

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

Teleconference

September 20, 2006

Participants:

Robert Coleman, Whittier College
Portia Lowe, Lake Forest College
Kent Reeves, East Texas Baptist University
Terry Rupert, Wilmington College (Ohio)
Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference
Sandra K. Slabik, Neumann College, chair
Steven Suggs, Stevens Institute of Technology
Matt Banker, NCAA, recording secretary
Leah Nilsson, NCAA

Amy Buxbaum, Chatham College, could not participate on this 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 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, September 20

The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee teleconference was called to order at 12:03 p.m. Eastern time by the chair, Ms. Slabik. All members were present as noted above.

1. Welcome and announcements. Ms. Slabik welcomed Mr. Suggs to the committee as the new student-athlete representative.

2. Review of previous minutes. The committee reviewed the minutes as drafted and took the following action:

It was VOTED

"That the August 9 teleconference minutes be approved as presented."

3. Review draft of financial aid education column. The committee reviewed drafts of an education column and an official interpretation confirming the application of financial aid legislation and the prohibition on considering leadership activities tied to athletics ability, participation or performance when determining a student's financial aid package. The committee concurred that it is premature to issue an official interpretation on the issue of leadership activities of an athletics team captain within the context of financial aid packaging. The NCAA staff noted that this topic is being considered for a Division III virtual focus-group survey. The committee noted that the division should have the opportunity to voice their position on the topic before recommending any interpretative or legislative position on behalf of the division. The committee took the following action:

It was VOTED

"To publish the education column regarding financial aid packaging scenarios and to stay issuing an official interpretation on athletics leadership activities until further dialogue within the division occurs."

4. Staff interpretation adopted as an official interpretation and incorporated in the NCAA Division III Manual. The committee reviewed a staff interpretation (reference: 12/18/92, item a) which stated that an institution is not required to provide student-athletes with one day off per week during a vacation period, provided classes are not in session. The committee reviewed NCAA Division III Bylaw 17.1.5.2 (athletically related activities) and determined that the exception to the one day off per week requirement could be more clearly articulated in the bylaw by taking the following action:

It was VOTED

"That the following staff interpretation be made official and incorporated into the Division III Manual:

Required Day Off Not Mandatory During Vacation Period (III). An institution is not required to provide student-athletes with one day off per week during a vacation period, provided classes are not in session during any portion of that week. [References: Bylaws 17.1.5.3.5 (vacation periods and between terms) and 17.1.5.4.3 (vacation period) and a staff interpretation (reference: 12/18/92, item a)]"

5. Division III volunteer coaches serving as high school or two-year college coaches. The committee reviewed Division III Bylaw 11.4.2 (high school/two-year college coach) and discussed whether the bylaw appropriately addresses the use of volunteer coaches at a Division III institution that are also high school or two-year college coaches. Specifically, the committee noted that although many Division III coaches are volunteer coaches and do not receive compensation, the volunteer coaches should still be under a contract or other binding agreement that specifies their job duties and addresses any institutional liability concerns. The committee concurred that the Division III Bylaw 11.4.2 adequately addresses the use of volunteer coaches at Division III institutions who are also high school or two-year college coaches. The committee took no action.

6. Committee positions on 2007 membership-sponsored proposals. The committee reviewed two membership-sponsored proposals in order to provide the committee's position on each proposal and ancillary rationale. The committee took the following actions:
 - a. **ELIGIBILITY – SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION – PARTICIPATION AT ANY COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION** (Sponsor: Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) [2006 NCAA Convention Division III Initial Publication of Proposed Legislation (IPOPL) Proposal No. 3 and 2006 NCAA Convention Division III Second Publication of Proposed Legislation (SPOPL) Proposal No. 11].

The committee reviewed the above proposal and took the following action:

It was VOTED

"To oppose this proposal. The committee opposed this proposal because of student-athlete well-being considerations including fair notice about the Division III standard to student-athletes who redshirt at non-Division III institutions and do not realize they are triggering use of a season of participation. The committee also opposed the proposal because of the potential bureaucracy and guesswork involved with confirming a student-athlete's use of a season of participation at a non-Division III institution that does not use the season-of-participation standard."

- b. **ELIGIBILITY – CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SEASON OF PARTICIPATION – MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION – NONTRADITIONAL SEGMENT** (Sponsors: Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Great Northeast Athletic Conference and Northwest Conference) (2006 Convention IPOPL Proposal No. 2 and 2006 Convention SPOPL Proposal No. 10).

The committee reviewed the above proposal and took the following action:

It was VOTED

"To support this proposal. The committee supported this proposal because it provides equity amongst sports in terms of how the season-of-participation standard impacts student-athletes between fall and spring sports with respect to the amount of practice time that a student-athlete may engage in prior to being charged with a season of participation."

7. 2007 NCAA Division III Convention Legislation Question and Answer Guide. The committee reviewed the initial draft of the question and answer guide and provided edits and feedback to the NCAA staff. Mr. Banker and Ms. Nilsson encouraged committee members to forward additional edits and feedback to staff via e-mail in the coming weeks noting that the content of the guide is under the purview of this committee. Mr. Banker confirmed that the committee will have another opportunity to review the guide during a future committee teleconference prior to the 2007 NCAA Convention.

8. Adjournment. Ms. Slabik noted that the next committee teleconference is scheduled for 2 p.m. Eastern time October 19. The committee adjourned the teleconference at 1:07 p.m. Eastern time.

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