

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Waiver Request.** The Division III membership committee forwarded a recommendation onto the Administrative Committee for its review. In its recommendation, the membership committee recommended that the Administrative Committee approve the Rensselaer waiver on behalf of a Division I men's ice hockey student-athlete. The membership committee noted student-athlete well-being and precedence as factors in its recommendation. Rensselaer sought a waiver on behalf of their NCAA Division I men's ice hockey student-athlete. The student-athlete and Division I ice hockey program are subject to the more stringent divisional rules of Division I and Division III. The institution noted the student-athlete was precluded from participating in competition due to the NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.5.5.2.10 (one-time transfer exception). The institution further noted the student-athlete would then be subject to Division III Bylaw 14.2.4.1 (minimum amount of participation) and use a season of participation by practicing with the Division I team.

- 2. Reclassifying Institutions' Access to Championships/Grants Funding.** The membership committee forwarded a recommendation onto the Administrative Committee for its review. In its recommendation, the membership committee considered NCAA Division III Bylaw 20.6.9.1 and its implication on those Division III institutions exploring Division II. Committee considerations included the opportunity for these potential reclassifying institutions to have access to Division III grant funding and championships. The membership committee recommended that the Administrative Committee adopt noncontroversial legislation stating that Division III institutions entering the first exploratory year of Division II not be permitted to receive Division III grant funding and access to Division III championships. The membership committee noted a reclassifying institution that then decided to remain in Division III would then have access to Division III grant funding and championships on return to Division III.

- 3. 2008 Proposal – Use of Provisional Members to Meet Conference Requirements.** The membership committee reviewed the 2008 Division III Proposal that would permit provisional members, who have completed year one of provisional membership, to count towards the requirement of seven institutions sponsoring a sport in order for a conference to be eligible for automatic qualification. The membership committee did not support the proposal. In its review, the committee noted that provisional institutions do not have to

meet Division III sports sponsorship requirements in year-one and only have to meet the sports sponsorship requirements, and not all Division III rules, during year-two of the provisional process. Over the course of recent years, the membership committee has repeatedly observed provisional institutions failing to meet membership requirements. Additionally, many provisional institutions have weak or lacking compliance systems in place. The provisional process is purposely a four-year process to allow institutions time and awareness of resources to ramp them into the similar stature of active institutions. Due to the education and time involved, the committee does not believe it is appropriate for provisional institutions to “count” toward automatic qualification in the same way as active Division III member institutions.

4. **Provisional/Reclassifying 2008 NCAA Convention Session.** The committee recommended an afternoon session to take place 3 to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, January 13 to allow for time to reinforce the material learned during the morning Issues Forum. This afternoon session would include discussion of the 2008 proposals and would serve as an opportunity for institutions to discuss the provisional process and raise questions to Membership Committee mentors.

Committee Chair: Chris Martin, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin

Staff Liaison(s): Azure Davey, Membership Services

Shana Levine, Membership Services