



**2018-19 NCAA Division I Council-Governance Legislative Proposals  
Question and Answer Document  
(Updated: March 20, 2019)**

This document contains questions and answers to assist the NCAA membership in its understanding of selected proposals.

**Editor's Note: This document has been updated to include questions and answers related to NCAA Proposal Nos. 2018-47, 2018-54, 2018-70, 2018-71, 2018-72, 2018-73 and 2018-74.**

**NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2018-41 (Athletics Eligibility -- Seasons of Competition -- Hardship Waiver -- Eliminate First Half of Season Requirement).**

**Question No. 1:** Is a student-athlete who competes at any point (including the last game) during the playing season eligible to receive a hardship waiver?

**Answer:** Yes, assuming he or she meets the criteria to qualify for the hardship waiver.

**Question No. 2:** Is a student-athlete who is injured during the postseason (e.g., conference tournament, bowl game, NCAA tournament) eligible to receive a hardship waiver?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** Is the first half of the season requirement for season-of-competition waivers also eliminated?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 4:** Would this proposal impact the five-year rule waiver?

**Answer:** No, an approved hardship waiver would still qualify as a denied participation opportunity.

**Question No. 5:** When would the proposal become effective?

**Answer:** The proposal would be effective for any injury, illness or extenuating circumstance that occurs on or after August 1, 2019. Any injury, illness or extenuating circumstance that occurs prior to August 1, 2019, would be evaluated under the current legislation.

**Proposal No. 2018-42 (Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Prospective Student-Athlete -- Participation in Required Summer Athletics Activities).**

**Question:** If the proposal is adopted, will participation in required summer athletics activities result in a student-athlete becoming a transfer?

**Answer:** No.

**Proposal No. 2018-45 (Recruiting -- Contact Restrictions at Specified Sites -- Contact with Prospective Student-Athletes Involved in Competition).**

**Question No. 1:** What does it mean to 'be released by the appropriate authority'?

**Answer:** The appropriate authority (e.g., coach, administrator) has released the individual or team from any further competition-related activities.

**Question No. 2:** After the prospective student-athletes are released by the appropriate authority, may an institution's coach have contact with the prospective student-athletes as a team (e.g., club team coach drives them to campus for an unofficial visit)?

**Answer:** Yes. However, in football and basketball, when a prospective student-athlete participates in an athletics contest (including noninstitutional, private camp or clinic, but not an institutional camp or clinic) on an institution's campus outside a contact or recruiting period, it is not permissible for an institutional staff member to have contact with the prospective student-athlete until the calendar day following his or her release from the contest or event (see NCAA Bylaw 13.1.6.2.3).

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible to have contact with a prospective student-athlete on a day that the prospective student-athlete does not have competition, even if he or she is involved in other team-related activities?

**Answer:** Yes, the proposal is only intended to regulate contact on a day of competition.

**Proposal No. 2018-47 (Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations and Offers and Inducements – Funeral/Memorial Services and Life-Threatening Injury or Illness – Eliminate Requirement for Commitment).**

**Question:** What is a reasonable token of support?

**Answer:** A reasonable token of support may include any item (e.g., flowers, card) that is typically provided in support of an individual or his or her family in the event of an injury or illness or the individual's death. As is the case with monetary donations to charity in such situations, reasonable tokens of support may not exceed \$100 in total value.

**Proposal No. 2018-49 (Recruiting -- Official (Paid) Visit and Unofficial (Nonpaid) Visit -- Student Host -- Current Student-Athlete).**

**Question:** May a medical noncounter or a student-athlete who has exhausted eligibility in his or her sport serve as a student-host?

**Answer:** Yes, if the student-athlete is still within his or her five-year period of eligibility.

**Proposal No. 2018-51 (Recruiting -- Unofficial (Nonpaid) Visit -- Meals Within 30-Mile Radius of Campus).**

**Question No. 1:** May a coach or institutional staff member provide or pay for transportation to take a prospective student-athlete (and the individuals accompanying him or her) to an off-campus meal?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** May an unofficial visit include only an off-campus meal within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** May the on-campus portion of the unofficial visit occur before or after the off-campus meal within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 4:** Does the 30-mile radius apply to facilities regularly used for practice and competition (e.g., boathouse), but are determined by the institution to be off-campus?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 5:** May there be more than one off-campus meal within a 30-mile radius during the unofficial visit (e.g., meal at staff member's home before on-campus portion of visit and meal at restaurant after on-campus portion of visit)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 6:** May the off-campus meal within a 30-mile radius be a snack rather than a full meal?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Proposal No. 2018-52 (Recruiting -- Publicity Before Commitment -- Radio/TV Show -- Announcer for Broadcast of Prospective Student Athlete's Athletics Contest -- Part-Time Noncoaching Staff).**

**Question No. 1:** What is considered part-time employment for an athletics staff member?

**Answer:** Part-time employment should be defined per institutional policy.

**Question No. 2:** Does this proposal apply to a volunteer, part-time athletics staff member?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Proposal No. 2018-54 (Recruiting -- Tryouts -- Permissible Activities -- Recreational Activities -- Organization by Coaching Staff).**

**Question No. 1:** May a coach be present for or observe a prospective student-athlete's organized recreational activity (e.g., open swim) via the safety exception?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** May recreational activities occurring during a prospective student-athlete's visit be sport-specific (e.g., basketball, gymnastics, etc.)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** If a current student-athlete participates in recreational activities (e.g., open gym) organized by a coach for a prospective student-athlete, is such participation considered countable or required athletically related activities?

**Answer:** No. However, if a current student-athlete is required to participate in recreational activities organized by a coaching staff member, then countable and required athletically related activity legislation would apply.

**Proposal No. 2018-55 – (Recruiting -- Tryouts -- Local Sports Clubs -- Football).**

**Question No. 1:** May a coach or noncoaching staff member with football-specific responsibilities be involved in any capacity with a football club that includes only seven-on-seven teams?

**Answer:** No. The restriction applies to any type of football club.

**Proposal No. 2018-60 (Recruiting -- Tryouts and Use of Recruiting Funds -- Exception -- Expenses Related to Local Sports Clubs and State, Regional, National or International Training Programs).**

**Question No. 1:** May an institution's coach engage in institutional recruiting activities while the coach is receiving expenses from the local sports club and/or state, regional, national or international training program?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** May an institution's coach receive recruiting expenses from the institution while engaging in coaching activities for a local sports club or state, regional, national or international training program?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** Is an institution's coach permitted to coach a local sports club team and/or state, regional, national or international team and recruit on behalf of the institution if the coach's expenses are provided in part by the club, state, regional, national or international training program and in part by the institution (e.g., 50/50 split)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Proposal No. 2018-66 (Academic Eligibility -- Full-Time Enrollment -- Requirement for Practice/Competition -- Exception -- Final Semester/Quarter -- Designated Minor or Undergraduate Certificate Program).**

**Question No. 1:** May a second minor or certificate program be used to access the final-term exception to full-time enrollment?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** If a student-athlete fails to complete the remaining credits toward his or her designated minor or certificate program in the term during which he or she uses the exception to compete, does he or she forfeit any remaining athletics eligibility?

**Answer:** Yes, normal application of the final-term exception to full-time enrollment continues to apply to student-athletes who fail to complete the credits necessary to finish the outstanding minor or certificate requirements.

**Question No. 3:** A football student-athlete uses the final-term exception to compete while enrolled in the remaining nine credits required for his designated minor during the fall semester. The student-athlete earns six of the nine credits required to complete the designated minor. Is the student-athlete eligible for a postseason bowl game that occurs immediately following the fall semester?

**Answer:** Provided the student-athlete remains in good academic standing, he would remain eligible for the bowl game having passed the six credit hours required for postseason participation. However, since the student-athlete failed to complete the requirements for his declared minor during the semester in which the final term exception to full-time enrollment was used, he would forfeit any future seasons of eligibility that remained.

**Proposal No. 2018-68 (Academic Eligibility -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements -- Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit -- 18/27 Hour Requirement).**

**Question No. 1:** Does the proposal allow credits that apply toward any degree program to be used to meet other applicable credit-hour requirements (i.e., six- or nine-hour rules) after the start of a student-athlete's third year of enrollment?

**Answer:** No, existing degree-applicability rules continue to apply to the other credit-hour requirements.

**Question No. 2:** If a student-athlete's designated degree program requires a minimum grade to fulfill a specific degree requirement (e.g., grade of 'C' or higher), does the proposal allow the passing of such a course with a lesser grade (e.g., grade of 'C-') to be used to meet the student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement?

**Answer:** Provided the course completed at a lower grade could count toward a component of one of the institution's degree programs (e.g., as an elective), it may be used to meet the student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement only. If the same course is subsequently repeated and the higher grade required by the student-athlete's designated degree program is achieved, the course may not be applied toward any credit-hour requirements (six, nine or 18/27 rules) if it was initially used to meet the earlier 18/27-hour requirement.

**Question No. 3:** Does the proposal allow credits that apply toward any degree program to be used to meet percentage-of-degree requirements?

**Answer:** No. Only credit hours that apply toward the student-athlete's designated degree program may continue to be used to meet percentage-of-degree benchmarks.

**Question No. 4:** May any credit hours earned during the 2018-19 academic year be used to certify a student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement for the 2019 fall term?

**Answer:** Yes, if the proposal is adopted, any credits hours may be used to certify a student-athlete's 18/27-hour requirement for the 2019 fall term.

**Proposal No. 2018-69 (Academic Eligibility -- Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate Participation -- One-Time Transfer Exception -- Academic Enrollment Requirements).**

**Question:** Does the proposal allow a student-athlete who enrolls at an institution other than the institution from which he or she earned his or her baccalaureate degree to continue to participate in intercollegiate athletics while enrolled in a graduate certificate program.

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete is recognized as a full-time student while enrolled in the graduate certificate program.

**Proposal No. 2018-70 (Financial Aid -- Definitions and Applications and Maximum Institutional Grant-in-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Team Limits -- Institutional Athletics Aid and USOC/NGB Aid Only).**

**Question:** If a recruited football or basketball student-athlete receives institutional financial aid, other than athletically related institutional financial aid, and engages in varsity intercollegiate competition will the aid count toward team limits?

**Answer:** Yes. NCAA Bylaw 15.5.1.1 is not impacted.

**Question No. 2:** In baseball, if a student-athlete receives both institutional aid (e.g., academics) and athletically related aid, do both types of aid count towards the 25 percent equivalency requirement?

**Answer:** Yes. An institution may use both institutional aid and institutional athletically related aid to meet the 25 percent equivalency calculation; however, only the athletically related aid will count toward the team limit.

**Question No. 3:** Are Division I membership requirements impacted by this proposal?

**Answer:** No. It remains permissible for an institution to count institutional financial aid toward membership requirements (NCAA Bylaw 20), even though institutional financial aid does not count toward team limits (NCAA Bylaw 15).

**Proposal No. 2018-71 (Financial Aid – Exempted Institutional Financial Aid – Institutional Need-Based Aid).**

**Question No. 1:** Are Division I membership requirements impacted by this proposal?

**Answer:** No. It remains permissible for institutions to count institutional financial aid toward membership requirements (Bylaw 20), even though institutional financial aid does not count toward team limits (Bylaw 15).

**Proposal No. 2018-72 (Financial Aid -- Maximum Institutional Grant-In-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Exceptions -- Academic Honor Awards Based on High School and/or Transfer Record).**

**Question No. 1:** Are Division I membership requirements impacted by this proposal?

**Answer:** No. It remains permissible for institutions to count institutional financial aid toward membership requirements (Bylaw 20), even though institutional financial aid does not count toward team limits (Bylaw 15).

**Proposal No. 2018-73 (Financial Aid from Outside Sources -- Financial Aid from an Established and Continuing Program -- Elimination of Requirements for \$1,000).**

**Question No. 1:** Does the \$1,000 limit apply to each student-athlete or each award?

**Answer:** The \$1,000 limit is applicable to each student-athlete per academic year. Therefore, a student-athlete may receive aid from multiple outside sources which may not exceed \$1,000 in sum. Any additional aid above \$1,000 must be evaluated per the additional criteria.

**Question No. 2:** May a student-athlete receive an award that restricts attendance to a specific institution?

**Answer:** Yes, if the award is \$1,000 or less, the student-athlete may receive it without restrictions. If the award is more than \$1,000, the aid must count toward team financial aid limits.

**Proposal No. 2018-74 (Financial Aid -- Maximum Institution Grant-In-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Counters -- Aid After Departure of Head Coach -- Continued Participation).**



**Question No. 1:** May this exemption apply to coaching changes that occurred prior to the adoption date?

**Answer:** Yes. For example, the exemption may apply in the following scenario:

- a. 2017-18: Coaching change; student-athlete received athletics aid (aid counts).
- b. 2018-19: Student-athlete continued athletics participation and received athletics aid (aid counts).
- c. 2019-20: Student-athlete does not participate in athletics and receives athletics aid (aid may be exempted).

**Proposal No. 2018-75 (Personnel, Recruiting and Financial Aid -- Eliminate Training Table Meals).**

**Question No. 1:** What is the voting procedure for this proposal?

**Answer:** There will be two separate votes for this proposal. First, there will be a bowl-subdivision-football-only vote on Section A, which permits graduate assistants in bowl subdivision football to receive meals incidental to organized team activities. The second vote will be an all-Council vote on Sections B and C, which eliminates training table meals.

Please note, adoption of Section A would make legislation related to graduate assistants in football consistent with legislation related to graduate assistants in women's rowing and swimming and diving (see Proposal No. 2018-110).

**Question No. 2:** Does this proposal impact legislation in Bylaw 16 related to training table meals?

**Answer:** If adopted, legislation in Bylaw 16 related to training table meals will be deleted via an editorial revision.

**Question No. 3:** May a training table meal still be provided to a student-athlete?

**Answer:** No. If the proposal is adopted, it would only be permissible for an institution to provide student-athletes with occasional meals (see Bylaw 16.11.1.5), meals incidental to participation and meals normally provided through a dining plan or an off-campus board stipend.

**Question No. 4:** Does this proposal change the application of legislation related to meals incidental to participation?

**Answer:** No. Meals and snacks provided as benefits incidental to participation in intercollegiate athletics are not intended to replace meals that would normally be provided through a dining plan or an off-campus board stipend. See the October 21, 2014 Educational Column for additional clarity.

**Question No. 5:** Other than an occasional meal or a meal incidental to participation, may an institution provide a meal that is exclusive to student-athletes?

**Answer:** No. With the elimination of training table meals, only an occasional meal or a meal incidental to participation may be exclusive to student-athletes. Further, any meal that is a part of a student-athlete's dining plan or off-campus board stipend must be provided in the same manner that such meals are provided to students generally.

**Proposal No. 2018-76 (Financial Aid -- Maximum Institutional Grant-In-Aid Limitations By Sport -- Equivalency Sports -- Equivalency Computations).**

**Question No. 1:** Does an institution need to use the same method (e.g., actual or average) in the numerator and denominator when calculating equivalencies?

**Answer:** No. It is permissible to use either actual or average costs in the numerator and denominator (e.g., actual/average).

**Question No. 2:** What is an example calculation?

**Answer:** If the actual cost of a student-athlete's full grant-in-aid is \$20,000, and a student-athlete receives a \$10,000 scholarship, an institution using the actual method to calculate an equivalency would report a 0.50 equivalency ( $\$10,000/\$20,000$ ). If the same institution offers 50 percent of a full grant-in-aid, the institution would report the same equivalency based on the actual method  $\{(\$20,000 * 0.5)/\$20,000\}$ . However, if the institution's average cost is \$22,000, the institution may use the average method to provide \$11,000 to the student-athlete receiving a 50 percent award while maintaining the 50 percent equivalency  $\{(\$22,000 * 0.5)/\$22,000\}$ . Institutions are not currently permitted to combine methods to use one method in the numerator and another method in the denominator. If adopted, Proposal 2018-76 would give institutions the discretion to calculate equivalencies using the methodology most aligned to their institutional needs. For example, if an institution were to use the actual figure in the numerator and the average in the denominator, the student-

athlete receiving \$10,000 could be reported as a .50 equivalency using the actual method (\$10,000/\$20,000) or as a .45 equivalency by combining methodology to an actual over average method (\$10,000/\$22,000). Additionally, a student-athlete receiving 50 percent of the average cost, or \$11,000 could be reported as a .55 by using combining methodology to an average over actual method (\$11,000/\$20,000).

**Proposal No. 2018-77 (Playing and Practice Seasons -- Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations -  
- Playing Season -- Exception -- Golf Practice Round -- Five Hours of Countable Athletically  
Related Activity).**

**Question No. 1:** If an institution's golf team does not engage in any countable athletically related activities beyond the practice round, may the practice round exceed four hours?

**Answer:** Yes, but the weekly limit of 20 hours remains in effect.

**Question No. 2:** Must the practice round exceed four hours in order to apply the exception?

**Answer:** No.