



BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
PUBLIC INFRACTIONS DECISION
NOVEMBER 11, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

The NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions (COI) is an independent administrative body of the NCAA comprised of individuals from the Division II membership and public. The COI is charged with deciding infractions cases involving member institutions and their staffs. This case involved improper certification violations at Bluefield State College.¹ The underlying violations occurred largely due to compliance-related shortcomings in staffing and systems. Those shortcomings demonstrated that Bluefield State failed to monitor its certification process. The COI considered this case through the cooperative summary disposition process in which Bluefield State and the enforcement staff agreed to the primary facts and violations as fully set forth in the summary disposition report (SDR). The COI proposed additional penalties for Bluefield State, which the institution accepted. Therefore, institution has no opportunity to appeal.

Bluefield State agreed that over a three-year period it improperly certified a total of 21 student-athletes in eight sport programs. The violations fell into three general categories: (1) amateurism certification; (2) academic certification; and (3) progress-toward-degree requirements. As a result of the improper certifications, ineligible or uncertified student-athletes competed in a total of 225 contests. Those student-athletes also received actual and necessary expenses associated with the contests. Although the improper certifications triggered numerous individual bylaws, each category was limited to a handful of student-athletes. Taken together, however, the conduct occurred over numerous years and involved multiple student-athletes in multiple sport programs. As a result, the COI concludes that cumulatively the improper certifications are a major violation.

Bluefield State also agreed that the violations occurred due to gaps in its compliance program. Specifically, the compliance officer responsible for certifying student-athletes had limited experience in NCAA compliance. He also was not exclusively dedicated to compliance, carrying out Bluefield State sports information responsibilities. Systemically, Bluefield State did not have the proper checks and balances in place because it did not involve other departments in the certification process—notably, it had no coordination with the registrar's office. Instead, Bluefield State had a "de facto" delegation to head coaches, relying on individual head coaches to assist in the certification process through their review and approval of the eligibility checklists provided by the compliance director. It is not clear that all coaches had sufficient knowledge, education or training to identify potential eligibility issues. The COI concludes the failure to monitor violation is major.

¹ Bluefield State College is an NCAA Division II institution and has no conference affiliation. Bluefield State has an enrollment of approximately 1,400 students. It sponsors ten men's and 12 women's sports. This is the institution's first major infractions case.

The COI accepts the parties' factual agreements and concludes that major violations occurred. Utilizing NCAA bylaws authorizing penalties, the COI adopts and prescribes the following principal penalties: public reprimand and censure; three years of probation; a \$2,000 fine; a vacation of records; increased reporting and monitoring of recommendations from an outside audit; and required attendance at NCAA Regional Rules Seminars.

II. CASE HISTORY

The violations in this case came to light after Bluefield State appointed a new college president who, following his appointment, initiated personnel changes in the athletics department. These changes included the then head women's basketball coach, who had prior compliance experience, taking over Bluefield State's NCAA compliance responsibilities. When the head women's basketball coach was preparing for the fall 2020 eligibility certification process, he discovered that multiple student-athletes had been improperly certified and contacted the NCAA. In January 2021, he self-reported multiple improper certifications. In response, the NCAA enforcement staff issued a verbal notice of inquiry on February 22, 2021, and the parties engaged in a collaborative investigation during the spring and summer of 2021. On September 20, 2021, the parties submitted an SDR to the COI. The COI considered the case on an October 19, 2021, conference call, and proposed additional penalties to Bluefield State two days later. Bluefield State accepted the penalties on November 1, 2021.

III. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS

PARTIES' AGREED-UPON FACTUAL BASIS, VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION AND TYPE OF VIOLATIONS

The participating parties jointly submitted an SDR that identified an agreed-upon factual basis, violations of NCAA legislation and type of violations.² The SDR identified:

- 1. [NCAA Division II Manual Bylaws 14.3.2.1.1, 14.3.5.1 and 14.5.4.3 (2017-18); 12.1.1, 12.1.1.1.3, 14.2, 14.2.2 and 14.5.1 (2017-18 and 2018-19); 14.12.1 and 16.8.1 (2017-18 through 2019-20); 14.3.2.1 and 14.4.3.1 (2018-19); 14.4.3.2 and 14.4.3.4 (2018-19 and 2019-20); and 14.1.7.1 (2019-20)]**

The institution and enforcement staff agree that during the 2017-18 through 2019-20 academic years, the institution improperly certified 21 student-athletes in eight sports as eligible for competition, which resulted in 28 violations of amateurism certification, academic certification and progress-toward-degree legislation. As a result, the student-athletes competed and received actual and necessary expenses while ineligible or not certified. The student-athletes competed in a total of 225 contests while ineligible or

² This decision provides the agreed upon factual basis, violations and type of violations exactly as stated in the SDR, except for shortening references to the parties.

not certified. Specifically:

- a. During the 2017-18 through 2019-20 academic years, one softball student-athlete, one men's golf student-athlete, one men's basketball student-athlete and one women's volleyball student-athlete, respectively, practiced and competed prior to having their amateurism certified. [NCAA Bylaws 12.1.1 and 12.1.1.1.3 (2017-18 and 2018-19)]
- b. During the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, five student-athletes in four sports practiced and competed after the 45-day certification period without completing NCAA initial eligibility certification. [NCAA Bylaws 14.3.5.1 (2017-18) and 14.3.2.1 (2018-19)]
- c. During the 2017-18 academic year, one baseball student-athlete competed as a partial qualifier. [NCAA Bylaw 14.3.2.1.1 (2017-18)]
- d. During the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, one women's cross country student-athlete and one baseball student-athlete, respectively, practiced and competed after exhausting 10 semesters of competition. [NCAA Bylaws 14.2 and 14.2.2 (2017-18 and 2018-19)]
- e. During the 2018-19 academic year, one women's volleyball student-athlete participated in competition while no longer in academic good standing with the institution. [NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1 (2018-19)]
- f. During the 2019-20 academic year, one women's volleyball student-athlete participated in practice and competition while no longer enrolled full time at the institution. [NCAA Bylaw 14.1.7.1 (2019-20)]
- g. During the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years, four student-athletes in three sports competed after not completing nine hours in the previous regular full-time academic term. [NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.2 (2018-19 and 2019-20)]
- h. During the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years, five student-athletes in five sports competed after not completing 24 hours in the two previous regular full-time academic terms. [NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.4 (2018-19 and 2019-20)]
- i. During the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years, one men's basketball four-year transfer student-athlete and one baseball four-year transfer student-athlete, respectively, competed without completing an academic year in residency at the institution. [NCAA Bylaw 14.5.1 (2017-18 and 2018-19)]
- j. During the 2017-18 academic year, one men's basketball two-year nonqualifier transfer student-athlete competed without obtaining the required six transfer credit hours of English, three transfer credit hours of math and three transfer credit hours

of science. [NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.3 (2017-18)]

2. [NCAA Division [NCAA Constitution 2.8.1 (2017-18 through 2019-20)]

The institution and enforcement staff agree that from the 2017-18 through 2019-20 academic years, the scope and nature of the violations detailed in Violation No. 1 demonstrate that the institution violated the NCAA principle of rules compliance when it failed to adequately monitor its certification processes and ensure compliance with NCAA amateurism, initial eligibility, continuing eligibility and transfer legislation. Specifically, the institution did not provide the necessary supervision of its NCAA certification system to verify the accuracy of student-athlete certification. This resulted in multiple student-athletes participating while ineligible or not certified.

IV. REVIEW OF CASE

The SDR fully detailed the parties' positions and included the agreed-upon primary facts, violations and type of violations. After reviewing the parties' principal factual agreements and respective explanations surrounding those agreements, the COI accepts the SDR and concludes that major violations occurred. Specifically, the COI concludes that Bluefield State failed to properly certify student-athletes as eligible for competition over a three-year period. The violations occurred because Bluefield State did not have the proper resources dedicated to its compliance operations, nor did it have the proper systems in place to ensure compliance with NCAA certification legislation. These shortcomings failed to meet the expectations of member institutions outlined in Constitution 2 and resulted in violations of Bylaws 12, 14 and 16.³

Bylaw 12 governs amateurism, with fundamental principles centering on the responsibility for institutions to validate student-athletes' amateur status and certify that student-athletes are amateurs prior to permitting them to engage in practice or competition. Further, Bylaw 14 governs eligibility requirements for aid and competition, generally, and the scope of permissible participation prior to being certified for competition. Moreover, other bylaws limit the number of permissible seasons of competition, and establish requirements related to initial eligibility, progress-toward-degree and transfer eligibility. Bylaw 14 also places an affirmative obligation on institutions to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition. Finally, Bylaw 16 permits institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses only to eligible student-athletes.

In total, Bluefield State improperly certified 21 student-athletes across eight sport programs over a three-year period. Although the improper certifications triggered numerous bylaws, none of the categories involved more than five student-athletes and most of the categories only involved one or two. That said, numerous violations still occurred. When Bluefield State permitted student-athletes to compete prior to certifying their amateurism, the institution failed to meet fundamental

³ The full text of all bylaws violated in this case is at Appendix Two. In this case, the parties identified more than 15 different bylaws across both major violations. For simplicity, the COI addresses the bylaws generally, but does not identify every bylaw in its analysis.

obligations under Bylaw 12. Similarly, Bluefield State violated numerous provisions of Bylaw 14 when it failed to complete initial eligibility certification and permitted other student-athletes to practice and/or compete when they had not met initial eligibility, exceeded limitations on season of competitions, were not in academic good standing or failed to meet progress-toward-degree or transfer eligibility requirements. Finally, when Bluefield State provided some of the ineligible student-athletes with actual and necessary expenses, it violated Bylaw 16.

Individually, the improper certification violations would have been secondary violations. Taken together, however, they involved numerous student-athletes, a number of sport programs and the violations occurred over a multi-year period. Thus, they establish a collective major violation under Bylaw 19.02.2.2. The COI has previously concluded that improper certification violations that lead to ineligible competition establish major violations. *See Lynn University* (2019) (concluding that major violations occurred when Lynn failed to certify 51 student-athletes in 14 sport programs over two academic years resulting in Lynn allowing student-athletes to participate without obtaining, completing or retaining required documents and failing to confirm that student-athletes met academic and/or transfer requirements) and *Morehouse College* (2015) (concluding that major certification violations occurred when Morehouse improperly certified 29 student-athletes in five sports over a more than three-year period). In this case, Bluefield State's violations are similar in number and duration. In that way, the violations were not isolated because they occurred over three years. Likewise, because ineligible student-athletes competed in a total of 225 contests, Bluefield State received more than a minimal competitive advantage. The multiple secondary violations establish a major violation.

Bluefield State also agreed that the certification violations occurred because it did not monitor the effectiveness of the compliance methods and processes used for certifying its student-athletes. The parties agree that the failure to monitor violation is a major violation of Constitution 2.

Constitution 2 sets forth the principles for conducting intercollegiate athletics. Constitution 2.8.1 requires member institutions to comply with all rules and regulations of the Association, monitor their athletics programs to assure compliance, and identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved.

Bluefield State agreed that it fell short of its monitoring responsibilities because it had inadequate programs in place to assure compliance with certification requirements. The COI agrees and observes that these shortcomings occurred due to insufficient resources (staffing and experience) and inadequate systems.

First, the institution placed all certification responsibilities with the institution's sole compliance officer, who had limited experience in NCAA compliance and also carried significant sports information responsibilities. The compliance director's inexperience, coupled with the time demands associated with his dual roles, hampered his ability to certify student-athletes. Candidly, Bluefield State is fortunate that the certification violations were limited to 21 student-athletes.

Second, Bluefield State did not have proper checks and balances in place. Most notably, Bluefield State did not involve other departments—admissions, campus advising or, most importantly, the

registrar—in the certification process. Instead, Bluefield State placed "de facto" secondary certification responsibility with its head coaches by requiring them to sign off on the eligibility checklists prepared by the compliance director. While some coaches had past compliance experience and knowledge, others did not; and it appears that coaches signed off on student-athletes' eligibility without further inquiry.⁴ Thus, the COI concludes that Bluefield State violated Constitution 2.8.1.

When assessing institutional failures, the number of student-athletes, number of programs involved and the duration of the violations are relevant considerations, among others. *See Lynn* (concluding that Lynn failed to monitor when Lynn allowed 51 student-athletes to participate prior to meeting all eligibility requirements over a two-year period and the violation occurred, in part, due to the compliance officer's lack of experience and resources) and *Morehouse* (concluding that Morehouse failed to monitor its certification process when it improperly certified 29 student-athletes over a four-year period). Violations of a similar scope and nature are present in this case. Consistent with the COI's past cases, the COI concludes that Bluefield State failed to monitor its certification process. The violation is major because it was not isolated, and the underlying violations provided Bluefield State with a more than minimal competitive advantage. *See* Bylaw 19.02.2.2.

V. PENALTIES

For the reasons set forth in Sections III and IV of this decision, the COI concludes that this case involved major violations of NCAA legislation. Major violations are not isolated or inadvertent and provide more than a minimal advantage. Because Bluefield State agreed to the facts, violations and additional proposed penalties, it has no opportunity to appeal.

In prescribing penalties, the COI evaluated relevant mitigating factors pursuant to Bylaw 32.7.1.3. The COI specifically notes the institutional leadership's swift action to reorganize compliance functions to those with more experience, which led to the new compliance officer discovering and self-reporting the violations in this case. Furthermore, the COI applauds Bluefield State for proactively securing an outside entity with compliance expertise to conduct a compliance audit after discovering the violations. Bluefield State also began implementing the recommendations associated with that audit ahead of the COI's consideration of this case. Because Bluefield State proactively spent funds to secure an outside audit and enhance other compliance-related resources, the COI opted not to increase the fine in this case above what the institution proposed.

⁴ Given the fact that some coaches had more NCAA compliance experience and allegedly reviewed and signed off on erroneous eligibility checklists, the COI considered whether some of the head coaches failed to meet their responsibilities under Bylaw 11.1.2.1—particularly in circumstances where head coaches knew or at least should have known student-athletes were ineligible due to more obvious circumstances (*e.g.*, exhausting 10 semesters of competition, not in good academic standing, required to serve a year in residency). However, the COI ultimately concluded that the failures derived from the institution's inadequate compliance systems and did not attribute the responsibilities to the head coaches who ended up with "de facto" secondary certification responsibilities.

As part of its evaluation, the COI also considered Bluefield State's cooperation in all parts of the case and determines it was consistent with Bluefield State's obligation under Bylaw 32.1.3. Likewise, the COI considered Bluefield State's corrective actions as set forth in Appendix One. After considering all information relevant to the case, the COI prescribes the following penalties (self-imposed penalties are so noted):

Penalties for Major Violations (Bylaw 19.5.2)

1. Public reprimand and censure through the release of the public infractions decision.
2. Probation: Three years of probation from November 11, 2021 to November 10, 2024.⁵
3. During this period of probation, Bluefield State shall:
 - a. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive compliance and educational program on NCAA legislation to instruct coaches, the faculty athletics representative, all athletics department personnel and all institutional staff members with responsibility for ensuring compliance with NCAA legislation on certification and recruiting;
 - b. Submit a preliminary report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) by January 1, 2022, forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educational program. The preliminary report must also include a copy of the recently completed outside audit, including all of the auditor's recommendations and a reasonable schedule for when the recommendations will be completed and implemented during the probationary period;
 - c. File with the OCOI annual compliance reports indicating the progress made with this program by October 1. Particular emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring related to certification and student-athlete eligibility. Moreover, Bluefield State must include specific examples of certification and eligibility-related education provided to Bluefield State coaching staff members regarding their responsibilities in signing off on eligibility checklists and ensuring that only eligible student-athletes represent the institution;
 - d. Inform prospects in the eight affected sport programs in writing that Bluefield State is on probation for three years and detail the violations committed. If a prospect takes an official paid visit, the information regarding violations, penalties and terms of probation must be provided in advance of the visit. Otherwise, the information must be provided before a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent; and

⁵ Bluefield State proposed a two-year probationary period. The COI adds an additional year to ensure that the institution has the opportunity to address the agreed-upon compliance shortfalls and to implement all of the recommendations associated with the outside audit during the probationary period. Although institutions may recommend terms of probation, the authority to prescribe probation rests solely with the COI. Periods of probation always commence with the release of the infractions decision.

- e. Publicize specific and understandable information concerning the nature of the infractions by providing, at a minimum, a statement to include the types of violations and the affected sport programs and a direct, conspicuous link to the public infractions decision located on the athletics department's main webpage "landing page" and in the media guides for the affected sport programs. The institution's statement must: (i) clearly describe the infractions; (ii) include the length of the probationary period associated with the case; and (iii) give members of the general public a clear indication of what happened in the case to allow the public (particularly prospects and their families) to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. A statement that refers only to the probationary period with nothing more is not sufficient.
4. Bluefield State shall pay a \$2,000 fine. (Self-imposed.)⁶
 5. Vacation of records. Bluefield State acknowledged that ineligible participation occurred as a result of the violations in this case. Therefore, pursuant to Bylaws 19.5.2-(g) and Executive Regulations 31.2.2.4 and 31.2.2.5, Bluefield State shall vacate all regular season and conference tournament records and participation in which ineligible student-athletes detailed in this case competed from the time they became ineligible through the time they were reinstated as eligible for competition. This order of vacation includes all regular season competition and conference tournaments. Further, if the ineligible student-athletes participated in NCAA postseason competition at any time they were ineligible, the institution's participation in the postseason shall be vacated. (Self-imposed.) The individual records of the ineligible student-athletes shall also be vacated.⁷ However, the individual finishes and any awards for all eligible student-athletes shall be retained. Further, the institution's records regarding its athletics programs, as well as the records of the head coaches, shall reflect the vacated records and shall be recorded in all publications in which such records are reported, including, but not limited to, institutional media guides, recruiting material, electronic and digital media plus institutional, conference and NCAA archives. Any institution that may subsequently hire the affected head coaches shall similarly reflect the vacated wins in their career records documented in media guides and other publications cited above. Head coaches with vacated wins on their records may not count the vacated wins toward specific honors or victory "milestones" such as 100th, 200th or 500th career victories. Any public reference to the vacated contests shall be removed from the athletics department stationery, banners displayed in public areas and any other forum in which they may appear. Any trophies awarded by the NCAA in these sports shall be returned to the Association.

⁶ In considering the value of the fine, the COI noted that the institution proactively allocated costs to securing an outside audit to review the institution's compliance program. Although the COI addresses fines on a case-by-case basis, the COI encourages institutions to proactively address potential shortcomings and expend the necessary resources to address them.

⁷ Among other examples, the COI has indicated that a vacation of records is particularly appropriate when cases involve ineligible competition and either a failure to monitor or lack of institutional control violations. Further, the COI has consistently prescribed a vacation of records in cases that involved student-athletes competing when they failed to meet amateurism and eligibility requirements. See *Saginaw Valley State University* (2019), *Lynn, Morehouse, Central State University* (2016), *Cheney University of Pennsylvania* (2014) and *University of the District of Columbia* (2008).

Finally, to ensure that all institutional and student-athlete vacations, statistics and records are accurately reflected in official NCAA publications and archives, the sports information director (or other designee as assigned by the director of athletics) must contact the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office and appropriate conference officials to identify the specific student-athletes and contests impacted by the penalties. In addition, the institution must provide the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office with a written report detailing those discussions. This document will be maintained in the permanent files of the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office. This written report must be delivered to the office no later than 14 days following the release of this decision or, if the vacation penalty is appealed, at the conclusion of the appeals process. The sports information director (or designee) must also inform the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) of this submission to the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office.

6. Bluefield State is required to provide the COI with a copy of its outside audit and the recommendations contained therein as an attachment to its preliminary compliance report. Bluefield State shall implement all recommendations made by the reviewer during the probationary period. As part of the annual reporting process, Bluefield State must include updates on the status of the recommendations.
7. During each year of the term of probation, the director of athletics and compliance director(s) shall attend NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. Moreover, during the first two years of probation, any and all individuals in the registrar's office with certification-related responsibilities must also attend NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. Finally, representatives with athletics-related responsibilities in the institution's financial aid office must attend one NCAA Regional Rules Seminar during the term of probation. The institution shall provide in its annual compliance reports a list of the sessions the associate athletic director for compliance attends at these seminars.
8. Following the receipt of the final compliance report and prior to the conclusion of probation, Bluefield State's president shall provide a letter to the COI affirming that Bluefield State's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

As required by NCAA legislation for any institution involved in a major infractions case, Bluefield State shall be subject to the provisions of Bylaw 19.5.2.3 concerning repeat violators for a five-year period beginning on the effective date of the penalties in this case, November 11, 2021. The COI further advises Bluefield State that it should take every precaution to ensure that it observes the terms of the penalties. The COI will monitor Bluefield State while it is on probation to ensure compliance with the penalties and terms of probation and may extend the probationary period, among other action, if Bluefield State does not comply or commits additional violations.

Likewise, any action by Bluefield State contrary to the terms of the penalties or any additional violations shall be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties and/or may result in additional allegations and violations.

NCAA DIVISION II COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS

Jessica Chapin
John David Lackey, Chair
Richard Loosbrock
Melissa Reilly
Leslie Schuemann
Jason Sobolik

APPENDIX ONE

**BLUEFIELD STATE'S CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, SUMMARY DISPOSITION REPORT**

The institution has taken the following corrective actions:

- Created a full-time Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance position. The position has a direct reporting line to the Director of athletics and a dotted reporting line to the General Counsel's Office.
- Increased the staffing of the athletics compliance office to a 1.85 FTE. Besides the Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance position, other institutional staff will be utilized.
- Retained an outside entity to conduct a NCAA Blueprint type review focusing on eligibility certification.
- Initiated ongoing collaboration between the Athletics Compliance Officer with the Registrar's Office to ensure proper certification of all student-athletes prior to the start of each academic term.
- Reinstated the Compliance Committee comprised of representatives from the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Admissions, Bursar, Controller and the FAR.
- Revamped and implemented new compliance procedures (including eligibility certification procedures).
- Purchased a contract for a compliance software program.
- Required representatives from the Offices of Financial Aid and Registrar to review presentations from the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.
- Developed a more detailed job description setting forth responsibilities of the role of the FAR and appointed a new FAR.

Further, the institution has also undertaken the following:

- Appointed [College President] in September 2019. [The President] previously was the President at West Liberty State University for eight years and provides the College with an extensive background in the operation of a Division II athletics program.
- Appointed an Executive Vice President and General Counsel in September 2020. [EVP and GC] previously was the Chief Justice of the West Virginia Court of Appeals and was in private practice prior to joining the College. The Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance will have a dotted reporting line to the Executive Vice President and General Counsel. [EVP and GC] also will be involved in monitoring the institution's ongoing NCAA compliance efforts.
- Appointed a Director of Athletics in March 2021 after being the interim since May 2020. [The Director of Athletics] was the Head Men's Basketball Coach for the previous five years but is no longer in that capacity.
- Appointed an Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance. [The Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance] had served in the interim capacity. [The Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance] was the Head Women's Basketball Coach for the previous four years but is no longer in that capacity.
- Appointed an Assistant Director of Athletics for Academic Success and Community Engagement who previously served in similar capacities at other NCAA schools.

APPENDIX TWO
Bylaw Citations

Division II 2017-18 Manual

2.8 The Principle of Rules Compliance.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

12.1.1 Validity of Amateur Status. As a condition and obligation of membership, it is the responsibility of an institution to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (e.g., including a two-year and four-year college transfer initially enrolling at an NCAA Division II institution) and student-athlete is based.

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice and Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a certification of amateur status for activities that occur prior to the certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.2 Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule.

A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 14.02.10 and 14.2.2). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all of his or her seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below:

14.2.2 Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution. For an institution that conducts registration other than on a traditional semester or quarter basis, the Academic Requirements Committee shall determine an equivalent enrollment period.

14.3.2.1.1 Eligibility for Aid, Practice and Competition. An entering freshman with no previous college attendance who enrolls in an institution and who is a partial qualifier may receive institutional financial aid (see Bylaw 15.2.1) based on institutional and conference regulations and may practice only on campus or at the institution's regular practice facility but may not compete during the first academic year in residence.

14.3.5.1 Participation Before Certification—Recruited and Nonrecruited Student-Athlete. If a recruited or nonrecruited student-athlete reports for athletics participation before the high school core-curriculum grade-point average and test score have been certified, the student-athlete may practice, but not compete, for a maximum of 45 days, provided the student-athlete is enrolled full time or has been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student. After this 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements as a qualifier (as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) to continue practicing or to compete, or the minimum requirements as a partial qualifier to continue practicing.

14.5.1 Residence Requirement—General Principle. A student who transfers (see Bylaw 14.5.2) to a member institution from any collegiate institution is required to complete one full academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.02.14) at the certifying institution before being eligible to compete for or to receive travel expenses from the member institution (see Bylaw 16.8.1), unless the student satisfies the applicable transfer requirements or receives an exception or waiver as set forth in this bylaw.

14.5.4.3 Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid—All Other Qualifiers, Partial Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers. A transfer student from a two-year college is eligible for competition, practice and athletics aid during the first academic year in residence at the certifying institution, provided:

14.12.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student- Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete’s eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.13, if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

16.8.1 Permissible. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide actual and necessary expenses to a student-athlete to represent the institution in practice and competition (including expenses for activities/travel that are incidental to practice or competition). In order to receive competition-related expenses, the student-athlete must be eligible for competition.

Division II 2018-19 Manual

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution’s staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution’s athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

12.1.1 Validity of Amateur Status. As a condition and obligation of membership, it is the responsibility of an institution to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (e.g., including a two-year and four-year college transfer initially enrolling at an NCAA Division II institution) and student-athlete is based. (See Bylaw 14.01.3.)

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice and Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a certification of amateur status for activities that occur prior to the certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.2 Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule.

A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 14.02.10 and 14.2.2). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all of his or her seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below:

14.2.2 Ten-Semester/15-Quarter Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation during the first 10 semesters or 15 quarters in which the student is enrolled in a collegiate institution in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the regulations of that institution. For an institution that conducts registration other than on a traditional semester or quarter basis, the Academic Requirements Committee shall determine an equivalent enrollment period.

14.3.2.1 Participation Before Certification—Recruited and Nonrecruited Student-Athlete. If a recruited or nonrecruited student-athlete reports for athletics participation before the high school core-curriculum grade-point average and test score have been certified, the student-athlete may practice, but not compete, for a maximum of 45 days, provided the student-athlete is enrolled full time or has been accepted for enrollment as a regular full-time student. After this 45-day period, the student shall have established minimum requirements as a qualifier (as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) to continue practicing or to compete, or the minimum requirements as a partial qualifier to continue practicing.

14.4.3.1 Good Academic Standing. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be in good academic standing, as determined by the academic authorities who determine the meaning and application of such phrases for all students at the institution, subject to controlling legislation of the conference(s) or similar association of which the institution is a member. A student-athlete shall maintain a grade-point average that places the individual in good academic standing, as established by the institution for all students who are at an equivalent stage of progress toward a degree. A student-athlete who is not in good academic standing is not eligible for competition even if the individual satisfies the progress-toward-degree requirements. The definition of good academic standing applied to student-athletes shall be a standard at least as demanding as the minimum standard applied to all students in order to participate in extracurricular activities at the institution.

14.4.3.2 Term-By-Term Credit-Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.4 Annual Credit Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit during any year in which the student-athlete is enrolled full time in at least one academic term. A student-athlete may satisfy this requirement based on the student-athlete earning:

14.5.1 Residence Requirement—General Principle. A student who transfers (see Bylaw 14.5.2) to a member institution from any collegiate institution is required to complete one full academic year of residence (see Bylaw 14.02.14) at the certifying institution before being eligible to compete for or to receive travel expenses from the member institution (see Bylaw 16.8.1), unless the student satisfies the applicable transfer requirements or receives an exception or waiver as set forth in this bylaw.

14.12.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.13, if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

16.8.1 Permissible. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide actual and necessary expenses to a student-athlete to represent the institution in practice and competition (including expenses for activities/travel that are incidental to practice or competition). In order to receive competition-related expenses, the student-athlete must be eligible for competition.

Division II 2019-20 Manual

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to ensure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

14.12.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition.

If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.13, if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

14.4.3.2 Term-By-Term Credit-Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.4 Annual Credit Hour Requirement. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete must earn 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit during any year in which the student-athlete is enrolled full time in at least one academic term. A student-athlete may satisfy this requirement based on the student-athlete earning:

14.1.7.1 Requirement for Practice or Competition. To be eligible for practice or competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the institution, which for purposes of this bylaw and its subsections shall not be less than 12-semester or -quarter hours, regardless of the institution's definition of a minimum full-time program of studies.

16.8.1 Permissible. An institution, conference or the NCAA may provide actual and necessary expenses to a student-athlete to represent the institution in practice and competition (including expenses for activities/travel that are incidental to practice or competition). In order to receive competition-related expenses, the student-athlete must be eligible for competition.