

NCAA Division I Governance Update

March 2020

Agenda

- Update from the NCAA regarding COVID-19 Coronavirus.
- Update from the NCAA Division I Transfer Waiver Review Group.



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COVID-19 Coronavirus

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China, which has now been detected in 60 locations internationally, including in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).



Background

- On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).
- On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

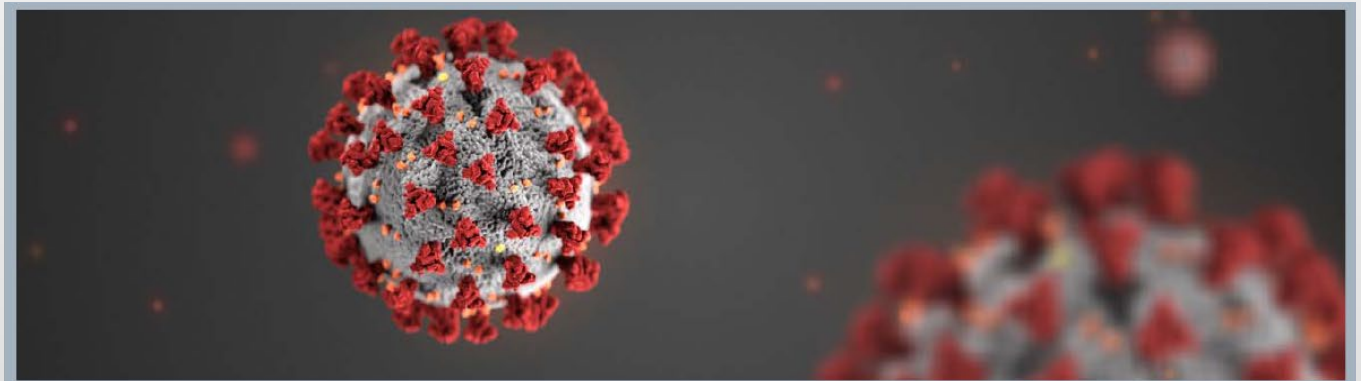


Background - Overview

What is Coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a type of viruses that are common in many different species of animals and can occasionally infect and spread between people.
- An outbreak of novel (new) coronavirus was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019.
- The disease caused by this virus has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (often called “COVID-19”).

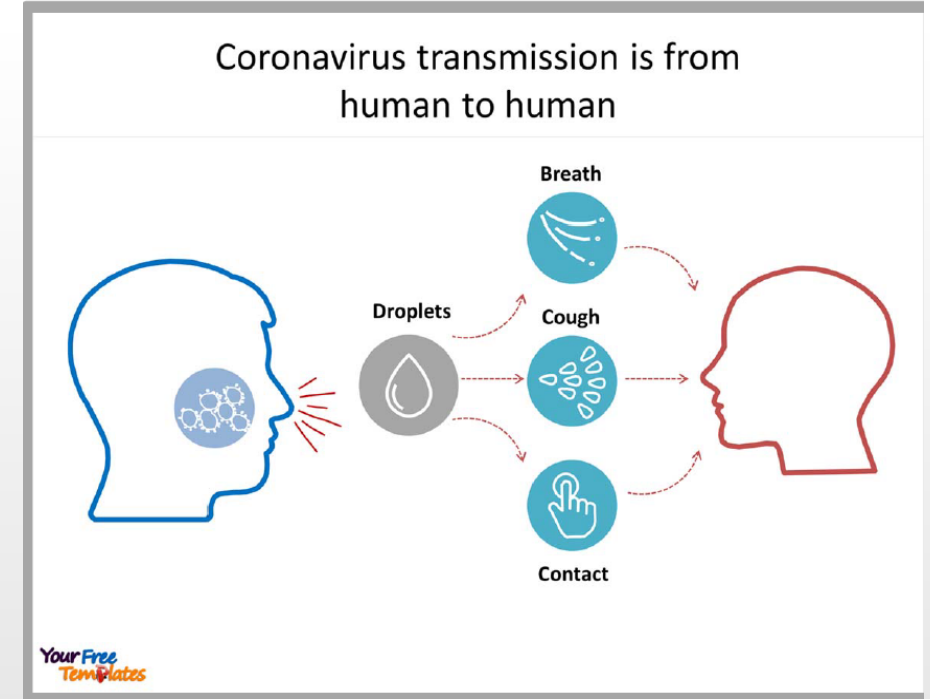
As of March 1, 2020



Background - Transmission

How does COVID-19 spread?

- Coronavirus is thought to spread similarly to the flu by:
 - Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
 - Close person-to-person contact.
- If you haven't been in an area where COVID-19 is spreading or been in close contact with someone who has and is now infected, your chances of getting COVID-19 are currently low.



As of March 1, 2020

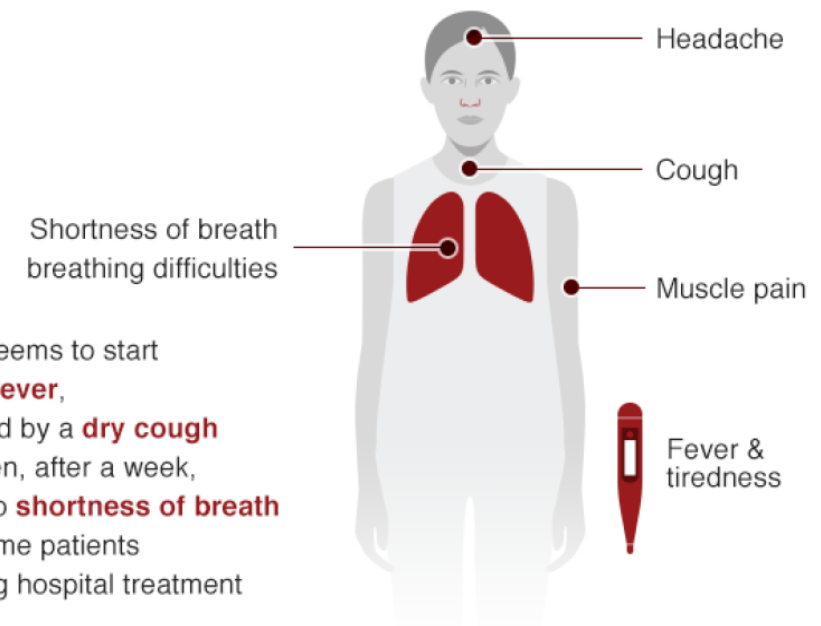
Background - Symptoms

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Symptoms of COVID-19 infection typically begin 2-14 days after exposure.
- Most patients have mild symptoms, including:
 - Fever
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle aches
 - Cough

As of March 1, 2020

Symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)



Virus seems to start with a **fever**, followed by a **dry cough** and then, after a week, leads to **shortness of breath** and some patients needing hospital treatment

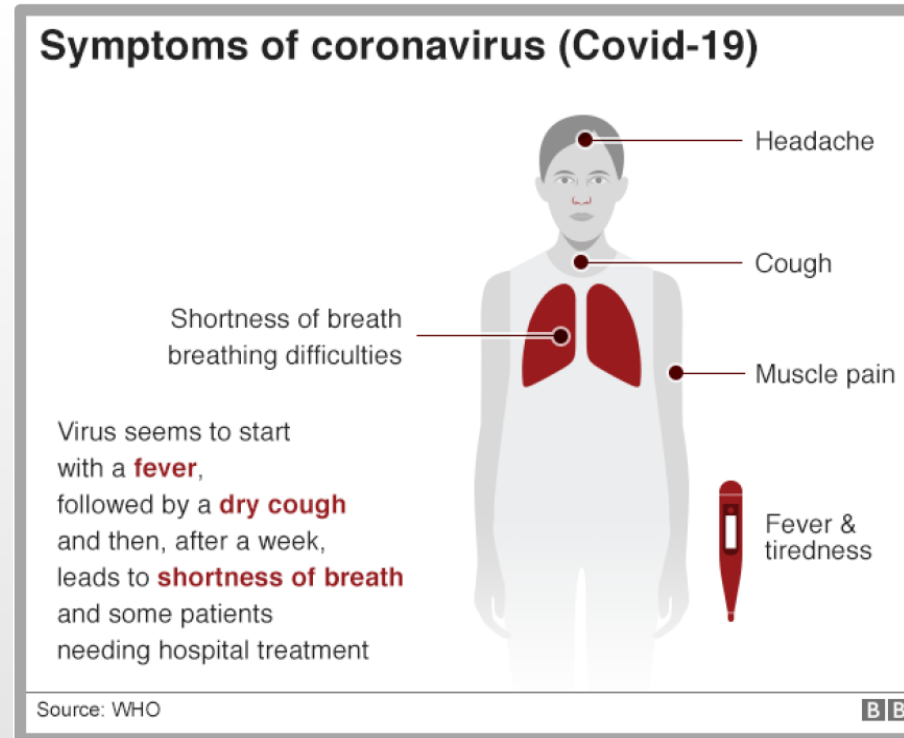
Source: WHO

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Background - Symptoms

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- A small percentage of patients have severe or critical disease, which may include:
 - Diarrhea
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Pneumonia
- Older people and those with chronic illness are at increased risk for severe complications.



As of March 1, 2020

Everyday Preventive Actions

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning sprays or wipes.
- Practice other good health habits.



Campus and Athletics Department Guidance

- Ensure you have an actionable plan in place.
- Communicate the plan to athletics personnel, including student-athletes.
- Immediately notify authorities if someone on campus shows symptoms consistent with COVID-19.



Campus and Athletics Department Guidance

- Discuss the following when engaging with campus health crisis leadership team:
 - ✓ Provide guidance on how to communicate the policy to others on campus.
 - ✓ Confirm procedures for athletics staff to follow.
 - ✓ Provide roster and contact information of those on school's response team.
 - ✓ Provide contact information for local and/or state health departments.



Campus and Athletics Department Guidance

- Discuss the following when engaging with campus health crisis leadership team:
 - ✓ Implement campus policy for triage and clinical management of anyone with symptoms of COVID-19.
 - ✓ Refer to NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook (pg. 34) for NCAA guidance on medical disqualifications.
 - ✓ Coordinate with campus leaders and local and/or state health departments if there is a suspected outbreak on campus.





NCAA Championships

- Regarding championship play for the winter and spring seasons, the NCAA is taking concerted steps to maintain the first-rate delivery of NCAA championship experiences for participating student-athletes, team personnel and fans.





NCAA Championships

- Championships staff members will implement their health and safety checklist in conjunction with host schools and conferences and their community partners and will monitor COVID-19 developments through the NCAA Sport Science Institute.



NCAA Championships

- As they would with any public health crisis, championships staff will add appropriate safeguards in coordination with campus and local health response teams to address COVID-19 concerns.



NCAA COVID-19 Advisory Panel

The NCAA has established the COVID-19 Advisory Panel, which includes leading medical, public health, and epidemiology experts from their respective fields of study and NCAA member schools to guide its response to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease.



NCAA COVID-19 Advisory Panel

The panel will:

- Communicate on a very regular basis.
- Monitor the evolving medical and scientific updates regarding COVID-19.
- Provide information and advice to NCAA leadership, as they navigate the best way to handle upcoming championships, including the Women's and Men's Final Four.
- Consolidate recommendations that will help the NCAA membership.



NCAA COVID-19 Advisory Panel

Brian Hainline, M.D. (NCAA Chief Medical Officer) will lead the group.

- **Stephanie Chu**, M.D. – Team physician, University of Colorado, Boulder; Member, NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports
- **Carlos del Rio**, M.D. – Chair, Hubert Department of Global Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health
- **Colleen Kraft**, M.D. – Associate chief medical officer, Emory University Hospital
- **Vivek Murthy**, M.D. – 19th Surgeon General of the United States; Member, NCAA Board of Governors
- **Mike Rodriguez** – Senior director, U.S. Tennis Association and U.S. Open Security
- **William Schaffner**, M.D. – Professor, Preventive Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center



NCAA COVID-19 Advisory Panel

These student-athlete liaisons will provide their perspective to the advisory panel:

- **Nicholas Clark** – Former Coastal Carolina student-athlete and Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee chair
- **Caroline Lee** – Southeastern Louisiana student-athlete; NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member and Division I SAAC representative to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports
- **Mary Northcutt** – Carson-Newman student-athlete; NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member and Division II SAAC representative to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports
- **Isaiah Swann** – University of Texas at Dallas student-athlete; NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member and Division III SAAC representative to the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports



NCAA Decision Making Summary

- The NCAA is actively monitoring COVID-19 in the United States, evaluating possible scenarios, and will make decisions on competition based on the evolving medical protocols established by the CDC, NIH and state and local authorities.
- The NCAA decisions are first and foremost reflective of medical best practices and keep the health and safety of our student-athletes, fans, coaches, officials and families as the number one priority.



MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the CDC's Coronavirus page: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.



NCAA Division I Transfer Waiver Working Group



Background

- In October 2019, the Board of Directors directed the Council to appoint a working group to conduct a comprehensive review of the four-year transfer waiver process.
- The four-year transfer waiver process is designed to accommodate student-athletes who need to transfer schools due to extenuating and extraordinary circumstances outside of their control.
- Current environment: It is increasingly common for institutions to pursue immediate eligibility on behalf of any student-athlete who does not otherwise qualify for a legislative exception by nature of their sport or previous transfer history.
 - Unprecedented levels of advocacy for all transfer waivers, regardless of the mitigation or circumstances.

Identified Transfer Waiver Challenges

The following perpetuate lack of confidence in existing waiver process:

- Lack of transparency on basis for waiver outcomes (e.g., confidentiality of decision rationale, privacy of medical documentation, information considered, etc.).
- Use of waiver process as a recruitment mechanism.
- Public pressure to support a departing student-athlete's transfer waiver.
- Subjective guidelines for relief encourage creative waiver submission.
- Significantly increased volume and submission trends.

Scope of Review

This Transfer Waiver Working Group is reviewing and examining the following:

- What should the purpose of the four-year transfer waiver process be?
- What are the limitations of the four-year transfer waiver process?
- Are there types of circumstances that are challenging to parse through the waiver process?
- Are there factors that should more heavily inform relief provided through the transfer waiver process (e.g., academic impact)?
- Does addressing certain contexts differently through the waiver process complicate/undermine its overall perceived integrity?
- Are there any contexts that are better treated as legislative exceptions (e.g., no participation opportunity at former school)?

Scope of Review, continued

- Through this review the working group is focused on developing sustainable solutions to improve the transfer waiver process by:
 - Increasing transparency;
 - Adding objectivity; and
 - Defining the appropriate role of transfer waivers in the 21st century.

Purpose of Transfer Waiver Process

- Establish a more objective, easily defined and predictable waiver process that balances expectations and interests of both the student-athlete and the involved institutions and provides stability across the division.
- Ensure the transfer waiver process limits barriers to the student-athlete's maintained educational experience.
- Help student-athletes make more well-informed transfer decisions.
- Limit broad, subjective categories that perpetuate many of the existing problems, tensions and gamesmanship.

Review of Waiver Guideline Concept



Areas of Agreement by Working Group



Current waiver process is unsustainable, inherently subjective and the outcomes are increasingly perceived as unfair.



Waiver should prioritize uniformity and that fundamentally, student-athletes should be treated the same when transferring, regardless of sport.



No academic data to support that serving an academic year in residence following transfer is academically necessary for all student-athletes.



Concept should offer student-athletes, coaches and administrators a predictable, objective alternative to the current process.

Transfer Waiver Guidelines Concept

First-time transfer waiver requests would use:

One-time Transfer Waiver Guideline

- No previous four-year transfer history (unless nonsponsored exception applied);
- Academically eligible at previous institution (percentage of degree exception);
- No disciplinary suspension from previous institution; and
- Previous institution does not object to student-athlete's immediate eligibility.

Also note:

- Must maintain academic progress at new institution to be eligible to compete.
- Impermissible recruiting contact renders student-athlete ineligible at that institution.

Transfer Waiver Guidelines Concept

All other waiver requests (e.g., 4-4-4 transfer) would be considered under:

Unique, Extenuating and Extraordinary Circumstances Guideline

Reserved for documented unique, extenuating and extraordinary circumstances that are outside of the student-athlete's control that directly impact the student-athlete's health and/or safety.

- Examples include physical or sexual assault, discrimination or harassment.

Also note:

- Student-athletes whose circumstances do not meet this specific standard would be subject to year in residence.

Working Group Identified Follow-up Issues



Ensure student-athletes understand transfer implications of transferring and possess tool to make well-informed decisions.



Reinforce that tampering constitutes a serious NCAA violation and jeopardizes a student-athlete's eligibility should they ultimately transfer.



Roster considerations, including but not limited to initial signee and hard cap limitations in the sport of football.

Working Group Identified Follow-up Issues, continued.



APR implications of transfer, specifically related to student-athletes who transfer below the 2.600 GPA adjustment standard.



Review timing of notification implications, including whether a required date to notify the institution of the intent to transfer is appropriate.



Identify best means by which to administer transfer waiver concept for 2020-21 academic year.

Timeline

- The working group continues to have weekly teleconferences to address follow-up items, feedback received and make changes to the concept.
- The working group has requested stakeholder feedback on its concept by March 16.
- Stakeholder feedback has been requested from the 32 Division I conference offices, the five impacted coaches' associations, athletic directors, compliance professionals, faculty athletics representatives, academic advisors, impacted governance committees and student-athletes
- Recommendation made to Division I Council during the April meeting.



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