



**Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Season Subcommittee
Proposed Alternative Playing Seasons for 2020-21 Academic Year**

When reviewing potential amendments to playing season regulations for the 2020-21 academic year, the Division III Management Council Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee endorsed the following principles:

1. Any amendments should not compromise the health and safety of student-athletes specifically, and the campus community more generally.
2. Any amendments should foster a positive student-athlete experience.
3. Any amendments should maintain the guiding principle that the playing seasons are regulated to minimize interference with the academic programs of student-athletes.
4. Institutional viability issues (e.g. enrollment management, personnel limitations, resources) should be evaluated as part of proposed changes.

The following proposal was approved by the Management Council on July 21, 2020, subject to ratification by the Presidents Council, to allow flexibility to conduct athletically related activity outside the current Division III Bylaw 17 parameters. The **bold** font below represents the changes from the current bylaws. The primary proposed changes are that: (1) The playing season is defined by days (which do not have to occur in consecutive weeks) as opposed to weeks to allow for more flexibility to conduct athletically related activities with student-athletes; and (2) The distinction between traditional and non-traditional segments is eliminated.

Fall sports.

1. Start date: August 10 or first day of classes, whichever is earlier. (Per waiver issued by the NCAA Division III Administrative Committee on June 10, 2020.)
2. End date: **Five weekdays before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the regular academic year.**
3. First competition date: No change.
4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation)**
 - a. A "day" is any day in which athletically related activity (Bylaw 17.02.1.1) occurs, including but not limited to:
 - (1) In person or virtual team meetings;
 - (2) Required workouts or conditioning sessions;

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- (3) Practice;
 - (4) Competition.
- b. A "day" shall be treated as "in-season" under current analysis.
 - c. The exceptions to athletically related activities set forth in Bylaw 17.02.1.1.1 would not constitute a day.
 - d. A "day" is team specific and not student-athlete specific.
 - e. A team is required a day off once per calendar week, as defined by the institution (except for existing sport specific exceptions). Multi-sport student-athletes will still be required a day off per week of all athletically related activity.
 - f. The 114 days do not have to occur in consecutive weeks.
5. Maximum contests: Apply traditional segment limits.
 6. **Outside competition: Deference to institution.** (Would not allow participation with a professional team)

Winter sports.

1. Start date: No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier for most winter sports.)
 - **Exceptions: Basketball, ice hockey and wrestling which would be October 1 for practice only.** (Bowling currently has an October 1 start date.)
2. End date: No change. (Five weekdays before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the regular academic year.)
3. First competition date: No change.
4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation).**
 - a. See "day" analysis above.
 - b. Exception: an institution that sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field, the season would be 144 days.

5. Maximum Contests: No change.
6. **Outside competition: Deference to institution.** (Would not allow competition with a professional team.)
 - Exception: In wrestling (men's and women's) the alternative model maintains the prohibition of a student-athlete participating in outside competition between the beginning of the academic year and November 1. (Bylaw 14.2.7.5.1)

Spring sports.

1. Start date: No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier.)
 - Exceptions.
 - Golf, rowing and tennis: August 10 or the first day of classes, whichever is earlier. (Per waiver issued by the Administrative Committee on June 10, 2020.)
2. End date: No change. (Conclusion of NCAA championship.)
 - Institutions shall not conduct athletically related activity five weekday before the first day of the institution's final examinations for the fall semester/quarter through the end of the examination period.
3. First competition date. No change. (September 7 or the institution's first day of classes whichever is earlier.)
4. **Length of playing season: 114 days (waive the weeks calculation).**
 - a. See "day" analysis above.
 - b. Exception: An institution that sponsors both indoor and outdoor track and field, the season would be 144 days.
5. Maximum contests: Apply traditional segment limits.
6. **Outside competition: Deference to institution.** (Would not allow competition with a professional team.)