NSIC Reminders:
1. NLI Institutional Commitment form DUE.
2. Submit Academic Performance Data (APC) (due 12 weeks after 1st day of class in fall semester)
3. Squad lists and financial aid for winter sports are due before the 1st date of competition.
4. Please remember to use the NSIC Compliance Question form when filing a question.

Letter from Assistant Commissioner for Compliance-

Hope all is going well with everyone on campus. Please remember that you should send in hardship waivers for fall sports when their season is complete. Also, reminder that financial aid and squad lists for winter sports MUST be completed before the first date of competition. I have received a few requests for different ideas for the compliance newsletter. Please keep the ideas coming, this newsletter is to provide you with information along with people on your campus. If I can help any one with anything please let me know, I am here to help. Also, FYI, our NCAA contact LaKeisha has resigned. The NCAA is in the process of assigning us a new NCAA Contact. Thank you for helping me learn and being patient while I continue to gain further knowledge.

-Melissa

NCAA DII Compliance Calendar Reminders
*Information taken from ncaa.org

* Review and confirm all permission to contact and/or transfer release requests for upcoming spring semester. (as needed)
* Collect roster changes and update squad lists. (Continual)
* Review proposed legislation for NCAA Convention. (After November 15)
* Monitor full-time enrollment. (Continual)
* Monitor contacts and evaluations.
* Monitor countable athletically related activities.
* Submit Academic Performance Data (APC). (Due 12 weeks after first day of classes in the fall semester/quarter.)

*MONTHLY RULES EDUCATION: GAMBLING AND SPORTS WAGERING*

Regional Rules Seminar

2009-
May 11-15 Atlanta, Georgia
June 1-5 Anaheim, California

2010-
May 17-21 Indianapolis, Indiana
June 14-18 Dallas, Texas

The NCAA is pleased to announce that there will be a new format to regional rules seminars and is excited for the changes that are going to be made.
LSDBI

**DII Committee for Legislative Relief Approves Blanket Waiver (outside competition)**

The Division II Committee for Legislative Relief has approved a blanket waiver for NCAA Bylaws 14.7.1 (outside competition - sports other than basketball) and 14.7.5.1 (exceptions to outside competition regulations - in all sports). Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3.1 (participation before certification-recruited and non-recruited student-athletes).

*SEE LSDBI FOR MORE INFORMATION*

*The NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief (CLR, formerly ARS) may issue a blanket waiver in order to temporarily provide relief from NCAA legislation for specific extenuating circumstances that have a reasonably demonstrated widespread impact. Please note that the following summary of waivers is for a specific division (Division II), a specific time period and for a specific set of circumstances. If the waiver circumstances and the time period of the waiver apply, submission of a separate waiver application is not necessary. If an institution, conference or committee's circumstances do not meet the requirements of, or are dissimilar to, the blanket waiver, a Legislative Relief waiver application will need to be filed with the NCAA staff.*
**Medical Hardship:**

**Bylaw 14.2.5 Hardship Waiver.** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the conference or the Committee on Student-Athlete reinstatement for reasons of “hardship”. Hardship is defined as an incapacity resulting from an injury or illness that has occurred under all of the following conditions:

(a) The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at any two year or four year collegiate institution;

(b) The injury or illness results in an incapacity to compete for the remainder of that playing season; and

(c) The injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than two contests or dates of competition (whichever is applicable to that sport) or 20 percent (whichever number is greater) of the institution’s scheduled or completed contests of dates of competition in his or her sport. Only scheduled or completed competition (excluding scrimmages and exhibition contests per Bylaw 17 in the applicable sport) against outside participants during the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship, or, if so designated, during the official NCAA championship playing season in that sport (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), shall be countable under this limitation in calculating both the number of contests or dates of competition in which the student-athlete has participated and the number of scheduled or completed contests or dates of competition during that season in the sport.

**Bylaw 14.2.5.1 Administration of Hardship Waiver** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) The hardship waiver shall be administered by the member conferences of the Association or, in the case of an independent member institution, by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. An institution may appeal a decision by its conference to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. *(Revised: 1/13/03 for any hardship waiver denied on or after 2/1/00)*

**Bylaw 14.2.5.2 Criteria for Administration of Hardship Waiver.** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual)

The following criteria are to be employed in the administration of the hardship waiver: *(Revised: 12/5/06)*

14.2.5.2.1 **Nature of Injury/Illness.** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) It is not necessary for the incapacitating injury or illness to be the direct result of the student’s participation in the institution’s organized practice or game competition. The student-athlete may qualify for the hardship waiver as a result of any incapacitating injury or illness occurring after the individual becomes a student-athlete by reporting on call for regular squad practice or after attending the first day of classes as a full-time student at a member institution.

14.2.5.2.2 **Medical Documentation.** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) Contemporaneous medical documentation shall be submitted with any hardship-waiver request. For circumstances involving psychological or mental illnesses, the required contemporaneous or other appropriate medical documentation may be provided by an individual who is qualified and licensed to diagnose and treat the particular illness (e.g., psychologist). *(Adopted: 1/12/99 effective 8/1/99, Revised: 4/28/05)*

14.2.5.2.3 **Percent Calculation.** (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) The following requirements are to be met in determining the percent calculation under this waiver provision: *(Note: The percent calculation requirements set forth in Bylaws 14.2.5-(c) and 14.2.5.2.3 apply only to the waiver provisions of this section and do not apply to the maximum- and minimum-contests requirements in Bylaw 20.)*

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14.2.5.2.3.1 Denominator in Percent Computation. (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) The denominator in the institution's percent calculation shall be based on the institution's number of scheduled or completed varsity contests or dates of competition [see Bylaw 14.2.5-(c)] as computed for playing and practice season purposes in Bylaw 17 for the applicable sport. Exempted events in Bylaw 17 are included in the percent calculation, except for discretionary exemptions in the applicable sport. (Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 1/12/99, 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/10/05 for any competition occurring on or after 8/1/04)

14.2.5.2.3.2 Fraction in Percent Computation. (Page 106 in NCAA Manual) Any computation of the percent limitation that results in a fractional portion of a contest or date of competition shall be rounded to the next whole number (e.g., 20 percent of a 27-game basketball schedule – 5.4 games – shall be considered six games). (Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97)

NSIC Hardship Waiver Administration Process

1. Hardship Waivers shall be filed with the conference office. The hardship waiver can be filed by fax, email, or mail.
2. Hardship form must be filled out with appropriate information and documentation. (hardship form, doctors signature, information proving season ending injury or illness, season schedule)
   *thorough documentation and information is helpful
3. Once the conference office receives the hardship request form, the Assistant Commissioner for Compliance will review the documentation and grant or deny the hardship following the NCAA Division II bylaws relating to Hardship Waivers.
4. A letter will then be sent to the Head Athletic Trainer, Compliance Officer, and Athletic Director informing the University if the Student-Athlete was granted or denied the hardship waiver.

Information for Student-athletes to better understand Hardship Waiver process:

1. You are allowed to participate in 2 contests or 20% of scheduled contests to be able to apply for a hardship waiver.
2. A doctor/physician must sign documentation that provides information that the injury or illness was season ending.
3. NCAA Division II Bylaws for Hardship Waivers can be found in the November NSIC Compliance Newsletter or on ncaa.org. (Bylaw 14.2.5 and 14.2.5.2)
4. If you feel you are a candidate for a hardship waiver please talk to either the compliance officer or athletic trainer on your campus, so they can provide you with the proper information.
5. Once your sport season has ended, the University can then apply for a Hardship Waiver. The conference office will then review your request and send a letter to the University with its decision.
6. Please make sure you understand the process and the requirements to be granted a hardship waiver. If you have questions talk to the compliance officer or head athletic trainer.
7. The Compliance officer and Head Athletic Trainer on your campus are the people that will be able to provide you with the accurate information pertaining to NSIC Hardship Waivers.
National Letter of Intent

1. Please remember, if you are sending out an NLI before the first date of the signing period, please make sure that the 'date issued' is the first date of the signing period. Example: Basketball Early Signing period (Nov.12-19). If you send the NLI out before Nov.12 the date issued must be Nov.12.

2. Also, be aware of the new NLI form. Please make sure that you enter in the clearinghouse number, if this number is not present on the NLI when I receive the NLI, it is INVALID.

3. Go over the requirements of the NLI with coaches.
   - Must be signed within 14 days of issue date. (Unless early signing period, deadline on final signing date.)
   - If a prospective student athlete is under 21, a parent/legal guardian must also sign the NLI.
   - Must be filed with conference within 21 days of final signature.

4. If an NLI is invalid, the conference office will notify you by letter, you are then required to send the Student-athlete a letter informing them of the invalid NLI, you must also send a copy to the conference office of the letter sent to the student-athlete.

5. Please only send one copy of the NLI to the conference office. I accept a copy of the NLI’s by email, fax, and mail. I just request that you only send me each NLI once.

HOW CAN A SIGNEE BE RELEASED FROM THE NLI?

Release request:
An institution may release a student from his or her NLI obligation by selecting the “Complete Release” option on the NLI release request form.

The NLI release is not the same as NCAA permission to contact (i.e., releases are not specific to schools).

Appeals process:
The signee must present compelling extenuating circumstances to be granted.
NLI INFORMATION CONTINUED:

COACHING CONTACT PROHIBITED AT TIME OF SIGNING:
In accordance with NCAA Bylaws 13.1.6.7 and 13.1.6.7.1, a coach or institutional representative may not had deliver the NLI off campus or be present off campus at the time the prospect signs. The NLI may be delivered by express mail, courier service, regular mail, e-mail or facsimile machine. An NLI transmitted to an institution by facsimile machine or electronically shall be considered valid.

If NLI is declared **null and void**, prospective student-athlete is **NOT PERMITTED** to sign another NLI until the next signing year.

If the NLI is declared **invalid**, prospective student-athlete is **permitted** to sign another NLI during the same signing period.

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2008-09 RESOURCES FOR NCAA DII INSTITUTIONS

NCAA Eligibility Center (formerly the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse)

https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common

NCAA Eligibility Web Site
The web site provides information on how student-athletes become and remain eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

Questions from the Month of October:

Q: During an official visit, can our institution provide two separate hotel rooms for the prospect’s parents who are divorced?
A: Bylaw 13.6.7- Yes, you can provide two separate hotel rooms for the divorced parents. It is also permissible to provide meals to both parents as well. If the PSA is going to attend a contest then you can only provide 3 tickets to the PSA, if a greater number of tickets are needed than the PSA must buy them at regular price.

Q: A S.A. went to a 4-year school fall 07’, then another 4-year school Spring 08’, they did not play at either school in the sport of Volleyball, now is at a JC for Fall 08’, and is playing volleyball. Can she have a tryout?
A: Yes, you can try the SA out in the sport of volleyball after the completion of the JC Volleyball season. Bylaw 13.11.2.1-b, says “for a two-year college student, after the conclusion of the sports season or anytime, provided the student has exhausted his or her two-year college eligibility in that sport”. So you could try the S.A. out after the completion of the JC Volleyball season.

Q: A freshman baseball SA, who was a qualifier coming out of High school goes to Institution A, junior college, for the Fall term 08’. He decided to transfer to Institution B, 4 year DII school. Is he eligible right away to compete, spring 09’?
A: Please refer to bylaw 14.5.4.1, Eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid—qualifier with no previous attendance at a four-year collegiate institution.

Q: We have a volunteer baseball coach that is looking at either purchasing or doing a contract for deed with the current owners for a company called ?????????. This is a place that baseball players can go and get instruction from staff members to improve their game and have a facility they can go to take swings. Can he own or operate this organization if potential recruits use this facility? Can he hire or allow current enrolled-student-athletes to work at this place?
A: Reference: Official Interpretation on LSDBI, Date Issued September 26, 1996 and also a Staff interpretation from March 10, 2004. In exchanging emails with the NCAA, it is permissible for the volunteer coach to own or work at this business as long as it is called a sports club and it is in the community of that institution. From the staff interp on March 10, 2004, it states that it is permissible for the SA to be employed as long as they follow bylaw 12.4 and 15.2.6.
Important Information from Commissioners Update

Change in Start Dates for Sports
Division II will host its second NCAA Division II National Championship Festival in 2010. Due to the dates of the festival, the playing and practice season for men’s and women’s soccer and women’s volleyball will be shortened by one week. Recently, the Management Council approved a waiver to permit institutions to start competition not earlier than the Thursday preceding August 24, which is one week earlier than the legislated start date. Therefore, an institution could begin competition not earlier than Thursday, August 19, 2010. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaws 17.20.2 (soccer—first date of practice—championship segment) and 17.28.2.2 (volleyball—first date of practice—championship segment—women), an institution is permitted to start practice not earlier than 17 days prior to the first permissible date of competition. Therefore, institutions would be permitted to start practice not earlier than Monday, August 2, 2010.

-PLEASE NOTE THIS WAIVER IS FOR FALL 2010 ONLY AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE PERMISSIVE. Institutions can elect to start earlier if they want, but they are not required to do so.

NCAA Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Newsletter

AGA Sports
Wagering Newsletter

NCAA Eligibility Center Update Administrators Newsletter- October 2008

Reminder of Requirements for Use of Coursework from Nontraditional Schools and Credit Recovery Programs.

Bylaw 14.3.1.2.2 (nontraditional courses) discusses the NCAA's requirements for nontraditional coursework. The bylaw states:

"Courses taught via the Internet, distance learning, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence and courses taught by similar means may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The course meets all requirements for a core course as defined in Bylaw 14.3.1.2;

2. The instructor and the student have access to each other during the duration of the course for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student;
3. Evaluation of the student's work is conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies; and

4. The course is acceptable for any student and is placed on the high school transcript."

It is important to note that a nontraditional course must meet the NCAA's legislated definition of a core course and must not be duplicative in content to coursework a prospective student-athlete has already completed. The two conditions that come into play most often in nontraditional courses are:

1. The course must be a four-year college preparatory course; and

2. The course must be taught at or above the high school's regular academic level.

When a student does not follow the course expectations set forth for a course, the course does not meet the legislated definition. For example, a course book may be 200-plus pages, with hundreds of self-check, self-test or mastery questions. The expectation is that the students read all pages/sections and complete all questions before completing the graded lesson or examinations. When a student skips all reading assignments, writing assignments and questions, and jumps straight to the examinations or graded lessons, that is not following the expectations of the course and is below the high school's regular academic level.

Similarly, if the course taken is meant to replace a class a student previously took, the course content must be similar. Credit recovery programs are often heavily modified and the course ends up being radically different than the course that was failed (or that is being replaced). For example, an English III course may be American Literature, but the credit recovery course may be spelling, punctuation and parts of speech. This would be considered below the level of the original course and are concepts taught/mastered prior to high school.

**Eligibility Center Requirements for Nontraditional Coursework.**

In order to fully evaluate whether nontraditional coursework meets the requirements set forth in NCAA legislation, the Eligibility Center requires:

1. Start and stop dates for the nontraditional course; and

2. Assignment completion dates for work completed throughout the duration of the course.
In addition, the following information is required for credit recovery programs; therefore, it is helpful for each prospective student-athlete to provide the following:

1. All computer printouts showing the name of the course, the modules in the course, and the dates and grades achieved in those modules; and

2. Any additional assignments and course curriculum not provided in No. 1 above.

This information can be submitted by a member institution or high school and can be faxed or sent via regular mail to the Eligibility Center.

Other Reminders for October.

1. Those looking to enroll at an NCAA Division I or II institution January 2009 must request their final amateurism certification. Please make sure prospective student-athletes review the enrollment period and sports they have selected. All sports that a prospective student-athlete plans on participating in should be selected.

2. The default recruiting cycle is now "0809 PSA's enrolling 09/10 Acad. Yr."
   Please take the time to make sure all prospective student-athletes are listed in the correct year.

3. Have your 2009 recruits and verbal commitments send six-semester transcripts and test scores to the Eligibility Center as soon as possible. Now is the time to get an early indication of which prospective student-athletes may not meet the core-course requirements, the minimum grade-point average or the test score requirement for the appropriate division.

4. The Eligibility Center is starting to work on preliminary certifications. Therefore, if you have a prospective student-athlete whose file is complete but who has not received a final academic certification, please call 877/544-2950.

5. As of October 1, the NLI is available when a member institution logs into their Eligibility Center account. Once logged in, there is a link on the left-hand side of the screen titled "National Letter of Intent."