



# **Division III August Webinar**

## **COVID-19 and Waiver Updates**

**Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Zach Romash**

**We will begin at promptly 1 p.m. (EST).**

# Agenda

- Student-Athlete Reinstatement Previously Approved Waiver List.
- Full-Time Enrollment.
- 2020-21 Academic Year Proactive Blanket Waivers: Season of Participation and Eligibility Extension.
- Virtual Recruiting Waiver.
- Membership Waiver.
- Alternative Playing Seasons Model.
- Questions and Answers.

# SAR Previously Approved Waiver List: Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule Waiver - COVID-19 Pandemic Year

- COVID-19 Pandemic Year - SAR previously approved waiver provides additional one-semester extension if the following conditions are met:
  - Student-athletes (SAs) unable to participate in a spring sport during the 2020 spring semester/quarter due to COVID-19 or received season-of-participation waiver during 2020 spring semester/quarter.
  - SA was otherwise eligible for competition during the 2020 spring semester/quarter.
  - Only applies to 2020 spring sport SAs.
  - Extension must be used in term immediately following expiration of SA's 10-semester/15-quarter period of eligibility.
- See RSRO Case Nos. 1097134 and 1099566.

# Full-Time Enrollment

- All current full-time enrollment requirements and exceptions continue to apply for the 2020-21 academic year.
- For spring sport SAs who would have completed their eligibility in spring 2020, the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief will review requests for less than full-time enrollment on a case by case basis.
- Criteria for such requests include:
  - Student-athletes must remain students while participating.
  - Course work furthers an academic or career goal.
  - Proposed academic plan is approved by an academic authority outside of athletics.

# 2020-21 Academic Year – Blanket Waivers

- Season-of-Participation Waiver.
  - 50% or less of contest/dates of competition maximums.
  - If team completes more than 50% of contest/date of competition maximum, SA does not qualify for blanket waiver regardless of SA's competition count.
- Extension of Eligibility Waiver.
  - Two-semester extension if SA was unable to participate in their sport during the 2020-21 academic year due to the impact of COVID-19 or SA qualified for blanket season-of-participation waiver.
  - SA otherwise eligible.
- **As things develop, NCAA staff will provide further clarification regarding blanket waivers.**

# Virtual Recruiting

- Current blanket waiver expires August 1, 2020.
- SLR has approved a new waiver, effective August 1, 2020, that permits virtual recruiting with multiple prospective student-athletes with the following parameters:
  - Chat function is permissible.
  - May involve PSAs, including outside groups, regardless of age or grade level.
  - Not limited by who initiates the event.
  - Using student-athlete is permissible if their involvement is voluntary, occurs during the academic year and no class is missed.
  - May publicize the event but may not publicize/promote the participation of an individual or group of PSAs.

# Membership Waivers

- The Division III Membership Committee reduced the minimum number of contests required for sport sponsorship by 33% for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Committee is reviewing other membership requirements during their August meeting (e.g. one all-male and all-female sport per season).
  - A waiver of membership requirements should only be submitted when an institution is certain that it will not meet a requirement(s).

# Alternative Playing Seasons Model



**Optional**



## **Primary Differences**

The playing and practice seasons are defined by days;

Days do not have to occur consecutively or in consecutive weeks;

There is not a distinction between the traditional and nontraditional segments.



	Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
<b>Length of season</b>	114 Days.	114 Days.*	114 Days.*
<b>First permissible practice date</b>	The earlier of Aug. 10 or the first day of class.	Oct. 1 for basketball, bowling, ice hockey and wrestling. For all other sports, the earlier of Sept. 7 or the first day of class.	The earlier of Aug. 10 or the first day of class for golf, tennis and rowing. For all other sports, the earlier of Sept. 7 or the first day of class.
<b>First permissible contest date</b>	No changed from existing legislation.	No changed from existing legislation.	No changed from existing legislation.
<b>End of season</b>	Five weekdays before the 1st day of the institution's final exam period for the regular academic year.	Five weekdays before the 1st day of the institution's final exam period for the regular academic year.	Conclusion of NCAA championships.

\*144 days if sponsor both indoor and outdoor track and field.

# Alternative Playing and Practice Seasons Model

- **Additional Considerations.**
  - Contest limit.
  - Eligibility.
  - Male practice players.
  - Out of season athletically related activities.
  - Outside competition.
  - Designation of the playing season.

# Questions?

- All questions, must be submitted via your computer, using the following instructions:
  - Click on the Q&A icon – in the middle of your screen. It will open a text box on the right side of your computer screen.
  - Type in message and click on send.