



NCAA Division I Council October 3-4 Key Takeaways

The following are key takeaways from the NCAA Division I Council October 3-4 meeting. This is not an exhaustive list of items covered in the Council and standing committees' meetings. The report and addendums will be posted not later than October 16.

NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee.

- Introduction of legislation related to early recruiting activities specific to official and unofficial visits. [Attachment A]

NCAA Division I Football Oversight Committee.

- Introduction of legislation to modify football preseason practice.
 - o Preseason practice calculation:
 - Count back 25 practice units from the institution's first scheduled contest.
 - Accounts for one on-field practice per day, excludes one required day off every seven days.
 - Includes the five-day acclimatization period.
 - o Use of footballs during walk through activities:
 - During the preseason practice period, allow footballs to be used in walk through activities.
 - o Preseason required day off:
 - During the preseason, prior to the start of classes, an institution shall provide its student-athletes one day off from all required activity every seven days.
 - Exception: Not more than two hours of off-field meetings or film review may occur during the institution's designated day off.
 - o Limitation on countable athletically related activities (CARA):
 - In football, require all institutions to adhere to in-season CARA limitations (e.g., four hours per day and 20 hours per week) beginning with the earlier of the institution's first day of classes for the fall term or seven days prior to the first scheduled contest.
- Recruiting activities (Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) only).

- o Institutions shall designate 30 individuals who may participate in on-campus recruiting activities.
 - Must include all countable coaches and all graduate assistant coaches.
 - Designations must be reviewed and signed by the institution's director of athletics and submitted in writing to the institution's conference office before the institution's first scheduled preseason practice.
 - Changes are permitted only due to attrition and must be approved by the director of athletics and submitted to the institution's conference office for review prior to becoming effective.
 - All designated individuals must pass the annual NCAA recruiting exam before engaging in any recruiting activities.
 - Only the designated individuals may:
 - Have recruiting conversations with prospective student-athletes participating in institutional camps and clinics.
 - ▶ Does not limit the number of noncoaching staff members who may be employed at their institution's camps or clinics.
 - Initiate written or electronic correspondence with prospective student-athletes or their parents or legal guardians.
 - ▶ Does not change current rules related to initiating or receiving recruiting telephone calls.
- Introduction of legislation in football to create an exception to the August 1-31 recruiting dead period to permit an institution with a home contest in August to participate in on-campus recruiting activities (official and unofficial visits) within a 48-hour period prior to and following the institution's home contest.
 - o This exception only applies to home contests that occur on the institution's campus or in the facility normally used by this institution for its home competitions.

NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee (informational only).

- **Baseball** – the number of teams that are seeded in the championship will increase from eight to 16.

- Allows baseball to follow the same bracketing principles as other 64 team sports.
- Eliminates conference matchups in the first two rounds.
- **Women's gymnastics** – a four-site regional and super-regional model was approved and will begin in 2019 to align the championship format with regular-season meets.
 - Prioritizes student-athlete health and well-being.
 - Maintains the current number of teams in the bracket.
 - Retains opportunities for individual competitors.
- **State travel bans** – discussed status of state-imposed travel bans that may affect teams' ability to participate in NCAA championships.
 - Will not affect institutions' ability to host at nonpredetermined sites.
 - No impact on bracket seeding.
 - Conferences will be contacted to review member schools that may be impacted.

NCAA Division I Council Transfer Working Group.

Survey feedback can be found in Attachment B.

The Transfer Working Group is planning to ask Council to introduce legislation during the October 30 teleconference on the following topics. The Transfer Working Group will conduct several teleconferences prior to the October 30 Council teleconference to finalize several details of these concepts.

- To specify that impermissible contact with student-athletes regarding transfer will be added to the list of examples that are presumed to be Level II violations (NCAA Bylaw 19.1.2).
- To establish a notification of transfer model which would replace the current permission to contact legislation related to the recruiting of transfer student-athletes. Under this concept, a student-athlete initiates a notification of intent to transfer when he or she has decided to transfer to another four-year institution. The Transfer Working Group is discussing whether the notification is reason for cancellation of aid based on feedback from the Council. Under this concept the current institution could not prevent the student-athlete from receiving athletics aid at the new school.

- o This concept includes a referral to autonomy conferences to consider developing legislation proposal that specifies that notification of intent to transfer as a permissible reason an institution may reduce, cancel or nonrenew financial aid.

The Transfer Working Group will explore the following concepts for a future legislative cycle:

- That an institution shall provide athletically related financial aid to a postgraduate transfer student-athlete for the duration of the graduate degree program as specified in the institution's catalog; and further, to specify that such aid shall count against team and institutional limits for the duration of the graduate program, including any academic terms after the student-athlete exhausts athletics eligibility and/or withdraws from the institution.
- o The Transfer Working Group members also are considering a potential uniform transfer model that is built around the current rule, which requires every transfer student-athlete to sit out a year of competition after transfer. However, in this concept, student-athletes who met a list of specific benchmarks could be eligible to compete immediately.

Among the concepts under consideration that would be required to meet the one-time transfer exception are (this may not be an exhaustive list):

- A student-athlete in any sport could use this exception one time only (including graduate transfers);
- A student-athlete entering a multiyear aid award would not be eligible to compete immediately after transfer at a different member institution;
- Student-athletes cannot compete at two institutions in the same year;
- If tampering occurs, the student-athlete cannot play immediately at the institution that was involved in the tampering; and
- Academic standards must be met by all student-athletes (including graduates) transferring to compete immediately:
 - Based on academic data, there shall be no gap in enrollment.
 - Student-athletes must be on track to graduate within four years.

- The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics would study and propose potential academic concepts for immediate competition, including grade-point average, credits and percentage-toward-degree benchmarks.
- Any academic concepts must be met by the end of the previous regular academic term (not summer or winter intercession prior) to compete immediately.
- Based on academic data, the ability to compete immediately would be available only until the start of the third year of enrollment and after a student-athlete earns an undergraduate degree (based on academic data that shows student-athletes who transfer earlier in their academic career are more likely to graduate than those who transfer later).

Note: The Committee on Academics will consider the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) issues after they settle on an academic eligibility for immediate competition standard.

Rationale.

The concepts would provide uniformity across all sports while also encouraging progress toward degree and graduation. The potential model would treat student-athletes similarly to the general student body in many ways and would identify areas in which student-athletes should be held to a different standard.

While the general student body may not be subject to academic requirements related to their transfer and can transfer as often as they like, the NCAA's commitment to student-athlete well-being and fairness place a vested interest in making sure student-athletes graduate. Establishing academic requirements related to immediate eligibility and limiting transfer to once during collegiate participation both support student-athletes achieve the goal of graduation.

Members of the student body who are not student-athletes do not have access to multiyear grant and aid awards. Multiyear awards allow student-athletes and their families to plan on the funding of their college education. A school offers a multiyear aid award to create stability on a team. Student-athletes who transfer have the potential upend that stability, and the Transfer Working Group members believe there should be acknowledgment of this fact in any process that is developed. In this case, that means would be serving a year of residence.

Additional information.

- Attached is a memorandum regarding the start of basketball season. [Attachment C]