MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2017

TO: Director of Athletics, Senior Women Administrators, Senior Compliance Administrators, Select Head Coaches, CCA, CCACA.

FROM: NCAA Division II Championships and NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs.

SUBJECT: Sport Sponsorship – Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field.

NCAA Division II Bylaw 18.4.2.1-(e) (general institutional requirements) states that eligibility for NCAA championship competition in the sports of cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field is limited to member institutions that meet each sport’s minimum contest and participant requirements as set forth in Bylaw 20.10.3.3 (minimum contests and participants requirements for sports sponsorship). Sport sponsorship information is reported to the NCAA in the NCAA Sport Sponsorship and Demographic Form, which must be submitted annually on or before August 1. Sport sponsorship is therefore determined in arrears because the form contains information for the prior academic year (e.g., 2016-17 sport sponsorship information is submitted on August 1, 2017). If an institution did not meet sport sponsorship requirements during the previous academic year in one or more of these sports, that institution’s team(s) and student-athletes would be ineligible for championship competition in the following academic year per Bylaw 18.4.2.1-(e).

However, Bylaw 18.4.2.1-(e) and its affect on championships eligibility has not been enforced. Instead, championship eligibility has been based on current year-to-year data reported through the Track and Field Results Reporting System. For example, an institution that failed to meet sport sponsorship requirements in cross country during the 2015-16 academic year was ineligible for championship competition that year but not during the 2016-17 academic year.

In July 2017, the NCAA Division II Management Council, as recommended by the NCAA Division II Championships Committee, agreed to issue a one-time waiver to permit student-athletes and teams from institutions that did not meet minimum sport sponsorship requirements in cross country, indoor track and field or outdoor track and field during the 2016-17 academic year to remain eligible for championship selection in 2017-18, provided all other championship eligibility requirements are satisfied. The waiver was issued to provide adequate opportunity for educating the membership on the application of the current rule and to minimize the negative impact on student-athletes due to lack of current knowledge across the membership.

Please contact Geoff Bentzel (gbentzel@ncaa.org), assistant director in academic and membership affairs or Morgan DeSpain (mdespain@ncaa.org), assistant director in NCAA championships and alliances, with any questions.