# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE May 17, 2012

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

**a. 2013 NCAA Convention Legislation – Eligibility – Four-Year College Transfers – Exceptions – Transfer from a Division III Institution – Change from Season of Participation to Any Participation.**

(1) Recommendation. Sponsor 2013 NCAA Convention legislation specifying that if a transfer student-athlete practiced or competed at a Division III institution, then the student-athlete shall be athletically and academically eligible at the original institution to be immediately eligible upon transfer.

(2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

(3) Rationale. Currently, the four-year transfer exception allows a student-athlete to transfer and be immediately eligible if the student-athlete has not used a season of participation at a Division III institution, and has never practiced or competed in intercollegiate athletics at a non-Division III institution. Effectively, a student-athlete that is academically ineligible at one Division III institution could transfer to another Division III institution and be immediately eligible provided the student-athlete has not used a season of participation. For example, the current rule allows a student-athlete to participate and compete in the nontraditional segment (which does not trigger the use of a season of participation) in the fall, become academically ineligible, and then transfer to another Division III institution mid-year and become immediately eligible for competition in the spring championship segment. In this situation the student-athlete has transferred out of an academic ineligibility. The proposal affirms that academic eligibility should be the primary consideration when determining eligibility status for a transfer student-athlete.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. A student-athlete could no longer transfer out of an academic ineligibility after any participation at the Division III level.

**b. 2013 Convention Legislation – Playing Seasons – Tennis – Fall Period – Exception to Playing Season – Intercollegiate Tennis Association – National Small College Championship.**

(1) Recommendation. Sponsor 2013 NCAA Convention legislation specifying that a student-athlete's practice for or participation in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championship is not considered part of the institution's declared playing season.

(2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

(3) Rationale. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championships began in 1986 and annually crowns men's and women's singles and doubles national champions in each of the ITA's four small college divisions [NCAA Divisions II and III, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Junior/Community College] during the month of October. These championships are the only national tournaments for singles and doubles at the NCAA Division II and NAIA level, and the only tournaments that combine all levels of Junior/Community Colleges (National Junior College Athletic Association Divisions I, II and III, and California Community Colleges). Participants are determined through the ITA Regional Championships, held in September and October, which serve as qualifying tournaments. The ITA championships are conducted during the fall period in tennis. Under the current rules, if coaches work with the one or two student-athletes that qualify for the national championships, then that interaction has to count against the 19 week playing season. This proposal allows the few student-athletes that qualify for the ITA championship (and those necessary for practice) to continue to receive coaching and not have the entire team disadvantaged by losing weeks of the playing season [This recommendation resulted from a review of NCAA Division II Proposal No. NC-2013-5].

(4) Budget Impact. Current rules allow the institution to pay for this one tournament, so there would not be an additional expense associated with this proposal.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. A student-athlete that qualifies for the national championship is already preparing for that participation. This would allow the student-athlete to be coached by the institutional coach during that period.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- **Approval of Official Interpretation – Coach Speaking at a Banquet or Meeting That Occurs Off Campus and Includes Prospective Student-Athletes.**

(1) Recommendation. To approve the following official interpretation:

"Coach Speaking at a Banquet or Meeting That Occurs Off Campus and Includes Prospective Student-Athletes (III). The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that a coach may speak at a banquet or meeting at an off campus site to a group that includes prospective student-athletes who have not completed their junior year in high school provided:

(a) The event is initiated and conducted by an entity other than the coach's institution;

(b) The coach does not make a recruiting presentation in conjunction with the appearance;

(c) The coach does not have any direct contact with any prospective student-athlete (or a prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians) in attendance; and

(d) The primary purpose of the event is unrelated to fundraising for prospective student-athletes."

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 13.02.3 (contact), 13.1 (contacts and evaluations), 13.1.1.1 (high school prospective student-athletes), 13.1.4.1 (prospective student-athlete's educational institution) and 13.1.4.2 (practice or competition site) and staff interpretation (1/25/91, Item No. a)]

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. At its April teleconference, the Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed the issue related to institutions' coaches speaking at a banquet where prospective student-athletes are present. After reviewing the current legislation in Divisions I and II that specifically addresses this topic, the committee instructed the staff to draft an official interpretation that mirrors the conditions set forth in the Divisions I and II legislation.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.***

**1.** **Review April report.** The committee reviewed the report of its April teleconference.

**2.** **Other business.** NCAA staff notified the committee the February 2013 in-person meeting will be held in Indianapolis.

**3.** **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 3:42 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair:* *Darryl Sims, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh*
*Staff Liaisons:* *Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs*
*Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs*
*Kristin Nesbitt, Academic and Membership Affairs*

| Meeting/Teleconference Date: May 17, 2012 | |
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| Attendees | Absentees |
| Jason Fein, Drew University | Kurt Beron, University of Texas, Dallas |
| Donna Ledwin, Allegheny Mountain | Nathan Love, Hope College |
| John Meany, Worcester State College | Lisa Wisniowicz, Aurora University |
| Julie Muller, North Atlantic Conference | |
| Darryl Sims, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, chair | |
| Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance: Brandy Hataway, Jeff Myers, Kristin Nesbitt. | |