



**2020-21 Academic Year  
NCAA Division II COVID-19  
Question and Answer Guide**

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**Updates are highlighted in yellow**

*Please note this is the most up-to-date edition of the 2020-21 Academic Year NCAA Division II COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide. Updates will be made to this document on a continuous basis following the weekly teleconferences of the Division II Administrative Committee.*

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

1. Multiple [resources](#) on the resocialization of collegiate sport.
2. Comprehensive chart tracking actions taken on Division II regulations and policies: [Division II COVID-19 Action Chart](#).

**DIVISION II COVID-19  
QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE  
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### **NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership.**

**Question No. 1:** If a Division II institution furloughs athletics department employees, is there an impact on membership requirements (e.g., full-time compliance administrator)?

**Answer:** No. Waivers can be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 2:** Will a Division II member conference be required to conduct the annual Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meeting during the 2020-21 academic year [Constitution 3.4.4.1 (Annual Meeting)]?

**Answer:** Yes. However, a blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on September 30, 2020, of the conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in-person annual meeting requirement for the 2020-21 academic year. A Division II member conference is still required to conduct an annual Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meeting, either in-person or virtually.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 13 – Recruiting.**

#### ***Questions Pertaining to the Quiet Period from June 1 through August 31, 2020.***

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for coaches to recruit off-campus during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during the quiet period. It is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution's campus.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for an institution to host an institutional camp or clinic during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutional camps and clinics may be held at any location during the quiet period effective June 1 through August 31, subject to applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to be employed at a noninstitutional camp or clinic during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutional coaching staff members are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an institution to conduct a tryout during a recruiting quiet period?

**Answer:** Yes. Tryouts can be held during the quiet period effective June 1 through August 31, subject to applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

**Question No. 5:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to work an online/virtual camp and clinic (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** Yes. Virtual camps and clinics may be held during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31, subject to applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions. Institutions are encouraged to consult with legal counsel and risk management.

**Question No. 6:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to attend a noninstitutional virtual camp and clinic or showcase (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutional coaching staff members are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

**Question No. 7:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to hold a virtual speaking engagement (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) with high school-aged students during the recruiting quiet period from June 1 through August 31?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 8:** Does the recruiting quiet period apply to coaches in acrobatics and tumbling and women's wrestling?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 9:** When does the current recruiting quiet period end?

**Answer:** At 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2020. For those sports that have a sport-specific recruiting calendar, the regular legislation would apply effective September 1. Institutions are encouraged to continue to follow local, state and federal COVID-19 health guidelines.

***Recruiting Questions Pertaining to the 2020-21 Academic Year.***

**Question No. 1:** May a prospective student-athlete submit a grade report to satisfy the National Letter of Intent transcript requirement? [See Bylaw 13.9.2 (Transcript Prior to National Letter of Intent or Written Offer of Athletically Related Financial Aid)]

**Answer:** Yes. If a prospective student-athlete is unable to obtain a grade report, the institution may file a legislative relief waiver for review on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to direct a current student-athlete to contact a prospective student-athlete?

**Answer:** It is permissible for a current student-athlete to engage in recruiting correspondence with a committed prospective student-athlete (signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission) at the direction of a coaching staff member through the 2020-21 academic year.

It is also permissible for a current student-athlete to engage in recruiting correspondence at the direction of a coaching staff member through the 2020-21 academic year, with the following uncommitted prospective student-athletes (has not signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission):

- (1) high school prospective student-athletes of contactable age (those entering their junior and senior years in high school);
- (2) two-year college prospective student-athletes; and
- (3) four-year college transfers, provided the institution has obtained authorization through the notification of transfer process.

It is permissible for multiple current student-athletes and/or institutional staff members to participate together on a video conference or telephone call with multiple uncommitted prospective student-athletes and their family members through the 2020-21 academic year. Please note, all Bylaw 13.10 (Publicity) restrictions would continue to apply.

The publicity restrictions do not apply if the prospective student-athlete has committed to the institution.

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible for an institution to produce advertising and promotional materials (e.g., highlight videos) designed to solicit the enrollment of a prospective student-athlete [See Bylaw 13.4.3.1 (Recruiting Advertisements)]?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on May 6, 2020, to permit institutions to produce promotional materials for purposes of recruiting, provided publicity legislation [See Bylaw 13.10 (Publicity)] is followed (e.g., not identifying prospective student-athletes by name).

**Question No. 4:** Are institutions still required to obtain authorization through the notification of transfer process before contacting a prospective student-athlete currently enrolled at another institution?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to use the coaching staff member's personal funds to recruit off campus?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution may allow authorized coaching staff members to expend personal funds for recruiting purposes. Additionally, the institution may reimburse the coaching staff member, provided that such expenditures are pre-approved in general (e.g., official visit has been approved) and the pre-approval is consistent with institutional policies and procedures applicable to all institutional staff members. When engaging in off-campus recruiting activities, institutional coaching staff members are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

NOTE: No off-campus recruiting activity is permitted during a dead or quiet period.

**Question No. 6:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to pay for a prospective student-athlete's campus visit using the coaching staff member's personal funds?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution may allow authorized coaching staff members to expend personal funds for recruiting purposes. Additionally, the institution may reimburse the coaching staff member, provided that such expenditures are pre-approved in general (e.g., official visit has been approved) and the pre-approval is consistent with institutional policies and procedures applicable to all institutional staff members. When hosting a campus visit, institutional coaching staff members are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance and institutional and conference decisions.

***Recruiting Questions Pertaining to Summer 2021.***

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for a committed prospective student-athlete to request voluntary workouts that include physical activity?

**Answer:** It is not permissible for an incoming prospective student-athlete to request a voluntary sport-specific workout with a coaching staff member in any sport.

Bylaw 13.2.9 (Summer Facility Fees for Prospective Student-Athletes) permits an institution to pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by a committed prospective student-athlete to participate in voluntary athletically related activities during the

summer before initial full-time enrollment.

Beginning June 1 through the summer vacation period, it is permissible for a **fall sport incoming student-athlete** (freshman or two-year college transfer) to participate in voluntary workouts designed and conducted by a strength and conditioning coach provided the individual has signed an NLI or written offer of admission and/or financial aid. An incoming two-year college transfer must satisfy all applicable two-year college transfer requirements prior to participating in permissible voluntary summer workouts. [see Bylaw 17.1.6.3.5.1 (Exception - Fall Championship Sports)].

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for a committed prospective student-athlete who has signed an athletics aid agreement or NLI to participate in **voluntary team meetings**?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit committed prospective student-athletes (signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission) to participate in voluntary team meetings, such as compliance meetings and meetings that do not involve physical activity, until the start of the institution's 2021-22 academic year. Only current student-athletes and institutional staff members may be present. Individuals such as boosters and alumni may not be present.

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible for a committed prospective student-athlete who has signed an athletics aid agreement or NLI to participate in voluntary team entertainment activities?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit committed prospective student-athletes (signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission) to participate in voluntary team entertainment activities (excluding physical activities) at the direction of a coaching staff member until the start of the institution's fall 2021 term. (See Bylaw 17, Questions Pertaining to Summer 2021, Question No. 11 as it related to current student-athletes).

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an incoming student-athlete (freshman or transfer) who is receiving summer athletics aid and attending summer classes to request voluntary workouts with coaching staff members?

**Answer:** Yes. For in-person workouts, institutions and student-athletes are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

Any incoming two-year college transfer must satisfy all applicable two-year

college transfer requirements prior to participating in voluntary summer workouts.

If an incoming student-athlete is attending summer school but not receiving summer athletics aid, they may not request a voluntary workout with a coaching staff member.

**Question No. 5:** Is it permissible for an incoming fall sport student-athlete (freshman or transfer) who is not receiving summer athletics aid and attending summer classes to participate in voluntary workouts with a strength and conditioning coach after July 5, 2021?

**Answer:** Yes [see Bylaw 17.1.6.3.5.1 (Exception -- Fall Championship Sports)].

***Additional Recruiting Questions.***

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for an institution to reimburse a prospective student-athlete, their relatives or legal guardian(s) if an official or unofficial visit is canceled?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit institutions to reimburse prospective student-athletes with any costs associated with canceled official or unofficial visits until January 22, 2022. Such reimbursement would not trigger use of a prospective student-athlete's one permissible official visit.

**Question No. 2:** May a prospective student-athlete submit a grade report to satisfy the National Letter of Intent transcript requirement? [See Bylaw 13.9.2 (Transcript Prior to National Letter of Intent or Written Offer of Athletically Related Financial Aid)]

**Answer:** Yes. If a prospective student-athlete is unable to obtain a grade report, the institution may file a legislative relief waiver for review on a case-by-case basis. Please note, effective the start of the institution's 2021-22 academic year, the institution must have an official or unofficial transcript prior to the issuance of a National Letter of Intent or written offer of athletics aid.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.1 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – General Eligibility Requirements.**

***Academic Eligibility Questions Pertaining to the 2020-21 Academic Year.***

**Question No. 1:** Will a student-athlete who graduates at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year and returns during the 2020-21 academic year be required to



enroll full-time?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** If a student-athlete who used the final semester/quarter exception for full-time enrollment [See Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3 (Practice or Competition -- Final Semester/Quarter)] in spring 2020 does not successfully complete degree requirements after the spring 2020 term, does the student-athlete forfeit all remaining eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 18, 2020, to permit student-athletes to retain their eligibility if they are not able to complete their graduation requirements in the spring 2020 term due to COVID-19 impact.

**Question No. 3:** If a student-athlete who used the final semester/quarter exception for full-time enrollment [See Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3 (Practice or Competition -- Final Semester/Quarter)] in fall 2020 does not successfully complete degree requirements after the fall 2020 term, does the student-athlete forfeit all remaining eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver August 14, 2020, to permit student-athletes to retain their eligibility if they are not able to complete their graduation requirements in the fall 2020 term due to COVID-19 impact.

**Question No. 4:** If a student-athlete who used the final term before experiential learning exception for full-time enrollment [See Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.4 (Final Term Before Experiential Learning Requirement)] in spring 2020 does not successfully complete the experiential learning in the following term, may the student-athlete enroll less than full-time in the 2020 fall term and retain all remaining eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The institution would need to file a progress-toward-degree waiver.

**Question No. 5:** May a student-athlete who will exhaust their eligibility (i.e., 10 semester/15 quarter or student-athletes who have previously received an extension of eligibility waiver) during the 2020-21 academic year participate in practice while enrolled part time?

**Answer:** Yes. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver August 14, 2020, to permit student-athletes to participate in practice while enrolled in at least nine-semester/eight-quarter hours for undergraduate and six-semester or six-quarter hours for graduate. Student-athletes who practice while enrolled less than full time would use a semester/quarter and must meet the term-by-term progress-toward-degree requirement in order to be eligible for competition during the 2021 spring term. The student-athlete would retain access to the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver. For

questions related to financial aid, please see Question No. 13 in the section for Bylaw 15.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule**

*[For questions related to the season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers for 2020 spring sports, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#). For additional information, please review the [NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement staff's webinar presentation](#).]*

***Season of Competition Waiver - Fall and Winter Sports.***

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

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

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

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

**Question No. 3:** Will all fall and winter sport student-athletes have access to the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** Yes, provided all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2020-21 academic year; and
- (2) The student-athlete was eligible for competition when he or she competed during the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution self-apply a season of competition waiver for a fall or winter sport student-athlete regardless of the amount of competition that the student-athlete participates in?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** May an institution self-apply a season of competition waiver for a fall or winter sport student-athlete whose team competes only during spring 2021?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 6:** May an institution self-apply a season of competition waiver for a fall or winter sport student-athlete whose team competes during both fall 2020 and spring 2021?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 7:** If a fall or winter sport student-athlete sustains a season-ending injury while competing during his or her fall/winter sport season (either during fall 2020 winter 2021 or spring 2021), does the institution need to file a hardship waiver with the conference office to restore use of that season of competition?

**Answer:** No. Any fall or winter sport student-athlete who competes during his or her fall/winter sport's season (either during fall 2020, winter 2021 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. 8:** How should institutions apply student-athlete reinstatement withholding conditions that were to occur during fall 2020 for a fall or winter sport student-athlete?

**Answer:** Questions specific to reinstatement withholding conditions should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the case manager who processed the request.

***Season of Competition Waiver - Spring Sports.***

**Question No. 1:** Will all spring sport student-athletes have access to the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** Yes, provided all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The student-athlete's team participated in 50% or less of the sport's Bylaw 17 maximum contests/dates of competition during the 2020-21 season due to ongoing impact from COVID-19;
- (2) The student-athlete used a season of competition during the 2020-21 academic year; and
- (3) The student-athlete was eligible for competition when he or she competed during the 2020-21 academic year.

The calculation of 50% is specific to regular season contests/dates of competition, including scrimmages and other discretionary exemptions.

Please note, the maximum contests/dates of competition to be considered in the analysis are the reduced maximum contests/dates of competition,

effective for the 2020-21 academic year.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>2020-21 Academic Year Maximum Number of Contests/Dates</b>	<b>50% of 2020-21 Academic Year Bylaw 17 Maximums</b>
Baseball	40 contests	20 contests
Beach Volleyball	16 dates	8 dates
Men's Golf	16 dates	8 dates
Women's Golf	16 dates	8 dates
Men's Lacrosse	13 dates	7 dates
Women's Lacrosse	13 dates	7 dates
Women's Rowing	14 dates	7 dates
Softball	44 contests	22 contests
Men's Tennis	17 dates	9 dates
Women's Tennis	17 dates	9 dates
Outdoor Track and Field (For Institutions that Only Sponsor Outdoor)	14 dates	7 dates
Outdoor Track and Field (For Institutions that Sponsor Indoor and Outdoor)	14 dates (Combined Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field)	4 dates*
Men's Volleyball	28 dates	14 dates
Women's Water Polo	21 dates	11 dates

\*Please note, an institution that sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field, but cancels its indoor season without competing, should use seven dates of competition when determining the 50% calculation for the self-applied season-of-competition waiver for outdoor track and field student-athletes.

**Question No. 2:** If an institution's team participates in more than 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition, but a student-athlete does not participate in 50% of the season, do they qualify for the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** No. However, a waiver may be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. All other season of competition waivers submitted would be reviewed under the existing legislation, per Bylaws 14.2.6 (Season-of-Competition Waiver -- Competition While Ineligible) and 14.2.7 (Season-of-Competition Waiver -- Competition While Eligible).

**Question No. 3:** In individual sports, if an institution's team participates in 50% or less of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition, but a student-athlete participates in more than 50% of the season, do they qualify for the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** No. However, a waiver may be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. All other season of competition waivers submitted would be reviewed under the existing legislation, per Bylaws 14.2.6 (Season-of-Competition Waiver -- Competition While Ineligible) and 14.2.7 (Season-of-Competition Waiver -- Competition While Eligible).

**Question No. 4:** May an institution schedule limited competition due to COVID-19 and still

retain access to the 2020-21 self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** Yes. The student-athlete would have access provided the team competed in 50% or less of the sport's 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests/dates of competition. Please note, institutions still must meet championship selection criteria as noted in this [chart](#).

**Question No. 5:** Does an institution's participation in the nonchampionship segment count toward the 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition?

**Answer:** No. Competition in the nonchampionship segment would be exempt from the 50% or less calculation.

**Question No. 6:** Does an institution's participation in a postseason event (e.g., conference tournament, conference championship) count toward the 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition?

**Answer:** No. Competition in a postseason event would be exempt from the 50% or less calculation.

**Question No. 7:** Does the 50% calculation of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition apply separately to an institution's varsity and junior varsity teams?

**Answer:** Yes. However, an individual student-athlete that participates on both teams may not compete in more than 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum to qualify for the waiver.

For example, if an institution has a varsity and a junior varsity baseball team, both teams can play in up to 20 contests, however, an individual student-athlete who competes on both teams can only participate in 20 contests total and remain eligible for the waiver.

**Question No. 8:** Does a student-athlete who only competes on a junior varsity team that does not exceed 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition retain access to the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 9:** Does a student-athlete who only competes on a junior varsity team that does exceed 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition retain access to the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 10:** Does a student-athlete retain access to the self-applied season of competition waiver if they compete on both the varsity and junior varsity teams and neither team exceeds 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the individual student-athlete does not compete in more than 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum to qualify for the waiver.

For example, if an institution's varsity baseball team plays in no more than 20 contests and the junior varsity baseball team plays in no more than 20 contests, a student-athlete who competes on both teams would have access to the self-applied waiver as long as the individual student-athlete does not compete in more than 20 contests across the two teams.

**Question No. 11:** Does a student-athlete retain access to the self-applied season of competition waiver if they compete on both the varsity and junior varsity teams and one or both teams exceed 50% of the 2020-21 Bylaw 17 maximum contests or dates of competition?

**Answer:** No.

For example, if an institution's varsity baseball team plays in 21 contests and the junior varsity baseball team plays in 20 contests, a student-athlete who competes on both teams would not have access to the self-applied waiver regardless of how much competition the individual student-athlete participates in. Please note, the traditional waiver process is still available if a student-athlete does not have access to the self-applied waiver.

### ***Extension of Eligibility Waiver.***

**Question No. 1:** Does the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver apply to all student-athletes, regardless of sport?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete meets the following criteria:

- (1) The student-athlete qualifies for the season of competition waiver – competition while eligible;
- (2) The student-athlete was unable to participate due to a cancellation of the sport season;
- (3) The student-athlete opts out of countable athletically related activities prior to the institution's final contest or date of competition; or
- (4) For a student-athlete who does not compete. A student-athlete may opt out of countable athletically related activities at any time prior to the institution's last contest or date of competition in the 2020-21 academic year due to COVID-19 and still meet prong three, regardless of whether they have previously participated in countable athletically related activities. Following a student-athlete's decision to opt out due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, the student-athlete must cease all countable athletically related activities. Please note, while a student-athlete may opt out of participation at any time

during the 2020-21 academic year, this determination to opt out must be made prior to the institution's last contest or date of competition for which the student-athlete is eligible (i.e., student-athlete cannot opt out retroactively when the entirety of the student-athlete's sport season has concluded and there is no remaining competition for which the student-athlete is eligible).

Please see Figure 17-3 (Countable and Noncountable Athletically Related Activities) for assistance in determining whether an activity is countable or noncountable.

In order to qualify for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver, the student-athlete must have been otherwise eligible for competition during 2020-21 academic year.

The self-applied extension of eligibility waiver applies to all eligible student-athletes, regardless of number of semesters previously used or year in school.

**Question No. 2:** If a student-athlete opts out of countable athletically related activities due to concerns of COVID-19, may the student-athlete continue to participate in countable athletically related activities on a voluntary basis?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** Will relief of the 10-semester/15-quarter rule be provided to fall sport student-athletes whose 10th semester/14th or 15th quarter is in the fall 2020 term and the traditional 2020 fall championship season was moved to the 2021 spring semester/2021 winter/spring quarters due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** The Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement's previously approved request list allows for a one semester/two quarter extension to permit participation during the 2021 spring season. Please refer to the previously approved request list on NCAA.org for additional clarification.

**Question No. 4:** Will a student-athlete who previously had an extension of eligibility waiver approved for use during the 2020 fall term be permitted to use that extension during the spring 2021 term if the traditional 2020 fall championship season was moved to the 2021 spring semester/2021 winter/spring quarters due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** The Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement's previously approved request list allows for an extension of eligibility waiver that was previously approved for use during the 2020 fall term to be used during the 2021 spring season. Please refer to the previously approved request list on NCAA.org for additional clarification.

**Question No. 5:** Will a student-athlete who utilizes the extension of eligibility waiver through the previously approved request list for spring 2021 remain eligible

to use the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver for the 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes, provided all applicable waiver conditions are met.

***Additional Application Questions.***

**Question No. 1:** Does a student-athlete have to be eligible to qualify for both waivers?

**Answer:** Yes, the student-athlete must have otherwise been eligible for competition at some point during the 2020-21 academic year. The student-athlete does not need to be eligible for the entire academic year to qualify for the waivers. If the student-athlete is ineligible for one term and eligible for another term, that student-athlete would qualify for both waivers provided the other requirements are met. The student-athlete would not be charged a season of competition in their sport and they would receive a semester/quarter extension for each semester used per Bylaw 14.2.2.1, regardless if they were eligible during that particular semester/quarter.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution self-apply a season of competition or extension of eligibility waiver for students that competed as a member of an institution's club team during the 2020 spring term, 2020-21 fall term and 2020-21 winter term?

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

**Question No. 3:** May a student-athlete who qualifies for a self-applied extension of eligibility waiver compete in a new sport during the additional terms?

**Answer:** No. The self-applied extension of eligibility waiver is sport-specific and can only be applied in the sport(s) in which the SA qualifies for the waiver during the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 4:** Will a student-athlete who is eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver for the 2020-21 academic year be required to utilize the extension at the first available opportunity immediately following the conclusion of their 10th full-time semester/15th full-time quarter?

**Answer:** Yes, and the terms must be used immediately following the conclusion of a student-athlete's 10th full-time semester/15th full-time quarter.

For example, if a student-athlete's 10th full-time semester/15th full-time quarter was spring 2021, the extension must be used during the 2021-22 academic year. The student-athlete would not be required to enroll in the fall 2021 term to use the extension in the spring 2022 term, however, any



unused terms could not be used beyond the 2021-22 academic year.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Freshman Academic Requirements.**

*[For questions related to initial eligibility, please see the question and answer document prepared by the NCAA Eligibility Center.]*

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.**

*[For additional questions related to the progress-toward-degree blanket waiver for the 2019-20 academic year, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#) and the [application of the progress-toward-degree blanket waiver](#).]*

**Question No. 1:** Does the 2019-20 academic year blanket waiver still require institutions to certify student-athletes for the fall 2020 term?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutions are still required to complete an eligibility list for the 2020-21 academic year [see Bylaw 14.11.2].

**Question No. 2:** What progress-toward-degree requirements must be met during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** The student-athlete must meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements set forth in Bylaw 14.4 moving forward.

**Question No. 3:** What progress-toward-degree requirements must be met by a student-athlete who utilized the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to be eligible for competition in the spring 2021 term?

**Answer:** The student-athlete would still need to meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements set forth in Bylaw 14.4 at the conclusion of the fall 2020 term.

**Question No. 4:** What progress-toward-degree requirements must be met by a student-athlete who graduates at the conclusion of the spring 2020 term and utilizes the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to be eligible for competition for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** The student-athlete must be enrolled full-time and in good academic standing. [See Bylaw 14.1.8 (Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate/Second Baccalaureate Participation)]

**Question No. 5:** May a student-athlete who utilized the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver enroll in credit hours that count toward a professional certificate to

satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements in the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. Hours earned in a professional certificate program may only be used if the certificate is designated by the institution as part of an undergraduate or graduate program.

**Question No. 6:** May a student-athlete who initially enrolled at the institution for the 2020 spring term utilize the missed term exception [See Bylaw 14.4.3.8.1 (Missed Term Exception)] in the 2020 fall term to be eligible to participate in countable athletically related activities in the 2021 spring term?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete meets all of the conditions of the missed term exception.

**Question No. 7:** May an institution utilize the progress-toward-degree previously approved waiver checklist when considering the impact of COVID-19 on a student-athlete?

**Answer:** Yes. Institutions may include the impact of COVID-19 as a catastrophic event for purposes of the self-application of the [checklist](#) for fall 2021 certifications only. Institutions will need to maintain documentation on campus supporting the direct impact that COVID-19 has had on the student-athlete's ability to be academically successful and support of the institution's faculty athletics representative is highly recommended.

#### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Transfer Regulations.**

*[For guidance related to the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waiver for 2020 spring sports, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#). Further, for additional questions related to the progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer blanket waivers for the 2019-20 academic year, please see the [2019-20 Academic Year Question & Answer Guide](#) and the [application of the progress-toward-degree blanket waiver](#).]*

**Question No. 1:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer to another Division II institution for the 2020-21 academic year retain the use of the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer for the 2020-21 academic year and is eligible for either the self-applied season of competition or extension of eligibility waiver be eligible to be exempted from the new institution's financial aid equivalency limitations?

**Answer:** No. The financial aid equivalency blanket waiver would only apply if a student-athlete remains at the original institution.

**Question No. 3:** Will a transfer student-athlete who is eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver be required to serve an academic year in residence upon transfer for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the student-athlete meets a transfer exception.

**Question No. 4:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer to another Division II institution for the 2021-22 academic year retain the use of the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** Will a student-athlete who was enrolled at a Division III institution receive access to the Division II self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers if they were to transfer to a Division II institution during the 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** No. The student-athlete would get the relief provided by the division of the original institution.

**Question No. 6:** Will a student-athlete who was enrolled at an institution in another division or athletics association (e.g., NAIA, NJCAA) during the 2020-21 academic year receive access to the Division II self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers if they were to transfer to a Division II institution during the 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** No. However, rules and decisions made by other divisions and organizations regarding the use of a season or 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility in the 2020-21 academic year would follow the student-athlete upon transfer.

**Question No. 7:** Will a student-athlete who transfers during or after the 2020-21 academic year as a result of their original institution's decision to not participate in competition during the 2020-21 academic year due to COVID-19 have access to the discontinued/nonsponsored sport exception (Bylaws 14.5.4.6.1 and 14.5.5.3.5) to be immediately eligible for competition?

**Answer:** No, unless the student-athlete signed a written commitment to attend the new institution prior to January 7, 2021. A written commitment includes the signing of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.7 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Outside Competition, Effects on Eligibility.**

**Question No. 1:** Will the outside competition legislation [Bylaws 14.7.1 (Outside Competition, Sports other than Basketball) and 14.7.2 (Outside Competition, Basketball)] apply during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Will the unattached competition legislation [Bylaw 14.7.3.4 (Competition as Individual/Not Representing Institution)] apply during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** To whom does the outside competition and unattached legislation apply?

**Answer:** Per Bylaw 14.7.3.1 (Eligibility Status), the outside competition legislation applies if the student-athlete:

- (a) Does not practice or compete but is receiving athletically related financial aid for the sport; or
- (b) Is ineligible to compete but practiced with a squad or team in the sport; or
- (c) Is eligible to compete but was not permitted to do so, other than taking part in practice sessions with the squad or team in the sport.

**Question No. 4:** May a student-athlete participate on an outside team during an institution's championship segment and/or nonchampionship segment if the institution chooses to not compete during that segment?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 5:** If an institution's team and/or conference chooses to not compete, may a student-athlete still be considered athletically eligible for purposes of meeting Bylaw 14.7.3.4-(a)?

**Answer:** Yes, provided all other eligibility requirements are met. For additional information, please see questions 4 and 5 of this [educational column](#).

## **NCAA Division II Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid.**

### ***Application to the 2020-21 Academic Year.***

**Question No. 1:** Are the financial aid equivalency limits increasing for the 2020-21 academic year and beyond?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** A student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term and returns and receives athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year would not count toward team equivalency limits for the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 3:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior)?

**Answer:** The equivalencies would be calculated in accordance with Bylaw 15.4.2.2 (Equivalency Computations) and would count toward team equivalency limits.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to a student-athlete returning for the 2020-21 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver or may the institution only exempt the amount of athletics aid provided during the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** Any athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year received by a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term would be exempted toward team equivalency limits for the 2020-21 academic year. The amount of athletics aid awarded to the student-athlete is at the institution's discretion.

**Question No. 5:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to an outdoor track and field student-athlete returning for the 2020-21 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver if the student-athlete also has eligibility remaining in cross country and/or indoor track and field?

**Answer:** No. If the student-athlete participates in cross country and/or indoor track

and field during the 2020-21 academic year, the athletics aid must count toward the track and field team equivalency limit of 12.6.

**Question No. 6:** Is it permissible for an institution to include a nonathletically related condition [see Bylaw 15.5.4.1.1] in its 2020-21 financial aid agreements related to COVID-19 (e.g., reduction of room and board if an institution only conducts online courses for the fall 2020 term)?

**Answer:** Yes. It is recommended that institutions consult with legal counsel and risk management.

**Question No. 7:** Is it permissible for an institution to reissue a previously signed athletics aid agreement to include a nonathletically related condition [see Bylaw 15.5.4.1.1] in its 2020-21 financial aid agreements related to COVID-19 (e.g., reduction of room and board if an institution only conducts online courses for the fall 2020 term)?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on May 6, 2020, to permit institutions to reissue athletics aid agreements for the 2020-21 academic year to include a COVID-19 related condition, even if the aid agreement has already been signed. Revised aid agreements must be sent by the July 1 deadline for renewals. Before athletics aid agreements are reissued to include a COVID-19 related condition, institutions are encouraged to consult with legal counsel and risk management.

**Question No. 8:** Would the inclusion of a nonathletically related condition [see Bylaw 15.5.4.1.1] in its 2020-21 financial aid agreements related to COVID-19 (e.g., reduction of room and board if an institution only conducts online courses for the fall 2020 term) allow for the institution to reduce or cancel aid if an institutional decision prohibits student-athletes from participating in practice or competition?

**Answer:** No. Per Bylaw 15.5.4.3 (Reduction or Cancellation Not Permitted), it is not permissible to decrease or cancel athletics aid during the period of award for an athletics reason.

**Question No. 9:** Is it permissible for an institution to change the value of the athletics aid award if it chooses to reissue a previously signed athletics aid agreement to include a nonathletically related condition [see Bylaw 15.5.4.1.1] in its 2020-21 financial aid agreements related to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Once an athletics aid agreement has been signed, it is only permissible to reduce or cancel the aid if it meets a condition of Bylaw 15.5.4.1 (Reduction or Cancellation Permitted).

Bylaw 15.5.4.2 (Increase Permitted) permits athletics aid to be increased for any reason, at any time.

**Question No. 10:** Is it permissible for an institution to provide a credit for the 2020-21

academic year in lieu of providing a refund?

**Answer:** Yes. Such a credit would not count toward 2020-21 financial aid equivalency limits, as it is technically 2019-20 athletics aid.

**Question No. 11:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers receive athletics aid if they are enrolled less than full-time during the entire 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement.

**Question No. 12:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers receive a postgraduate scholarship from a conference office during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee August 14, 2020, to permit student-athletes with eligibility remaining to receive a postgraduate scholarship from a conference office during the 2020-21 academic year and for the institution to exempt the aid from institutional team equivalency limits.

**Question No. 13:** May a student-athlete who will exhaust their 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year and who utilizes the blanket waiver to participate in practice while enrolled part time receive athletics aid?

**Answer:** Yes.

***Application to the 2021-22 Academic Year.***

**Question No. 1:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** A student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year and returns and receives athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year would not count toward team equivalency limits for the 2021-22 academic year.

This application applies to any student-athlete that, but for circumstances related to COVID-19, the institution would have expected the student-athlete to use their final season of competition or exhaust eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year and the institution did not expect the student-athlete to have eligibility remaining for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g., student-athlete did not utilize their fourth season of competition during the

2020-21 academic year due to a season cancellation caused by COVID-19, student-athlete received access to the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver).

This relief only applies if the student-athlete remains at their original institution. If the student-athlete transfers for the 2021-22 academic year, the athletics aid received at the new institution will count toward team equivalency limits.

**Question No. 2:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior)?

**Answer:** The equivalencies would be calculated in accordance with Bylaw 15.4.2.2 (Equivalency Computations) and would count toward team equivalency limits.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to a student-athlete returning for the 2021-22 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver or may the institution only exempt the amount of athletics aid provided during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Any athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year received by a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year would be exempted toward team equivalency limits for the 2021-22 academic year. The amount of athletics aid awarded to the student-athlete is at the institution's discretion.

**Question No. 4:** Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2020-21 academic year for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year required to provide an appellate opportunity?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 5:** Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2020-21 academic year for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the 2020-21 academic year should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2021-22 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior) required to provide an appellate opportunity?

**Answer:** Yes.



**Question No. 6:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers receive athletics aid if they are enrolled less than full-time during the entire 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** No, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement.

**Question No. 7:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to an indoor track and field student-athlete returning for the 2021-22 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver if the student-athlete also has eligibility remaining in cross country and/or indoor track and field?

**Answer:** No. If the student-athlete participates in cross country and/or outdoor track and field during the 2021-22 academic year, the athletics aid must count toward the track and field team equivalency limit of 12.6.

#### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.**

**Question No. 1:** May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who needs to return to campus for medical reasons (e.g., COVID-19 testing, quarantine) prior to the start of preseason practice?

**Answer:** Yes. Bylaw 16.4 (Medical Expenses) allows institutions to provide benefits, so long as the institution has determined that an earlier return to campus is medically necessary.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who made plans to return to campus for preseason prior to preseason being postponed and/or canceled?

**Answer:** Yes. Bylaw 16.4 (Medical Expenses) allows institutions to provide these benefits due to the fact that the schedule disruption was for a medical reason.

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible for an institution to make special housing arrangements (e.g., housing blocks) for student-athletes during the 2020-21 academic year in response to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on June 10, 2020, to permit institutions to make housing arrangements the institution has determined to be necessary with COVID-19 considerations during the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an institution's athletics facilities to remain open when other campus facilities are closed?

**Answer:** It would be an institution's decision as to whether the institution decides to

leave the athletics facilities open. Institutions are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

**Question No. 5:** May an institution provide benefits (e.g., housing and meals) to a student-athlete who remains on campus during the legislated seven-day winter break?

**Answer:** Yes. Use of institutional facilities remains limited to facilities open to the general student body.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons.**

***Questions Pertaining to the 2020-21 Fall Championship and Nonchampionship Segments.***

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for institutions to declare an alternate championship segment and nonchampionship segment in fall championship sports during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on June 17, 2020, to allow for institutions that are unable to participate in the traditional fall 2020 championship segment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to adjust schedules during a fall sport's championship segment and nonchampionship segment for the 2020-21 academic year only. Institutions or conferences that adjust schedules may declare a championship segment at any point during the 2020-21 academic year equal to the number of days in the championship segment for fall sports.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Number of Calendar Days in the Championship Segment (First Permissible Date for Practice to the First Date of the 2020 NCAA Division II Championship)</b>
Cross Country	84 days
Field Hockey	89 days
Football	103 days
Men's Soccer	95 days
Women's Soccer	95 days
Volleyball	108 days

**Question No. 2:** Do the days in the championship segment listed above have to be consecutive?

**Answer:** Yes. Required days off, including those for official vacation, holiday and final-examination period days, must be included in the calculation.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution divide the championship segment into two segments?

**Answer:** Yes, but the winter break legislation [Bylaw 17.02.18 (Winter Break)] would still apply; however, institutions would be permitted to provide expenses (e.g., housing, meals) to student-athletes who are unable to return home during the break. Use of institutional facilities would remain limited to facilities open to the general student body.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution divide the nonchampionship segment into two segments?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 5:** If a team's nonchampionship segment precedes the championship segment, must the team take a 14-consecutive calendar-day break before beginning its championship segment?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 6:** If a team's nonchampionship segment precedes the championship segment, must the 14-consecutive calendar-day break immediately follow the conclusion of the nonchampionship segment?

**Answer:** No. The 14-consecutive calendar-day break may occur at any time between the two segments (nonchampionship and championship) at the institution's discretion. No countable athletically related activity may occur during the 14-day period.

**Question No. 7:** May the required seven-day winter break be included in the 14-consecutive calendar-day break between the two segments (nonchampionship and championship)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 8:** May institutions that declare an alternate playing season participate in 2020-21 NCAA Championships?

**Answer:** Yes. Teams and individuals must still meet applicable championship selection criteria.

**Question No. 9:** For institutions and/or conferences that move the fall championship segment to the spring, when may practice begin in the fall 2020 term?

**Answer:** All countable athletically related activities may begin no earlier than September 7, 2020, or the fourth day of classes, whichever is earlier.

**Question No. 10:** For institutions and/or conferences that move the fall championship segment to the spring, when must practice and competition end?

**Answer:** By Monday, May 31, 2021.

**Question No. 11:** Must student-athletes refrain from countable athletically related activities for 14 consecutive calendar days once the institution's 2020 fall championship segment concludes [See Bylaw 17.1.6.3.1-(e) (Sports Other Than Football)]?

**Answer:** Yes. This restriction would apply to all countable athletically related activities and workouts designed and conducted by a strength and conditioning coach. All Bylaw 17 playing and practice season legislation would apply.

For example, if a football team competes on May 31, 2021, the strength and conditioning coach may not design or conduct a workout until June 14, 2021. It would remain permissible for a strength and conditioning coach to monitor a voluntary workout for safety purposes during the 14-day break, provided the activity meets the definition of a voluntary activity per NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.02.17 (voluntary athletically related activities). [Note: It is not permissible for a strength and conditioning coach to design or conduct a workout during the summer for student-athletes in fall championship sports until June 1 (See Bylaw 17.1.6.3.5.1).]

***Questions Pertaining to the 2020-21 Winter and Spring Championship and Nonchampionship Segments.***

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for institutions to declare an alternate championship segment and nonchampionship segment in winter and spring championship sports during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on July 29, 2020, to allow for institutions that are unable to participate in the traditional winter or spring 2020 championship segment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to adjust schedules during a winter or spring sport's championship segment and nonchampionship segment for the 2020-21 academic year only. Institutions or conferences that adjust schedules may declare a championship segment at any point during the 2020-21 academic year equal to the number of days in the championship segment for winter and spring sports.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Number of Calendar Days in the Championship Segment (First Permissible Date for Practice to the First Date of the 2020-21 NCAA Division II Championship)</b>
Baseball	131 days
Basketball	142 days
Men's Golf	117 days
Women's Golf	114 days
Men's Lacrosse	123 days
Women's Lacrosse	125 days

Women's Rowing	139 days
Softball	124 days
Swimming & Diving	151 days*
Men's Tennis	119 days
Women's Tennis	121 days
Track & Field (Indoor Only or Outdoor Only)	144 days*
Track & Field (Indoor and Outdoor)	156 days*^
Wrestling	144 days*

\* Which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and exclude only required days off and official vacation, holiday and final-examination period which no practice or competition shall occur.

^ Please note, an institution that sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field, but cancels the indoor season without competing, is allowed 156 days for its playing season for the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 2:** Do the days in the championship segment listed above have to be consecutive?

**Answer:** Yes. Required days off for an official vacation, holiday and final-examination period days must be included in the calculation except for the sports of swimming and diving, track and field and wrestling.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution divide the championship segment into two segments?

**Answer:** Yes, but the winter break legislation [Bylaw 17.02.18 (Winter Break)] would still apply; however, institutions would be permitted to provide expenses (e.g., housing, meals) to student-athletes who are unable to return home during the break. Use of institutional facilities would remain limited to facilities open to the general student body.

**Question No. 4:** May an institution divide the nonchampionship segment into two segments?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 5:** If a team's nonchampionship segment precedes the championship segment, must the team take a 14-consecutive calendar-day break before beginning its championship segment?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 6:** If a team's nonchampionship segment precedes the championship segment, must the 14-consecutive calendar-day break immediately follow the conclusion of the nonchampionship segment?

**Answer:** No. The 14-consecutive calendar-day break may occur at any time between the two segments (nonchampionship and championship) at the institution's discretion. No countable athletically related activity may occur during the 14-day period.

**Question No. 7:** May the required seven-day winter break be included in the 14-consecutive calendar-day break between the two segments (nonchampionship and championship)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 8:** May institutions that declare an alternate playing season participate in 2020-21 NCAA Championships?

**Answer:** Yes. Teams and individuals must still meet applicable championship selection criteria.

**Question No. 9:** For institutions and/or conferences that move winter championship segment, when must practice and competition end?

**Answer:** By Monday, May 31, 2021.

**Question No. 10:** For institutions and/or conferences that move spring championship segment, when must practice and competition end?

**Answer:** By Monday, May 31, 2021, unless the institution is participating in the NCAA championship.

**Question No. 11:** Must student-athletes refrain from countable athletically related activities for 14 consecutive calendar days once the institution's 2020 winter or spring championship segment concludes [See Bylaw 17.1.6.3.1-(e) (Sports Other Than Football)]?

**Answer:** Yes. This restriction would apply to all countable athletically related activities and workouts designed and conducted by a strength and conditioning coach. All Bylaw 17 playing and practice season legislation would apply.

It would remain permissible for a strength and conditioning coach to monitor a voluntary workout for safety purposes during the 14-day break, provided the activity meets the definition of a voluntary activity per NCAA Division II Bylaw 17.02.17 (voluntary athletically related activities).

***Questions Pertaining to Summer 2021.***

***[For additional guidance related to permissible summer activities, please see [Division II Summer 2021 Activities chart.](#)]***

**Question No. 1:** May an institutional coaching staff member conduct voluntary workouts at the request of team sport student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on May 6, 2021, to permit an institutional staff member to conduct voluntary workouts for student-athletes that participate in team sports beginning July 5, 2021, through the start of the institution's 2021 fall term.

**Question No. 2:** May a strength and conditioning coach design and conduct voluntary workouts at the request of fall sport student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** May a strength and conditioning coach design and conduct voluntary workouts at the request of team winter and spring sport student-athletes?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 4:** May sport-specific equipment (e.g., basketball, sled, soccer ball) be used during a voluntary workout?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete(s) requests the use of such equipment during a voluntary workout.

**Question No. 5:** May multiple student-athletes participate in a voluntary workout with an institutional coaching staff member at the same time?

**Answer:** Yes. It is permissible for a coach to be involved with more than one student-athlete at a time during summer workout sessions (e.g., group workout), provided the request for such assistance is initiated by each student-athlete.

**Question No. 6:** May multiple coaches conduct a voluntary workout with a student-athlete(s)?

**Answer:** Yes. It is permissible for multiple coaches to be involved with a student-athlete(s) during summer workout sessions, provided the student-athlete(s) requests the presence of all involved coaching staff members.

**Question No. 7:** Are there any restrictions on the location (e.g., in-person, virtual) of voluntary workouts?

**Answer:** No. Please note, virtual workouts should adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). It is recommended that institutions consult with legal counsel and risk management.

Please note, for in-person workouts, institutions and student-athletes are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

**Question No. 8:** Is it permissible for an incoming student-athlete (freshman or transfer) who is receiving summer athletics aid and attending summer classes to request voluntary workouts with coaching staff members?

**Answer:** Yes. For in-person workouts, institutions and student-athletes are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

Any incoming two-year college transfer must satisfy all applicable two-year college transfer requirements prior to participating in voluntary summer workouts.

If an incoming student-athlete is attending summer school but not receiving summer athletics aid, they may not request a voluntary workout with a coaching staff member.

**Question No. 9:** Is it permissible for an incoming fall sport student-athlete (freshman or transfer) who is not receiving summer athletics aid and attending summer classes to participate in voluntary workouts with a strength and conditioning coach after July 5, 2021?

**Answer:** Yes [see Bylaw 17.1.6.3.5.1 (Exception -- Fall Championship Sports)].

**Question No. 10:** Is it permissible for student-athletes to post/share their workouts on an institutional social media account?

**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. 11:** Is it permissible for a current student-athlete to participate in voluntary team entertainment activities?

**Answer:** Yes. A blanket waiver was extended by the Administrative Committee June 2, 2021, to permit current student-athletes to participate in voluntary team



entertainment activities (excluding physical activities) at the direction of a coaching staff member until the start of the institution's 2021-22 academic year. (See Bylaw 13, Recruiting Questions Pertaining to Summer 2021, Question No. 3 as it relates to committed prospective student-athletes).

*Additional Playing and Practice Season Questions.*

**Question No. 1:** Does an institution's decision to conduct classes remotely (e.g., online) trigger the start of a vacation period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for an institution's team to practice or compete following a decision to conduct classes remotely for the 2020 fall term or 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** Must institutions adhere to the daily and weekly hour limitations for the nonchampionship segment and out-of-season period during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. The nonchampionship segment and out-of-season daily and weekly hour limitations will continue to apply as legislated in Bylaws 17.1.6.2 (Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations - Nonchampionship Segment), 17.1.6.3.1 (Sports Other Than Football) and 17.1.6.3.2 (Football).

**Question No. 4:** May an institution declare a championship or nonchampionship segment even if the team will not compete during one or both of those segments?

**Answer:** Yes. The championship and nonchampionship segment daily and weekly hour limitations will continue to apply as legislated in Bylaws 17.1.6.1 (Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations - Playing Season), 17.1.6.2 (Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations - Nonchampionship Segment), 17.1.6.3.1 (Sports Other Than Football) and 17.1.6.3.2 (Football).

**Question No. 5:** If an institution declares an alternate playing season, what is the impact on multi-sport student-athletes?

**Answer:** The daily and weekly hour limitations remain the same. Student-athletes participating in two or more sports are limited to a maximum of four hours per day and 20 hours per week [Bylaw 17.1.6.4.8 (Multisport Participants)].

**Question No. 6:** Does the flexibility surrounding the playing and practice season championship and nonchampionship segments during the 2020-21 academic year extend to non-Division II championship sports (emerging sports, national collegiate sports and Division II men's ice hockey)?

**Answer:** No. The application of the legislation to non-Division II championship sports was not changed through the Administrative Committee's action July 29, 2020. The playing and practice season legislation in these sports aligns with the other two divisions and already have existing flexibility in declaring their seasons.

**Question No. 7:** May an incoming prospective student-athlete participate in voluntary workouts prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver August 14, 2020, to permit this as follows:

- (a) Incoming fall sport prospective student-athletes who have moved into the dorms (or, for individuals living off-campus, in the locale of the institution) on/after the move-in date for all students may request voluntary workouts with their sport coaches prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year. (Note: fall sport prospective student-athletes are already permitted to request voluntary workouts with strength and conditioning coaches during the summer vacation period after June 1); and
- (b) Incoming winter or spring sport prospective student-athletes who have moved into the dorms (or, for individuals living off-campus, in the locale of the institution) on/after the move-in date for all students may request voluntary workouts with their sport coaches and/or strength and conditioning coaches prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 8:** Is it permissible for an institution in its championship segment to compete against an institution in its nonchampionship segment?

**Answer:** Yes.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 18 – Championships and Postseason Football.**

**Question:** What impact does an institution's potential cancellation of fall 2020 seasons due to COVID-19 have on the student-athlete's ability to fulfill an NCAA drug testing penalty?

**Answer:** Questions on the application of drug testing penalties should be submitted through RSRO for clarification on penalties.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 20 – Division Membership.**

**Question:** Will a member institution or conference be required to meet the sports sponsorship and three season requirements during the 2020-21 academic year [See Constitutions 3.4.3.3.3 (Sports Sponsorship) and 3.4.3.3.3.1 (Three-Season Requirement) and Bylaws 20.10.3 (Sports Sponsorship) and 20.10.4 (Three Season Requirement)]?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on September 2, 2020, to provide relief of the sports sponsorship and three-season requirement for the 2020-21 academic year.

Please note, the blanket waiver does not impact the [current minimum number of contests for selections](#) for Division II championships.

### **NCAA Division II Presidents Council Actions Based on the NCAA Board of Governors Directives**

*The council adopted noncontroversial legislation to amend NCAA Bylaw 15.5.4.3 (reduction or cancellation not permitted) to prohibit an institution from reducing or cancelling athletics aid for a student-athlete who, by October 1, 2020, chooses to opt out of countable athletically related activities (CARA) during the 2020-21 academic year due to concerns about contracting COVID-19.*

*[For questions related to a student-athlete's National Letter of Intent, please contact [Susan Peal](#)].*

**Question No. 1:** Does this apply to all student-athletes regardless of sport season?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Does a student-athlete's decision to opt out of participation prior to October 1, 2020, constitute a voluntary withdrawal?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** Is an institution required to cancel the athletics aid of a student-athlete who opts out after October 1, 2020?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 4:** May a student-athlete opt out of participation after October 1, 2020?

**Answer:** Yes, a student-athlete may opt out at any time prior to the institution's last contest or date of competition for which the student-athlete is eligible; however, the institution would be permitted, but not required, to reduce or cancel the student-athlete's athletics aid. If the student-athlete's athletics aid is reduced or canceled, an appellate opportunity must still be provided

[Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (Hearing Opportunity)].

Please note, while a student-athlete may opt out of participation at any time during the 2020-21 academic year, this determination to opt out must be made prior to the institution's last contest or date of competition for which the student-athlete is eligible (i.e., student-athlete cannot opt out retroactively when the entirety of the student-athlete's sport season has concluded and there is no remaining competition for which the student-athlete is eligible).

**Question No. 5:** Does the opt out provision adopted by the Division II Presidents Council apply beyond the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. The legislation is applicable to any athletics aid agreement signed for the 2020-21 academic year only.

**Question No. 6:** May an institution require a student-athlete who opts out of countable athletically related activities to participate in other nonathletically related activities (e.g., study hall, medical treatments)?

**Answer:** Yes. Please see Figure 17-3 (Countable and Noncountable Athletically Related Activities) for assistance in determining whether an activity is countable or noncountable.

**Question No. 7:** Is a student-athlete who opts out still required to be enrolled full-time in order to receive athletics aid?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the less than full-time requirement.

**Question No. 8:** Are institutions required to follow the normal procedures for renewal/nonrenewal for student-athletes who opt out?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 9:** Is an institution still permitted to reduce or cancel athletics aid for nonathletic or non-COVID-19 related reason (e.g., unable to obtain visa, violation of team rules, disciplinary suspension from the institution) [Bylaw 15.5.4.1 (Reduction or Cancellation Permitted)]?

**Answer:** Yes. If the student-athlete's athletics aid is reduced or canceled, an appellate opportunity must still be provided [Bylaw 15.5.2.4 (Hearing Opportunity)].

**Question No. 10:** May a student-athlete change their mind after opting out of participation?

**Answer:** Yes, it is ultimately institutional discretion whether to permit the student-athlete to participate in countable athletically related activities. For questions related to athletics aid, please see Question No. 3 above.

**Question No. 11:** Does athletics aid received by a student-athlete who opts out count toward team equivalency limits for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 12:** Does the opt out protection apply if an institution is participating in virtual countable athletically related activities?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 13:** If an institution reduced or canceled a 2020-21 athletics aid agreement prior to August 21, 2020, for a student-athlete who opted out of countable athletically related activities due to concerns of contracting COVID-19, does the legislation apply?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution must reinstate the athletics aid to the original amount. Please see Question Nos. 6-9 in the Bylaw 15 section for canceling athletics aid for nonathletically related reasons other than concerns of contracting COVID-19.

**Question No. 14:** May a multi-sport student-athlete opt out of only one sport?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 15:** What legislated requirements still apply to student-athletes who opt out?

**Answer:** All legislation continues to apply as these individuals are still student-athletes. For example, student-athletes who opt out must appear on the eligibility list and financial aid form, complete all required student-athlete forms and remain available for drug testing. Additionally, student-athletes who opt out are still required to meet progress-toward-degree requirements for the 2020-21 academic year and should be included in the APC data submission.

*The council extended the application of the [previously approved extension of eligibility waiver](#) (two semesters/three quarters) to student-athletes who opt out of countable athletically related activities for the 2020-21 academic year, regardless of when the student-athlete opts out.*

**Question No. 1:** Does this apply to all student-athletes regardless of sport season?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Does a student-athlete who opts out after October 1, 2020, remain eligible for the extension of eligibility waiver?

**Answer:** Yes. For questions related to the application of the waiver, please see the Bylaw 14.2 section above.

**Question No. 3:** Does a student-athlete who opts back in remain eligible for the extension of eligibility waiver?

**Answer:** No. A student-athlete would only qualify for the extension of eligibility waiver if they opt out for the entire 2020-21 academic year.

*The council approved a blanket waiver to allow the following student-athletes who choose to not enroll for the fall 2020 term to use the missed term exception: (1) A student-athlete in their first academic year in residence; and (2) A student-athlete who has previously used the missed term exception once during their collegiate enrollment.*

**Question No. 1:** Does this apply to all student-athletes regardless of sport season?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Does the blanket waiver apply to use of the missed term exception in the spring 2021 term?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** Do all other components of the missed term exception still apply [Bylaw 14.4.3.8.1 (Missed Term Exception)]?

**Answer:** Yes, including the condition that the student-athlete may not participate in outside competition during the term.

**Question No. 4:** May a student-athlete who enrolls part-time use the missed term exception?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete satisfies all the requirements for use of the exception (e.g. does not engage in outside competition, is eligible for enrollment during the missed term and is meeting Progress-Toward-Degree requirements for the terms in which he/she was enrolled).

*The council adopted noncontroversial legislation to amend NCAA Constitution 3.3.4 (conditions and obligations of membership) to prohibit an institution from requiring student-athletes to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of athletics participation.*

**Question No. 1:** Does this apply to all student-athletes regardless of sport season?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution require a student-athlete to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of athletics participation?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution require student-athletes to sign a pledge document requiring the student-athletes to abide by virus mitigation measures?

**Answer:** Yes.

*To ensure that each student-athlete makes an informed decision, the Presidents Council adopted noncontroversial legislation, effective immediately, to require the following: Prior to a student-athlete participating in fall 2020 term competition (e.g., championship segment or nonchampionship segment competition; scrimmages combining teams from two different institutions; and practices combining teams from two different institutions), the institution shall: (1) Provide information on the waivers and legislative changes approved by Division II for student-athletes due to the impact of COVID-19 (e.g., accommodations for student-athletes who opt out, season-of-competition waivers); (2) Review the institution's institutional insurance coverage with student-athletes who plan to compete in the fall 2020 term and advise student-athletes to review their own existing coverage; (3) Inform student-athletes of the risk classification of their sports according to the [NCAA Resocialization of Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition](#); and (4) Provide information about how the institution is complying with the [NCAA Resocialization of Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition](#).*

*[For additional information on the requirements related to the conduct of fall sports, please see this [FAQ](#) and contact [ssi@ncaa.org](mailto:ssi@ncaa.org)].*

**Question No. 1:** Does this apply to all student-athletes regardless of sport season?

**Answer:** Yes, for any student-athlete who competes during the fall 2020 term.

**Question No. 2:** Does the legislation specify how the institution must educate its student-athletes on these items?

**Answer:** No, the manner in which an institution chooses to educate its student-athletes is left to institutional discretion.

**Question No. 3:** Does the 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 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.

#### ***COVID-19 Concern Hotline.***

**Question:** Are institutions required to report back to the NCAA as a follow-up to a call on the COVID-19 Concern Hotline?

**Answer:** Yes, within 14 days. The requirements to follow-up will be included in an email an institution receives following a submission to the COVID-19 Concern Hotline.