REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON COMPETITIVE SAFEGUARDS
AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS
SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2020, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

• None.

ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Approval of June 10 and July 17, 2020 teleconference reports: The committee approved the reports of its June 10 and July 17 teleconferences.

2. COVID-19 operational update: The committee received updates on the following COVID-19 initiatives:

   a. Report from COVID-19 Advisory Panel and COVID-19 Action Team. The committee received a briefing on several COVID-19 related operational issues, including the reconstitution and expansion of the NCAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, as well as the pending release of the next resocialization document entitled, Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball. This document is anticipated to address COVID-19 testing protocols, travel and transmission risk in basketball.

   b. Prevention and Performance Subcommittee. The committee received an update about subcommittee work since June 2020. The subcommittee continues to consider and develop positions on behalf of the full committee on emerging playing and practice season issues, such as acclimatization and transition period requirements in a split-season schedule, fall and spring football competition and practice schedules and configuration of the Division I basketball practice preseason.

   c. National Federation of State High School Associations Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Update. The committee received an update about the National Federation of State High School Associations’ Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.
3. Governance Reports.

a. Division I.
   (1) The committee received an update on the activity of Division I governance, which continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional national-level issues include name, image and likeness and transfer eligibility.
   
   (2) Legislative concept review. The committee received an update on the 2020-21 NCAA Division legislative cycle. No conference-sponsored legislative concepts were submitted for consideration in the 2020-21 Division I Council-Governance legislative cycle. Therefore, there will be no conference-sponsored proposals in the 2020-21 cycle. The deadline for Council-introduced proposals is November 1. Additionally, no Autonomy legislative concepts were submitted by the September 15 deadline for consideration in the standard 2020-21 Division I Autonomy-Governance legislative cycle. Therefore, there will be no Autonomy proposals in the standard 2020-21 cycle.

b. Division II.
   • The committee received an update on recent Division II activities, with an emphasis on COVID-19 response. The division has focused on providing flexibility to the membership on academics, financial aid, seasons of competition, and other areas of legislation and policy. From the health and safety perspective, the division continues its focus on participation in the health and safety survey, Injury Surveillance Program and available mental health resources.

c. Division III.
   • The committee received an update from Division III, which also continues to focus on COVID-19 response, specifically on sport sponsorship and waivers for fall 2020. Additionally, it was reported that 240 member schools chose to participate in the health and safety survey. Unlike Divisions I and II, participation in the health and safety survey is voluntary. Further, participation in the Injury Surveillance Program has been approximately 25 percent for 2020-21. It is believed that COVID-19 disruptions have stalled increasing participation.

4. Institutional Performance Program Health and Safety Survey. The committee approved updates to the 2020-21 version of the Institutional Performance Program Health and Safety Survey and approved an updated distribution schedule. The survey will be
distributed to NCAA Divisions I and II athletics health care administrators on Tuesday, November 10, one week earlier than last year, and will close on Friday January 15, 2021. Completion of the survey is a legislated requirement in Divisions I and II.

5. **Proposal for Research Subcommittee.** The committee discussed and approved the creation of a Research Subcommittee. The new subcommittee combines and extends the responsibilities of the Standing Review Subcommittee and the Institutional Performance Program Subcommittee. The new subcommittee will provide functional oversight and thought leadership on various scientific and research-related initiatives informing the health and safety priorities of the Committee and the Association and will be chaired by the sport science research representative to the Committee.

6. **Concussion.**

   a. **Concussion Assessment, Research and Education Consortium Update.** The committee received an operational update on the CARE Consortium, including longitudinal study planning. In spite of some operational challenges created by COVID-19, the study continues. Efforts are also underway to secure additional funding.

   b. **Mind Matters Update.** The committee received an update on the Mind Matters project, including key research findings related to concussion education. Next steps include creating an educational video on changing the culture of concussion reporting among collegiate student-athletes and military cadets.

   c. **Concussion Safety Protocol Review.** The committee received an operational update on the evaluation of the concussion safety protocol review process. It is expected that several emerging operational issues regarding the concussion safety protocol review process and related legislation will be reviewed with the Autonomy Conferences in the near term.

7. **Litigation Update.** The committee received a privileged and confidential update on several legal issues from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.

8. **Protective Equipment in Women’s Lacrosse.** The committee was briefed on continued national discussions about the use of protective head equipment in women’s lacrosse. Equipment standards organizations and national governing bodies continue to monitor emerging research information about the topic. The committee requested that staff direct Datalys’ exploration of injury surveillance program data related to head injuries in women’s lacrosse and to provide an update at a future meeting.
9. **Drug Free Sport International Report.** The committee received a summary report from Drug Free Sport International about the NCAA’s year-round and championships drug testing programs. The report identified a continuing trend of positive tests due to selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS) and hormone and metabolic modulators (e.g., GW1516 sulfoxide and GW1516 sulfone).

10. **Drug Testing Program.**
   a. **Drug Testing Policy Landscape.** The committee received a presentation from Brian Ahrens, Director of the University of California, Los Angeles Olympic Analytical Laboratory, on the latest trends in drug testing. The laboratory reported an upward trend of detection of selective androgen receptor modulators and hormone and metabolic modulators. He also noted that in response to continued challenges caused by contaminated supplements, some sport governing bodies have implemented cutoffs for low-concentration positives, athlete biological passport programs, and additional follow-up testing after a positive test for certain substances.

   b. **Mitigation Policy.** The committee discussed the current NCAA mitigation policy, which allows the drug-test appeal panel to reduce legislated penalties for a positive test when the panel determines that mitigating circumstances warrant such a reduction. Existing policy limits the factors that can be considered in mitigation decisions. However, recent trends in appeals cases have revealed possible limitations in the effectiveness of the current mitigation policy, especially where claims of supplement contamination are involved. Therefore, the committee approved a recommendation that SSI staff, along with the NCAA Drug Appeal Subcommittee and other subject matter experts, explore expanding mitigating criteria.

   c. **Alternative Sample, Test Strategies and Testosterone Levels.** The committee received an update about emerging issues in drug testing, including alternative sample and testing strategies, and evaluation of testosterone and estrogen ratios through IRMS testing. These issues have contributed to operational challenges and public criticism about the NCAA drug testing program. The committee noted its support for NCAA staff to explore these issues more thoroughly and to be prepared to make formal recommendations about any operational or policy changes to the NCAA drug testing program platform by February 2021.

11. **Update on Transgender Policy.** The committee received an update on the upcoming NCAA Gender Identity and Student-Athlete Participation Summit hosted by SSI and the Office of Inclusion to be held October 5-6, 2020. Feedback solicited from summit
participants may contribute to and inform the development of policy and practice recommendations going forward.

12. **Mental Health.**

   a. **Diverse Student-Athlete Mental Health and Well-Being Summit.** The committee received an update on the summit held August 10-11, 2020. Currently, work is being done to further synthesize feedback received from the participants and the first phase of the Delphi consensus building process is underway. The Delphi process is expected to be completed before the end of the academic year.

   b. **Mental Health Guidelines for Transfer Waivers.** The committee received an update from the Mental Health Waiver Think Tank held November 9-10, 2019. The participants engaged in the Delphi consensus-building process and finalized deliverables, which focused on mental health diagnosis documentation and suggestions related to support from an external review panel of licensed mental health providers. Next steps are for the NCAA’s academic and membership affairs department to work on incorporating this feedback into the waiver processes.

   c. **Bystander Intervention Strategy.** The committee received an operational update on a virtual "think tank" to be assembled this fall to solicit input and feedback from content experts and campus leaders on current trends and best practices in bystander intervention education and the related needs of the membership.

13. **Sexual Violence Prevention.**

   a. **2019-20 Attestation Results.** The committee reviewed the results from the 2019-20 Campus Sexual Violence Attestation process. Due to COVID-19, the process was updated to provide flexibility to the membership with a deadline extension, free online sexual violence prevention educational courses for coaches and student-athletes, and modification of the form to allow for athletics director signature on behalf of the institution. A total of 1,109 out of 1,112 schools completed the attestation. The three institutions not completing the attestation were no longer members of the Association at the time the attestation process closed.

   b. **2021-22 Policy Developments.** The committee received an overview of the April 2020 NCAA Board of Governors update to the Campus Sexual Violence Policy.

14. **Injury Surveillance Program.** The committee received a briefing on trends from the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program.

16. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The committee was informed that due to continued budgetary constraints, all NCAA committee meetings will remain virtual through August 2021.

17. **Adjournment.**

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**Committee Chair:** Mark Stovak, University of Nevada, Reno  
**Committee Vice-Chair:** Stephanie Chu, University of Colorado, Boulder  
**Staff Liaisons:** John Parsons, NCAA Sport Science Institute  
Anne Rohlman, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs  
Jessica Wagner, NCAA Sport Science Institute

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<tr>
<td>Pam Hinton-Bruzina, University of Missouri, Columbia</td>
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<td>Stephanie Chu, University of Colorado, Boulder</td>
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<td>Bob Colgate, National Federation High School Associations</td>
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<td>Turner Dirrigl, Canisius College</td>
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<td>Jeff Dugas, Troy University</td>
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<td>N. Jeremi Duru, American University</td>
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<td>Kirsten Ford, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference</td>
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<td>Luis Feigenbaum, University of Miami (Florida)</td>
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<td>R.T. Floyd, University of West Alabama</td>
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<td>James Houle, The Ohio State University</td>
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<td>Nadine Mastroleo, Binghamton University</td>
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<td>Madeleine McKenna, California University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Tim McMurray, Texas A&amp;M University – Commerce</td>
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<td>Colby Pepper, Covenant College</td>
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<td>Nicole Pieart, Aurora University</td>
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<td>Julie Rochester, Northern Michigan University</td>
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<td>Mark Stovak, University of Nevada, Reno</td>
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<td>Todd Stull, Inside Performance Mindroom</td>
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<td>Isaiah Swann, University of Texas at Dallas</td>
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<td>Buddy Teevens, Dartmouth College</td>
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<td>Kim Terrell, University of Oregon</td>
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Michelle Walsh, Vassar College  
Auburn Weisensale, University of Pittsburgh  
Kurt Zorn, Indiana University  
**Absentees:**  
Caroline Lee, Southeastern Louisiana University  
Mary Northcutt, Carson-Newman University  
**Guests in Attendance:**  
Brian Ahrens, UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory  
Adrian Boltz, Datalys Center  
Avinash Chandran, Datalys Center  
Michelle Dorsey, Drug Free Sport International  
**NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:**  
John Parsons, Anne Rohlman and Jessica Wagner  
**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**  
Jackie Campbell, Amanda Dickey, LaGwyn Durden, Jennifer Fraser, Jay Fitzwater, Brian Hainline, Brandy Hataway, Charlie Henry, Maritza Jones, Jessica Kerr, Louise McCleary, Corbin McGuire, Gretchen Miron, Greg Pottorff, Paul Roetert, Crystal Rogers, Jared Tidemann