

NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief Approves Blanket Waiver for NCAA Bylaws 13.02.10 (Telephone Calls), 13.02.11 (Electronic Transmissions) and 13.10 (Publicity) – Approved July 23, 2020.

The NCAA Division III Management Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief approved a blanket waiver to allow Division III member institutions to use virtual platforms to conduct recruiting activities involving multiple prospective student-athletes. The subcommittee noted the waiver is designed to provide institutions with flexibility to continue to recruit prospective student-athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic and should be effective while the governance structure explores potential legislative change (extending possibly through 2022 NCAA Convention should a legislative proposal be sponsored and adopted, or terminated as early as September 1, 2021, should a legislative proposal not be sponsored).

Under this waiver, institutions may conduct recruiting activities that:

- 1. Are delivered on a virtual platform (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, conference calls) including those platforms with an enabled public chat function during any time of year;
- 2. Involve multiple prospective student-athletes, including outside groups, regardless of age or grade level, and their families at one time;
- 3. Include athletics recruitment-specific presentations to multiple prospective student-athletes regardless of who initiates the event;
- 4. Include content delivered by institutional athletics and coaching staff, other members of the campus community (e.g., admissions, financial aid), alumni and other permissible recruiters, and current student-athletes provided the student-athletes' involvement is voluntary, occurs only during the academic year, and does not result in missed class time; and
- 5. Publicize only the informational details about the virtual recruiting event, rather than promote or publicize the participation of individual or a group of prospective student-athletes.

Specifically, the subcommittee issued the blanket waiver in response to Division III membership feedback that indicated virtual recruiting has become an effective and cost-efficient means of recruiting for Division III institutions and should continue to augment, rather than replace, existing recruiting options. This blanket waiver is aligned with the guiding principles expressed by the membership for virtual recruiting including protecting against concerns about monitoring, involvement of student-athletes, and publicity of virtual recruiting events. Lastly, continued athletics recruitment is essential for successful enrollment management at many Division III institutions. See Case No. 1106236 in Requests/Self-Reports Online via the search tab. Additional information regarding blanket waivers can be found on the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief homepage.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 13.02.5.1 (permissible recruitment activities for enrolled studentathletes), 13.02.10 (telephone calls), 13.02.11 (electronic transmissions), 13.1.1.1 (high school prospective student-athletes) and 13.10 (publicity)]