

# 2021 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar

# Bylaw 11: Hot Topics

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# Agenda

## Discussion Topics with RSRO Case Studies

1. Graduate assistant coaches.
2. Student assistant coaches.
3. Volunteer assistant coaches.
4. Temporary replacement scenarios.

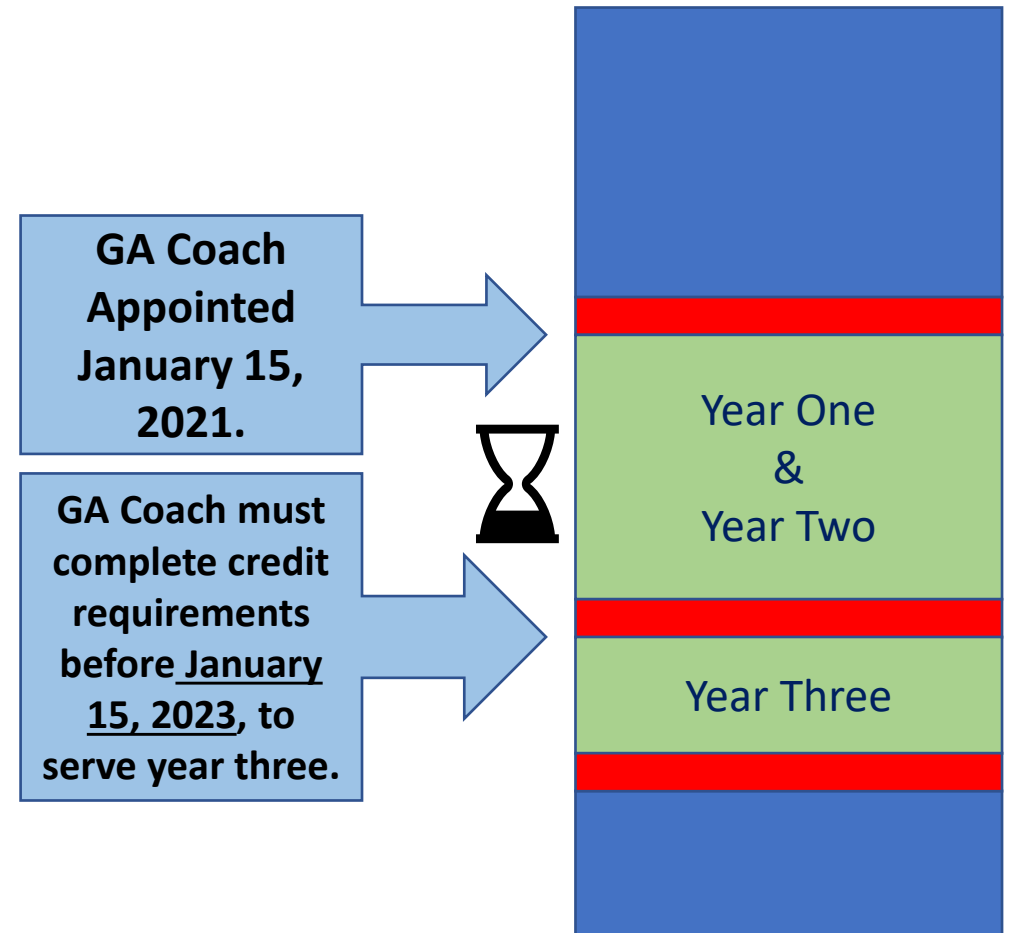
# Graduate Assistant Coaches

# Graduate Assistant Coaches

- Permitted in football, women's rowing and swimming/diving.
- Individual has exhausted eligibility or received baccalaureate degree.
- Enrolled as a graduate student – at least 50% of minimum regular graduate studies.
- May be compensated no more than value of full grant-in-aid.
- May not evaluate or contact off-campus.
- May call prospects (provided individual passes certification exam).

# Graduate Assistant Coaches

- May serve for a period of two years.
- May serve in a third year if graduate assistant coach completes 24-semester or 36-quarter hours during initial two-year period of appointment.
- Two-year “clock” begins with appointment as graduate assistant coach.



# Football Graduate Assistant Coaches

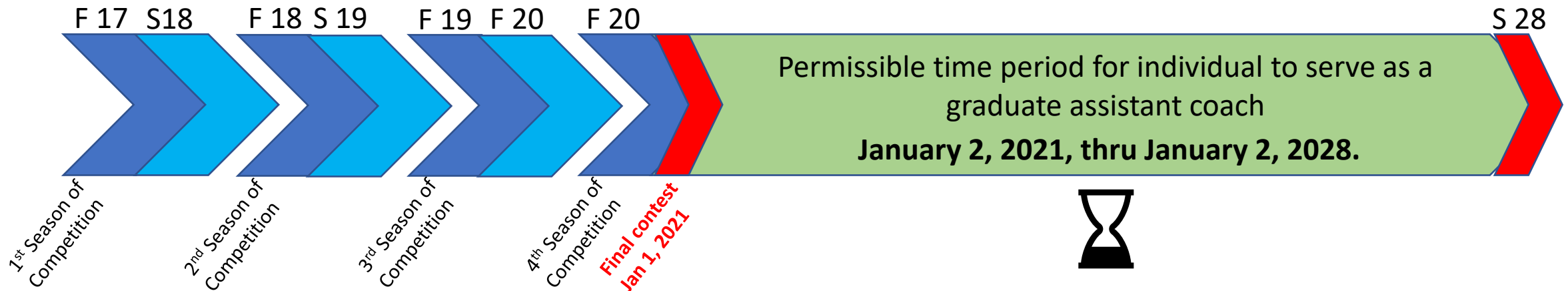
- May only serve within seven-year window.
- Seven-year window begins –
  - After receiving first baccalaureate; or
  - Immediately after exhaustion of football eligibility (***whichever occurs later***).



# Football Graduate Assistant Coaches

**Example No. 1** – Football SA completes baccalaureate in the 2020 fall term and graduates on December 11, 2020, and participates in his or her final contest of football eligibility on January 1, 2021.

- SA's seven-year window begins the day after the final contest on January 2, 2021.

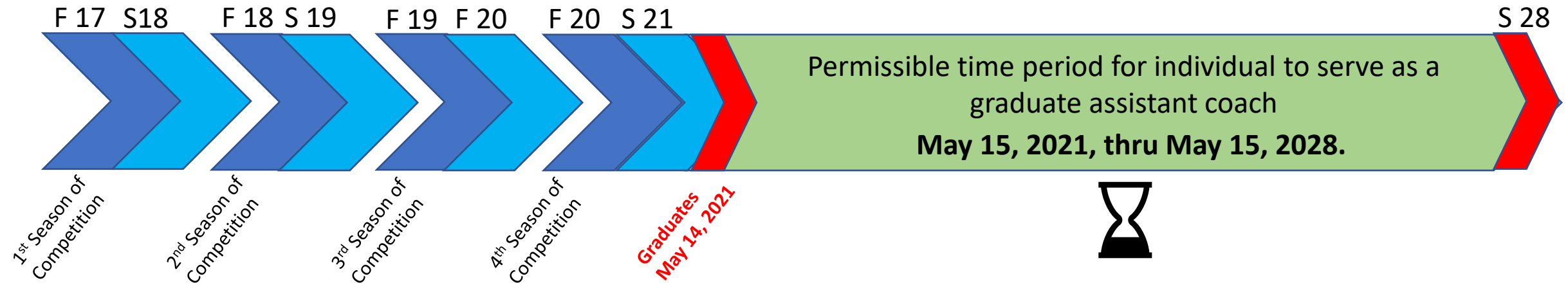




# Football Graduate Assistant Coaches

**Example No. 2** – Football SA participates in final contest of football eligibility on January 1, 2021, and completes his or her baccalaureate in the 2021 spring term and graduates on May 14, 2021.

- SA's seven-year window begins on the day after graduation on May 15, 2021.



# Football Graduate Assistant Coaches

- When appointed to graduate assistant coaching position, individual may complete their two-year/three-year appointment – even if it will continue beyond the seven-year window.
  - Graduate assistant appointment must be continuous service.
- \***Blanket Waiver (Approved January 21, 2021)** – An individual who served as a graduate assistant coach during the 2020-21 may qualify for a 4th year.



# Graduate Assistant Coach Midyear Replacement

- Institution may replace a graduate assistant coach with a new individual midyear.
  - New graduate assistant coach must be accepted for enrollment in graduate program beginning in next term – if not currently enrolled in at least 50% of the institution's minimum regular graduate program of studies.



# Football Graduate Assistant Coach Midyear Replacement

- Compensation for graduate assistant coach is charged against an academic year.
- If institution pays full grant-in-aid to a graduate assistant for the academic year; the institution may not expend additional funds on the replacement.

# Graduate Assistant Coach Midyear Replacement Case Study

**Fact Scenario:** GA Coach A departs an institution during February of the spring term. GA Coach A was provided the value of full grant-in-aid in prorated monthly allotments, with the final allotment being paid in February.

**Question No. 1:** May a new individual immediately be appointed to serve as a graduate assistant coach (GA Coach B) for the remainder of the academic year?

**Question No. 2:** May GA Coach B be provided a prorated value of full grant-in-aid for the remainder of the academic year?

# Graduate Assistant Coach Midyear Replacement Case Study

**Answer No. 1:** Yes. Provided the individual has been accepted for enrollment in a graduate program beginning with the next regular academic term.

**Answer No. 2:** Yes. Provided the sum of grant-in-aid provided to GA Coach A and GA Coach B does not exceed a total of one grant-in-aid for the entire academic year.

# Graduate Assistant Coach Temporary Replacement Case Study

**Question:** Can an institution use the replacement due to extenuating circumstances legislation (per NCAA Division I Bylaw 11.7.1.1.2) to temporarily replace a graduate assistant football coach with a noncoaching staff member?

# Graduate Assistant Coach Temporary Replacement Case Study

**Answer:** Yes. A graduate assistant coach may be replaced by a noncoaching staff member. However, the replacement must meet the criteria established in the football graduate assistant coach legislation, per Bylaw 11.01.3.





# Student Assistant Coaches

# Student Assistant Coaches

- Permissible in all sports.
- Exhausted athletics eligibility in the sport or injured and can no longer compete.
- Full-time undergraduate or graduate student and within five-year clock.
- Does not receive compensation beyond what is permissible as a student-athlete.
- May not contact or evaluate off-campus.
- May not perform recruiting coordinator functions.



# Student Assistant Coaches and COVID-19 Clock Extensions

- Student assistant coach who was deprived the opportunity to fully carry out their role in 2020 spring or the 2020-21 academic year may utilize the clock extension to serve an additional year.
  - **Example** – Baseball student assistant coach who served during the 2020 spring term may utilize the clock extension and serve as a student assistant coach for an additional year.



# Student Assistant Coaches and COVID-19 Season of Competition Waivers

- Student-athlete that would have exhausted his or her athletic eligibility but received the season of competition waiver may not transform his or her designation to student assistant coach.
  - Student-athlete is not required to utilize extra year(s) of athletic eligibility.



# Student Assistant Coach Case Study No. 1

**Question:** May an institution elect not to self-apply the COVID-19 blanket relief for a student-athlete who has exhausted athletics eligibility and has one year remaining on his or her five-year clock in order to allow the student-athlete to participate as a student assistant coach?

# Student Assistant Coach Case Study No. 1

**Answer:** Yes. The institution is not required to self-apply the COVID-19 blanket relief. Therefore, if the student-athlete has exhausted his or her athletic eligibility, he or she may serve as a student assistant coach provided, he or she meets Bylaw 11.01.5.

# Student Assistant Coach Case Study No. 2

**Question:** If a track and field student-athlete exhausted his or her eligibility in indoor track and field, but received the COVID-19 season of competition waiver for outdoor track, is the student-athlete permitted to serve as a student assistant coach for indoor track in the next academic year while maintaining athletic eligibility in outdoor track and field?

## Student Assistant Coach Case Study No. 2

**Answer:** Yes. A student-athlete who exhausted eligibility in indoor track and field but will participate in outdoor track and field may serve as a student-assistant coach for indoor track and field, provided all conditions of Bylaw 11.01.5 are met for indoor track and field.



# Volunteer Coach

# Volunteer Coaches

- Permissible in sports other than basketball and football.
- Does not receive compensation/remuneration from athletic department.
- May not engage in off-campus contacts or evaluations.
- May not perform recruiting coordinator functions.

# Volunteer Coaches

Volunteer coach may receive:

- Maximum of two complimentary tickets to home athletics contests – in the coach's sport.
- Complimentary admission to home athletics contest in conjunction with PSA visits.
- Complimentary meals incidental to team activities (pre- or postgame meals, occasional meals, not training table).
- Reasonable entertainment in conjunction with entertainment provided to student-athletes.



# Volunteer Coach Case Study No. 1

**Question:** Is it permissible for a volunteer coach to have outside employment that requires off-campus contact and/or evaluations of prospects?



# Volunteer Coach Case Study No. 1

**Answer:** No. Volunteer coaches are not permitted to engage in off-campus recruiting activities with prospect-aged individuals.

It would be permissible for a volunteer coach to hold nonathletically related outside employment that may have incidental contact with prospects (e.g., retail, food service).



# Volunteer Coach Case Study No. 2

**Question:** May a volunteer coach be employed and compensated by an institutional department that is unrelated to athletics?

## Volunteer Coach Case Study No. 2

**Answer:** Yes. A volunteer coach may be employed by a department that is not related to athletics, provided athletics is not involved in the arranging or funding of the employment.



# Volunteer Assistant Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 3

**Question:** May an institution temporarily replace a volunteer assistant coach with a paid sport-specific noncoaching staff member?



# Volunteer Assistant Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 3

**Answer:** No. An institution may not permit a paid employee to temporarily fill a volunteer coaching role. However, it is permissible to replace the volunteer coach with another individual that meets the volunteer coach legislation and provided there is no overlap in duties performed.



# Temporary Replacement of Coaches

**Bylaw 11.7.1.1.2**



## Temporary or Limited

- Temporary or limited time frame = Generally within the duration of one academic year (August 1-July 31).
- Longer periods would require a waiver and may not be permanent.

## Extenuating Circumstances

- Institutional discretion may be exercised to determine what is considered extenuating.

## Duties

- No duplication or overlap of responsibilities;
- Replacement coach may only perform duties replaced coach is unable to perform; and
- Maximum coach numerical limits must be maintained.



# Common Temporary Replacement Scenarios

- Paternal leave.
- Illness in family (coach or close family member).
- Celebratory events.
- WNBA season.
- National team responsibilities.



# Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 1

**Question:** May an institution temporarily replace a coach with an individual who is not currently employed with the institution?

# Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 1

**Answer:** Yes. An individual may be designated as a coach or may become a coach based on arrangements with the institution without being formally employed by the institution, provided the individual is designated as a member of the staff in some category per Bylaw 11.7.1.

Institutional policies and procedures (or state laws) may present additional restrictions on individuals performing work on behalf of an institution.



# Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 2

**Question:** May an institution replace an assistant coach, who is out of town due to an extenuating circumstance, with a student manager?

# Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 2

**Answer:** Yes. A student manager or any institutional staff member may replace the coach while the coach is out of town and unavailable. There may be no duplication of duties between the manager and the replaced coach.





# Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 3

**Fact Scenario:** An institution's assistant coach takes a job at another institution.

**Question:** May an institution elevate the volunteer coach and compensate the volunteer coach until a new assistant coach is hired and then have the volunteer coach return to his or her volunteer position?

## Temporary Replacement Case Study No. 3

**Answer:** Yes. It is permissible to compensate the volunteer coach that replaces the head or assistant coach on a temporary basis until the new coach is hired.

The volunteer coach may return to his or her original position once a permanent countable coach is employed by the institution.

**Thank you for joining this virtual presentation!**

**If you have questions about the content provided,  
please reach out!**

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Regional Rules

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