

MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Teleconference

March 8, 2006

Participants:

Alexis Fink, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
Kent Reeves, East Texas Baptist University
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference
Sandra K. Slabik, Neumann College, chair
Matt Banker, NCAA, recording secretary
Leah Nilsson, NCAA

Amy Buxbaum, Chatham College; and Robert Coleman, City College of New York, could not participate on the teleconference.

[Note: These minutes contain only actions taken (formal votes or stated “sense of the meeting”) in accordance with NCAA policy regarding minutes of all Association entities. While certain items on the committee’s agenda were acted on at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes for convenience or reference.]

Wednesday, March 8

The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee telephone conference was called to order at 2 p.m. Eastern time by the chair, Ms. Slabik. All members were present as noted above.

1. Welcome and Announcements. Ms. Slabik welcomed the committee and staff to the teleconference. Ms. Nilsson noted that Ms. Buxbaum and Mr. Coleman could not be on the call and that Ms. Chun resigned from the committee because of her new position at a Division I institution. Ms. Nilsson noted that the NCAA Division III Nominating Committee has been contacted about the committee’s vacancy.

2. Review of Previous Minutes.

It was VOTED

“That the February 2-3 in-person meeting minutes be approved with specified edits.”

3. Special Seating on Official Visit. The committee reviewed how Division III institutions are currently permitted to provide special seating to prospects on unofficial visits but are prohibited from providing special seating on official visits per NCAA Bylaw 13.6.5.2 (complimentary admissions). The committee noted that the inconsistency stemmed from a legislative oversight when the NCAA federated, prompting separate divisional NCAA Manuals. The committee agreed that legislative intent and current applications support the concept of no special seating during any type (i.e., official or unofficial) of visit to a Division III campus and took the following action:

It was VOTED

“To recommend noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaws 13.6.5.2 (complimentary admissions) and 13.8.2.1 (general regulations) indicating that an institution is prohibited from providing special seating in a press box, suite or bench area to a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete’s relatives or friends at an institutional athletics event during an official or unofficial visit.”

4. Local Sports Club Exception. The committee reviewed the application of the 50-mile radius limitation within the local sports club exception and discussed whether the 50-mile radius limit applies to an institution’s coach’s involvement with local sports teams that are in a different sport and/or gender than the coach’s institutional team (e.g., Division III men’s soccer coach coaching local sports club’s women’s soccer or men’s golf teams). The committee concurred that the local sports club legislation is an exception to the tryout prohibition and that this exception was adopted to afford institutional staff members an opportunity to provide the campus’ local community with outreach and sports expertise, not to provide sports expertise to any outside sports team without limit. The committee noted this rationale and took the following action:

It was VOTED

“To adopt an official interpretation in which the committee determined that an institution's coaching staff member may be involved with a local sports club located in the institution's home community that includes prospective student-athletes participating in a sport other than the coach's sport, provided those prospective student-athletes live within a 50-mile radius of the member institution's campus. For example, an institution's men's soccer coach is permitted to coach a local sports club team in men's golf or women's soccer, provided all

prospective student-athletes participating on the team reside within 50 miles of the institution.” [Reference: Division III Bylaws 13.11.1 (prohibited activities) and 13.11.2.3 (local sports clubs)]

5. Established Regional, National or International Awards. The committee reviewed Bylaw 16.1.7.1 (established regional, national or international awards) which permits an outside organization (other than a professional sports organization) to provide actual and necessary expenses to attend an established regional, national or international awards banquet. The committee discussed whether an institution could also be legislatively permitted to provide actual and necessary expenses to student-athletes for banquets connected to established awards. The committee noted that the outside organization sponsoring the established award should be the entity providing expenses for a student-athlete to attend an awards banquet and that the NCAA Division III Management Council Administrative Review Subcommittee waiver process is currently in place to address any situations that warrant permitting an institution providing these expenses. No action was taken.
6. Web Cast for Upcoming Committee Teleconference. Mr. Banker and Ms. Nilsson informed the committee that a Web cast will be conducted for the April teleconference as part of the technology campaign for all committees within the NCAA structure. Mr. Banker and Ms. Nilsson noted that meeting materials will be disseminated by e-mail along with a passcode and Web site link for logging into the Web cast. Mr. Banker and Ms. Nilsson explained some of the features of the Web cast and noted that the committee will also be communicating by phone in conjunction with the Web cast and a user support representative from the Web cast host will be available for any questions.
7. Adjournment. Ms. Slabik noted the future meeting times, including confirmation that the June meeting will be an in-person meeting in Indianapolis. Ms. Slabik adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m. Eastern time.

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