



**2020 NCAA Division II COVID-19  
Question and Answer Guide**

**(Originally Released: March 27, 2020)**

**(Last Updated: May 1, 2020)**

**Updates are highlighted in yellow**

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

## **DIVISION II COVID-19**

### **QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE**

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership. ....	3
NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 5 – Legislative Authority and Process.....	3
NCAA Division II Bylaw 13 – Recruiting. ....	3
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.1 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – General Eligibility Requirements. ....	7
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule .....	9
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Freshman Academic Requirements. ....	14
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.....	14
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Transfer Regulations. ....	17
NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.7 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Outside Competition, Effects on Eligibility.....	18
NCAA Division II Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid.....	18
NCAA Division II Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes. ....	21
NCAA Division II Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons.....	22
NCAA Division II Bylaw 18 – Championships and Postseason Football.....	24
NCAA Division II Bylaw 20 – Division Membership. ....	24
NCAA Division II – Reporting Requirements. ....	24
National Letter of Intent. ....	25

**NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 3 – NCAA Membership.**

**Question No. 1:** If a Division II 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.

**Question No. 2:** If a Division II institution furloughs athletics department employees, is there an impact on membership requirements (e.g., full-time compliance administrator)?

**Answer:** No. Waivers can be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**NCAA Division II Constitution, Article 5 – Legislative Authority and Process.**

**Question:** Will there be an extension to the July 15 sponsorship deadline for membership sponsored legislation for the 2021 NCAA Convention?

**Answer:** No.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 13 – Recruiting.**

*[For additional information regarding the National Letter of Intent, please see the National Letter of Intent section on page 19]*

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible for coaches to recruit off-campus during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** No in-person visits are permitted, on or off campus, during a dead period. During a dead period, institutional staff members are still permitted to call and communicate electronically.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for an institution to offer an athletics aid agreement and National Letter of Intent during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** Yes, beginning April 15, 2020. A resolution was adopted to specify that institutional athletics aid agreements can be issued beginning April 15, 2020.

**Question No. 3:** May a prospective student-athlete submit a grade report to satisfy the National Letter of Intent transcript requirement? [See Bylaw 13.9.2 (Transcript Prior to National Letter of Intent or Written Offer of Athletically Related Financial Aid)]

**Answer:** Yes. If a prospective student-athlete is unable to obtain a grade report, the institution may file a legislative relief waiver for review on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an institution's financial aid office to include athletics aid information in communications sent to prospective student-athletes during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** Yes, if the prospective student-athlete has signed an athletics aid agreement prior to the dead period beginning March 13. If the prospective student-athlete has not previously signed an athletics aid agreement, it would not be permissible to include athletics aid information until April 15.

**Question No. 5:** Is it permissible for an institution to host an institutional camp or clinic during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 6:** Is it permissible to be involved with a local sports club during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** In sports other than basketball, it is permissible for the coach to be involved with the local sports club during a dead period; however, it is not permissible for that individual to recruit on behalf of the institution or for an institution or local sports club to finance recruiting activities during a dead period.

It would only be permissible for a basketball coach to be involved with a local sports club if the participants are non-prospective student-athlete aged individuals.

**Question No. 7:** Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete to take a previously scheduled official or unofficial visit during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** No. Please note the Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 13, 2020, to permit institutions to reimburse prospective student-athletes with any costs associated with canceled official or unofficial visits. Such reimbursement would not trigger use of a prospective student-athlete's one permissible official visit.

**Question No. 8:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to take part in a general admissions virtual campus visit (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** Yes. It would be permissible for prospective student-athletes to join any general admissions opportunity that is available to the general prospective students. If a coach is going to conduct a visit online, it must be private between the prospective student-athlete and the coach. [See Bylaw 13.4.4 (Electronic Transmissions).]

**Question No. 9:** Is it permissible for an institution to conduct an institutional camp, clinic or tryout during a recruiting dead period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 10:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to work an online/virtual camp and clinic (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** No. Institutional staff members are not permitted to work camps and clinics conducted in any format (e.g., online, virtual) during the temporary recruiting dead period through May 31.

**Question No. 11:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to attend a noninstitutional virtual camp and clinic or showcase (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 12:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to conduct a virtual recruiting visit (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** Yes. If a coach is going to conduct a visit online, it must be private between the prospective student-athlete and the coach. [See Bylaw 13.4.4 (Electronic Transmissions)]. This restriction does not apply if the prospective student-athlete has signed with the institution.

**Question No. 13:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to direct a current student-athlete to contact a prospective student-athlete during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:**

It is permissible for a current student-athlete to engage in recruiting correspondence with a committed prospective student-athlete (signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission) at the direction of a coaching staff member.

It is also permissible for a current student-athlete to engage in recruiting correspondence at the direction of a coaching staff member during the dead period in place through at least May 31, with the following uncommitted prospective student-athletes (has not signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission):

- (1) high school prospective student-athletes graduating in spring/summer 2020;
- (2) two-year college prospective student-athletes transferring for the fall 2020 term; and
- (3) four-year college transfers who have been granted permission to contact.

Please note, recruiting correspondence between a current student-athlete and an uncommitted prospective student-athlete must be private. It is permissible for multiple current student-athletes and/or institutional staff members to participate together on a video conference or telephone call with an uncommitted prospective student-athlete.

The publicity restrictions do not apply if the prospective student-athlete has committed to the institution.

It is impermissible for a current student-athlete to engage in recruiting correspondence with any other prospective student-athlete not listed above.

**Question No. 14:**

Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to hold a virtual speaking engagement (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) with high school-aged students during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:**

No. It is not permissible for a coach to serve as a speaker during a meeting with high school student-athletes during a dead period even if the contact is not for the purpose of recruitment [See Bylaw 13.1.8 (Banquets, Meetings and NCAA Promotional Activities)].

**Question No. 15:**

Is it permissible for an institution to hold a virtual coaching clinic (e.g., Zoom, Skype, Twitter) during the recruiting dead period through May 31?

**Answer:** If the event is restricted to coaches only and prospective student-athletes do not have access to the clinic, Bylaw 13.12.1.1 (Definition) would not apply and it would be permissible for the institution to conduct such an event.

**Question No. 16:** Is it permissible for a coaching staff member to send workouts to a prospective student-athlete that signed an athletics aid agreement or NLI with the institution following the cancellation of a prospective student-athlete's high school season?

**Answer:** Yes. (See Bylaw 17 Question No. 7 as it relates to current student-athletes). All prospective student-athletes, regardless of sport, who have signed an athletics aid agreement or NLI may receive workouts from a coaching staff member.

**Question No. 17:** Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete that signed an athletics aid agreement or NLI to participate in team meetings?

**Answer:** Yes, provided that the meeting does not involve physical activity. Additionally, any meeting that would trigger the definition of a countable athletically related activity must still adhere to Bylaw 17 restrictions on the timing of such activities. Please note, only current student-athletes and institutional staff members may be present at the team meetings (e.g., boosters, alumni may not be present).

**Question No. 18:** Are institutions still required to request permission to contact before contacting a prospective student-athlete currently enrolled at another institution?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 19:** Does the recruiting ban apply to coaches in acrobatics and tumbling and women's wrestling?

**Answer:** Yes.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.1 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – General Eligibility Requirements.**

**Question No. 1:** Will a student-athlete who graduates at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year and returns during the 2020-21 academic year be required to enroll full-time?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** If an institution continues practice or competition during the spring 2020 term, do student-athletes need to be enrolled full-time to participate?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 13, 2020, for the spring 2020 term to permit student-athletes to participate in countable athletically related activities while enrolled less than full-time, provided the student-athletes were initially enrolled full-time for the spring 2020 term.

**Question No. 3:** If a student-athlete who used the final semester/quarter exception for full-time enrollment [See Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.3 (Practice or Competition -- Final Semester/Quarter)] in spring 2020 does not successfully complete degree requirements after the spring 2020 term, does the student-athlete forfeit all remaining eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 18, 2020, to permit student-athletes to retain their eligibility if they are not able to complete their graduation requirements in the spring 2020 term due to COVID-19 impact.

**Question No. 4:** If a student-athlete who used the final term before experiential learning exception for full-time enrollment [See Bylaw 14.1.7.1.7.4 (Final Term Before Experiential Learning Requirement)] in spring 2020 does not successfully complete the experiential learning in the following term, may the student-athlete enroll less than full-time in the 2020 fall term and retain all remaining eligibility?

**Answer:** No. The institution would need to file a progress-toward-degree waiver.

**Question No. 5:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers enroll less than full-time in both the 2020 fall term and 2021 spring term and still participate in countable athletically related activities?

**Answer:** No, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement.

**Question No. 6:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers delay enrollment to the 2021 spring term and participate in countable athletically related activities in the 2020 fall?



**Answer:** No. A student-athlete must be enrolled full-time to participate in countable athletically related activities.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.2 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Seasons of Competition: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule**

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

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

**Question No. 2:** What is the current legislation surrounding seasons of competition?

**Answer:** Student-athletes may compete in no more than four seasons of competition. These seasons must be used within the student-athlete's first 10 semesters/15 quarters of full-time enrollment.

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

**Answer:** A season of competition waiver restores a used season when extenuating circumstances occur. There are certain legislative criteria that must be met for a season of competition to be restored.

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

**Answer:** An extension of eligibility waiver extends the 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility in which a student-athlete may compete.

***Season of Competition Waivers.***

**Question No. 1:** Will relief be granted to student-athletes for use of a season of competition due to the season being canceled as a result of COVID-19?

**Answer:** The institution may self-apply a season of competition waiver for student-athletes whose 2019-20 spring season was canceled, provided all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The student-athlete used a season of competition in a spring sport during the 2019-20 academic year;
- (2) The student-athlete was eligible for competition when he or she competed during the 2019-20 academic year; and
- (3) The student-athlete's season was ultimately canceled for reasons related to COVID-19.

**Question No. 2:** Will winter sport student-athletes have access to the self-applied season of competition waiver?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** May an institution still self-apply the season of competition waiver if the institution later decides to resume the spring sport season?

**Answer:** No. One of the criteria for the self-applied waiver is that the student-athlete's season was ultimately canceled for reasons related to COVID-19. Therefore, if the institution resumes the season, the self-applied waiver would not apply.

**Question No. 4:** Would an institution be required to submit a hardship waiver to the conference office for a student-athlete who used a season of competition and sustained a season-ending injury prior to the season being canceled?

**Answer:** No. The institution may self-apply a season of competition waiver for student-athletes whose 2019-20 spring season was canceled, provided all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The student-athlete used a season of competition in a spring sport during the 2019-20 academic year;
- (2) The student-athlete was eligible for competition when he or she competed during the 2019-20 academic year; and
- (3) The student-athlete's season was ultimately canceled for reasons related to COVID-19.

**Question No. 5:** May a student-athlete choose to not enroll during the 2020-21 academic year and utilize the self-applied season of competition waiver during the 2021-22 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. Please note, the student-athlete must have semesters/quarters remaining in order to use the self-applied season of competition waiver.

**Question No. 6:** May an institution utilize the self-applied season of competition waiver for sports such as golf and tennis which use alternate playing seasons where the conference championship occurs in the fall and the NCAA championship occurs in the spring?

**Answer:** Yes. Golf and tennis are considered spring sports for NCAA championship purposes.

**Question No. 7:** May an institution utilize the self-applied season of competition waiver for student-athletes who participated in acrobatics and tumbling or women's wrestling during the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** The institution must follow the rules of the applicable governing body.

***Extension of Eligibility Waivers.***

**Question No. 1:** Does the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver apply to all student-athletes or only those who would have exhausted their eligibility after the 2020 spring term?

**Answer:** The waiver is only for those individuals who would have exhausted their eligibility after the 2020 spring term. All other extensions of eligibility should be submitted to the NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff through the RSRO system.

**Question No. 2:** Will winter sport student-athletes have access to the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 3:** Is a student-athlete required to enroll in the 2020 fall term to utilize the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued blanket waiver on March 18, 2020, to permit a student-athlete to enroll at any point during the 2020-21 academic year.

***Application to Transfer Student-Athletes.***

**Question No. 1:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer to another Division II institution for the 2020-21 academic year retain the use of the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Will a student-athlete who was enrolled at an institution in another division or athletics association (e.g., NAIA; NJCAA) during spring 2020 have access to utilize the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. However, rules and decisions made by other divisions and organizations regarding the use of a season or 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility in spring 2020 would follow the student-athlete upon transfer.

**Question No. 3:** Will a student-athlete that was enrolled at a Division III institution during spring 2020 receive access to the Division II self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers if they were to transfer to a Division II institution during the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No. The student-athlete would get the relief provided by the division of the original institution.

**Question No. 4:** Will a transfer student-athlete who is eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver be required to serve an academic year in residence upon transfer for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the student-athlete meets a transfer exception.

***Additional Application Questions.***

**Question No. 1:** May a multi-sport student-athlete that competed in both fall and spring sports during the 2019-20 academic year utilize the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to return for the 2020-21 academic and compete in both sports?

**Answer:** No. The self-applied extension of eligibility waiver is only for spring sports.

**Question No. 2:** What are the best practices for an institution self-applying these waivers?

**Answer:** The institution is encouraged to keep documentation on file and consult with its conference compliance administrator regarding any policies.

**Question No. 3:** How do the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers apply to institutions which were in the winter quarter at the time of the cancellation of the spring 2020 season?

**Answer:** All spring sport student-athletes at quarter institutions are eligible for the self-applied season of competition waiver provided the criteria are met.

A student-athlete that would have used their 15th quarter in spring 2020 would be eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to use during the 2020-21 academic year provided the criteria are met.

**Question No. 4:** How should institutions apply student-athlete reinstatement withholding conditions that were unfulfilled at the time seasons were canceled due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Questions specific to reinstatement withholding conditions should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the case manager who processed the request.

***Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment.***

**Question:** Will a prospective student-athlete's eligibility be impacted if they participate in a delayed high school state tournament that occurred after the high school graduation date?

**Answer:** No. Bylaw 14.2.4.2 (Participation in Organized Competition Before Initial Collegiate Enrollment) specifies that prospective student-athletes are permitted to participate in organized competition for one calendar-year period following graduation without jeopardizing their collegiate eligibility.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.3 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Freshman Academic Requirements.**

*[For questions related to initial eligibility, please see the question and answer document prepared by the NCAA Eligibility Center]*

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements.**

**Question No. 1:** Does the ability to apply the previously approved waiver checklist due to catastrophic events mean that a blanket waiver is being applied for all student-athletes who are ineligible for the 2020 fall term?

**Answer:** No. An institution must still complete the analysis to ensure that the student-athlete meets the criteria of the previously approved waiver. For example, the institution is required to put together and then maintain an academic recovery plan that among other things, demonstrates the student-athlete will recover academically and stay on track to graduate within five years of initial full-time enrollment. If the institution determines that COVID-19 did not directly or indirectly contribute to the student-athlete's academic ineligibility entering the 2020 fall term, then it should not self-apply the previously approved waiver checklist.

**Question No. 2:** May a student-athlete utilize the previously approved waiver checklist if the student-athlete had existing deficiencies going into the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** No. If the student-athlete entered the 2019-20 academic year with an existing deficiency and was unable to rectify them during the year, the checklist cannot be applied. The student-athlete would still have access to a waiver opportunity.

**Question No. 3:** Can the previously approved waiver checklist be applied to student-athletes who present credit hour and/or GPA deficiencies that occur during the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes. The previously approved waiver checklist is designed to address academic deficiencies that occur during the same academic year that the event took place.

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an institution to utilize the catastrophic event scenario on previously approved waiver checklist for a student-athlete who does not meet the progress-toward-degree requirements at the conclusion of the 2020 spring term?

**Answer:** Yes, **if the academic deficiency was a result of COVID-19.** If a student-athlete does not meet the progress-toward-degree requirements at the end of the spring term (e.g., term-by-term, academic year and annual credit hour requirements, GPA requirement), the institution may self-apply the waiver using the previously approved waiver checklist.

**Question No. 5:** If the checklist rectifies academic deficiencies related to COVID-19, do institutions still need to certify student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes. It is necessary to certify all student-athletes to determine if a deficiency exists and which requirements are impacted. This will not only be necessary to keep the student-athlete's file updated if the checklist is applied, but also to advise the student-athlete on remaining degree requirements needed moving forward.

**Question No. 6:** Can the checklist be used by a student-athlete more than once?

**Answer:** Yes. There is no limit to the number of times a student-athlete may be provided relief by the checklist provided they meet the conditions.

**Question No. 7:** Does the checklist provide relief from the requirement for transfer student-athletes to earn nine transferable credits from the most recent full-time term of enrollment?

**Answer:** Yes. Provided that the most recent full-time term was during the 2019-20 academic year and the student-athlete was unable to earn nine transferable hours as a result of COVID related issues, the checklist may be applied.

**Question No. 8:** What impact does an institution going to a pass/fail system for the spring 2020 term have on progress-toward-degree requirements?

**Answer:** Current legislation allows successfully completed courses to be used to meet credit hour requirements. Grade point average would still be calculated through the institution's normal process. If a student-athlete is unable to meet progress-toward-degree requirements after the spring 2020 term as a result of COVID-19, the institution can self-apply relief using the [Academic Requirements Committee previously approved waiver checklist](#).

**Question No. 9:** Is it permissible for an institution to provide a student-athlete with the option to “opt in” or “opt out” of a modified grading scale?

**Answer:** Yes. A student-athlete, like any student, may make whatever decision is allowed consistent with their own institutional 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 all students.

**Question No. 10:** Does the previously approved waiver checklist allow an institution to waive good academic standing?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 11:** Does the previously approved waiver checklist allow an institution to waive the designation of degree program requirement?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 12:** What progress-toward-degree requirements must be met by a student-athlete who utilized the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to be eligible for competition in the spring 2021 term?

**Answer:** The student-athlete would still need to meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements set forth in Bylaw 14.4 at the conclusion of the fall 2020 term.

**Question No. 13:** What progress-toward-degree requirements must be met by a student-athlete who graduates at the conclusion of the spring 2020 term and utilizes the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver to be eligible for competition for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** The student-athlete must be enrolled full-time and in good academic standing. [See Bylaw 14.1.8 (Graduate Student/Postbaccalaureate/Second Baccalaureate Participation)]

**Question No. 14:** May a student-athlete who utilized the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver enroll in credit hours that count towards a professional certificate to satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements in the 2020-21 academic year?



**Answer:** No. Hours earned in a professional certificate program may only be used if the certificate is designated by the institution as part of an undergraduate or graduate program.

**Question No. 15:** May a student-athlete who is fulfilling an academic year in residence for initial eligibility, transfer residency or organized competition use the 2020 spring term to meet the requirement even if they drop to part-time?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 16:** Will relief be provided for a transfer student-athlete who is unable meet the transfer exception to the academic year in residence requirement of the organized competition legislation?

**Answer:** No. A waiver may be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 17:** May a student-athlete utilize the missed term exception [See Bylaw 14.4.3.8.1 (Missed Term Exception)] in the 2020 fall term to be eligible to participate in countable athletically related activities in the 2021 spring term?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the student-athlete meets all of the conditions of the missed term exception.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Transfer Regulations.**

**Question No. 1:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer to another Division II institution for the 2020-21 academic year retain the use of the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 2:** Will a Division II student-athlete who chooses to transfer for the 2020-21 academic year and is eligible for either the self-applied season of competition or extension of eligibility waiver be eligible to be exempted from the new institution's financial aid equivalency limitations?

**Answer:** No. The financial aid equivalency blanket waiver would only apply if a student-athlete remains at the original institution.

**Question No. 3:** Will a transfer student-athlete who is eligible for the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver be required to serve an academic year in residence upon transfer for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the student-athlete meets a transfer exception.

**Question No. 4:** Does the checklist provide relief from the requirement for transfer student-athletes to earn nine transferable credits from the most recent full-time term of enrollment?

**Answer:** Yes. Provided that the most recent full-time term was during the 2019-20 academic year and the student-athlete was unable to earn nine transferable hours as a result of COVID related issues, the checklist may be applied. For additional questions related to the previously approved waiver checklist, please see section NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.

#### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.7 – Eligibility: Academic and General Requirements – Outside Competition, Effects on Eligibility.**

**Question:** May a student-athlete compete on an outside team prior to the conclusion of the institution’s 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** The Division II Administrative Committee determined that student-athletes may participate on an outside team provided the institution has cancelled its season, otherwise the outside competition legislation applies [See Bylaw 14.7.1 (Outside Competition, Sports Other Than Basketball)].

Student-athlete participation on an outside team must comply with applicable sport-specific Bylaw 17 restrictions on out of season participation. Institutions and student-athletes are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

#### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 15 – Financial Aid.**

##### ***Application of Financial Aid Equivalency Limit Blanket Waiver.***

**Question No. 1:** Are the financial aid equivalency limits increasing for the 2020-21 academic year and beyond?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** Will there be an extension to the July 1 deadline for renewals and cancellations of financial aid agreements?

**Answer:** No. A waiver may be submitted and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Question No. 3:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** A student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term and returns and receives athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year would not count toward team equivalency limits for the 2020-21 academic year.

**Question No. 4:** How will individual equivalencies be calculated for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior)?

**Answer:** The equivalencies would be calculated in accordance with Bylaw 15.4.2.2 (Equivalency Computations) and would count toward team equivalency limits.

**Question No. 5:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to a student-athlete returning for the 2020-21 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver or may the institution only exempt the amount of athletics aid provided during the 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** Any athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year received by a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term would be exempted toward team equivalency limits for the 2020-21 academic year. The amount of athletics aid awarded to the student-athlete is at the institution's discretion.

**Question No. 6:** May an institution exempt all athletics aid provided to an outdoor track and field student-athlete returning for the 2020-21 academic year utilizing the self-applied extension of eligibility waiver if the student-athlete also has eligibility remaining in cross country and/or indoor track and field?

**Answer:** No. If the student-athlete participates in cross country and/or indoor track and field during the 2020-21 academic year, the athletics aid must count toward the track and field team equivalency limit of 12.6.

**Question No. 7:** Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2019-20 academic year for a student-athlete who would have used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term required to provide an appellate opportunity?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 8:** Is an institution that reduces or cancels athletics aid following the 2019-20 academic year for a student-athlete who has not used their fourth season of competition or exhausted their 10 semester/15 quarter period of eligibility during the spring 2020 term should they return and receive athletics aid for the 2020-21 academic year (e.g. freshman, sophomore, junior) required to provide an appellate opportunity?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 9:** Is it permissible for an institution to include a nonathletically related condition [see Bylaw 15.5.4.1.1] in its 2020-21 financial aid agreements related to COVID-19 (e.g., reduction of room and board if an institution only conducts online courses for the fall 2020 term)?

**Answer:** Yes. It is recommended that institutions consult with legal counsel and risk management.

**Question No. 10:** Is it permissible for student-athletes to be provided with work student pay similar to general students when work is not being completed due to COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes. It would be permissible for a student-athlete to be paid at the same rate and in the same manner as the general student body provided institutional policy regarding employment is being followed.

**Question No. 11:** Is it permissible for an institution to provide a refund of spring 2020 term room and board expenses to student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the refund is given to all students.

**Question No. 12:** Is it permissible for an institution to provide a credit for the 2020-21 academic year in lieu of providing a refund?

**Answer:** Yes. Such a credit would not count toward 2020-21 financial aid equivalency limits, as it is technically 2019-20 athletics aid.

**Question No. 13:** Must an institution adjust the 2019-20 academic year full grant-in-aid and recalculate team equivalencies if the institution issues a room and board refund?

**Answer:** No, provided the refund is given to all students.

**Question No. 14:** May a student-athlete who utilizes the self-applied season of competition and extension of eligibility waivers receive athletics aid if they are enrolled less than full-time during the entire 2020-21 academic year?

**Answer:** No, unless the student-athlete meets an exception to the full-time enrollment requirement.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 16 – Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes.**

**Question No. 1:** May an institution provide benefits to student-athletes that must remain on campus after an institutional closure due to the impact of COVID-19?

**Answer:** Yes. The institution may provide necessary housing and meals through the Committee for Legislative Relief incidental expense waiver list. In addition, the Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver to provide flexibility for institutions to provide any necessary transportation (e.g., flights to/from campus) to ensure the health and well-being of student-athletes.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for an institution to pay to have a student-athlete's personal items shipped to the student-athlete's home?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 3:** Is it permissible for an institution's athletics facilities to remain open when other campus facilities are closed?

**Answer:** It would be an institution's decision as to whether the institution decides to leave the athletics facilities open. Institutions are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

**Question No. 4:** Is it an NCAA violation if a student-athlete is unable to return their textbooks as required by institutional policy?

**Answer:** No. It is institution's discretion whether to amend its policy given the circumstances.

**Question No. 5:** Is it an NCAA violation for an airline to distribute an airline credit to student-athletes following complications with an institutional sport program's travel?

**Answer:** No.

**NCAA Division II Bylaw 17 – Playing and Practice Seasons.**

**Question No. 1:** Does an institution’s decision to conduct classes remotely (e.g., online) trigger the start of a vacation period?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 2:** Is it permissible for an institution’s team to practice or compete following a decision to conduct classes remotely for the remainder of the spring 2020 term?

**Answer:** Yes. The institution is required to follow the applicable Bylaw 17 legislation as if the spring 2020 NCAA championships had not been cancelled. Institutions are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

**Question No. 3:** Does an institution’s decision to cancel all classes for the remainder of the spring 2020 term trigger the start of a vacation period?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question No. 4:** Is it permissible for an institution’s team to practice or compete following a decision to cancel all classes for the remainder of the spring 2020 term?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 5:** Must student-athletes refrain from countable athletically related activities for 14 consecutive calendar days once the institution’s spring season is cancelled [See Bylaw 17.1.6.3.1-(e) (Sports Other Than Football)]?

**Answer:** Yes. All Bylaw 17 playing and practice season legislation would apply.

**Question No. 6:** May an institution extend its nonchampionship segment and spring football practice if sport activities are resumed and these activities would take place beyond the legislated time period?

**Answer:** A blanket waiver was issued by the Administrative Committee on March 18, 2020, to permit institutions to resume the nonchampionship segment and spring football practice by the number of days lost due to athletics activities being suspended once those activities resume. The nonchampionship segment cannot extend beyond the end of the playing season in the respective sport as outlined in Bylaw 17.

**Question No. 7:** May an institutional strength and conditioning coach or coaching staff member distribute workouts to student-athletes?

**Answer:** Yes. However, if the activity does not meet the definition of a voluntary athletically related activity, per Bylaw 17.02.17, then the hours must be counted and be otherwise permissible based on the sport-specific Bylaw 17 playing and practice season legislation. Please note, these workouts should adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). It is recommended that institutions consult with legal counsel and risk management. (See Bylaw 13 Question No. 6 as it relates to prospective student-athletes)

**Question No. 8:** May virtual workouts or meetings for student-athletes be conducted by an institutional coaching staff member?

**Answer:** Yes. However, if the activity does not meet the definition of a voluntary athletically related activity, per Bylaw 17.02.17, then the hours must be counted and be otherwise permissible based on the sport-specific Bylaw 17 playing and practice season legislation. Please note, these workouts should adhere to applicable legislative, policy and institutional requirements (for example, Interassociation Recommendations Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes). It is recommended that institutions consult with legal counsel and risk management.

**Question No. 9:** If an institution continues practice or competition during the spring 2020 term, do student-athletes need to be enrolled full-time to participate?

**Answer:** No. The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 13, 2020, for the spring 2020 term to permit student-athletes to participate in countable athletically related activities while enrolled less than full-time, provided the student-athletes were initially enrolled full-time for the spring 2020 term.

**Question No. 10:** May a student-athlete compete on an outside team prior to the conclusion of the institution's 2019-20 academic year?

**Answer:** The Division II Administrative Committee determined that student-athletes may participate on an outside team provided the institution has cancelled its season, otherwise the outside competition legislation applies [See Bylaw 14.7.1 (Outside Competition, Sports Other Than Basketball)].

Student-athlete participation on an outside team must comply with applicable sport-specific Bylaw 17 restrictions on out of season participation. Institutions and student-athletes are encouraged to follow applicable public health guidance.

**Question No. 11:** Is it permissible for student-athletes to post/share their workouts on an institutional social media account?

**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.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 18 – Championships and Postseason Football.**

**Question:** What impact does an institution’s cancellation of spring 2020 seasons due to COVID-19 have on the student-athlete’s ability to fulfill an NCAA drug testing penalty?

**Answer:** Questions on the application of drug testing penalties should be submitted through RSRO for clarification on penalties.

### **NCAA Division II Bylaw 20 – Division Membership.**

**Question No. 1:** Will a member institution be provided with relief if the cancellation of spring sports causes an institution to not meet sports sponsorship and three season requirements [See Bylaw 20.10.3 (Sports Sponsorship) and 20.10.4 (Three Season Requirement)]?

**Answer:** The Administrative Committee issued a blanket waiver on March 13, 2020, to provide relief of sports sponsorship and three season requirements for institutions that do not meet the requirements due to the cancellation of spring 2020 seasons.

### **NCAA Division II – Reporting Requirements.**

**Question:** Will there be an extension to the May 15 submission deadline for the attestation of sexual violence prevention?

**Answer:** Yes. As stated in the [release from the NCAA Sports Science Institute](#), the deadline is extended to June 15. Please note, only the institution’s athletics director is required to sign.



**National Letter of Intent.**

*[National Letter of Intent Signing Resumes on April 15, 2020.]*

All Division I and II sports will be in a signing period from April 15, 2020 - August 1, 2020, including Division I basketball and football.

Please refer to the following questions and answers regarding the NLI signing period starting April 15, 2020. *(Updated on April 8, 2020)*

**Question No. 1:** With NLI signing resuming on April 15, 2020, can the NLIs be sent to PSAs before April 15, 2020?

**Answer:** No, NLIs cannot be sent (electronic or mail) until April 15, 2020. Compliance offices can start populating NLIs in the NLI portal before April 15, but these cannot be sent until April 15. If you populate the NLI in advance, make sure the issuance date on the NLI is no earlier than the first date the NLIs have resumed (April 15). To do this you will need to select the appropriate issuance date which will then be recorded on the NLI.

**Question No. 2:** What time on April 15 can the NLI be sent to a PSA?

**Answer:** There is not a designated time when the NLI can be sent to a PSA; however, the NLI cannot be sent prior to April 15.

**Question No. 3:** What time on April 15 can the PSA and parent/legal guardian sign the NLI?

**Answer:** The PSA and parent/legal guardian cannot sign the NLI until 7 a.m. (PSA's local time) on April 15. This time is consistent with the time of signing on the initial NLI signing date.

**Question No. 4:** Since athletics aid agreements must accompany the NLI, does the financial aid authority's signature date on the athletics aid agreement have to be the same date as the NLI issuance date?

**Answer:** No, the NLI issuance date and the financial aid authority's signature date does not have to be the same date. If you are preparing NLIs in advance to send to a PSA on April 15, the financial aid authority's signature date may be before the date listed on the NLI as the issuance date.

**Question No. 5:** Can the director of athletics or designee's signature on the NLI and the financial aid authority's signature on the athletics aid agreement be an electronic signature?

**Answer:** Yes, these signatures can be electronic or digital signatures. The institutional signatures do not have to include an authentication code. It is permissible to place a signature stamp on the NLI or aid agreement such as what you see when pasting a signature on a letter or form. Additionally, as many compliance offices are using electronic means to send the NLIs and aid agreements, digital or electronic signatures are permissible for the PSA and parent/legal guardian signatures provided the signature includes the authentication code.

**Question No. 6:** What is permissible if using a signature platform such as Adobe pdf to type a signature?

**Answer:** Some platforms allow the PSA to select a signature font or type a signature. In these platforms, the signature will include an authenticated code. The signature is permissible provided it can be verified with the authenticated code. If the PSA or parent/legal guardian signature does not include such verification, the signature cannot be accepted. Some platforms allow the use of a stylus, mouse or finger to sign. This is a replica signature, so this is permissible without the authenticated code.

**Question No. 7:** If I do not have an electronic platform for sending and receiving NLIs besides through scanner and email, what are other permissible methods for receiving the NLI from the PSA?

**Answer:** It is permissible for a PSA to take a photo of the NLI signature page and the athletics aid agreement signature page. This photo can then be sent by text or email. The compliance administrator can then save that photo as a pdf and upload in the NLI Portal.

**Question No. 8:** Does the 7-day signing deadline still apply?

**Answer:** Yes, the PSA will have seven days from the issuance date to sign the NLI. For example, an NLI issued on April 15, 2020, must be signed by April 22, 2020. If the 7-day signing deadline expires, another NLI can be issued to the PSA.

**Question No. 9:** Does the 14-day conference submission deadline still apply?

**Answer:** Yes, the signing institution must upload the NLI with the athletics aid agreement within 14 days of the final signature. For example, an NLI signed on April 15, 2020, must be uploaded by April 29, 2020.

**Question No. 10:** Is the NLI signing year extended since there was a time period when NLIs could not be signed and the recruiting dead period has been extended?

**Answer:** Yes, only for Division I basketball and football since these sports had regular signing periods that previously ended April 1 (football) and May 20 (basketball). These sports will be aligned with all other Division I and II sports with the signing year ending on August 1, 2020.

**Question No. 11:** If a PSA signs an athletics aid agreement without the NLI, can a PSA later sign an NLI?

**Answer:** Yes, if a PSA signs the athletics aid agreement without an NLI, the PSA can later sign an NLI. The institution would attach the previously signed aid agreement to the NLI, and another aid agreement would not be signed. In this case, the PSA's signature date on the aid agreement would precede the PSA's signature date on the NLI.