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

For more information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the following resources on the NCAA’s COVID-19 webpage:

1. Resources on the resocialization of collegiate sport: Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport, Core Principles FAQ, Action Plan Considerations, Developing Standards for Practice and Competition and Requirements for Each Division FAQ.

2. Comprehensive chart tracking actions taken on Division I regulations and policies: Division I COVID-19 Action Chart.

3. Listing of potential COVID-19 related actions for consideration during the 2020-21 academic year: Division I COVID-19 Actions for Consideration.
# DIVISION I COVID-19

## QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 11 – Athletics Personnel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Football Summer Athletic Activity and Preseason Practice Model</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 18 – Championships and Postseason Football</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigating the NLI Status Under COVID-19 Circumstances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division I Basketball 2020 Summer Access Model</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSMAS Prevention &amp; Performance Subcommittee 2020 Summer Access / Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preseason Transition Considerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 for a team with a spring championship eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as a student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. A student assistant coach who is deprived of the opportunity to participate during the spring 2020 semester is eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as a spring student-athlete. The NCAA Division I Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for spring-sport student-athletes, effectively extending each student's five-year "clock" by one year. Students using this extension do not count toward the student-assistant coach limit set forth in Bylaw 11.7.6.

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?
**Question No. 5:** May an institution or an institutional staff member provide reasonable benefits (e.g., meals, lodging) or expenses (e.g., cash) to a volunteer coach to assist with personal well-being, during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Answer:** Yes. During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, an institution may use its discretion to permit an institution or an institutional staff member to provide benefits or expenses to support the health, safety, and well-being of a volunteer coach. The institution must ensure that the provisions of the benefit do not trigger employment per the institution’s policy and is reviewed by the appropriate campus institutional personnel (e.g., human resources, legal counsel).

**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).**

**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 utilize 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 No. 1: 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 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 and women's volleyball.

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

**Answer:** Bowling, 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, rifle, skiing and wrestling.

**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 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.

*Application of August 21, 2020, NCAA Division I Board of Directors Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extensions of Eligibility for Fall Sports.*

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

**Answer:** Institutions may self-apply season-of-competition waivers for any eligible student-athlete who competes in a fall 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 sport student-athlete who competes during 2020-21.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution self-apply a season of competition waiver for a fall sport student-athlete who competes during the fall 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 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 sport student-athlete will not qualify for a self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** No. A fall sport student-athlete may compete in his or her fall 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 existing NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 limits.
Question No. 6: If a fall sport student-athlete sustains a season-ending injury while competing during his or her fall 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 sport student-athlete who competes during his or her fall 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' action allowing institutions to self-apply extensions of eligibility permit?

Answer: Institutions may self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for fall 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 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 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 semester 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, 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 sport student-athletes be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: NCAA institutions cannot self-apply relief for 2020-21 fall sport student-athletes who were competing for other organizations (see examples above) during 2020-21. The NCAA institution is required to submit a season of competition waiver or extension request through Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO) for review by the student-athlete reinstatement staff.
Application of NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extension of Eligibility – 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 Athletic 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
posed 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.**

*For calls that will occur between Monday, May 11 and the end of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, please refer to the section of this guide addressing the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee's May 6 actions on virtual recruiting for additional information.*

**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 conduct 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:** May an institution's coach engage in a virtual speaking engagement (e.g., banquet) that involves prospective student-athletes (e.g., Zoom meeting with a club team)?

**Answer:** No. An institution’s coach may not conduct a virtual speaking engagement that involves prospective student-athletes.

**Question No. 3:** Does an institution's coach creating and sending a prospective student-athlete a link for a video call (e.g., Zoom, GoToMeeting) constitute the institution initiating the video call?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution's coach and student-athlete engage in a video call (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) with one or more committed prospective student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes. It is permissible for an institution's coach and student-athlete to participate in a video call with one or more committed prospective student-athletes. [See Council Coordination Committee action on Virtual Recruiting]

**Question No. 5:** In football, during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach make a telephone call to an individual (or the individual's family members) who is in their junior year of high school beginning April 15 through the conclusion of the COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** Yes. In football, an institution is permitted to make telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete after April 15 of their junior year at the institution's discretion. [See May 8, 2020, Blanket Waiver].
Question No. 6: Who may initiate or participate on a video call with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer: If the call with the prospective student-athlete is initiated by the institution's coach, any institutional staff member may participate in the call. NCAA Bylaw 13.1.3.4.1.1 (Exceptions -- Before Commitment) identifies institutional staff members who may initiate or return telephone or video calls to prospective student-athletes prior to commitment, and any requirements that must be met for those calls to be permissible. [See Council Coordination Committee action on Virtual Recruiting]

Contacts and Evaluations.

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

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

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

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

Question No. 3: In women's basketball, does the recruiting shutdown periods apply during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: In women's basketball, do the July evaluation period restrictions on communication apply during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No.

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 the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** During the temporary COVID-19 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 are 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.

**Question No. 3:** During the temporary COVID-19 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 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 and is in a standardized format that ensures consistent distribution to all subscribers.

**Question No. 4:** During the temporary COVID-19 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 the temporary COVID-19 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: Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete to take a previously scheduled official or unofficial visit during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No.

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

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

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

Answer: No. A coach may not assist the admissions office with campus tours during a dead period.
Question No. 4: At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution conduct an official visit without obtaining a transcript due to the prospective student-athlete's educational institution closing for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

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

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

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

Question No. 6: May a prospective student-athlete receive an in-person tour from an entity or institutional staff member outside athletics (e.g., admissions department)?

Answer: Yes. The entity or institutional staff member must be responsible for conducting tours for all prospective students and the tour must be consistent with those provided to all prospective students. Further, the institution's athletics department may only provide the prospective student-athlete with the contact information for the entity outside of athletics responsible for conducting tours for all prospective students.

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.

**Complimentary Admissions and Attendance at Home Contests.**

**Question No. 1:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution provide complimentary admissions to a home contest for a prospective student-athlete?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may a prospective student-athlete attend a home athletics contest if he or she purchases a ticket in the same manner as the general public?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's admissions department or other institutional entity outside of athletics that is responsible for general student recruitment provide a complimentary admission to a home contest for a prospective student-athlete?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution's admissions department or entity outside of the athletics department may provide a complimentary admission to a prospective student-athlete for a home contest, as long as providing the complimentary admission is unrelated to the prospective student-athlete's athletics participation and is not facilitated or arranged by the institution's athletics department.

**NCAA Division I Council Committee September 16 Action Related to Complimentary Admissions to a high school, preparatory school or two-year college coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity involving a prospective student-athlete.**
**Question:** During the COVID-19 Recruiting Dead Period, may an institution provide complimentary admissions to a high school, preparatory school or two-year college coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospective student-athlete is involved?

**Answer:** No.

**Recruiting Calendars.**

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

**Answer:** Yes. Institutions must follow each sport’s recruiting calendar and recruiting periods. The NCAA Division I Committees and Council may provide additional guidance with regards to future changes to recruiting calendars.

**Camps and Clinics.**

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

**Answer:** No.

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

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

**Question No. 3:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, 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.

**General and Electronic Correspondence.**

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

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

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

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

**Question No. 3:** May an institution's coach post general information (e.g., contact information, NCAA rules) to social media requesting prospective student-athletes to call them during the COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution's coach may post general information requesting prospective student-athletes to call them to social media regarding the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period. The information may not be specific to, or personalized for, any prospective student-athlete(s).

**Question No. 4:** 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. 5: 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. 6: 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. 7: 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. 8: May an institution's coach pre-record a video message to be shown or played for a prospective student-athlete in conjunction with a banquet or meeting?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: May a committed prospective student-athlete (one who has signed a National Letter of Intent or an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or from whom the institution has received a financial deposit in response to its offer of admission) who participates in virtual team activities be considered a student-athlete?

Answer: After completing all academic requirements for high school graduation or all transfer academic requirements, a committed prospective student-athlete who participates in virtual team activity may be considered a student-athlete.

Question No. 10: 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. 11: May incoming and continuing student-athletes engage in summer athletic activities without being enrolled for summer 2020?
**Answer:** Yes, however, to begin summer activities, a committed incoming student-athlete (high school or transfer) must have completed academic requirements for high school graduation or applicable transfer requirements.

**Question No. 12:** 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. 13:** May an institution arrange an electronic or other socially distanced delivery system for administering complimentary admissions for prospective student-athletes, high school/college-preparatory school/two-year college coaches and their guests?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution may arrange an electronic or social distanced delivery system (e.g., e-mailed tickets or electronic ticketing system) in order to facilitate athletic contest admissions for guests on a pass list. The institution remains responsible for ensuring complimentary admissions are properly assigned to individuals on the pass list and that the complimentary admissions are not used by individuals not on the pass list.

**Question No. 14:** May an institution provide expenses (transportation, meals and lodging) for a prospective student-athlete who, upon initial arrival at the institution to attend classes for a regular term or to participate in preseason practice, must satisfy state, local or campus health and safety requirements (e.g., 14-day quarantine) associated with initial enrollment?

**Answer:** Yes.

**NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee May 6 Action Related to Virtual Recruiting Activities (Effective May 11 through the End of the Temporary COVID-19 Recruiting Dead Period).**

**Telephone Calls.**

**Question No. 1:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, if an institution's coach initiates a telephone/video call to a prospective student-athlete, may any institutional staff member participate on the call?

**Answer:** Yes. The Council Coordination Committee action allows any institutional staff member to participate with a countable coach on a telephone/video call initiated by a countable coach to a prospective student-athlete. Also, it remains permissible for any institutional staff member to receive incoming calls from prospective student-athletes. The Council Coordination Action did not alter the rules in place for other permissible callers.
Question No. 2: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, 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. The Council Coordination Committee action allows an institution's coach to participate on a telephone/video call with one or more committed or uncommitted prospective student-athletes, their family member(s) and their high school coach(es). Sport-specific legislation surrounding the timing and frequency of calls continues to apply. And, 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. 3: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may student-athletes participate in a recruiting telephone/video call with an institution's coach and committed and/or uncommitted prospective student-athlete(s)?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee action allows one or more student-athletes to participate in recruiting calls with a coach, committed and/or uncommitted prospective student-athletes. Time spent by a student-athlete participating in recruiting calls must count toward the eight hours per week of nonphysical countable athletically related activities and may not occur on a required day off. A student-athlete may voluntarily initiate and receive calls with any prospective student-athlete.

Virtual Team Activities.

Question No 1: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may a committed prospective student-athlete participate in virtual team activities (e.g., review of playbook, chalk talk, film review)?

Answer: Yes. The Council Coordination Committee action allows a committed prospective student-athlete to participate in virtual team activities after completion of all academic requirements for high school graduation or transfer academic requirements. Because this opportunity only exists during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, participation in such activity does not result in the prospective student-athlete being considered a student-athlete.

Question No. 2: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an uncommitted prospective student-athlete participate in virtual team activities (e.g., review of playbook, chalk talk, film review)?

Answer: No. The Council Coordination Committee action does not allow an uncommitted prospective student-athlete to participate in virtual team activities. However, an uncommitted prospective student-athlete may observe a virtual team activity once per institution (and in the case of a multisport prospective student-athlete, once for each of the institution's teams recruiting the
prospective student-athlete). Because this opportunity only exists during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, participation in such activity does not result in the prospective student-athlete being considered a student-athlete.

**Question No. 3:** During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may a committed prospective student-athlete who has not completed all academic requirements for high school graduation or transfer academic requirements participate in virtual team activities?

**Answer:** No. The Council Coordination Committee action does not allow a committed prospective student-athlete who has not completed all academic requirements for high school graduation or transfer academic requirements to participate in virtual team activities. However, a committed prospective student-athlete who has not completed all academic requirements for high school graduation or transfer academic requirements may observe a virtual team activity once per institution (and in the case of a multisport prospective student-athlete, once for each of the institution's teams recruiting the prospective student-athlete). Because this opportunity only exists during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, participation in such activity does not result in the prospective student-athlete being considered a student-athlete.

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### NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility

#### Full-Time Enrollment

**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.

Fall 2020 Enrollment Options

The following guidance is intended to clarify the eligibility implications of a continuing student-athlete who does not enroll full time during the 2020 fall term, but has the intent to re-enroll as a student and potentially participate in intercollegiate athletics during the 2021 winter/spring term(s).

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 fall term 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 2021 winter/spring term(s)?

**Answer:** Yes.

*For additional information on the outside competition waiver recently approved by the Council Coordination Committee for student-athletes whose institution decides to not compete during the 2020 fall term, 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 the 2020 fall term eligible to practice, compete, or participate in *any* 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 (including virtual nonphysical countable 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 the 2020 fall term 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 fall term while not enrolled as a full-time student can still utilize the missed-term exception during a future certification of the student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement.

**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 fall term?

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 approved by the Council Coordination Committee, please see the Bylaw 17 portion of this resource.

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

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 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. 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 Spring 2020 COVID-19 mitigation if a student-athlete is academically ineligible for a future term (e.g., was unable to meet percentage of degree entering the 2021 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.

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.

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 Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid


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 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 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Will spring student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and fall student-athletes who would have exhausted in 2020-21 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year or 2021-22 academic year, respectively, if they return to their same institution?

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

Question No. 3: Will student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and fall student-athletes who would have exhausted in 2020-21 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year or 2021-22 academic year, respectively, if they transfer to a new institution?
Answer: No.

**Question No. 4:** Must aid be renewed for a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and return to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year, or for a fall student-athlete who would have exhausted 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:** In the sport of baseball, does the minimum equivalency legislation apply to financial aid awarded to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No.

**Question No. 6:** Is an institution that chooses to reduce or to not renew financial aid based on athletics for a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year, or for a fall 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. 7:** May an institution use the NCAA Student Assistance Fund to provide financial aid for the 2020-21 academic year to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns for 2020-21?

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

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

Answer: No.

**Question No. 9:** Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2020-21 and 2021-22 applicable to a student-athlete who was anticipated to compete and exhaust eligibility in 2019-20
Question No. 10: Is the exemption from team financial aid limits for 2020-21 and 2021-22 applicable to a student-athlete who used or would have used their final season of competition in 2019-20 (spring sports) or 2020-21 (fall sports), but whose five-year clock would not expire until 2020-21 or 2021-22, respectively?

Answer: Yes.

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

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

Question No. 11b: For a fall student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2020-21, may an institution replace other countable aid from 2020-21 with athletics aid 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. 12: 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 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. 13: If a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 uses a missed-term exception for fall 2020, how does the institution determine how much of that student-athlete's aid may be exempted from the team's financial aid limit during 2020-21?
**Answer:** All financial aid counted toward the team financial aid limit during 2019-20 may be considered when determining what may be exempted from the 2020-21 team financial aid limit. For example, if the student-athlete counted as .25 toward the team financial aid limit for 2019-20 and uses a missed-term exception for the fall 2020 semester, the institution may exempt countable aid of up to .50 that is awarded to that student-athlete for the spring 2021 semester because that award equals .25 for the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 14a:** Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete whose aid was counted toward their fall or winter sport in 2019-20 (e.g., volleyball instead of beach volleyball; football instead of outdoor track and field; the choice to count aid toward soccer instead of lacrosse), and who exhausted eligibility in the fall or winter sport during 2019-20?

**Answer:** Yes. The student-athlete is only participating in the spring sport (e.g., beach volleyball, outdoor track and field or lacrosse) for 2020-21. Therefore, the exemption applies.

**Question No. 14b:** Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete whose aid was counted toward their winter or spring sport in 2020-21 (e.g., the choice to count aid toward lacrosse instead of soccer), and who exhaust eligibility in the winter or spring sport during 2020-21?

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

**Question No. 15:** Does the financial aid exemption apply to a multisport student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in their spring sport in 2019-20 or fall 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 spring sport or fall sport, respectively, if the aid did not count toward the spring sport's team equivalency in 2019-20 or the fall sport's team equivalency in 2020-21.

**Question No. 16a:** Does the financial aid exemption apply to a student-athlete who exhausted or would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 in outdoor track and field, and has remaining eligibility in indoor track and field and/or cross country, if the student-athlete participates in indoor track and field and/or cross country (the sport(s) in which the student-athlete has remaining eligibility)?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 16b:** 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?
Question No. 17: Does the financial aid exemption apply to a situation where the spring sport student-athlete has an existing multiyear financial aid agreement that will provide a higher equivalency in 2020-21 than what the student-athlete was awarded for 2019-20, or to a situation where the fall 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. For the spring sport student-athlete, an institution may apply the exemption up to the greater of the aid awarded in 2019-20, the student-athlete's existing multiyear financial aid agreement awards for 2020-21 or the aid the institution would be required to provide according to the renewal legislation. For the fall sport student-athlete, 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. 18a: How does the financial aid exemption apply to a spring sport team's financial aid limit if an institution renews a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 at an increase for 2020-21 (e.g., .70 equivalency in 2019-20 renewed at .90 equivalency for 2020-21)?

Answer: Any countable financial aid received in excess of the countable financial aid awarded for 2019-20 must be included in the team's financial aid limit for 2020-21. However, the student-athlete is not subject to the spring sport team's counter or roster limit, if applicable. Further, a baseball student-athlete whose 2019-20 financial aid award satisfied the minimum equivalency requirement (or an exception to that requirement) is not subject to the minimum equivalency requirement for 2020-21.

Question No. 18b: How does the financial aid exemption apply to a fall 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. 19: If changes to a spring sport student-athlete's 2020-21 denominator or a fall 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. 20: 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 2019-20 or 2020-21, respectively, 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 2019-20 financial aid agreement or 2020-21 financial aid agreement, respectively?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 21a: For a spring sport student-athlete, may an institution exempt countable financial aid awarded for 2020-21 to replace a counter's institutional noncountable aid that is no longer available?

Answer: No. The institution may only exempt countable aid in 2020-21 consistent with the expectation created in the 2019-20 athletics aid agreement. The new athletics aid would need to count toward team limits. However, the student-athlete is not subject to the spring sport team's counter or roster limit, if applicable. Further, a baseball student-athlete whose 2019-20 financial aid award satisfied the minimum equivalency requirement (or an exception to that requirement) is not subject to the minimum equivalency requirement for 2020-21.

Question No. 21b: For a fall 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.


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

Question No. 1: Does this blanket waiver impact the current COVID-19 question and answer, which permits student-athletes exercising the season-of-competition waiver in baseball to receive the same equivalency from 2019-20 and NOT be counters or count against team equivalency?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: 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).
Question No. 3: In 2021-22, can an institution award the average of the aid received during 2020-21 and the amount that would have been received by the student-athlete under the original aid agreement if that amount is less than a .25 equivalency?

Answer: No. The institution must renew the student-athlete's agreement for the 2021-22 academic year and provide at least a 25 percent equivalency or the average of the aid received during 2020-21 and the amount that would have been received by the student-athlete under the original aid agreement, whichever is greater.

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 2019-20?

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 a returning nonscholarship student-athlete. If the institution provides athletics aid to the student-athlete in 2021-22, they would be required to renew the student-athlete's agreement to a minimum of a 25 percent equivalency. If the aid is not renewed for 2021-22, then the student-athlete must be provided an opportunity to appeal and the institution must follow its normal policies and procedures for conducting the appeal.

Question No. 5: If an institution reduces a student-athlete's athletics aid for 2020-21, is the institution required to give the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

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

Less Than Full-Time Enrollment and Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Institutional Financial Aid.

Question: 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 NCAA 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.

NCAA Division I Board of Directors' August 21, 2020, actions regarding the NCAA Board of Governors’ directives related to student-athlete well-being – terms and conditions of financial aid.
**Question No. 1:** A student-athlete who is receiving a .50 athletics aid award opts out and chooses to enroll full time as a remote student. The institution's cost of attendance for remote students is $20,000 and the cost of attendance for students who reside on campus is $30,000. Is providing this student-athlete .50 of the cost of attendance for remote students considered a reduction?

**Answer:** No. The institution is meeting its obligation under the athletics aid agreement as applied to the remote student-athlete's designated cost of attendance as applicable to all remote students.

**Question No. 2:** A student-athlete who is receiving an element-based athletics aid award that covers tuition and fees and room and board opts out and chooses to enroll full time as a remote student. The institution's cost of attendance for remote students does not include an amount for room or board. Is providing this student-athlete athletics aid that covers only tuition and fees considered a reduction?

**Answer:** No. If the institution has determined that room and board is not included in the cost of attendance for any remote student, then athletics does not have a room and board obligation to meet. Therefore, the institution is meeting its obligation under the athletics aid agreement as applied to the remote student-athlete's designated cost of attendance as applicable to all remote students.

**Question No. 3:** A student-athlete who is receiving a $15,000 athletics aid award opts out and chooses to enroll full time as a remote student. The institution's cost of attendance for remote students is $20,000, and the cost of attendance for students that reside on campus is $30,000. May the dollar amount disbursed to this student-athlete be prorated in proportion to the cost of attendance for a remote student without that adjustment being considered a reduction?

**Answer:** No. The institution is not meeting its obligation under the athletics aid agreement, which is $15,000.

**Question No. 4:** A student-athlete who is receiving a $15,000 athletics aid award opts out and chooses to enroll full time as a remote student. The institution's cost of attendance for remote students is $12,000. May the institution provide this student-athlete $15,000?

**Answer:** No. The institution may not provide athletics aid that exceeds the cost of attendance for the student-athlete. Therefore, the institution is required to provide this student-athlete $12,000.

**Question No. 5:** If a student-athlete opts out, must that decision remain in effect for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. Subject to institutional policies, a student-athlete may opt back in at any time. Once a student-athlete opts out, the school is prohibited from reducing or canceling the student-athlete's aid for 2020-21. This protection applies even if the student-athlete opts back in later in the 2020-21 academic year.
Question No. 1: Does the midyear replacement exception remain available in field hockey, football, men's water polo, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball (Bylaws 15.5.2.4, 15.5.3.1.4 and 15.5.6.3.4) if the student-athlete being replaced continues to be aided in spring 2021 and either competes in spring 2021 or competes during the 2021-22 academic year pursuant to the August 21, 2020, Board of Directors' action regarding seasons of competition and extensions of eligibility for fall sports?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: May a student-athlete in men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer or men's water polo be replaced by a student-athlete who is receiving aid for the 2020-21 academic year if the student-athlete being replaced pursuant to the midyear exception continues to receive aid in spring 2021 and either competes in spring 2021 or competes during the 2021-22 academic year pursuant to the August 21, 2020, NCAA Division I Board of Directors' action regarding seasons of competition and extensions of eligibility for fall sports?

Answer: Yes. However, only the countable financial aid awarded for the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year (spring semester, winter/spring quarters) may be exempted.

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.

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:** 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 athletic 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, and there is no ability for individuals to assign admission credentials to individuals not designated.
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 athletic 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 in 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:** If an institution begins preseason practice after the first permissible date, may it continue to engage in activities that are permissible during either segment of summer access until preseason practice begins?
Answer: Yes. While an institution may begin preseason practice 29 days prior to the originally scheduled first contest date, it may postpone the start of preseason practice and continue to engage in summer athletic activities. However, when preseason practice begins, the institution must adhere to all preseason practice requirements in Bylaws 17.10.2.4 (five-day acclimatization period) [FBS/FCS] and 17.10.2.5 (preseason activities after five-day acclimatization period) [FBS/FCS].

Question No. 18: May an institution's sports team utilize 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. 19: 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. 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.

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).
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 fall 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 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] [See Question No. 5 in Bylaw 14’s "Fall 2020 Enrollment Options" section]

Question No. 2: From April 20 through one week before the start of the final examination period of the institution's fall 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]

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 fall 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 fall 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]
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.

NCAA Division I Council June 17 Action Related to NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Summer Athletic Activity and Preseason Practice Model.

The questions and answers in this section are designed to educate the membership about the Division I Basketball 2020 Summer Athletic Activities and Preseason Practice Model. The Council may consider a recommendation regarding additional activities for the period of July 1-19 during its June 25 meeting.

Question: May student-athletes participate in "pick-up" games on the institution's campus?

Answer: Yes, provided there is no arrangement or observation by countable coaches and the "pick-up" game meets the remaining requirements of voluntary activities as defined in Bylaw 17.02.19.

NCAA Division I Council June 17 Action Related to Football Summer Athletic Activity and Preseason Practice Model.
The following questions and answers are designed to educate the membership regarding the Division I Football 2020 Summer Athletic Activity and Preseason Practice Model. Please refer to Attachment A for additional information.

Question No. 1: How do the calendar segments identified in the Division I Football 2020 Summer Athletic Activity and Preseason Practice Model relate to the Core Principles of Resocialization in College Sport?

Answer: The recommended Division I football model was developed independently from the guidance on resocialization that was provided in the Core Principles. The recommended Division I football model is only intended to identify and describe what football activities are permissible within each calendar time frame. In contrast, the purpose of the Core Principles is to provide broad guidance to the membership regarding COVID-19 and related campus resocialization strategies. Decisions about if and how to implement the Core Principles are to be made at the individual school level, with the approval of institutional leadership, and in concert with applicable guidance from local and state public officials with regard to return to campus, return to practice and return to competition. Those schools that elect to implement some or all of the Core Principles may find it helpful to overlay the applicable phases with the calendar in the recommended Division I football model; but the two were not designed or required to be evaluated together.

Question No. 2: Are there any COVID-specific health and safety factors that should be considered as institutions begin to plan to implement these concepts?

Answer: The Football Oversight Committee has, through the NCAA Internal Playing and Practice Season Working Group, solicited significant input from the CSMAS Prevention and Performance Subcommittee relating to potential student-athlete health and safety issues that may impact or be impacted by these concepts. In response to these requests, the CSMAS Prevention and Performance Subcommittee has identified various potential physiological and mental health considerations that may impact student-athletes as they return to campus and reminds institutions that appropriate health screening, transition period and acclimatization activities will be critical components of any summer and/or preseason plan as they continue to evaluate safe return to play. Specifically, the CSMAS Prevention and Performance Subcommittee encourages schools to consult the transition and acclimatization content included in the NCAA’s Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes, which speaks to the vulnerability of student-athletes during the first week of activity of a transition period in training and the importance of establishing a 7-10 day initial transition period during which student-athletes are afforded the time to properly progress through the physiologic and environmental stresses placed upon them as they return to required activities. A summary of the CSMAS Prevention and Performance Subcommittee’s full feedback on this topic is provided in Attachment A.

Question No. 3: For the 2020 football season (summer access, preseason and regular season), as a substitute for a cloth face mask or similar face covering may a football student-athlete wear a
helmet with a face-shield during conditioning activities that occur outside of the playing season or during a walk-through?

**Answer:** Yes, for the 2020 football season only. While helmets are not typically permitted during conditioning activities that occur outside of the playing season or during walk-throughs, the Football Oversight Committee and Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee agreed that a football student-athlete should have the choice to wear a helmet with a face-shield instead of a cloth mask or similar face covering. Specifically, it should be the student-athlete's decision to use a helmet with a face-shield instead of a mask as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not currently recommend that a face shield should replace a cloth face covering, and there is no evidence that use of a helmet with a face shield better mitigates potential heat-related risks as compared to cloth masks. Additionally, the wearing of a helmet with a face-shield may not increase the speed or change the types of activities permitted during a walk-through.

**Question No. 4:** May a helmet without a face-shield be worn during football conditioning activities that occur outside of the playing season or during a football walk-through?

**Answer:** No.

**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 fall 2020 term?

**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 fall 2020 term if his or her institution will not engage in competition during the term. Regulations that apply 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]
Question No. 3: Can a student-athlete who enrolls full-time during the 2020 fall term engage in outside competition representing a team, if the institution's team continues to compete during the 2020 fall term?

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 does not enroll full time during the 2020 fall term 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 2021 winter/spring term(s)?

Answer: Yes. [Council Coordination Committee action; August 5, 2020] [See Question No. 4 in Bylaw 14's "Fall 2020 Enrollment Options" section]

Question No. 5: In sports other than basketball and football, if an institution's team is not competing during fall 2020, 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 fall 2020 term 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 utilizes 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: In the sport of wrestling, if an institution has cancelled or postponed 2020 fall competition, may a student-athlete participate (practice and compete) with an outside amateur team during the months of September and October?

Answer: Yes.
Question No. 9: If an institution has postponed or cancelled competition for the 2020 fall term, 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.)

The following question and answer document is designed to educate the membership regarding temporary changes to the football practice season for those institutions who have canceled or postponed fall seasons. On August 19, 2020, the NCAA Division I Council adopted temporary emergency legislation, in football, to permit up to 12 hours of noncontact activities each week from August 24 through October 4, 2020. The 12 hours of activities may include weight training, conditioning, meetings (e.g., film, team, position and individual) and up to five hours of on-field skill instruction, during which footballs, helmets and spider pads may be used. A four-hour daily limit applies to these activities and student-athletes must be provided with at least two days off per week.

Question No. 1: May an institution devote less than five hours per week to skill instruction and more hours to other activities (e.g., four hours of skill instruction and eight hours of weight training and conditioning)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: What is the daily limit on the number of countable activities?

Answer: Four hours.

Question No. 3: How many days off are required per week?

Answer: Two.

Question No. 4: What equipment may be worn during on-field skill instruction?

Answer: Helmets and spider pads.

Question No. 5: Are walk-throughs permitted as part of the on-field skill instruction?
Answer: Yes. Walk-throughs must be counted toward the five-hour weekly limit on on-field skill instruction.

Question No. 6: May on-field skill instruction include live scrimmages involving contact?

Answer: No. Live scrimmages involving contact are not permitted; however, noncontact skill instruction drills that involve multiple student-athletes are permissible.

Question No. 7: Does the requirement that only noncontact activities occur prohibit the use of football-specific equipment during skill instruction?

Answer: No. Based on feedback from the NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee, noncontact activities are those that do not involve contact between two (or more) people. Noncontact activities may include a student-athlete contacting football-specific equipment (e.g., blocking pad or sled). Institutions are responsible for determining which noncontact activities may be conducted safely, keeping in mind that helmets and spider pads are the only protective equipment permitted.

Question No. 8: If an institution's football program is out-of-season (e.g., engaging in up to 12 hours of noncontact activities per week, as permitted by Resolution R-2020-11), may countable athletically related activities occur during institutional vacation periods?

Answer: No. Countable athletically related activities are not permissible outside the playing season during any institutional vacation period. (See NCAA Bylaw 17.1.7.2.1).

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 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?
**Question No. 8:** Does the first contest declaration requirement before beginning "fall ball" require a finalized contest date, signed agreement with an opponent, etc.?

**Answer:** No. If the first contest date in the spring has not been finalized, a declaration that no preseason or regular season activities will occur prior to January 1, 2021, would permit an institution to engage in "fall ball."

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**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:** During fall 2020 should institutions continue to apply existing daily and weekly hour legislation?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** During fall 2020, if a fall sport team does not plan to compete must the team transition to an out-of-season segment?

**Answer:** No. However, an institution's sports team may transition to an out-of-season segment.

**Question No. 3:** Is a women's volleyball team subject to its nonchampionship segment limitations (e.g., 60 consecutive-days) during fall 2020?

**Answer:** No. Based on Council action and for fall 2020 or until another approach is approved, women's volleyball's length of season is limited to 132-days, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and may exclude only required off days and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods during which no practice or competition shall occur.

**Question No. 4:** Is a fall sport team, other than cross country and football, limited to two in-season segments of the declared playing season during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. The Council action allows the fall segment of 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 exception that exists for severe inclement weather. [Updated due to Council action on September 16, 2020]

**Question No. 5:** 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. 6: Are fall sport teams that continue to engage in competition subject to nonchampionship competition restrictions (e.g., ground transportation, no missed class time)?

Answer: No. Based on the Council action for fall 2020, or unless another approach is approved, fall sports other than football may consider competition during the fall segment as part of the championship segment.

Question No. 7: At the conclusion of the fall term, may a fall sport team practice during a final examination period (or the week prior) if the team is in-season, but not competing?

Answer: No. Based on the Council action a fall sport team may practice during a final examination period (or the week prior) only if the team is in-season and engaging in competition during the final examination period (or the week prior).

Question No. 8: Since an institution's team may declare multiple segments during fall 2020, 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)?

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 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 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.

NCAA Division I Council September 16 Action Related to Men's and Women's Basketball 2020-21 Basketball Start of Season.

At the recommendation of the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees, the NCAA Division I Council adopted temporary emergency legislation related to aspects of the
2020-21 men's and women's basketball playing and practice seasons. The following section is designed to educate the membership on the Division I basketball 2020-21 playing and practice season.

**Question No. 1:** Does the NCAA Division I Council action modify the first permissible contest date in the sport of basketball for the 2020-21 season?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution's basketball team shall not play its first contest (game, scrimmage or exhibition) prior to November 25, 2020.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution participate in an exhibition, scrimmage, or exempted contest that occurs prior to November 25, 2020?

**Answer:** No. However, it is still permissible to exempt an exhibition or scrimmage that occurs on or after November 25, 2020.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution file a waiver to participate in a contest that was scheduled to occur prior to November 25?

**Answer:** While the waiver process exists for schools to request to play games prior to the November 25 start date, the Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee and Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee have indicated they are unlikely to support such waivers for MTEs or regular-season contests.

**Question No. 4:** Does the Council action modify on-court preseason practice legislation for 2020-21?

**Answer:** The preseason practice model is generally consistent with the normal preseason practice period that permits a maximum of 30 practices within a 42-day period before an institution's first contest but permits additional flexibility for all teams to begin practice on October 14, regardless of when their first scheduled contest occurs. Additionally, an institution's basketball team may begin a transition period (enhanced countable athletically related activity) on September 21 prior to starting regular on-court preseason practice on October 14. All institutions may begin the transition period on September 21, regardless of when their first scheduled contest occurs.

**Question No. 5:** Does the start date for the transition period or regular on-court preseason practice period change if an institution's first scheduled intercollegiate contest is cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 6:** What countable athletically related activities may occur during the transition period?
Answer: Starting September 21, an institution's basketball team may engage in 12 hours per week of required strength and conditioning activities, sport-related meetings and skill instruction, with not more than eight hours spent on skill instruction. During the transition period, an institution must provide a basketball student-athlete with two days off per week.

Question No. 7: May a student-athlete engage in voluntary athletically related activities during the transition period and during the regular on-court preseason practice period?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: Does the Council action modify the application of Bylaw 17.1.7.9 (Three-Day Period -- Basketball. [A]), which requires three consecutive days off during the institution's official vacation period after the first term of the academic year (e.g., winter break)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Does the Council action change the minimum and/or maximum contest limit legislation for the 2020-21 basketball season?

Answer: Yes. The minimum number of basketball contests for sports sponsorship has been reduced from 26 to 13 contests (i.e., 50-percent reduction) and the maximum contest limit has been reduced by four contests. Further, the regular-season conference competition minimum requirement for NCAA Division I Championship automatic qualification legislation has been waived for the 2020-21 season.

Question No. 10: Does the Council action modify the qualifying regular-season multiple-team events (MTE) legislation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: With the maximum contest limit reduced by four contests during the 2020-21 basketball season, must all institutions participating in the same MTE be required to use the same maximum contest limitation?

Answer: Yes. The normal criteria outlined in the qualifying regular-season multiple-team events legislation still applies to the 2020-21 basketball season. Additionally, in men's basketball, an institution's team may participate in 24 contests plus one MTE (not to exceed three contests), 25 contests plus one MTE (not to exceed two contests) or 25 contests and no MTE participation.

In women's basketball, an institution's team may participate in 23 contests plus one MTE (not to exceed four contests) or 25 contests and no MTE participation.

Question No. 12: Does participation in a nonconference bubble setting count as an institution's qualifying regular-season multiple-team event for the season?
Answer: No. Each participating institution must count each contest played toward its maximum contest limitation.

**Question No. 13:** Is there a daily hour limitation during the basketball preseason practice transition period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 14:** During the transition period for basketball due to COVID-19 must the student-athletes be given day(s) off during an institutional vacation period (e.g., during a one or two-day fall break)?

**Answer:** Yes. During a vacation period that occurs outside of the institution's regular playing season, no countable athletically related activity (CARA) is permitted to occur.

**Question No. 15:** In the sport of basketball, is there an application, certification or approval process a qualifying regular season multiple-team event (MTE) must complete prior to teams participating in the event?

**Answer:** No. There is no application, certification or approval process for participation in an MTE. The host and participating institutions must ensure that all legislation in Bylaw 17.4.5.1.1 (men's basketball) or 17.4.5.2.1 (women's basketball) is met in order to participate in an MTE. All MTEs must occur on or after November 25 based on the new first permissible contest date in the sport of basketball.

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**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.

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**NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership**

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

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

Sports Sponsorship – Minimum Contests Requirements.

Question: What are the sports sponsorship minimum contests requirements for the 2020-21 academic year for the fall sports of cross country, field hockey, women's volleyball and men's water polo?

Answer: During its July 27 teleconference, the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee, on the recommendation of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee, approved a blanket waiver of the minimum contests requirements (NCAA Division I Bylaw 20.9.6.3) for the 2020-21 academic year in cross country, field hockey, women's volleyball and men's water polo sports that reduces the minimum number of intercollegiate contests that are counted toward meeting the minimum contest requirements by 50 percent. The waiver, which applies even if a championship segment is conducted in the spring, results in the same reduction to the number of contests required for championships selection and provides flexibility for scheduling based on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fall sports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Legislated Minimum Contests</th>
<th>50 Percent Waiver Minimum Contests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Volleyball</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's Water Polo</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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) or Erin Irick (eirick@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.
The primacy of student-athlete health and safety in any decisions related to the return of student-athletes to campuses and a return to conducting athletically related activities is paramount. Access to institutional facilities should be provided in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding the use of such facilities, group size restrictions and any other articulated limitations. Each institution should use its discretion to make the best decisions for its student-athletes within the applicable restrictions.

**Voluntary and Virtual Nonphysical Activities**
- From June 1 through July 19, only voluntary activities and up to eight hours per week of virtual nonphysical activities are permissible.

**Summer Access**
- Required summer athletic activities (summer access) may begin July 20 for up to eight weeks until the institution’s first day of classes or September 15, whichever is earlier. *Model is based on classes beginning August 27.*
- Up to eight hours per week for weight-training, conditioning and skill instruction, with not more than four hours of skill-related instruction per week.
- Required virtual nonphysical activities are permissible for student-athletes.
- Required in-person and virtual activities may not exceed a combined eight hours per week.

**Out-of-Season**
- Beginning on the institution’s first day of classes or September 15, whichever is earlier, up to eight hours per week for weight-training, conditioning and not more than four hours of skill-related instruction per week. Two days off per week.

**Preseason Practice**
- No changes to the start of on-court practice (e.g., 42 days before the date of the institution’s first regular season contest).
- Limit of 30 days of countable activities (e.g., conditioning, skill-related instruction) within those 42 days.

*Note:* Calendar is based on November 10, 2020, as the institution’s first contest date.
Areas of Inquiry / Requests for Input

A. Can other student-athlete safety and well-being considerations be adequately addressed via existing legislation and policy requirements or are there COVID-specific factors (e.g., cancellation of spring practice) that may warrant changes:
   1. To existing preseason transition requirements (e.g., preseason practice structure/timelines)?
   2. To existing acclimatization period requirements?
   3. To other required health and safety practices for returning student-athletes (e.g., freshmen/transfers)?

B. When taking into consideration potential COVID-19-specific impacts (e.g., delayed return to campus) is it possible that the safety and well-being of football student-athletes could be adequately addressed:
   1. Via transition period requirements (e.g., preseason practice structure/timelines) that are more flexible than those that are currently permitted?
   2. Via a football acclimatization period that is more flexible than that which is currently required?

C. Please describe any specific data or industry best practices that may be applicable to your responses above.

D. If implementation of one or more of the changes discussed above would require interim or permanent legislative or policy waiver or change, would you support that?

**Issue Description/Assumptions**

Some higher resourced schools believe a more flexible approach to preseason practice structures and timelines is warranted because of practice time lost during the spring season. Other schools are concerned that delayed campus reopening may result in a truncated amount of time between the start of team activities and the first competition, especially where schools have elected to follow the resocialization principles and implement a phased return to athletics activities. In light of these concerns, the Division I Football Oversight Committee is soliciting input specific to potential health and safety factors that should be considered as part of the broader conversation around potential preseason schedule and workout adjustments. When possible, the feedback provided below is framed to address the needs of all returning fall sports.
Summary of Subcommittee Feedback

The subcommittee agreed that there are numerous COVID-specific factors that will necessitate careful consideration by institutional leadership, athletics and medical staff before and as part of student-athlete return to campus. These considerations will undoubtedly warrant changes to the traditional schedules of activities. Each student-athlete is physically and mentally unique and schools should assume that each has encountered distinct COVID-specific challenges since leaving campus. This means each student-athlete will adjust to re-entry differently. Because of COVID-related factors, planning for pre-workout screening, transition and acclimatization period activities will require increased and intentional focus. In most instances, school staff will be evaluating mental, physical and performance readiness for all student-athletes as they typically would for students who are new to the program (e.g., incoming freshman and transfers).

COVID Impact on Physical Condition of Student-Athletes

While traditional spring and summer activities may vary by division and school, the majority of student-athletes would typically be involved in a consistent cadence and mix of voluntary workouts, required workouts and team practices from the start of spring season until the start of preseason in the fall. These traditional routines create the opportunity for frequent and consistent touchpoints between staff and student-athletes, which allow staff to understand the status of a student-athlete’s mental and physical condition throughout the spring and summer, and to predict with some certainty any challenges to transition periods ahead of fall sport activities. A shortened or cancelled spring season and any loss of access to on-campus VARA activities that typically follow spring season before the summer period would contribute to increased variability in the physical condition of student-athletes as they entered the summer months.

Subsequently, where COVID interrupts and/or disrupts traditional campus and home schedules and routines during the summer months, student-athletes can be expected to experience vast differences in their ability to access proper nutrition, sleep, work out structures and facilities. These factors will only further expand the variability in physical condition from athlete to athlete and the speed with which they are able to safely resume physical workouts when they return in the summer and fall. For reference, examples of traditional spring/summer activities, and the potential COVID-related shift in those activities, are reflected in Attachment 1.
COVID Impact on Mental Health of Student-Athletes

Many mental health experts refer to COVID-19 as a “disaster of uncertainty” in that it creates a unique combination of sustained ambiguity and uncertainty that can result in lasting psychological trauma and burnout for those living through it. While students may eventually return to some normalcy on campus and attempt to recover from the first wave of COVID impact, they will simultaneously be dealing with many continuing future unknowns. In a recent NCAA Survey of more than 37,000 student-athletes, many reported experiencing high rates of mental distress since the discontinuation of formal college athletics activities, with over a third describing sleep difficulties, a quarter reporting feeling sadness and a sense of loss, and 1 in 10 reporting feeling so depressed it has been difficult to function “constantly” or “most every day.” In most instances, the rates of reported mental health concerns were 150% to 250% higher than that historically reported by NCAA student-athletes in the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment. In particular, mental health concerns were highest among student-athletes of color, those whose families are facing economic hardship, and those living alone. Not all of these challenges will be fully addressed via the return to campus. Accordingly, it will be critical for medical personnel to focus as much on the student-athletes’ psychological readiness to return as they do their physical state and for all athletics personnel to closely monitor and support the mental well-being of student-athletes, not just as they return but throughout the summer and subsequent preseason and fall season.

Anticipated Changes to Medical Clearance Process

In addition to considering the incorporation of mental health readiness as part of the mandatory medical clearance process, staff should also consider other expanded screening practices designed to account for certain COVID-specific health impacts. For example, data is showing that previously undiagnosed and silent cardiac symptoms can be “unmasked” by COVID infection and, in some, the virus can create oxygen challenges or heart muscle inflammation that can lead to heart rhythm disturbances, cardiac muscle damage and compromised ability of the heart to pump blood optimally. These are issues beyond the expected pulmonary and respiratory challenges associated with the virus and they can manifest in individuals who are otherwise asymptomatic and previously healthy. In addition to these COVID-related medical complexities which may require additional screening steps, basic COVID-specific distancing and sanitation recommendations will require more space for exam activities and more time between visits. The culmination of all these changes will undoubtedly translate into longer and more complex medical clearance periods, especially for those institutions that have historically managed these activities entirely on campus. While there is great flexibility in how
schools design the return to play clearance process, and at least some of the screening activities can occur prior to return to campus, the subcommittee agreed that it is imperative that a thorough medical screening and clearance protocol be completed before preseason physical activities begin, as is currently legislated, and that schools proactively plan and account for these health and safety resource and scheduling adjustments.

**COVID-Specific Transition and Acclimatization Period Considerations**
In addition to the expected changes in the medical clearance process, schools should anticipate that the COVID-related considerations described above will impact traditional transition and acclimatization period considerations. The loss of structured physical workouts in the spring and summer and resulting changes to training loads will, for many student-athletes, impact various aspects of physiology (e.g., cardiovascular conditioning, musculoskeletal, soft tissue). Traditional transition and acclimatization considerations (e.g., cardiovascular conditioning, heat, altitude) are still very relevant and, when coupled with the loss of spring and summer activities and other physical and non-physical COVID-related impacts, they can create complex re-entry challenges for student-athletes. While athletes traditionally experience stress and fatigue on a regular basis, stress-coping ability is unique to each student-athlete and these COVID-specific considerations are not typical. It will be important for staff to carefully assess and evaluate, closely monitor and understand the impact of COVID-specific stressors in order to successfully manage overall physiological and psychological stress loads in order to avoid stress overload, during the transition and acclimatization periods.

*Initial Transition Period Before Other Required Physical Athletically Related Activities*
Data has demonstrated that student-athletes are generally more susceptible to injury during transition period training, and during assessments and evaluations of physical conditioning levels that are conducted during these same periods. Recommendation 3 of the NCAA’s *Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes* (Catastrophic Materials) speaks to the vulnerability of student-athletes during the first week of activity of a transition period in training and the importance of establishing a 7-10 day initial transition period during which student-athletes are afforded the time to properly progress through the physiologic and environmental stresses placed upon them as they return to required activities. This initial transition opportunity becomes an increasingly imperative health and safety
consideration when the COVID-specific impacts described above are piled on to the traditional challenges of returning to formal physical activities following an extended break.

Given the significant variability in the physical and mental conditions of student-athletes as they begin to resume physical activities on campus this summer and fall, it will be critical for athletic departments to design proper assessments, evaluations and physiologic progressions that are based in exercise science and are sport and athlete-specific with respect to, among other things, the volume, intensity, mode and duration of conditioning and the incorporation of game-like movements. The subcommittee believes that this initial transition period, starting whenever student-athletes return to required and organized activities, should be 7-10 days in duration and otherwise consistent with the Catastrophic Materials and should be completed before the start of any other required physical activities. The subcommittee contemplated that the training and conditioning sessions conducted during this initial transition period will occur on campus, so that student-athletes can be properly observed, and that they will be intentionally administered and properly calibrated. Finally, if student-athletes participate in a material break from training (e.g., ≥ one week) between the end of required summer physical activities and the start of preseason activities, institutions should again consider and incorporate as necessary the same types of transition period considerations. For reference, examples of four different return to campus schedules, including applicable transition periods, are reflected in Attachment 2.

As part of its discussion and analysis of these issues, the subcommittee mentioned various evidence-based resources that have been published by relevant professional organizations, including but limited to, the National Strength and Conditioning Association, the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, the College Athletic Trainers Society, and the Kori Stringer Institute, that may be helpful to the membership as it strategizes and navigates the design and implementation of appropriate assessment and evaluation activities and physical conditioning sessions during these COVID-impacted transitions periods.

Football Acclimatization Period
Separate from the transition period considerations described above, legislation in all three divisions contemplates a five-day acclimatization period in football that is intended to address the specific environmental and other physiological stressors related to the return to full gear and full team practices and playing environment. This acclimatization period
should remain at least five days in duration and otherwise adhere to legislative health and safety requirements. It should precede the start of any other preseason full practice (e.g., full speed/full pads) activities and should place particular focus on the impact of heat, altitude and other environmental stressors when combined with the introduction of full playing gear and other game-like factors. Where programs are participating in required summer athletic activities, the 5-day acclimatization period would happen after summer access activities and precede the start of full team preseason practices. Where programs are not participating in required summer athletic activities, the subcommittee believes that the 5-day acclimatization can happen as part of the 7-10 transition period. For reference, examples of three different return to campus schedules, including recommended acclimatization periods, are reflected in Attachment 2.

Necessary Adjustments to Summer/Fall Calendars and Limitations on Hours

The subcommittee reviewed various preseason models shared by different athletic conferences, and it discussed the theory that leniency in weekly CARA hour restrictions and/or additional weeks may be needed within a traditional summer or preseason schedule to more fully address the health and safety needs of returning student-athletes.

The subcommittee agreed that the relevant transition period considerations can be properly accommodated within the traditional eight hours of required summer athletic activities; but, it acknowledged the potential value of providing some flexibility in hourly restrictions as teams move closer to full team practices, specifically where the additional hours are not used for full contact activities but are otherwise used to properly address transition and acclimatization considerations.

Because of the variations in state and local guidance and institutional application of the resocialization guidance, and in light of the unique nature of institutional risks, it is anticipated that the timing and details related to student-athlete return to campus will vary greatly from school to school. While some schools might return to campus in the very near future and incorporate many of the traditional voluntary and countable athletically related summer activities before returning for fall preseason, other schools may forego summer activities on campus altogether. Due to these variations and the unique and individualized nature of the institutional return to campus risks and requirements, the subcommittee believes that athletic departments, in consultation with institutional medical personnel and risk management and other school and conference leadership, are in the best position to design and implement appropriate preseason timelines.

Application to Other Fall Sports and Required Activities
The subcommittee considered and discussed whether and to what extent the initial transition period considerations would apply to other sports that will resume required activities in the fall (e.g., teams with traditional fall seasons and those participating in required workouts as part of a non-traditional season). The subcommittee agreed that the same risks and considerations would apply and, since other sports do not participate in summer access, the 7-10-day transition period would occur on the front end of preseason before other required team practice activities commence. For reference, see the last of the sample return to campus schedules reflected in Attachment 2. Similarly, scheduling flexibility should also be contemplated for these other sports if and to the extent adjustments to traditional fall schedules are determined to be necessary to address COVID-related health and safety considerations that may apply uniquely to a particular sport.

Conclusion
Regardless of variation in return to campus and return to athletics schedules, the subcommittee believes that the completion of appropriate pre-workout screening activities to assess mental and physical well-being and the proper design and incorporation of one or more transition periods, and for football, a final acclimatization period, before the start of fall preseason physical activities is critical to student-athlete health and safety. COVID-19 has undoubtedly increased the complexities, and will continue to impact health and safety considerations, related to return to athletics and preseason activities. Schools should be afforded appropriate flexibility with respect to their efforts to adequately account for and address these new challenges, and more specifically as they relate to the scheduling and completion of necessary medical clearance activities and transition and acclimatization periods. The subcommittee stressed that, above all, student-athlete health and safety must be prioritized over the start of team practice activities and fall scheduling challenges wherever those issues may be in conflict.
### Sample Fall Sport Athletic Activities

**Spring through Preseason**

#### Spring
- **S&C**
  - Required strength and conditioning.
  - 8 hrs/week.
- **Spring Season**
  - Practice.
  - Competition.

#### Summer
- **S&C**
  - Required strength and conditioning.
  - 8 hrs/week.
- **Voluntary**
  - Supervised S&C.
- **Preseason**
  - Practice.

### Sample Division I Football Athletic Activities

**Spring through Preseason**

#### Spring
- **S&C**
  - Required strength and conditioning.
  - 8 hrs/week.
- **Spring Practice**
  - 34 days.
  - 15 practices.
  - 1 scrimmage.

#### Summer
- **Voluntary**
  - Supervised S&C.
- **Required**
  - 8 weeks.
  - 8 hrs/week.
  - Conducted S&C, film review.
- **Preseason**
  - Five-day acclimatization.
  - 29 days.
  - 25 practices.
### Sample Fall Sport Athletic Activities

#### Spring through Preseason

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S&amp;C</strong></td>
<td><strong>Voluntary</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Required strength and conditioning.  
  - 8 hrs/week. | - Supervised S&C. |
| **Spring Season** | **Preseason** |
| - Practice.  
  - Competition. | - Practice. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>S&amp;C</strong></th>
<th><strong>Voluntary</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Required strength and conditioning.  
  - 8 hrs/week. | - Supervised S&C. |

### 2019-20 Division I Football Athletic Activities

#### Spring through Preseason Due to COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S&amp;C</strong></td>
<td><strong>Voluntary</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Required strength and conditioning.  
  - 8 hrs/week. | - Supervised S&C. |
| **Spring Practice** | **Required** |
| - 34 days.  
  - 15 practices.  
  - 1 scrimmage. | - ≤ 8 weeks.  
  - 8 hrs/week.  
  - Conducted S&C, film review. |
| **Preseason** | **Required** |
| - Five-day acclimatization.  
  - 29 days.  
  - 25 practices. |
VARA and Required Summer Athletic Activities Prior to Preseason (Sample Schedule #1)

**Mandatory Medical Exams (Per Bylaw 17)**

- **June 1-30**
  - VARA (Limited and variable based on local decisions)

- **July 1-Preseason**
  - 7-10 day transition
  - Required Summer Athletic Activities (≤ 8 hrs/week)

**Break**

**Preseason**

- Five-Day AP
- Practice (Full speed/Full pads)

**Traditional Break:** If ≥ 1 week, address applicable transition period considerations.

**Transition Period Considerations:** Catastrophic Injury Policy.

**Football Acclimatization:** Per Bylaw 17, ≥ 5 days. Still critical for gradual introduction to full uniform/gear and heat acclimatization.

Required Summer Athletic Activities Prior to Preseason (Sample Schedule #2)

**Mandatory Medical Exams (Per Bylaw 17)**

- **July 1-Preseason**
  - 7-10 day transition
  - Required Summer Athletic Activities

**Break**

**Preseason**

- Five-Day AP
- Practice (Full speed/Full pads)

**Traditional Break:** If ≥ 2 week, address applicable transition period considerations.

**Transition Period Considerations:** Catastrophic Injury Policy.

**Football Acclimatization:** Per Bylaw 17, ≥ 5 days. Still critical for gradual introduction to full uniform/gear and heat acclimatization.