REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 21, 2016, TELECONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   • None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

(1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

Voluntary Out-of-Season Institutional Fundraising Events Involving Athletics Ability. (III) The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that student-athletes are not permitted to practice or compete under the guise of a fundraising event outside of the playing and practice season. As such, coaching staff members may not assess or provide instruction to student-athletes as part of a permissible fundraising event that occurs outside of the playing season.

Additionally, a student-athlete may not compete as part of a team in the student-athlete's sport if the fundraising event is organized, administered by, or benefits the athletics department (in individual sports, such units as golf foursomes, doubles tennis teams and relay teams in track and field are not considered to be team competition). Student-athletes are permitted, however, to participate in out-of-season fundraising events: (1) as an individual in an individual sport (e.g., Institutional 5K, golf outing); (2) that are administered outside of athletics and do not benefit the athletics department; or (3) in a sport other than the sport(s) in which the student-athlete participates at the institution.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.02.1.1 (athletically related activities); 17.02.1.1.1 (exceptions) and 17.02.8 (intercollegiate competition)]
(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** This interpretation was developed from the 2016 Question and Answer document addressing Question Nos. 2 and 3 for NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2016-6. The interpretation provides guidance on the types of fundraising activities that are exempt from the athletically related activities legislation based on the adoption of Proposal No. 2016-6.

(4) **Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

b. **Approval of Official Interpretation – Varsity Coach Involvement with Institutional Club Team.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That NCAA Division III Management Council archive an Official Interpretation (12/12/1994, Item No. 14) in the Attachment and approve the following official interpretation:

*Varsity Coach Involvement with Institutional Club Team. (III)*  The Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that a member institution’s coach may not be involved in any capacity outside the declared playing and practice season with an institutional club team, in any sport, if the institutional club team includes a student-athlete from that coach’s sport.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.1.5 (out-of-season athletically related activities), 17.1.5.2.1 (involvement of coaching staff) and an Official Interpretation (12/12/1994, Item No. 14), which has been archived.]

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** During its February 2016 meeting, the Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed an existing interpretation [Reference: 12/12/1994, Item No. 14] that allowed a varsity outdoor track and field coach to coach his or her student-athletes outside of the playing season on an institutional indoor track and field club team. The committee agreed that Bylaw 17.1.5.2.1 (involvement of coaching staff) was intended to preclude a varsity coach from coaching his or her student-athletes outside of the season, even if that interaction occurs in the context of an institutional club team. Thus, the committee recommends archiving the
existing official interpretation and adopting this interpretation to clarify the application of the legislation to institutional club teams.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

c. Approval of Official Interpretation – Conference Membership for Retention of the Automatic Qualification via the Grace Period.

(1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

Conference Membership Requirements for Retention of the Automatic Qualification via the Grace Period. (III) The Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that provisional and reclassifying members neither count toward the four institutions necessary to retain the automatic qualification via the grace period nor toward the seven institutions necessary to retain the automatic qualification at the expiration of the grace period.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 3.3.1.2.4 (grace period) and 31.3.3.1.3 (grace period)].

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This interpretation was developed from the 2016 Question and Answer document addressing Question No. 1 for NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2016-9. The interpretation provides clarification that provisional and reclassifying members do not count towards retaining an automatic qualification via the grace period.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

d. Approval of Official Interpretation – Conference Membership for Retention of the Automatic Qualification via the Grace Period.

(1) Recommendation. That NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:
Conference Membership Requirements for Establishing a New Automatic Qualification. (III) The Interpretations and Legislation Committee confirmed that a conference must have a minimum of seven active Division III member institutions (as opposed to provisional or reclassifying institutions) participating in a specific sport to be eligible for an automatic qualification for the NCAA championship in that sport. Therefore, while a conference may count provisional or reclassifying members toward the requisite number of conference members necessary to begin the two-year waiting period, the conference would not be eligible for the automatic qualification until the two-year waiting period has been satisfied and those members have been granted active member status.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 31.3.3.1.1 (additional requirements - multisport conference) and 31.3.3.1.2 (additional requirements - single-sport conferences)]

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This interpretation was developed from the 2016 Question and Answer document addressing Question No. 2 for NCAA Division III Proposal No. 2016-9. The interpretation provides clarification that while a provisional or reclassifying institution may be used to satisfy the requisite number of conference members necessary to begin the two-year waiting period, the conference would not be eligible for the automatic qualification until the two-year waiting period has been satisfied and those members have been granted active member status.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review March Report. The committee reviewed and approved the report from its March 17, 2016, teleconference.

2. Future Meetings. The committee reviewed dates and times for upcoming meetings and teleconferences.

3. Other Business. None.

4. Adjournment. The committee adjourned at 12:19 p.m. Eastern time.
Committee Chair: Shana Levine, Lewis and Clark College  
Staff Liaisons:  Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Sarah Otey, Academic and Membership Affairs  
Joni Williamson, Academic and Membership Affairs  

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<tr>
<th>NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee</th>
<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2016, Teleconference</td>
<td>Chuck Brown, Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.</td>
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<td>Jim Cranmer, St. Mary's College of Maryland; Capital Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Sara Beth Holman, Lawrence University; Midwest Conference.</td>
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<td>Shantey Hill, St. Joseph's College (Long Island); Skyline Conference.</td>
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<td>Gregg Kaye, Commonwealth Coast Conference.</td>
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<td>Shana Levine, Lewis and Clark College; Northwest Conference.</td>
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<th>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Myers, Sarah Otey and Joni Williamson.</td>
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<th>Other NCAA Staff Member in Attendance:</th>
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<td>Audrey Hester.</td>
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Title: Application of Playing and Practice Seasons Legislation to Indoor Track and Field Club Team

Date Issued: December 12, 1994
Date Published: December 12, 1994
Type: Official Interpretation
Item Ref: 14

Archive Info: Due to 4/22/16 official interpretation, Item No. 2b

I/II/III 14. Application of Playing and Practice Seasons Legislation to Indoor Track and Field Club Team: If an institution sponsors a varsity outdoor track and field team and an indoor track and field "club" team, the institution must apply playing and practice seasons regulations to the sports of indoor and outdoor track and field if any student-athletes participating on the varsity outdoor track and field team also are participants on the institution’s indoor track and field "club" team. [Reference: 17.18 (track, indoor/outdoor)]