

Since Friday, March 13, the Division III Administrative Committee has taken the following actions, effective immediately, on behalf of the Division III Management and Presidents Councils due to the impact of COVID-19:

- Virtual Athletics Recruiting Presentations.** Approved a 2022 NCAA Convention legislative proposal, which allows greater opportunities for virtual recruiting, as noncontroversial legislation with an immediate effective date. The proposal codifies a blanket waiver that has been in place since the spring of 2020.
- Minimum Contest and Participant Requirements for Spring Sports Sponsorship.** Provided a blanket waiver to eliminate the minimum number of contests and participants required for spring sports to meet sports sponsorship requirements during the 2020-21 academic year. The action is same as a previous waiver provided for fall and winter sports. This action does not impact the current contest and participant minimums for NCAA spring championship eligibility.
- Winter Championships.** Approved the Championships Committee recommendation to cancel all Division III winter sport championships for 2021. The past several months, the Championships Committee has discussed the core elements to hold a national championship (e.g. geographic and conference diversity and participation levels). This review, in August, led to the establishment of participation thresholds to conduct a national championship.
 - Sports with fewer than 50 sponsors would require 90 percent participation.
 - Sports with between 51 and 200 sponsors would require 70 percent participation.
 - Sports with more than 200 sponsors would require 60 percent participation.

On January 19, Division III athletics directors were sent a declaration asking to indicate whether they are participating in winter sports in a timeframe that renders them eligible for championship selection as long as they meet the minimum contest requirements. The survey, which generated a 98 percent response rate, revealed that the number of “yes” responses was well below the sponsorship thresholds in every sport.

	60% Threshold						70% Threshold		
	MBB	WBB	MSW	WSW	MTI	WTI	MIH	WIH	WRE
Sponsorship	416	430	238	265	291	297	84	67	109
Yes	48.6%	46.2%	43.1%	42.0%	48.8%	49.3%	52.3%	51.4%	61.8%
No	51.4%	53.8%	56.9%	58.0%	51.2%	50.7%	47.7%	48.6%	38.2%

- Minimum Contest and Participant Requirements for Sports Sponsorship.** Provided a blanket waiver to eliminate the minimum number of contests and participants required for fall and winter sports to meet sports sponsorship requirements during the 2020-21 academic year. The waiver is intended to provide the following:

- Help Division III institutions remain in compliance with NCAA Bylaw 20 [membership legislation](#).
- Guide institutions and provide flexibility to determine how to best conduct competition.
- Provide a safe student-athlete experience in the best way possible without the obligations of minimum sponsorship for those sports.
- Reduce the administrative burden for institutions seeking relief.

It is important to note that this action does not impact the current contest and participant minimums for NCAA championship eligibility.

- **NCAA Board of Governors Student-Athlete Well-Being Directives.** If institutions engage in any outside competition during the fall of 2020, institutions must review existing health care cost coverage with each participating student-athlete to help ensure they make an informed decision about participation. Further, schools must inform student-athletes of the risk classification of their sports according to the Resocialization of Sport Guidelines, and provide information about how the institution is complying with the [NCAA Resocialization of Sport: Developing Standards for Fall Competition](#).

Adopted noncontroversial legislation, effective immediately, that institutions may not require student-athletes to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of participating in athletics.

Clarified that for the 2020-21 academic year, all full-time enrolled student-athletes that opt out [i.e. the student-athlete decides not to engage in any activity during or after the first contest], would get a two semester/three quarter extension. [Note: the Division III governance structure has previously [addressed](#) other eligibility ramifications of participating.]

- **Season-of-participation waivers.** Approved a blanket waiver permitting student-athletes whose teams complete 50% or less of the sport's maximum contests/dates of competition during the 2020-21 season, due to the impact of COVID-19, to receive a season-of-participation waiver -- participation while eligible. Student-athletes whose teams complete more than 50% of the sport's maximum contests/dates of competition during the 2020-21 season would not be eligible for the blanket waiver regardless of whether the student-athlete competed in 50% or less of the season. The current waiver criteria for individual cases would remain unchanged.
- **Eligibility extension.** Approved a blanket waiver permitting student-athletes to receive a two-semester/three-quarter extension of eligibility if the following conditions are met:

- The student-athlete was unable to participate in their sport during the 2020-21 academic year was due to COVID-19, or the student-athlete's teams completed 50% or less of the sport's maximum contests/dates of competition during the 2020-21 season due to the ongoing impact from COVID-19
- The student-athlete was otherwise eligible for competition during the 2020-21 academic year.

Institutions would no longer need to file an additional extension of eligibility waiver if a student-athlete seeks to maintain full-time enrollment.

- **Preseason practice period for fall sports.** Approved the first permissible practice date for all fall sports shall be August 10 or the first day of class whichever is earlier for 2020-21.
- **Administrative days.** Approved that institutions shall have unlimited administrative days to conduct non-athletically related activities (i.e. those days in which the institution may provide housing and meals expenses to student-athletes prior to the start of practice) for 2020-21.
- **Minimum contest reductions.** Approved a waiver to reduce the minimum number of contests, for all sports in 2020-21, required for sports sponsorship and championship selections by 33 percent. The minimum number of participants required for sports sponsorship will remain unchanged. The Membership and Championships Committees will be open to waiver requests from institutions that are unable to meet the existing sport sponsorship standards and the new minimum contest standards and approach those requests with maximum flexibility.
- **2020-21 championships banquets.** Approved a recommendation from the Championships Committee that for the 2020-21 academic year, championships banquets not be conducted.
- **2020-21 championship committee meetings.** Approved a recommendation from the Championships Committee that for the 2020-21 academic year, all sport committee annual meetings be held via digital platforms instead of in person.
- **Spring nonchampionship programs.** Approved the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee's recommendation to cancel staff-administered specific remaining spring and summer Division III nonchampionship programs and initiatives this year. Programs canceled to date include the SWA Program, Institute for Administrative Advancement, Next Steps, Gameday the DIII Way Ambassador training, CoSIDA Student Program, Division III Day at CoSIDA and the New AD Orientation Program.

- **Conference Strategic Grant.** Approved a blanket waiver for 2019-20 that provides conferences relief for any unspent funds within each Tier of the conference strategic grant per the policies and procedures due to COVID-19. No warning letters will be issued for failure to meet grant requirements for 2019-20.
 - Affirm that any conference grant spending must meet current policies and procedures; expenditures beyond any pre-approved items must have prior approval by the conference grant administrator.
 - Provide one-time flexibility within Tier One (i.e., allow conferences to use unspent funds allocated for one constituent group such as SIDs on any other pre-approved constituent group such as SWAs, FARs, ADRs, etc.).
 - Affirm that Tier One funds must remain in Tier One and cannot be used in another tier as these funds are designed to support professional development for individuals across various constituent groups.
 - Provide one-time flexibility between Tier Two and Tier Three funds (e.g., unspent Tier Two funds may be spent on pre-approved items in Tier Three and vice versa). For instance, if a conference has spent all its Tier Three funds, for this year only, conferences may use Tier Two funds for Tier Three, or vice versa, provided the funds are spent in a manner consistent with grant policies and practices.
- **Conference Strategic Grant rollover fund.** Granted a one-year blanket waiver extension for conferences that received rollover funds for 2019-20.
- **Sport sponsorship and membership requirements.** Approved a blanket waiver of any deficiencies in sports sponsorship requirements related to spring sports occurring as a result of actions taken in response to COVID-19. This will not apply to sports sponsorship issues related to fall or winter sports.
- **Student-athlete seasons of participation and eligibility.** Approved a blanket waiver for all student-athletes participating in spring sports as follows: (a) Waive the use of a season of participation for all student-athletes in spring sports. If an institution continues or re-starts its season, this relief would still exist; and (b) Waive the use of the spring semester towards their limit of 10 semesters/15 quarters, regardless of whether they used a season.
- **Playing and practice seasons exceptions and extra benefits.** Institutions should exercise flexibility in the best interest of their student-athletes with respect to playing seasons provisions and extra benefits through the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year. The committee directed staff to assist with applying flexibility in these areas on a case-by-case basis, when requested by an institution. Examples include allowing flexibility for playing season adjustments occurring during the Spring 2020 semester and

flexibility to assist students with travel, lodging, and meals associated with being displaced due to their campus being closed.

- **Recruiting restrictions.** Took no action. The establishment of recruiting “dead periods” in other divisions, as reported by national media, does not apply in Division III.