

REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative Action Items.**

• **Reclassification to Division II – written notice of intention.**

- (1) Recommendation. Amend NCAA Bylaw 20.6.3.1 to clarify that a member institution reclassifying to Division II shall no longer be eligible to participate in any future Division III championships once the institution forwards to the national office its official reclassification application.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The current legislation states that an institution is no longer eligible to participate in any future Division III championships once the institution forwards to the national office written notice of its intention to change its membership classification to Division II. Under this criterion, it is not clear if an institution's status in the exploratory period constitutes "intent to change its membership". The amended language will clarify that an official reclassification application is the trigger for the institution's intent to reclassify.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

a. **Review of Lesley University Waiver Request.**

- (1) Recommendation. To deny the waiver request from Lesley University to extend its waiver of the sports sponsorship requirements.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The committee reviewed the request [Attachment] from Lesley to extend the three-year period the institution had been provided to meet sport sponsorship requirements for its newly admitted male student body. The committee noted that the legislated waiver is limited to a three-year

period and that the institution should more aggressively pursue its original plan to have five men's sports, including three team sports, in place by fall 2007.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

**b. Yeshiva University - sports sponsorship waiver.**

(1) Recommendation. Grant a sports sponsorship waiver to Yeshiva University per Bylaw 20.11.3.6.2, single-gender institution transitioning to coeducational. The waiver shall apply until fall 2009.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. The committee approved a sports sponsorship waiver request from Yeshiva that includes an undergraduate female student body (Stern College for Women). The committee noted the institution has been sponsoring three female sports, and has submitted a satisfactory action plan to add two sports to bring them into compliance with the required five sports for women.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Role of NCAA Division III Committee on Infractions in Failure to Meet Membership Requirements.** The committee reviewed two official interpretations discussing the impact on an institution of multiple years of noncompliance with sports sponsorship requirements, noting that the more recent of these interpretations stated that the penalty for multiple years of noncompliance discovered simultaneously is probation. This interpretation also stated that the Committee on Infractions, at its discretion, may impose appropriate penalties on institutions that have not been in compliance with sports sponsorship requirements for multiple academic years. It was noted that the Committee on Infractions has not been involved with sports sponsorship issues for the past several years. The committee requested that a staff working group examine the issue of the appropriate role of the Committee on Infractions related to membership requirements and examine the meaning of "discovery" of noncompliance with sports sponsorship

