# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
**July 19, 2012**

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

**1. Legislative Item.**

- **2013 NCAA Convention Legislation -- Study Abroad Programs and Student-Athlete Athletic Eligibility.**

(1) Recommendation. Sponsor 2013 NCAA Convention legislation to specify that if a Division III student-athlete participates in athletics in conjunction with a study abroad or foreign exchange program that is recognized by his or her institution, then the student-athlete shall not trigger the outside competition legislation or the transfer legislation if the student-athlete returns to his or her home institution; further, to specify that a student-athlete participating in such a program shall not trigger the use of a season of participation.

(2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

(3) Rationale. Many student-athletes participate in a foreign exchange or study-abroad program as a part of their collegiate experience. Currently, when a student-athlete participates in such a program, participating in athletics during this period could render the student-athlete ineligible by triggering the outside competition legislation. Further, the student-athlete would trigger transfer status if he or she satisfies either of the following: (1) Is considered full-time enrolled at the foreign institution and attends class; or (2) Is less than full-time enrolled, but practiced or competed with the foreign institution's team. Under these scenarios the student-athlete would have to satisfy an exception to the transfer legislation to be immediately eligible on return to the home institution. In addition, student-athletes who participate in athletics while abroad could trigger the use of a season of participation. The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee agreed that modifying the legislation to prevent these consequences is consistent with the practice of permitting incoming exchange students to participate in athletics on Division III campuses. The committee noted an institution's recognition of a study-abroad or foreign exchange program is not limited only to those programs that are conducted by the institution itself; so long as the program is recognized by the institution, this exception will apply. This exception does not, however, apply to participation by a student-athlete who takes a leave of absence to attend a foreign exchange or study-abroad program.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes can participate in foreign exchange and study-abroad programs without the concern that they will subject themselves to the transfer legislation on return to their original Division III institution.

**2. Nonlegislative Item.**

- **Approval of Official Interpretation – Minimum Participants Required to Complete Institution's Competition.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve the following official interpretation:

Minimum participants required to complete institution's competition (III). The Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that the minimum number of participants required to complete a competition for the purposes of satisfying sports-sponsorship requirements, shall be based on the playing rules of the sport.

[References: NCAA Bylaws 20.11.3.8 (minimum contests and participants requirements for sports sponsorship) and 20.11.3.8.1 (completion of contest)]

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Amending the interpretation so that it conforms to the playing rules provides for a clear application of the membership, playing seasons and playing rules requirements. This action is consistent with the division's current focus on regulatory consistency and also removes the need for institutions to monitor whether individuals on their teams completed a contest.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

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

**2. Review of NCAA Division III compliance forms.** The committee deferred its review of the 2012-13 Division III compliance forms.

**3. Review of text messaging and telephone calls at competition site issue.** The committee reviewed the issue of whether a contact as prohibited by NCAA Division III Bylaw 13.1.4.2 (practice or competition site) includes any communication and instructed the NCAA staff to draft an official interpretation clarifying that a contact for the purpose of Bylaw 13.1.4.2 includes any communication, however it does not extend to athletics personnel that are not attending and are unaware of the competition.

**4. Review of NCAA Division III Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee meeting.** The committee received an update regarding the Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee's review of the committee's recommended legislation allowing preparation for and participation in the International Tennis Association's Small College Championships not be included in an institution's declared playing and practice season and noted that the Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee had no concerns with the recommendation.

**5. Other business.** None.

**6. 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*

| Teleconference Date: June 21, 2012 | |
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| Attendees | Absentees |
| Kurt Beron, University of Texas, Dallas | Nathan Love, Hope College |
| Jason Fein, Drew University | |
| Donna Ledwin, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference | |
| John Meany, Worcester State College | |
| Julie Muller, North Atlantic Conference | |
| Darryl Sims, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, chair | |
| Other Attendees; Brandy Hataway, NCAA, Jeff Myers, NCAA, Kristin Nesbitt, NCAA Jean Orr, NCAA | |