



2020 NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide

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Updates are Highlighted in **Yellow**

Please note this is the most up-to-date edition of the 2020 NCAA Division I COVID-19 Question and Answer Guide. Updates will be made to this document on a continuous basis following the weekly teleconferences of the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee.

DIVISION I COVID-19
QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership	3
NCAA Division I Bylaw 11 – Athletics Personnel	3
NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility	4
NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting	7
NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility	11
NCAA Division I Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid	16
NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes	20
NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons	21
NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership	23

NCAA Division I Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership

Question: If a Division I institution continues practice and/or competition during the 2019-20 academic year, will it still be covered by the NCAA's catastrophic injury insurance program?

Answer: The NCAA's cancellation of winter and spring championships in 2020 does not impact the NCAA catastrophic injury insurance program.

Reporting Requirements.

This question was originally listed in the "NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership" section of this guide.

Question: Are active Division I institutions still subject to the reporting requirements under Constitution 3?

Answer: Yes. Although the submission deadlines have been waived, the associated conditions and obligations of membership remain in effect. Consistent with the blanket waiver approved by the committee, institutions that need additional time to report the required information (forms, survey, etc.) are encouraged to contact the appropriate staff liaisons to discuss their circumstances. As it relates to Constitution 3.2.4.20.1 (Concussion Safety Protocol) the NCAA Sports Science Institute staff will provide additional information to the membership regarding the review of institutional Concussion Safety Protocols.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 11 – Conduct and Employment of Athletics Personnel

Question No. 1: May an institution temporarily reassign a volunteer coach to a paid position in the athletics department in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (e.g., cancellation of all scheduled camps and clinics)?

Answer: No. An institution may not temporarily reassign a volunteer coach to a paid position in the athletics department.

Question No. 2: May an institution compensate a volunteer coach who was planning to work camps and clinics that have been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

Answer: No. An institution may not compensate a volunteer coach for work not performed.

Question No. 3: Is a student assistant coach for a team with a spring championship eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as a student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. A student assistant coach who is deprived of the opportunity to participate during the spring 2020 semester is eligible for an extension of the five-year clock in the same manner as

a spring student-athlete. The NCAA Division I Coordination Council Committee took action to allow institutions to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for spring-sport student-athletes, effectively extending each student's five-year "clock" by one year.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 12 – Amateurism and Athletics Eligibility

Outstanding Amateurism Certification Conditions.

Question: Does the cancellation of the spring season affect an amateurism certification condition (for example, being withheld from a certain amount of competition) that was not completed before the season was cancelled?

Answer: At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to amateurism withholding conditions. Any changes to such withholding conditions will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.

Promotion of Relief Opportunities.

Question: May a student-athlete, or group of student-athletes, promote fundraising efforts of charitable organizations where all proceeds are intended for specific relief purposes?

Answer: Yes, provided the requirements of the promotional activities legislation (Bylaw 12.5) are met. If student-athletes are interested in being involved with fundraising activities that do not satisfy the promotional activities legislation, please contact the academic and membership affairs staff. The staff continues to work with member schools to ensure student-athletes and communities impacted by COVID-19 are supported.

NCAA Rules Related to NBA Pre-Draft Process.

Question: May a men's basketball student-athlete enter into an agreement with an NCAA-certified agent and declare for the 2020 NBA Draft?

Answer: Yes. Once a men's basketball student-athlete has requested an evaluation from the NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee, he may enter into an agreement with an NCAA-certified agent and declare for the 2020 NBA Draft. As a reminder, per current NBA rules, a student-athlete must request a UAC evaluation no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time April 16, 2020, and declare for the NBA Draft as an early entrant no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time April 26, 2020.

*At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to the 2020 NBA pre-draft process. NCAA staff members are in regular contact with the NBA. Any changes to the NBA Draft process that impact NCAA rules will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.

Athletics Activity Waivers.

Question: With the Olympics postponed until 2021, will those students who have spent the last year training for the Olympics be able to use a second year to train for the Olympics and get a second athletics activity waiver?

Answer: At this time, the NCAA has not made any changes to the application of NCAA rules related to the 2021 Olympics. Any changes related to the Olympic year that impact NCAA rules will be reviewed, and updated guidance will be provided to the membership, as necessary.

Application of NCAA Division I Council Action Regarding Seasons of Competition and Extension of Eligibility.

Question No. 1: Which sports are considered spring sports?

Answer: Baseball, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Rowing, Softball, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field, Beach Volleyball, Men's Volleyball and Women's Water Polo.

Question No. 2: Which sports are considered winter sports?

Answer: Men's and Women's Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Men's and Women's Gymnastics, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey, Rifle, Skiing, Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field and Wrestling.

Question No. 3: What is a season-of-competition waiver?

Answer: A season-of-competition waiver restores a used season when a student-athlete participates limitedly and cannot complete the season due to extraordinary circumstances. There are certain legislative criteria that must be satisfied for a season-of-competition waiver to be approved.

Question No. 4: What is an extension-of-eligibility waiver?

Answer: An extension-of-eligibility waiver extends a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility ("clock").

Question No. 5: What does the Division I Council's action allowing institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers permit?

Answer: Due to the impact of COVID-19, competition in many sports was canceled. The Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply season-of-competition waivers in certain circumstances. Please see below for specific guidance:

Spring Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may self-apply a season-of-competition waiver for all spring sport student-athletes who competed during the 2019-20 academic year and were eligible for competition during spring 2020.

Winter Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may not self-apply season-of-competition waivers for winter sport student-athletes (i.e., winter sport student-athletes will not have their use of a season in 2019-20 restored through the Council's actions).

Question No. 6: May an institution self-apply the season-of-competition waiver if the institution later resumes its spring 2020 season?

Answer: No. If the institution resumes its season, then it has, by definition, not canceled its season due to COVID-19. As a result, the waiver will not apply.

Question No. 7: Would an institution need to file a hardship waiver request with its conference office for a spring sport student-athlete who used a season of competition during the 2019-20 academic year and sustained a season-ending injury before the season was canceled due to COVID-19?

Answer: No. The institution may self-apply the season-of-competition waiver based on the criteria outlined above.

Question No. 8: What does the Council's action allowing institutions to self-apply extensions of eligibility permit?

Answer: Due to the impact of COVID-19, competition in many sports was canceled. The Council took action to allow institutions to self-apply extensions of a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility in certain circumstances. Please see below for specific guidance:

Spring Sport Student-Athletes: An institution may self-apply an extension of eligibility for all spring sport student-athletes who were eligible for competition during spring 2020.

Winter sport Student-Athletes: An institution may not self-apply extensions of eligibility for winter sport student-athletes (i.e., winter sport student-athletes will not have their clock extended through the Council's actions).

Question No. 9: Are institutions permitted to self-apply season-of-competition waivers and extensions of eligibility for equestrian student-athletes?

Answer: No. Equestrian is not a sport with a spring NCAA championship. Institutions are permitted to submit waivers for equestrian student-athletes through Requests/Self-Reports Online

if the institution believes the student-athlete had a legislatively defined denied participation opportunity.

Question No. 10: Does the self-applied extension-of-eligibility waiver apply to all spring sport student-athletes, or only those who exhaust eligibility at the conclusion of the 2020 spring term?

Answer: The self-applied extension-of-eligibility waiver applies to all spring sport student-athletes. Please note, an extension of eligibility is a sport-by-sport application. Therefore, student-athletes may only use the self-applied extension in their spring 2020 sport.

Question No. 11: Will season-of-competition waivers and/or extension requests approved by other organizations (for example, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, National Junior College Athletic Association) be honored by the NCAA if a student-athlete transfers to an NCAA institution?

Answer: NCAA institutions cannot self-apply relief for student-athletes who were competing for other organizations (see examples above) during 2019-20. The NCAA institution is required to submit a season-of-competition waiver or extension request through RSRO for review by the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 13 – Recruiting

Telephone Calls.

Question No. 1: May an institution's coach video call a prospective student-athlete to conduct a tour of the institution's athletics and on-campus facilities?

Answer: Yes. A coach may video call a prospective student-athlete to conduct a campus tour. A video call (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) is considered a phone call. However, telephone recruiting restrictions (e.g., first opportunity to contact) continue to apply to prospective student-athletes and coaching staff members.

Question No. 2: May an institution's coach conduct a group video call with multiple uncommitted prospective student-athletes?

Answer: No. A coach may not conduct group conversations with prospective student-athletes (as on Zoom, Skype or FaceTime) as these interactions are not private between the sender and recipient. Further, recruiting activities like telephone or video calls may be conducted only by the head or assistant coaches who count towards the institution's coaching limitations; therefore, institutional staff members not permitted to make telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete are not permitted to participate in a video call.

Question No. 3: May an institution's coach engage in a video call with multiple coaches of prospective student-athletes (e.g., high school coaches, club coaches)?

Answer: Yes. A coach may conduct a video call with multiple high school or club coaches, provided the institution does not incur any fee on behalf of any of the participants. Please note: All recruiting legislation continues to apply.

Question No. 4: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period when campus visits are not permitted, may an institutional staff member direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to an uncommitted prospective student-athlete for purposes of discussing the campus experience?

Answer: No. An institutional staff member may not direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to an uncommitted prospective student-athlete at any time.

Question No. 5: May an institutional staff member direct a student-athlete to make phone calls to a committed (e.g., one who has signed a National Letter of Intent, received a written offer of admission or made a financial deposit) prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. A student-athlete may make phone calls to a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution. Please note: This activity is a required athletically related activity and may not occur on a required day off.

Question No. 6: May committed prospective student-athletes virtually participate in required athletically related activities (e.g., teambuilding, entertainment)?

Answer: No. Prospective student-athletes are not permitted to engage in required athletically related activities with student-athletes.

Question No. 7: May a prospective student-athlete use video call software to observe a team position meeting in any sport?

Answer: No. Bylaw 13.1.3.5.2 does not allow an enrolled student-athlete to participate in a telephone call with a prospective student-athlete at the direction of a coaching staff member. Therefore, a prospective student-athlete may not use audio or video call software to listen to or observe a team position meeting if that meeting is scheduled or arranged by the coaching staff. Further, Bylaw 14.2.1.1.1 does not permit prospective student-athletes to engage in meetings (e.g., review of playbook, chalk talk, film review).

Question No. 8: May an institution's coach engage in a virtual speaking engagement (e.g., banquet) that involves prospective student-athletes (e.g., Zoom meeting with a club team)?

Answer: No. A coach may not conduct group conversations with prospective student-athletes (e.g., Zoom, Skype, FaceTime) because group conversations are not private between the sender

and recipient. Further, recruiting activities like telephone or video calls, may be conducted only by a head or assistant coach who counts towards the institution's coaching limitations; therefore, institutional staff members not permitted to make telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete are not permitted to participate in a video call.

Contacts and Evaluations.

Question No. 1: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution per Bylaw 13.02.5.5.2?

Answer: Yes. A coaching staff member may have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution. While NCAA rules permit off-campus contact, institutions should follow all applicable governmental and public health guidance and/or directives that are issued.

Question No. 2: During the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution's coach have off-campus contact with a prospective student-athlete who has entered the transfer portal?

Answer: No. A coach may not have in-person, on- or off-campus contact with any uncommitted prospective student-athlete during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period. However, it remains permissible to make phone calls and send electronic correspondence during a dead period.

Campus Visits.

Question No. 1: Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete to take a previously scheduled official or unofficial visit during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: May an institution reimburse a prospective student-athlete for official visit expenses incurred if the official visit was canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak?

Answer: Yes. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee took action to allow prospective student-athlete to be reimbursed for a canceled visit due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note: Providing reimbursement does not count as the prospective student-athlete's official visit to the institution.

Question No. 3: During the temporary COVID-19 dead period, may an institution's coach assist the admissions office with campus tours for all prospective students?

Answer: No. A coach may not assist the admissions office with campus tours during a dead period.

Question No. 4: At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, may an institution conduct an official visit without obtaining a transcript due to the prospective student-athlete's educational institution closing for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: Generally, an institution may not provide a prospective student-athlete an official visit without first obtaining the prospective student-athlete's transcript. However, if a prospective student-athlete's educational institution has closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, an institution that is unable to obtain the prospective student-athlete's transcript and documents its reasonable attempts to obtain the transcript may provide the prospective student-athlete an official visit despite not having the prospective student-athlete's transcript on file with the institution. This flexibility is available from the date the prospective student-athlete's educational institution cancels classes for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year until the prospective student-athlete's education institution reopens.

Question No. 5: May an institution roll over unused official visits from the 2019-20 academic year to the 2020-21 academic year limitations as a result of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No. An institution may not roll over unused official visits from the 2019-20 academic year to the 2020-21 academic year, unless otherwise permitted in the legislation. With the adoption of Proposal No. 2019-36, in football, the institutional limits for official visits reset on April 1, 2020, and an institution may retain a maximum of six unused visits from the 2019-20 cycle to use in the 2020-21 cycle.

Recruiting Calendars.

Question: At the conclusion of the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period, will recruiting calendars remain the same?

Answer: Yes. Institutions must follow each sport's recruiting calendar and recruiting periods. The NCAA Division I Committees and Council may provide additional guidance with regards to future changes to recruiting calendars.

Camps and Clinics.

Question No. 1: Is it permissible for an institution to conduct an institutional camp or clinic during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: May an institution's coach work an online/virtual camp and clinic during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: No. Institutional staff members are not permitted to work camps and clinics conducted in any format (e.g., online, virtual) during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period.

Miscellaneous.

Question No. 1: May an institution's coach be involved with a local sports club during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period?

Answer: Yes, provided the involvement is otherwise permissible. All local sports club legislation applies during the temporary COVID-19 recruiting dead period. For example, sports with specific restrictions during a dead period (e.g., volleyball) must adhere to those restrictions.

Question No. 2: May an institution host a virtual coach's clinic with high school coaches, provided the high school coaches pay any associated fees related to the clinic (e.g., use of the virtual conferencing system)?

Answer: Yes. A coach may host a virtual coaches clinic, provided the clinic follows all NCAA legislation.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 – Academic Eligibility

Full-Time Enrollment.

Question No. 1: Is it permissible for a student-athlete who is enrolled part time for the remainder of the spring 2020 term to participate in Countable Athletically Related Activities (for example, video meetings)?

Answer: Yes, relief from the normal application of Bylaw 14.2.1 may be self-applied to allow student-athletes to continue to participate in CARA throughout the impacted term while enrolled less-than-full time, provided the student-athlete was initially enrolled full time for the 2020 spring term.

Question No. 2: Is it permissible for a student-athlete at an institution on a quarter system who only enrolled as a part-time student during the spring quarter to participate in CARA throughout the spring quarter?

Answer: Yes, relief from the normal application of Bylaw 14.2.1 may be self-applied to allow student-athletes to participate in CARA throughout the impacted quarter while enrolled less than full time.

Question No. 3: Are student-athletes who either used the final-term exception to be less than full time during spring 2020 term(s) or used the final term before the experiential learning requirement during the 2019-20 academic year able to retain their remaining eligibility if they were unable to graduate due to the COVID-19 impact?

Answer: Yes, relief from the normal application of Bylaws 14.2.2.1.3 and 14.2.2.1.4 (i.e., loss of remaining eligibility when graduation does not occur) may be self-applied to allow returning student-athletes to retain their remaining eligibility if they are not able to complete graduation requirements due to the impact of COVID-19.

Question No. 4: Can student-athletes who used Bylaw 14.2.2.1.3 during the 2020 spring term but did not graduate due to COVID-19 be less than full time again during fall 2020 if they remain on track to graduate at the conclusion of fall 2020?

Answer: Yes.

Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.

Question No. 1: Will there be any flexibility provided for student-athletes who are not academically eligible for fall 2020 competition due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. Flexibility already exists for relief from application of progress-toward-degree legislation due to catastrophic events through the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#). In this circumstance, this authority allows institutions to self-apply a waiver for a student-athlete whose academic progress was impacted by COVID-19 during the 2019-20 academic year. This waiver can be self-applied by the membership for the following academic deficiencies that occur as a result of COVID-19: the six-hour rule, 18-hour rule, 24-hour rule, grade-point average and percentage-of-degree requirements.

Question No. 2: Does the flexibility provided in the previously approved waiver checklist apply to the nine-hour requirement for football student-athletes?

Answer: No. An institution will need to file a waiver through Requests/Self-Reports Online for any football student-athlete who did not successfully complete nine hours during the 2019 fall term and did not regain eligibility using Bylaws 14.4.3.1.6.1 or 14.4.3.1.6.2.

Question No. 3: Can the previously approved waiver checklist be self-applied to waive good academic standing?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: How does an institution's decision to convert its traditional grading scale to "pass/fail" or "satisfactory/unsatisfactory" for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year affect continuing student-athletes' eligibility for competition during the 2020 fall term?

Answer: Conversion to a "pass/fail" or "satisfactory/unsatisfactory" grading scale does not impact an institution's ability to use credit hours earned when certifying a student-athlete's continuing academic eligibility. Specifically, there are no NCAA limitations or restrictions on the use of "pass/fail" courses to meet progress-toward-degree minimums. NCAA staff notes, institutional policy will continue to dictate how modified grading scales are calculated in an institution's grade-point average. If such an institutional grading scale conversion impacts a student-athlete's ability to meet specific progress-toward-degree requirements by the start of the 2020 fall term, the previously approved waiver checklist may be self-applied (*see above* Question and Answer No. 1).

Question No. 5: Does it matter if an institution's own policies allow any student to "opt in" to a modified grading scale for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: No. A student-athlete, like any student, can make whatever decision is allowed consistent with the institution's policies and approach to grading scale modifications for the 2019-20 academic year. Student-athletes should work with their own institutional academic advising staff to make decisions about whether to "opt in" or "opt out" of modified grading scales that are made available to students.

Question No. 6: Are there any resources available to assist institutions in providing academic support to student-athletes who are no longer on campus or enrolled in online courses instead of in-class courses?

Answer: Yes, the following resources may assist the membership in supporting student-athletes adjusting to a remote learning environment for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year:

- Enforcement resource "[NCAA Tips for Remote Learning](#)."
- [N4A – The National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals resource](#).
- [NCAA Division I Committee on Academics/N4A resource](#).

Two-Year College Transfers.

Question: Will there be any additional flexibility provided for 2-4 transfer student-athletes who do not meet 2-4 transfer requirements going into the fall 2020 term due to COVID-19?

Answer: Flexibility will be provided on a case-by-case basis through the waiver process in RSRO.

Initial Eligibility/NCAA Eligibility Center.

Question No. 1: Will there be any flexibility in terms of the requirement for submission of official documents for initial-eligibility certification due to disruptions in international mail and school closures?

Answer: Submission of official academic records is important for the accuracy of initial-eligibility certification and official records should be submitted whenever possible. Given the unique circumstances, we anticipate that some flexibility will be provided. Please continue providing official academic records through one of the approved channels ([ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/submitted-international-documents](https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/submitted-international-documents)). If only unofficial records are available, please submit them through any available channel in the event that they are needed for future evaluation.

Question No. 2: Will the Eligibility Center accept classes that have been converted to nontraditional formats (for example, online delivery) even though they were not pre-approved in that format?

Answer: The Eligibility Center staff is working with the applicable divisional academic committees to ensure that an appropriate national solution is provided.

Question No. 3: Will there be any flexibility in terms of the core course time limitation for Division I?

Answer: The Eligibility Center staff is working with the applicable divisional academic committees to ensure that an appropriate national solution is provided.

Question No. 4: How will the Eligibility Center calculate courses that were converted to a pass/fail grading scale due to COVID-19 related issues?

Answer: The Eligibility Center staff is working with the applicable divisional academic committees to ensure that an appropriate national solution is provided.

Question No. 5: How will the cancellation and rescheduling of the spring ACT and SAT dates impact academic certifications for incoming prospective student-athletes seeking to initially enroll for fall 2020?

Answer: The Eligibility Center staff is working with the applicable divisional academic committees to ensure that an appropriate national solution is provided.

NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.

Question No. 1: Are institutions required to submit APP data for the spring 2020 term?

Answer: Yes. Institutions are required to submit APP data for all regular academic terms in the 2019-20 academic year, including the spring/winter 2020 term(s). The data is needed for academic policy decisions.

Question No. 2: Will there be any flexibility provided for eligibility points lost due to COVID-19 during the winter/spring 2020 term(s)?

Answer: Yes. Current APP policy allows for student-athletes who receive waivers of progress-toward-degree requirements to be awarded the eligibility point, as they are considered academically eligible. If an institution self-applies the [Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Committee Previously Approved Waivers Checklist](#) for a student-athlete impacted by COVID-19 (i.e., regular winter/spring 2020 term), the student-athlete can be awarded the eligibility point. Points lost that cannot be addressed via the waiver process because there is no competition pending can be addressed through an adjustment request.

Question No. 3: Does the "natural disasters" circumstance that warrants an adjustment to lost eligibility or retention points include COVID-19?

Answer: Yes, for the purposes of adjustment requests, natural disasters include catastrophic events as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA defines catastrophic events as "any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage or disruption severely impacting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale and/or government functions." COVID-19 meets the definition of a catastrophic event, and therefore natural disaster.

Question No. 4: What is the documentation standard for adjustment requests related to COVID-19?

Answer: Current APP policy requires all adjustment requests be accompanied by contemporaneous supporting documentation for lost point(s). Depending on the facts related to the mitigation, required documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Letters from treating physicians;
- Contemporaneous medical documentation;
- Letters from appropriate institution officials;
- Letters from student-athlete/family members; or
- Evidence of employment/termination/financial difficulties.

Staff has the authority to use its discretion in requesting other documentation to support the cited mitigation.

Question No. 5: Beyond the 2019-20 data, can COVID-19 be cited in future adjustments requests as mitigation for lost points (for example, mitigation for transfers who do not enroll in the next possible term)?

Answer: Yes. Such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Question No. 6: Could COVID-19 be considered extraordinary mitigation in the future for teams facing first-year penalties or first-time loss of access to postseason competition?

Answer: Yes. COVID-19 meets the definition of a catastrophic event, and therefore could be presented as mitigation like a natural disaster described as extraordinary mitigation in the penalty waiver directive. The institution would have to identify the points the team lost due to the catastrophic event, and the impact would likely have to be on multiple academic years.

Question No.7: How are teams facing loss of postseason competition in spring 2020 impacted by the cancellation of spring championships?

Answer: The Committee on Academics' policy requires that a penalty or loss of access to postseason competition be applied in the academic year following the release of the applicable APR data, unless otherwise specified. In this case, teams that lost access to the spring 2020 postseason fulfilled that requirement despite those championships being canceled.

Question No. 8: Will a student-athlete who was on track to exhaust eligibility and/or graduate after the spring 2020 term be included in the APR cohort for 2020-21 if the student-athlete returns to the institution due to receiving an additional season of competition?

Answer: Yes. That is consistent with the Committee on Academic's current policy of including all student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics in the APP cohort, even if they have graduated or received a clock extension.

Question No. 9: Will student-athletes be expected to graduate within five years (10 semesters/15 quarters) of enrollment for NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate purposes?

Answer: Yes. If the reason for not graduating within five years (10 semesters/15 quarters) of enrollment is related to COVID-19, that can be offered as mitigation when requesting an adjustment to the lost eligibility point.

Impact of Season-of-Competition Waiver and Clock Extensions on Team Financial Aid Limits.

Question No. 1: Are the team maximum financial aid limits or annual signing limits increasing for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Will student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year if they return to their same institution?

Answer: Yes, up to the amount of institutional financial aid based on athletics provided during the 2019-20 academic year. Receipt of the exempt aid will not trigger counter status, and the student-athletes would not need to be included in any applicable team counter limits.

Question No. 3: Will a student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 be exempt from team financial aid limits for the 2020-21 academic year if they transfer to a new institution?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Must aid be renewed for a student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and return to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: Institutions may renew, reduce or not renew at their discretion.

Question No. 5: In the sport of baseball, does the minimum equivalency legislation apply to financial aid awarded to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year?

Answer: No.

Question No. 6: Is an institution that chooses to reduce or to not renew financial aid based on athletics for a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns to their same institution for the 2020-21 academic year required to provide the student-athlete a hearing opportunity?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: May an institution use the NCAA Student Assistance Fund to provide financial aid for the 2020-21 academic year to a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns for 2020-21?

Answer: Yes. There will not be a separate Student Assistance Fund distribution for 2020-21; therefore, those NCAA funds distributed by the conference to the institution will not be subject to Student Assistance Fund restrictions. That distribution remains subject to conference policies and procedures. Further, any Student Assistance Fund funds that remain from previous distributions may be used, subject to conference policies and procedures, to provide financial aid to those student-athletes for the 2020-21 academic year. Any financial aid awarded to those student-athletes for the 2020-21 academic year that includes money from the distribution or from a previous distribution is considered financial aid that is based on athletics.

Question No. 8: Has the legislated July 1 financial aid renewal deadline been extended?

Answer: No.

Institutional Closures/Moves to Distance Learning and 2019-20 Financial Aid.

Question No. 1: May an institution continue to provide off-campus room and board to student-athletes if the institution moves to distance learning for a portion, or the remainder, of a regular academic term?

Answer: Yes. And, athletics is encouraged to remain in contact with the institution's financial aid office to remain aware of any changes the institution makes to the cost-of-attendance calculations for its off-campus students to determine whether the amount provided for off-campus room and board needs to be adjusted.

Question No. 2: If an institution requires all its students to return home for the term, and does not release room and board for any of its students, but does not recalculate cost of attendance, does NCAA legislation require athletics aid to be provided?

Answer: No. NCAA legislation will not supersede institutional determinations related to institutional aid for all students under the circumstances.

Question No. 3: Will institutional decisions regarding student-athlete health and safety needs, including providing traditional elements of financial aid (for example, room and board) impact 2019-20 financial aid calculations?

Answer: No. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 4: May money from the NCAA Student Assistance Fund be used to pay for student-athlete health and safety needs, including providing traditional elements of financial aid (for example, room and board)?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 5: Are student-athletes able to receive a prorated refund of their on-campus room and board for the time they are not able to access campus?

Answer: Yes, provided other students who are receiving institutional scholarships or other awards that cover room and board (for example, President's Award) are also receiving prorated refunds for the same purpose. Further, there would not be a requirement to recalculate equivalency if cost of attendance was not recalculated for students generally.

Emergency Temporary Legislation Prohibiting Issuing/Signing Institutional Financial Aid Agreements.

Note: The questions and answers below apply to agreements issued without a National Letter of Intent. Institutions are directed to the NLI frequently asked questions provided to NLI administrators on March 16 and on April 2 for questions related to signing of NLIs.

Question No. 1: Can an institution's regular financial aid authority continue to issue and allow a prospective student-athlete to accept/sign a financial aid agreement not based on athletics?

Answer: Yes. The prohibition only applies to an institutional financial aid agreement awarded based on athletics ability, participation or achievement. Further, the emergency legislation does not restrict the institution from making written offers of admission or restrict a prospective student-athlete from submitting a financial deposit in response to an institution's offer of admission.

Question No. 2: Does the prohibition apply to all prospective student-athletes (high school, two-year, four-year, graduate student transfers)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: Is a financial aid agreement issued and signed before March 18 valid?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: Is a financial aid agreement issued on or before March 18 and signed on March 18 valid?

Answer: Yes. An agreement issued on or before March 18 and signed on March 18 is valid.

Question No. 5: Are financial aid agreements issued before March 18 and signed after March 18 valid?

Answer: No. Regardless of when it was issued, a financial aid agreement signed on or after March 19 is not valid. Institutional financial aid agreements cannot be issued to a prospective student-athlete or signed by a prospective student-athlete from March 19 until the period established by the emergency legislation ends on April 15.

Question No. 6: For international students, can financial aid agreements be issued and signed after March 18 to demonstrate athletic financial support to the prospective student-athlete's embassy?

Answer: While the emergency temporary legislation is in effect, the athletics department is encouraged to work with the institution's international admissions office to determine what type of documentation may be used to support the institution's international admissions process. As a reminder, the emergency temporary legislation does not affect an institution's ability to issue a written offer of admission or a prospective student-athlete's ability to submit a financial deposit in response to an institution's offer of admission.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes

Recognizing that the current circumstances are not contemplated by existing NCAA rules and that institutions must navigate these circumstances while taking into consideration state and local laws and unique institutional risks, policies and requirements, institutions are encouraged to focus on the well-being of their student-athletes. The awards-and-benefits legislation is not intended, at its core, to prevent an institution from providing the resources to support its own student-athletes through a personal emergency; therefore, such circumstances do not require a consistent national standard. A flexible approach is warranted when an institution is supporting a student-athlete's personal well-being and the benefit is limited to a specific, extreme circumstance (e.g., national pandemic) beyond the student-athlete's control. Institutions are encouraged to work with applicable institutional medical, legal and risk management personnel to determine how best to address individual student-athlete needs and corresponding institutional considerations and may contact staff through RSRO to assist with these or any other questions.

Question No. 1: May an institution provide a student-athlete with meals, lodging and or transportation if required to depart campus or if campus services are interrupted?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 2: May a student-athlete who cannot return home (for example, due to travel restrictions) temporarily stay with a member of the institution's staff (for example, a coach)?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 3: May an institution provide boxed food delivery services or food related gift cards to a student-athlete who was required to remain at home, return home or is otherwise unable to access campus due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 4: May an institution cover shipping books and other necessities to a student-athlete who was required to remain at home, return home or is otherwise unable to access campus due to COVID-19?

Answer: Yes. The situation involves assisting a student-athlete with a health, safety or well-being concern; therefore, the institution should feel comfortable applying the greatest degree of flexibility in interpreting the application of the legislation.

Question No. 5: For those winter championships that were cancelled before initial competition for any or all institutions identified for participation, may a conference still provide conference championship participation awards?

Answer: Yes, provided the winter conference championship participants had been identified before the cancellation.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons

Question No. 1: Does an institutional staff member with current certification in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) need to be present any time a student-athlete is participating in physical countable athletically related activity?

Answer: Yes. Therefore, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity.

Question No. 2: May an institutional strength and conditioning coach or coaching staff member distribute workouts to student-athletes to use for voluntary athletically related activities?

Answer: Yes, provided the workouts are approved by applicable institutional athletics and/or medical personnel and otherwise adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and

Death in Collegiate Athletes). As a reminder, an institutional staff member may not supervise or conduct such workouts and it is not permissible for an institutional staff member to post (for example, social media) images and/or video of student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities.

Question No. 3: May a student-athlete film voluntary athletically related activities and report back to coaching staff members while home and enrolled in online classes?

Answer: No. A student-athlete may not report voluntary athletically related activities to institutional coaches or staff members. However, student-athletes may post to their own social media account a voluntary athletically related activity, not at the direction of an institutional staff member. This action does not constitute reporting back to an institutional staff member.

Question No. 4a: What effect does the cancellation of all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships have on playing and practice seasons for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: All sports are considered out-of-season for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. Required countable athletically related activities (for example, film review sessions or team meetings) during this timeframe must adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). As a reminder, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity (See Question No. 1, above).

Question No. 4b: Are sports required to cease countable athletically related activities beginning the week prior to final examination period?

Answer: Yes, in sports other than football all countable athletically related activities outside the playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the institution's final examination period for the applicable academic term through the conclusion of the institution's academic term.

Question No. 5: In the sport of baseball, is a student-athlete who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20 and returns for 2020-21 subject to the varsity squad size limitation – championship segment legislation?

Answer: No. The NCAA Division I Coordination Council Committee approved a waiver to allow institutions to exclude those student-athletes from the varsity squad size limit of 35 for the 2020-21 academic year, provided the student-athlete received a season of competition waiver and/or an extension of eligibility based on COVID-19 and the student-athlete is participating on the same team as he was in 2019-20. Those returning student-athletes are still required to be declared as varsity squad members to continue to participate in countable athletically related activities following the institution's declaration of its varsity squad.

Question No. 6: Does an institution's decision to conduct classes remotely (e.g., online) trigger the start of a vacation period?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: May an institution post images and/or video to social media of student-athletes engaged in out-of-season required countable athletically related activities (e.g., review of film, chalk talk, etc.) while at home and taking online classes?

Answer: Yes, an institution may post images and/or video on social media of student-athletes engaged in permissible out-of-season countable athletically related activities. As a reminder, it is not permissible to conduct virtual physical countable athletically related activity (see Question No. 1 above).

Foreign Tours.

Question No. 1: If an institution cancels a foreign tour as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, may the institution reimburse student-athletes and family members for prepaid expenses associated with the foreign tour?

Answer: Yes. The NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee approved a waiver to allow student-athletes (and their family members) to be reimbursed for expenses associated with a canceled foreign tour.

Question No. 2: May an institution reschedule a foreign tour to occur during the academic year and outside the declared playing and practice season?

Answer: Yes. However, the foreign tour must occur during the institution's declared vacation period.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 20 – Division Membership

Sports Sponsorship/Scheduling Requirements.

Question: Are institutions subject to the Division I sports sponsorship requirements, the three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2019-20 academic year?

Answer: No. As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on institutional sport seasons, the Division I Council Coordination Committee has approved a blanket waiver of the minimum sports sponsorship requirements, three-season requirements and scheduling requirements for the 2019-20 academic year.

Reclassification/Multidivisional Membership Requirements.

Question: Will deadlines be extended for the submission of the following: strategic plans and annual reports due June 1 for institutions in the reclassifying process; application and strategic plans due June 1 for institutions planning to apply for reclassification from Division II to Division I; and compliance reviews due July 31 for multidivisional institutions?

Answer: Yes. The committee has approved a blanket waiver of submission deadlines for reclassifying and multidivisional members. The waiver provides the NCAA staff flexibility to work with impacted institutions to establish reasonable time frames for submission of required information.