



Intercollegiate Rowing Association Compliance Memo

Re: Waivers and Rules in response to COVID-19

Monday, March 16, 2020

To: IRA Institutional Compliance Contacts and Head Coaches

The NCAA has acted swiftly in response to COVID-19 and has issued a number of waivers and temporary rules in several areas. Below is a summary of these waivers and outline their impact and adherence for IRA member institutions.

As always, head coaches should bring any questions or concerns forward to their respective compliance office. The IRA compliance staff will answer questions and concerns from institutional compliance staff. **We will not answer questions directly from coaches.**

2020 Henley Travel & Participation

The IRA strongly encourages its institutions to delay any planning or pre-payments as it relates to Henley training, travel and participation for summer of 2020.

The Commissioner, in conjunction with the Board of Stewards and Eligibility and Infractions Committee, will determine if student-athletes that compete at Henley in summer of 2020 will still be eligible for a season of eligibility waiver.

An update will be provided by April 15.

Application of NCAA Legislation re: Eligibility

All three NCAA Divisions via Academic and Membership affairs (AMA) agreed; conferences and institutions are encouraged to make decisions and take action in the best interests of their student-athletes and communities. Institutions should not be concerned about the application of NCAA legislation when decisions are being made in response to COVID-19.

Flexibility is being provided in terms of housing, meals and providing necessary transportation to student-athletes impacted by the outbreak.

Eligibility Waivers

All three NCAA Divisions agreed that eligibility relief is appropriate for student-athletes that participated in spring sports whose seasons were cut short due to COVID-19 and who would have otherwise been eligible to compete per their divisional requirements.

These waivers also apply to progress-toward-degree issues and 10 semester/15 quarter rules.

Division I: Details of eligibility relief will be finalized at a later time. Additional issues with rules must be addressed and appropriate governance bodies will work through those in the coming days & weeks.

Division II: Specifically states waivers applicable to **canceled** seasons due to COVID-19.

Division III: If an institution continues or re-starts its season, this relief would still exist.

A reminder, an update re: Henley training & participation and its impact on the aforementioned waivers will be addressed by April 15.

Recruiting Dead Period: Applicable to all DI and DII programs

Division I and Division II leadership groups **adopted** emergency legislation to establish a temporary recruiting dead period (as defined in NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.5/13.02.4.4) in all NCAA Division I and II sports, effective immediately.

The dead period will remain in effect at **least until April 15**, at which time the divisional committees will re-evaluate the status of the situation.

Based on the immediate effective date, reasonable measures should be taken to cease all recruiting activities that are not permissible during a dead period (e.g., official and unofficial visits, contacts and evaluations).

NLI Suspension During Temporary Recruiting Dead Period: Applicable to programs that utilize the NLI program.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the NCAA adopted emergency legislation to establish a temporary recruiting dead period for all NCAA Division I and II sports, effective immediately, and in effect until at least April 15, 2020.

Accordingly, the Collegiate Commissioner's Association (CCA) has suspended all National Letter of Intent (NLI) signings until at least April 15, 2020. This suspension will be re-evaluated on or before April 15, 2020. The NLI suspension applies to both Division I and II NLI member institutions.

As such, NLIs cannot be issued to Division I and II prospective student-athletes effective March 16, 2020 through at least April 15, 2020. NLIs issued and signed by prospective student-athletes before March 16, 2020 should still be managed through the normal validation process with your conference office.