the outside team?

Answer: No. The maximum number of student-athletes from one institution continue to apply. For example, in volleyball, not more than two student-athletes from one institution may participate (practice and/or compete) with an outside team.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete uses the Council Coordination Committee waiver of Bylaw 17.33, when must a student-athlete cease outside competition with an outside team?

Answer: The student-athlete must cease all participation with an outside team prior to the first day of classes of the next term or the first institutional date of competition, whichever occurs first.

Question No. 8: If an institution has postponed or cancelled competition for the 2020-21 academic year, may an institution's coach be involved with an outside team that includes his or her own student-athletes?

Answer: No. In team sports, a coach may not be involved in any capacity at any time with an outside team that includes any student-athlete from his or her institution. In individual sports, a coach may only be involved with an outside sports team with student-athletes with eligibility remaining from the institution's team during the summer. (See Bylaw 17 for limitations on the number of student-athletes from the same institution who may participate on the team.)

Question No. 9: In the sport of basketball, may a student-athlete with eligibility remaining as a result of the Council action surrounding COVID-19 participate in a collegiate all-star contest (e.g., outside events, events that typically surround the Final Four of the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship)?

Answer: No.

Example No. 1: Jenny Smith is a senior women's basketball student-athlete who has been invited to participate in the three-point contest in conjunction with the 2021 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Final Four. Jenny has exhausted her eligibility; however, her institution has self-applied the March 30, 2020, Council-approved waivers to provide Jenny an additional season of competition and an extension of her five-year period of eligibility for the 2021-22 season.

Question: Can Jenny participate in the three-point contest?

Answer: No.

Example No. 2: Johnny Smith is a senior men's basketball student-athlete who has been invited to participate in a three-on-three all-star game in conjunction with the 2021 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Final Four. Johnny has exhausted his eligibility.

Question: Can Johnny participate in the three-on-three all-star game?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: In the sport of basketball, may a student-athlete participate in organized outside competition (e.g., three-point contest, slam dunk contest)?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division I Council and September 16 Action Related to Playing and Practice Seasons for Football.

This section is designed to educate the membership regarding the playing and practice season framework for Football Bowl Subdivision and NCAA Football Championship Subdivision institutions that postpone competition to the spring. On September 16, 2020, the NCAA Division I Council adopted temporary emergency legislation, in football, to provide flexibility for practice time periods and permit up to eight regular season contests to occur during a period of not more than 13 weeks, with the last regular season contest occurring not later than April 17, 2021. The playing and practice season framework ([Division I Football 2021 Fall/Spring Preseason: Recommendation](#)) is intended to ensure that legislative requirements mandating specific days/time off (e.g., discretionary weeks) for student-athletes during a traditional fall season will apply in a comparable manner to a spring season. The effective date of this legislation is September 21, 2020.

Question No. 1: For institutions that compete in the fall and the spring, how is the 13-week period calculated?

Answer: The 13-week period is intended to be continuous. As noted in the model, conferences can configure and start and end their seasons at their discretion, as long as the last date of competition for each institution occurs within 13 weeks of the institution's first contest and no later than April 17. Institutions that have postponed fall competition but will not complete their seasons within a 13-week window should request a legislative relief waiver, which will be reviewed by NCAA staff with feedback provided by the Division I Football Oversight Committee.

Question No. 2: What if an institution does not compete in football during the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: If an institution will not compete at all during the 2020-21 academic year, the institution may participate in out-of-season activities in accordance with the August 19 Division I Council action that permits up to 12 hours of activities per week for the remainder of the fall 2020 term and conduct a spring practice period during the spring 2021 term in accordance with Bylaw 17.11.6.5 (spring practice) [FBS/FCS].

Question No. 3: During the preseason (or two-week period preceding the preseason) or regular season, may an institution engage in more than 20 hours of countable athletically related activities per week during a period of time when classes are not in session (e.g., winter break)?

Answer: Yes. Daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply to countable athletically related activities during a vacation period when classes are not in session (e.g., fall break, winter break).

However, on one day in every seven days during the preseason practice period, a student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities shall be limited to not more than two hours of off-field meetings or film review. Daily and weekly hour limitations on countable activities begin with the institution's first day of classes or seven days before the first scheduled contest, whichever is earlier. (See Bylaws 17.1.7.3.5 and 17.1.7.3.5.1).

Question No. 4: May an institution engage in out of season countable athletically related activities (e.g., 12-hour week) during an institutional vacation period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: Are out of season countable athletically related activities permitted one week before the institution's final exam period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 6: May a portion of the 34-day "fall ball" period occur during an institutional vacation period (e.g., fall break, winter break)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: Are the two, 20-hour weeks before the start of preseason required?

Answer: No. These weeks are permitted but not required. Please note that "fall ball" or fall competition and the preseason practice period (and, if used, the two 20-hour weeks preceding preseason practice) must be separated by at least 30 days of noncontact activities, which must include two weeks of student-athlete discretionary time, one of which must be the week before countable athletically related activities resume.

Question No. 8: May student-athletes wear padded undergarments (e.g., spider pads) during the noncontact practice days during spring practice?

Answer: No. Bylaw 17.11.6.5-(d) specifies that headgear is the only protective equipment that may be worn during noncontact sessions. Further, any items with padding (e.g., padded undergarments) are considered protective equipment and may only be worn during activities when the use of protective equipment is permitted.

Question No. 9: Can student-athletes wear protective equipment (e.g., spider pads, helmets) during an out-of-season walkthrough that occurs as part of the eight permissible hours of activity?

Answer: No. It is not permissible for student-athletes to wear any protective equipment or use any equipment related to the sport (e.g., football, blocking sled) during an out-of-season walkthrough.

NCAA Division I Council August 19 and September 16 Action Related to Playing and Practice Seasons for Fall Sports Other Than Football.

Question No. 1: Will the playing seasons for fall sports continue to be limited to 132 (team sports) or 144 (individual sports) days?

Answer: Yes. The Council action indicates if teams need to exceed those limits relief may be considered through the legislative relief waiver process. [Updated due Council action on September 16, 2020.]

Question No. 2: Since an institution's team may declare multiple segments during 2020-21 academic year, may the team designate multiple segments during the same week (e.g., Monday-Tuesday in-season, Wednesday-Thursday out of season, and Friday-Sunday in-season)? [Updated to be applicable to the entire academic year.]

Answer: No. In general, segments must consist of at least seven consecutive calendar days (e.g., Week One a team is in-season, Week Two a team is out of season, Week Three a team is in-season).

Example No. 1: If a team pauses their in-season segment in the middle of a week due to COVID-19 is the institution required to count the out of season days towards the team's playing and practice season limit?

Answer: No.

Example No. 2: If a team transitions from in-season to out of season within the same week due to COVID-19 is the institution required to count the out of season days towards the team's playing and practice season limit?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: In soccer and volleyball, prior to the first scheduled regular-season contest during the spring segment, is it permissible to conduct a scrimmage or exhibition game that counts against the maximum number of contests but does not count toward the institution's win-loss record?

Answer: Yes. In soccer, an institution may participate in up to three scrimmages or exhibition games. In volleyball, an institution may participate in one scrimmage or exhibition game. (See NCAA Bylaws [17.20.3.1](#) and [17.26.3.1](#))

Question No. 4: After the required break between segments, when can a fall sport team (other than football) resume competition during the 2021 spring term?

Answer: The Council action requires fall sport teams (other than football) to take a break between segments prior to the start of the spring championship segment.

Example: Institution A's cross-country team ends its fall practice/competition schedule on December 11 and provides student-athletes a break from December 12 – January 3.

Question No. 1: When can Institution A resume practice for 2021 spring term?

Answer: Institution A's cross country team can resume practice on January 4.

Question No. 2: When can Institution A's cross country team begin competing during 2021 spring term?

Answer: January 23, 2021.

Question No. 3: Is Institution A required to count all cross country practice and competition dates during its 144-day playing season limit.

Answer: Institution A is required to count all days that its cross country team is "in season" toward the team's 144-day playing season limit.

Question No. 5: If an institution sponsors a combined cross country and track and field program in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 17.24.1.1, can a student-athlete engage in cross country competition during the institution's 156-day track and field playing season?

Answer: Yes. However, any cross-country competition must count towards the student-athlete and institutional limit on cross country dates of competition and toward the institution's 144-day cross country playing season. As a reminder, after the required break, cross country competition may not occur prior to January 23, 2021. However, a multisport student-athlete may engage in track and field competition during that time.

Example: Johnny Smith is a cross country and track and field student-athlete at Institution A. Johnny is planning to participate in cross country competitions on January 23 and 30, and February 13. Johnny has track and field competitions scheduled for January 9 and 16, and February 6, 20 and 27.

Question No. 1: How many dates of competition will Institution A and Johnny use during the 2021 spring term?

Answer: Institution A and Johnny will use three dates of competition in cross country and five dates of competition in track and field.

Question No. 2: How many days must Institution A count toward its 144-day cross country playing season for the three cross country competitions?

Answer: Twenty-one days. Each cross-country competition must count as seven days towards the institution's playing season limit because a segment must be no less than seven days.

Example: Jenny Smith is a cross country and track and field student-athlete at Institution A. Jenny is planning to participate in cross country competitions on January 23, January 27, and February 13. Jenny has track and field competitions scheduled for January 9 and 16, and February 6, 20 and 27.

Question No. 1: How many dates of competition will Institution A and Jenny use during the 2021 spring term?

Answer: Institution A and Jenny will use three dates of competition in cross country and five dates of competition in track and field.

Question No. 2: How many days must Institution A count toward its 144-day cross country playing season for the three cross country competitions?

Answer: Fourteen days. A segment must be no less than seven days. Therefore, the two cross country competitions in January count as seven days because they are less than seven days apart from each other and the February 13 competition counts as another seven days towards the institution's playing season limit.

NCAA Division I Council February 17 Action Related to Football Spring 2021 Out-of-Season Countable Athletically Related Activities (Effective February 22).

Question No. 1: During spring 2021, how many hours of out-of-season countable activities are permitted each week?

Answer: Ten.

Question No. 2: What activities are an institution's football team allowed to engage in during the out-of-season weeks in spring 2021?

Answer: Weight training, conditioning, walk-throughs, film review and meetings.

Question No. 3: Is there an hour limitation on any of the permissible activities?

Answer: Yes. Meetings and film review are limited to four hours per week. Weight training and conditioning are limited to six hours per week and walk-throughs are limited to two hours per week. However, if a team does not use the maximum two hours for walk-throughs, then that time may be used for weight training and conditioning.

Examples:

Meetings and Film Review	Weight Training and Conditioning	Walk-Throughs	Total Hours per Week
4	6	0	10
3	7	0	10
3	6	1	10
2	8	0	10
2	7	1	10
2	6	2	10
1	7	1	9
0	6	2	8

Question No. 4: May an institution engage in more than eight hours of weight training and conditioning per week?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: May an institution's football team participate in skill instruction during the out-of-season weeks in spring 2021?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: Are institutions required to provide the student-athletes with two days off per week?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 7: Do the 10-hour out-of-season weeks apply to all FBS and FCS institutions, including those competing spring 2021?

Answer: Yes. All FBS and FCS institutions may engage in up to 10 hours of countable activities during out-of-season weeks, irrespective of whether the institution competed in fall 2020, spring 2021, or will not engage in competition during the 2020-21 academic year.

Question No. 8: When does the spring 2021 out-of-season weekly model no longer apply?

Answer: The out-of-season weekly model will no longer apply beginning the day after the institution's spring commencement. Then, the summer athletics activities legislation applies.

NCAA Division I Council March 17 Action Related to Sports Other Than Football 2021 Spring Outside-of-Season Countable Athletically Related Activities (Effective March 22).

Question No. 1: During spring 2021, how many hours of out-of-season countable activities are permitted each week?

Answer: Ten. The Council action permits sports other than football to engage in an additional two hours of film review and team meetings.

Question No. 2: Are institutions required to provide the student-athletes with two days off per week?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: When does the Council action expire?

Answer: The Council action expires one week prior to the beginning of an institution's final exam period. Please note, out-of-season countable athletically related activities are prohibited beginning one week prior to an institution's final exam period through the conclusion of the academic term.

Question No. 4: In sports other than football, are team meetings related to technical and tactical instruction (e.g., chalk talk) and film review skill-related instruction permitted outside an institution's declared playing and practice season?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: Does the Council action allow an institution's team to participate in additional physical skill instruction?

Answer: No. Physical skill instruction remains limited to a maximum of four hours per week.

Examples:

Physical Skill Instruction	Meetings (e.g., chalk talk) and Film Review	Weight Training and Conditioning	Total Hours per Week
0	6	4	10
0	3	7	10
0	2	8	10
1	3	6	10
2	2	6	10
3	2	5	10
4	2	4	10
3	1	5	9
4	0	4	8
4	2	2	8

NCAA Division I Council March 17 Action Related to Summer Athletics Activities for Football and Basketball.

Question: In football and basketball, may incoming and continuing student-athletes engage in summer athletics activities without being enrolled for summer 2021?

Answer: Yes.

NCAA Division I Blanket Waiver Approved on April 28 Related to Required Virtual Nonphysical Countable Athletically Related Activities in Sports other than Basketball and Football.

Question No. 1: In sports other than basketball and football, may an institution's coach require student-athletes to participate in eight hours of virtual, nonphysical countable athletically related activities (e.g., film review, chalk talk, team meetings)?

Answer: Yes. The blanket waiver approved on April 28 allows institutions to require student-athletes in sports other than basketball and football to participate in a maximum of eight hours of virtual, nonphysical countable athletically related activities beginning on the first date following the conclusion of the institution's final exam period for 2021 spring term.

Question No. 2: In sports other than basketball and football, are student-athletes required to be enrolled during summer 2021 to participate in virtual, nonphysical countable athletically related activities?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Does the blanket waiver approved on April 28 require institutions to provide student-athletes with a day off each week?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: When does the blanket waiver expire?

Answer: The first day of classes for the institution's 2021 fall term or the start of the team's preseason practice period, whichever is earlier (e.g., if the institution begins classes on August 1, then July 31 is the last date the blanket waiver may be applied).

Question No. 5: Does the blanket waiver apply to basketball and football?

Answer: No.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 18 – Championships and Postseason Football

Ineligibility for Use of Banned Drugs.

Question: May a contest canceled due to COVID-19 count toward a positive drug test withholding penalty?

Answer: No. This issue was reviewed and supported by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS) following the cancellation of the 2020 spring championships. However, CSMAS did provide additional flexibility that is best applied on a case-by-case basis. If your institution has a student-athlete who is serving a drug-testing withholding condition, please submit an RSRO request for guidance on the application of the penalty. The request should include the following information: the student-athlete's sport, enrollment and eligibility history and the date of the positive test.

NCAA Committee for Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport December 9, 2020, Guidance – Application of Drug-Testing Penalties During the 2020-21 Academic Year.

At its December 9, 2020, videoconference, the NCAA Committee for Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport provided the following interpretive principles on applying drug-testing penalties during the 2020-21 academic year:

1. In general, if a student-athlete tested positive prior to the start of the 2020-21 championship season, their drug-testing withholding penalty should be calculated using 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit or the conference limit on competition during the 2020-21 championship season, whichever is fewer. This flexibility acknowledges the impact of COVID-19 on the length of seasons while attempting to preserve the intent of the penalty;
2. Penalties served during 2020-21 should be proportionate to the typical impact on a student-athlete's period of eligibility. For example, a student-athlete who tested positive for a banned drug class other than cannabinoids or narcotics should have access to one less season of competition than a student-athlete who did not test positive; and
3. If a student-athlete tested positive prior to the 2020-21 championship season, their penalty will be considered served regardless of actual games completed by their institution.

Additionally, all other aspects of the drug-testing penalties remain applicable. For example, a student-athlete must be otherwise eligible (e.g., academically) to serve a drug-testing penalty.

The following questions and answers were developed to provide additional clarification on the application of the Committee's guidance.

Question No. 1: For a student-athlete serving a 50% drug-testing withholding penalty (see Bylaw 18.4.1.4.2) during 2020-21, is the withholding penalty determined using the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit for the relevant sport?

Answer: No. The withholding penalty may be determined using 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit for the 2020-21 academic year or the conference limit on total games, whichever is fewer.

Example: For 2020-21, a 50% withholding in baseball is now 21 contests.

- Bylaw 17 maximum = 56 contests. 75% of 56 = 42 contests. 50% of 42 = 21 contest withholding.

Question No. 2: If the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit for 2020-21 was already reduced (e.g., the maximum contest limit in basketball was reduced from 31 to 27), how is the drug-testing withholding penalty determined?

Answer: The penalty is determined using the maximum contest limit for 2020-21.

Example: In basketball, the 50% withholding penalty is calculated using the 27-game maximum contest limit for 2020-21.

- Reduced 2020-21 maximum = 27 contests. 75% of 27 = 21 contests. 50% of 21 = 11 contests).

Question No. 3: How is a drug-testing withholding penalty determined if the student-athlete began serving the withholding penalty in 2019-20?

Answer: If the student-athlete began serving the withholding penalty in 2019-20, it may be recalculated using 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit or the conference limit on total games for the 2020-21 season, whichever is fewer.

Example:

- A soccer student-athlete tested positive for marijuana during the 2019-20 season and was required to be withheld from 50% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit (10 contests).
- The student-athlete was withheld from three contests during the 2019-20 season. Ordinarily, the student-athlete would be required to be withheld from seven contests during 2020-21.
- However, due to COVID-19, the student-athlete's withholding penalty is recalculated based on 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit for 2020-21. This recalculation results in a total withholding penalty of eight contests.

- As a result, the student-athlete would be required to be withheld from five contests during the 2020-21 season (three contests in 2019-20, plus five contests in 2020-21 satisfies the recalculated withholding penalty of eight contests).

Question No. 4: What if a student-athlete is unable to complete a drug-testing withholding penalty due to a shortened 2020-21 season?

Answer: If the drug-testing withholding penalty could have been completed but for the shortening of the 2020-21 season, the penalty will be considered complete at the end of the 2020-21 season.

Example:

- A basketball student-athlete tested positive for a performance enhancing drug prior to the start of the 2020-21 season and must sit 75% of one season of competition per the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit (21 contests) for 2020-21.
- The team participates in 20 contests during 2020-21.
- The penalty would be considered complete at the end of 2020-21, and the student-athlete would not be required to be withheld from an additional game during 2021-22.

Question No. 5: What if an institution competes in more than 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit on competition?

Answer: The withholding penalty is still determined using 75% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit or the conference limit on competition, whichever is fewer.

Example:

- A baseball student-athlete tested positive for marijuana prior to the 2020-21 season.
- The withholding penalty is 75% of 56 = 42 contests.
- The institution has scheduled 50 contests for its 2020-21 season.
- The student-athlete may regain eligibility after being withheld from 42 contests and successfully completing an exit test scheduled through Drug Free Sport International. After satisfying those requirements, the student-athlete would be able to compete in the final eight contests and any post-season contests.

Question No. 6: What if the application of the drug-testing penalty due to COVID-19 seems inconsistent with the intent of the legislation?

Answer: The committee acknowledged that the combination of COVID-19 and individual facts may result in drug-testing withholding penalties that are inconsistent with the intent of the legislation. In general, the committee confirmed that a student-athlete serving a drug-testing penalty should maintain proportionately less access to competition during their period of eligibility than a student-athlete who is not serving a drug-testing penalty.

For example, a student-athlete serving a drug-testing penalty for a banned substance other than a cannabinoid or narcotic should have access to approximately one fewer season than a student-athlete who did not test positive. In Example No. 6, the student-athlete who tested positive for a banned substance has access to almost two fewer seasons than a typical student-athlete, which is disproportionate to the intended penalty. In this scenario, the student-athlete would not be charged a season due to the drug-testing penalty and the student-athlete would regain a season of eligibility to be completed in 2022-23.

Example No. 6: Proportionality of Penalty		
Year	Student-Athlete Who Tested Positive	Typical Student-Athlete
2018-19	Used Season No. 1. Tested positive following season.	Used Season No. 1.
2019-20	Withheld from 10% of season, before season cancelled. Charged one season due to drug-testing penalty (Season No. 2).	Used Season No. 2a. Played in 10% of contests, before season cancelled.
2020-21	Withheld from 65% of season. Uses Season No. 3.	Uses Season No. 2b. (Institution applied Season-of-Competition Waiver from spring 2020).
2021-22	Uses Season No. 4.	Uses Season No. 3.
2022-23	N/A.	Uses Season No. 4.
Access:	2.35 seasons	4.2 seasons

Due to the fact-specific nature of applying this guidance, an institution is encouraged to submit an RSRO request if it is unsure or concerned about the application of a drug-testing penalty. The request should include the student-athlete's sport, enrollment and participation history, number of games withheld due to the drug-testing penalty and the date of the positive drug test.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete tests positive for a banned substance following the completion of the 2020-21 season, what penalty applies?

Answer: The legislated penalty would apply (e.g., 100% of the Bylaw 17 maximum contest limit). However, if COVID-19 continues to impact the application of penalties in 2021-22, the CSMAS will evaluate the application of those penalties, as appropriate.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership

Sports Sponsorship – General Requirements.

Question No. 1: 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, NCAA Division I Council has approved a blanket waiver of the minimum sports sponsorship requirements, three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2019-20 academic year.

Question No. 2: Are institutions subject to the Division I sports sponsorship requirements, the three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No. As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on institutional sport seasons, the Division I Council has approved a blanket waiver of the minimum sports sponsorship requirements, three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2020-21 academic year.

Sports Sponsorship – Multisport Conference.

Question: Are conferences subject to the Division I sports sponsorship requirement for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No. As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on conference sport seasons, the Division I Council has approved a blanket waiver of the sports sponsorship requirement (NCAA Division I Bylaw 20.02.5.2) for the 2020-21 academic year.

Sports Sponsorship – NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Demographic Form.

Question: Are Division I institutions required to submit the annual NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Demographic Form in 2020?

Answer: Yes. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee waived the deadline for submission of this information to provide institutions with flexibility to focus on addressing issues related to the impact of COVID-19. Because the data submitted is broadly used to inform operational processes, policy and decision-making on important initiatives, institutions are encouraged to submit the data at their earliest convenience. Institutions that are unable to submit the data by July 31 should contact Maria DeJulio (mdejulio@ncaa.org) of the NCAA national office staff to identify a feasible timeline for submission.

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.

Recalculation of Equivalencies for Purposes of Revenue Distribution Reporting.

Question: Do institutions need to recalculate equivalencies for reporting financial aid information for revenue distribution purposes as reported through the membership financial reporting system (MFRS) due to COVID-19 related institutional determinations?

Answer: No. For purposes of revenue distribution based on scholarships provided by an institution, institutions may use the intended level of equivalencies based on 2020 spring squad lists prior to the season or at the time the season was terminated due to the pandemic. There is no need to recalculate equivalencies for the MFRS report based on what was actually provided during 2019-20 due to COVID-19 related institutional determinations.