Background.

**Question No. 1:** Why is the NCAA providing funding and/or requiring institutions to provide funding for degree completion of former student-athletes?

**Answer:** Institutions should commit to providing opportunity and support for basketball student-athletes who wish to return to school to complete an undergraduate degree.

**Question No. 2:** Why is the degree completion fund open to all basketball student-athletes instead of only those pursuing a professional basketball career?

**Answer:** The working group believed degree completion programs should be offered to as many student-athletes as possible while acknowledging the limited scope of the Commission on College Basketball report. A very limited number of student-athletes leave college early to pursue a professional career and often those student-athletes attend institutions that already offer degree completion programs. The working group determined that a broader, more impactful approach was appropriate.

**Question No. 3:** Why is the mandate for degree completion programs limited to only basketball and not all sports?

**Answer:** The working group had lengthy discussions on this question and initially considered recommending a mandate that would include all sports. However, the working group acknowledged that the Commission report focused on the sport of men’s basketball and before offering a broader mandate, the working group felt it was important to consider membership feedback. The feedback from the membership generally, and the NCAA Division I Council specifically, suggested a more conservative approach and the working group agreed to suggest a more limited scope to start. In addition, the working group recommended that the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics evaluate the new legislation and determine whether the mandate should be expanded in the future.

**Question No. 4:** Why did the working group recommend limiting the available degree completion fund to limited-resource institutions?

**Answer:** The working group considered several funding models and the chosen model was the one that best balanced costs with benefits. Costs of other models ranged from $3 million to $8 million for men’s basketball only and $26 million to $85 million for all sports. The model adopted will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine whether expansion or contraction of the scope is appropriate.

Degree Completion Program Requirements.

**Question No. 1:** What are the minimum elements of a degree completion program?
**Answer:** The minimum elements of a program should include funding for tuition, books and fees for former men’s and women’s basketball players.

**Question No. 2:** What requirements must a student-athlete satisfy in order to be eligible for the degree completion program?

1. Must have completed two years of academic work and be in good academic standing at the institution providing funding;
2. Must have been on athletics aid;
3. Must exhaust other available funding options;
4. Must return to last NCAA institution attended;
5. Fewer than 10 years have elapsed since the student-athlete departed the institution;
6. Student-athlete must meet progress-toward-degree requirements in order to continue to receive funding; and
7. Student-athlete is subject to institutional admissions and financial aid policies.

**Question No. 3:** How is “eligible” defined to determine whether a returning student-athlete can access the degree completion fund?

**Answer:** The student-athlete must have been academically eligible to compete had he or she returned to your institution at the point in which he or she left, be in good standing (academic and institutional), and subject to institutional admissions and financial aid policies.

**Question No. 4:** Did the student-athlete have to have competed during his or her last season on campus to be eligible to access the degree completion fund?

**Answer:** No. The student-athlete must have received athletics aid, but it is not required that he or she competed in their last season on campus.

**Question No. 5:** Are institutions required to provide academic support services to returning student-athletes accessing the NCAA degree completion fund?

**Answer:** No. However, it is a best practice recommended in order to ensure student-athlete success.
Question No. 6:  Is there a time limitation on how long institutions are obligated to provide funding to former student-athletes accessing the degree completion fund?

Answer:  An institution’s obligation is limited to ten years since the former student-athlete’s departure from the institution, but an institution can provide funding beyond ten years at its discretion. Further, there is no limit on the time in which the student-athlete has to finish the undergraduate degree.

Question No. 7:  Does this proposal apply to student-athletes who departed the institution before the effective date?

Answer:  Yes.

Question No. 8:  Does this proposal apply to walk-on men’s and women’s basketball student-athletes?

Answer:  No.

NCAA Program Funding.

Question No. 1:  Does an institution have the discretion to provide funding to a student-athlete who departed campus after one year?

Answer:  Yes. The institution can decide whether it wants to provide funding to additional returning student-athletes who do not meet the minimum legislative criteria.

Question No. 2:  Does this proposal apply retroactively to student-athletes who departed the institution before the effective date?

Answer:  Yes.

Question No. 3:  Does this proposal apply to walk-on men’s and women’s basketball student-athletes?

Answer:  No.

Question No. 4:  Will basketball student-athletes be able to access the current degree completion program once the new one is up and running August 1, 2019?

Answer:  No.