MINUTES OF THE

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Teleconference December 15, 2010

Participants:

Mark Dienhart, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)
Amy Friedman, Colonial States Athletic Conference
John Meany, Worcester State College
Julie Muller, North Atlantic Conference
Lori Runksmeier, New England College, chair
Jeff Myers, NCAA
Kristin Nesbitt, NCAA, recording secretary

[Note: These minutes contain only action 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.]

The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee meeting was called to order at approximately 2:01 p.m. Wednesday, December 15, by Ms. Runksmeier. All members were present as noted above.

1. Review Minutes From November 9, 2010, Meeting. The Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed the minutes of its October 20 teleconference and took the following action:

   It was VOTED

   "That the minutes of the November 9 teleconference be approved as written."

2. Review Draft of 2011 NCAA Convention Question and Answer Document. The committee reviewed the final draft of the second edition of the 2011 NCAA Convention question and answer document and provided comments and feedback for incorporation prior to its distribution.

3. Recruitment Activities by Enrolled Student-Athletes. The committee reviewed the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's position regarding the issue of recruiting activities by enrolled student-athletes.

It was VOTED:

"To recommend the NCAA Division III Management Council sponsor noncontroversial legislation to permit enrolled student-athletes to e-mail prospective student-athletes."

In arriving at its position, the committee noted that restrictions on the legislation had the potential to be cumbersome, especially if prospective-student-athletes already have a relationship with current student-athletes. The committee additionally noted the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's concern that requiring a review of student-athlete e-mails by athletics staff could stifle candid and open communication.

4. Recruitment During Camps and Clinics. The committee reviewed the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's position regarding the issue of recruitment during camps and clinics.

It was VOTED:

"To request Management Council modify the current official interpretation (Reference: 5/17/10, Item No. 3) to permit general, nonathletics information about the institution to be presented to camp or clinic participants only by nonathletics staff."

In arriving at its position, the committee noted this modification would serve as a means of compromise in order to both allow the institution to provide general information about the institution to participants, but not create a situation that places undue pressure on prospective student-athletes from an athletics recruitment perspective.

5. Application of Hardship Waiver Requirements to Transfers. The committee reviewed the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's position regarding the application of hardship waiver requirements to transfers.

It was VOTED:

"To request Management Council reconsider its previous position on the issue in light of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee feedback and modify the existing official interpretation (Reference: 9/17/97, Item No. 3)."

The committee noted that the flexibility provided in Divisions I and II on this issue demonstrates support for student-athlete well-being that currently does not exist with the Division III official interpretation. Additionally, they disagree with the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement's position that an unfair competitive advantage will result or that perceived abuses outweigh a more favorable approach, and concur with the

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's position that given the similarities in hardship waiver legislation across the divisions, there would be only a narrow set of circumstances in which a student-athlete could attempt to gain an advantage.

6. Review of Playing and Practice Season Exemptions for Emerging Sports. The committee discussed whether the legislation should be amended to address an inconsistent application of the postseason competition rules. Specifically, practice and competition in a recognized national intercollegiate championship event in emerging sports is not exempt from the institution's declared playing and practice seasons under the current NCAA Division III Bylaw 17.1.8-(h). In other non-NCAA championship sports that receive a waiver for sports sponsorship purposes, however, it is permissible to exempt one non-NCAA postseason championship event.

It was VOTED:

"To recommend Management Council sponsor noncontroversial legislation to specify that practice and competition for one recognized national intercollegiate championship event in an emerging sport for women is exempt from being counted against the institution's declared playing and practice season limitations."

The committee noted that this change would make the playing season regulations for emerging sports consistent with other non-NCAA championships sports that are approved to be used for sports sponsorship. The committee further noted that similar action is being taken in both Divisions I and II to rectify the inequity.

7. Adjournment. The teleconference was adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.

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