

**2016 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals
Question and Answer Guide**

(Last Updated: December 3, 2015)

Please note this is the final edition of the 2016 NCAA Convention Division II Legislative Proposals Question and Answer Guide. A hard-copy version of the guide will not be distributed at the Convention in San Antonio. The delegates should plan accordingly.

DIVISION II LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

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Proposal No. 2016-1 (2-1) Athletics Personnel And Playing And Practice Seasons -- Conduct Of Athletics Personnel -- Strength And Conditioning Personnel -- Nationally Recognized Certification

Question No. 1: What does it mean to monitor a workout?

Answer: The term monitor includes observing and watching closely to ensure that student-athletes are provided a safe and controlled environment. An individual monitoring a workout may demonstrate proper technique and give advice to ensure the workout is taking place in an appropriate fashion. This does not allow the individual to conduct a workout for purposes of achieving increased performance.

Question No. 2: What does it mean to conduct a workout?

Answer: Conducting a workout implies that the individual is actively involved, in person, in the workout activity. For example, individuals who conduct a workout may do the following: (1) specify exercises that a student-athlete should perform (e.g., number of sets or repetitions, weight, duration, sprints); (2) instruct, encourage or motivate a student-athlete during a workout; and (3) direct student-athletes as to the order and flow of the workout activity.

Conducting a workout can be contrasted with monitoring a workout, which implies that a strength and conditioning coach staff member may only observe or supervise the activity and may only become involved if a safety issue arises.

Question No. 3: Would an institution be required to designate a strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: No. However, if the institution does not designate a strength and conditioning coach, then any individual who conducts strength and conditioning workouts outside of practice must be certified.

Question No. 4: May an institution pay for an individual to obtain certification?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: What type of certification would be required?

Answer: The certification must be from a nationally recognized strength and conditioning program. The following criteria should be considered when determining whether a certification is appropriate:

- a. Is accredited by a third-party organization that accredits professional certification programs (e.g., the National Commission for Certifying Agencies)*;
- b. Requires an undergraduate college degree;
- c. Requires a continuing education component; and
- d. Requires current first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) certification.

*The certification program itself should be accredited. The accreditation status of the organization offering the program is not relevant.

Option No. 1 – The institution designates a strength and conditioning coach.

Question No. 1: What does it mean to designate a strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: For purposes of this proposal, an individual would be considered a **designated strength and conditioning coach** if the individual's employment agreement/contract/or other written arrangement with the institution includes strength and conditioning duties for the institution's athletics department.

Question No. 2: Does the proposal require a designated strength and conditioning coach to be a full-time employee of the institution?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: May other institutional staff members (e.g., graduate student, volunteer coach, faculty member) conduct strength or conditioning workouts for student-athletes without receiving strength and conditioning coach certification?

Answer: Yes, but only if the institution designates a strength and conditioning coach who is properly certified. Otherwise, these individuals would only be allowed to monitor workouts for safety purposes, but would not be permitted to conduct workouts.

Question No. 4: Would it be permissible for a contractor to serve as a designated strength and conditioning coach for an institution?

Answer: Yes, provided strength and conditioning duties are included in the individual's employment agreement/contract/or other written arrangement with the institution and the individual is properly certified.

Question No. 5: Would it be permissible for the institution to designate a sport coach as a strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: Yes, provided strength and conditioning duties are included in the individual's employment agreement/contract/or other written arrangement with the institution and the individual is properly certified. In order for a sport coach to conduct strength and conditioning activities, he or she must work with more than one of the institution's intercollegiate athletics teams.

Question No. 6: Would it be permissible for a volunteer coach to serve as the designated strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: Yes, provided strength and conditioning duties are included in the individual's employment agreement/contract/or other written arrangement with the institution and the individual is properly certified. In order for a volunteer sport coach to conduct strength and conditioning activities, he or she must work with more than one of the institution's intercollegiate athletics teams.

Question No. 7: If an institution designates a strength and conditioning coach, may other staff members who are not certified continue to conduct strength and conditioning workouts without the certified individual being present?

Answer: Yes. Institutional discretion would determine who could conduct strength and conditioning workouts on campus.

Question No. 8: May an institution designate more than one strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: Would it be permissible to designate an undergraduate student (e.g., exhausted eligibility student-athlete, team manager) as the certified strength and conditioning coach?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: If an institution designates a strength and conditioning coach, would an outside fitness instructor who is hired to conduct conditioning activities (e.g., yoga, Pilates, Zumba, CrossFit) be required to receive strength and conditioning coach certification in order to conduct strength and conditioning activities with student-athletes?

Answer: No.

Option No. 2 – The institution does not design ate a strength and conditioning coach.

Question No. 1: Would a sport coach (e.g., head or assistant basketball coach) who is only conducting strength and conditioning activities as part of his or her sport practice need to be certified?

Answer: Sport coaches conducting conditioning activities that are a normal part of sport-specific practices (e.g., warmups, cool downs) while the sport is in season (the 20-hours per week segment) do not require certification. Sport coaches conducting conditioning activities outside of the playing season (the eight-hours per week segment) must be certified.

Question No. 2: Would the proposal require an individual who is only monitoring strength and conditioning workouts to be certified?

Answer: No.

Question No. 3: Would an individual who designs a workout, but does not conduct it, need to be certified?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Would it be permissible for an individual who is not certified (e.g., student intern) to assist a certified individual in conducting a workout?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If an institution does not designate a strength and conditioning coach, would an outside fitness instructor who is hired to conduct conditioning activities (e.g., yoga, Pilates, Zumba, CrossFit) be required to receive strength and conditioning coach certification in order to conduct strength and conditioning activities with student-athletes?

Answer: Yes.

Proposal No. 2016-2 (No. 2-2) Eligibility -- Recognized Foreign Exchange Or Study Abroad Program -- Transfer, Seasons Of Competition And Outside Competition Exception

Question No. 1: Does a student-athlete have to be enrolled as a full-time student at the member institution while participating in the foreign exchange/study abroad program?

Answer: No. A student-athlete does not have to be enrolled as a full-time student at the member institution during the program, as long as the program is recognized by the member institution.

Question No. 2: How does a member institution determine if a student-athlete is participating in a recognized program?

Answer: The institution's academic authorities would make the determination through the same process used for evaluating academic programs for all students.

Question No. 3: Does this proposal impact a student-athlete's amateur status?

Answer: This proposal does not change the amateurism legislation. Therefore, a student-athlete could not play for a professional team or do anything else contrary to NCAA Bylaw 12 amateurism regulations.

Question No. 4: Will the student-athlete use his or her 10-semesters/15-quarters of full-time enrollment while participating in a recognized study abroad program?

Answer: If the student-athlete is enrolled full time in a recognized study abroad program or if the student-athlete is enrolled part time and engages in intercollegiate competition as a member of the foreign institution's team, then the student-athlete will use one of his or her 10 semesters/15 quarters for each term in which the student-athlete is enrolled full time and/or engages in intercollegiate athletics as a part-time student.

Question No. 5: Does this proposal apply to participation on an outside team?

Answer: Yes. This proposal would apply to participation on either an outside team (e.g., club team) or the foreign institution's team.

Question No. 6: Does this proposal apply to a student-athlete who withdraws from the certifying institution?

Answer: No. This proposal would not apply to a student-athlete who withdraws from his or her certifying institution to participate in a study abroad program. This proposal applies to a student-athlete returning to his or her previous Division II institution.

Question No. 7: Are there any credit requirements associated with the foreign exchange/study abroad program as a condition of the legislation?

Answer: No. The only condition is that the member institution recognizes the program. However, the student-athlete will be responsible for all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements on return to the certifying institution.

Question No. 8: Is a student-athlete required to meet the term-by-term credit-hour requirements (nine-semester or eight-quarter hours) on return to the certifying institution after completion of a study abroad program?

Answer: No. See Bylaw 14.4.3.3.11 (cooperative educational, work experience and study abroad programs).

Question No. 9: How does this proposal apply to an institution that has a campus in a foreign country?

Answer: This proposal would apply the same way to a student-athlete enrolled in classes at the institution's campus in a foreign country as it would to a student-athlete participating in a recognized study abroad program.

Question No. 10: May a student-athlete receive actual and necessary expenses while participating in athletics during the foreign exchange/study abroad program?

Answer: Yes. The proposal would not impact the analysis for determining appropriate expenses a student-athlete may receive for post-enrollment athletics participation.

Question No. 11: Would this proposal apply to a student-athlete who is participating in a recognized study abroad program during the 2016 spring term?

Answer: No.

Question No. 12: Would a student-athlete use a season of competition by competing on an outside team while studying abroad during the championship segment?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 13: How does this proposal impact winter sports (swimming, wrestling) student-athletes, not including basketball?

Answer: Student-athletes in winter sports (swimming, wrestling) would not trigger transfer status by participating in outside competition during a recognized study abroad program. However, a winter sport student-athlete would use a season of competition if he or she competes on an outside team during the championship segment.

Question No.14: How does this proposal impact basketball student-athletes?

Answer: Basketball student-athletes are not permitted to participate on an outside team during the academic year. A basketball student-athlete could participate in a recognized study abroad program during the academic year without triggering transfer status, but would not be permitted to compete on an outside team.

Question No. 15: How does this proposal impact student-athletes who participate in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field?

Answer: Student-athletes who participate in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field would not trigger transfer status by participating in a recognized study abroad program. During the respective championship segment in these sports, a student-athlete would use a season of competition in a specific sport if he or she participates on an outside team during the championship segment.

Question No. 16: May a student-athlete participate in a study abroad program more than once during his or her collegiate enrollment?

Answer: Yes, subject to institutional policy.

Question No. 17: If a student-athlete was ineligible for intercollegiate competition during the championship segment, does participation on an outside team during the nonchampionship segment while participating in a recognized study abroad program trigger the use of a season of competition?

Answer: Yes. See Bylaw 14.2.4.1.2 (exception - competition in the nonchampionship segment).

Question No. 18: If Proposal No. 2016-4 (eligibility -- outside competition -- competition as individual/not representing institution -- participation of ineligible student-athletes) is adopted, would a student-athlete in an individual sport who was not academically and athletically eligible at the Division II institution be permitted to participate in unattached competition while participating in a study abroad program?

Answer: No.

Question No. 19: If a student-athlete does not return to the certifying institution after participating in a study abroad program and enrolls at another domestic collegiate institution, but later re-enrolls at the certifying institution, would the study abroad program constitute a transfer?

Answer: Yes. The student-athlete in the above scenario would be a 4-4-4-4 transfer.

Proposal No. 2016-3 (No. 2-3) Eligibility -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Eligibility For Competition -- Fulfillment Of Credit-Hour Requirements After Designation Of Degree -- Credits Earned In A Voluntary Or Optional Minor

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation regarding voluntary or optional minors?

Answer: Currently, credits earned toward a voluntary or optional minor may not count toward progress-toward-degree requirements (e.g., term-by-term, academic year or annual credit-hour requirements) after a student-athlete is required to declare a degree program.

Question No. 2: Would a student-athlete be required to declare a voluntary or optional minor by a specific deadline (e.g., before third year of enrollment) in order for the credits earned in that minor to be used for meeting progress-toward-degree requirements?

Answer: No. A voluntary or optional minor may be declared at any time.

Question No. 3: What are the requirements for a student-athlete to declare a voluntary or optional minor in order for the credits to be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements?

Answer: The voluntary or optional minor must be declared in accordance with institutional policy for all students.

Question No. 4: May a student-athlete declare more than one voluntary or optional minor?

Answer: Yes, provided institutional policy permits a student-athlete to declare more than one voluntary or optional minor.

Question No. 5: If a student-athlete declares more than one voluntary or optional minor, may the student-athlete count six credits earned in each voluntary or optional minor toward progress-toward-degree requirements for a given term?

Answer: No. A student-athlete may not use more than a total of six hours earned in all voluntary or optional minors in a given term.

Question No. 6: May credits earned in a voluntary or optional minor during the summer be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements (e.g., annual credit-hour requirement)?

Answer: No. Only credits earned in a voluntary or optional minor during a regular academic term may be used for purposes of progress-toward-degree requirements.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete takes two courses toward a voluntary or optional minor, one counting as three-semester hours and the other counting as four-semester hours (earning seven-semester hours), how are these courses considered for purposes of this proposal?

Answer: Six hours of the minor credits earned may be used to meet applicable progress-toward-degree requirements.

Question No. 8: If a student-athlete declares a voluntary or optional minor during a term, can credits earned in the voluntary or optional minor during that term be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements?

Answer: No. The voluntary or optional minor must be declared before the term begins in order to use the credits to meet progress-toward-degree requirements.

Question No. 9: Are certification programs (e.g., teaching certificate or coaching certificate) or concentrations considered to be a minor for the purpose of this proposal?

Answer: No. Credit hours earned in a certification program or concentration could not be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements.

Question No. 10: If this proposal is adopted, can a student-athlete use voluntary or optional minor credits earned during the 2016 spring term to meet the nine-semester/eight-quarter term-by-term credit-hour requirement for 2016 fall certifications?

Answer: Yes. This proposal would apply to certifications of progress toward degree for fall 2016.

Question No. 11: If this proposal is adopted, can a student-athlete use voluntary or optional minor credits earned during the 2015 fall term to meet the academic year and annual credit-hour requirements for 2016 fall certifications?

Answer: Yes. This proposal would apply to certification of progress toward degree for fall 2016.

Question No. 12: Does this proposal change the grade-point average calculation for progress-toward-degree requirements?

Answer: No.

Question No. 13: Does this proposal change the full-time enrollment legislation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 14: Would this proposal impact a student-athlete who uses the cumulative credit-hour option (48-semester/54-quarter hours) to satisfy the annual credit-hour requirement after the second year of enrollment?

Answer: No. During the first two years of collegiate enrollment, a student-athlete can use any credits earned or accepted for degree credit toward any of the institution's degree programs for purposes of meeting progress-toward-degree requirements.

Proposal No. 2016-4 (No. 2-4) Eligibility -- Outside Competition -- Competition As Individual/Not Representing Institution -- Participation Of Ineligible Student-Athletes

Question No. 1: What is the definition of an "open" event?

Answer: In order for a competition to be considered an "open" event, the competition must be open to noncollegiate competitors and must be organized, publicized and operated as an event that is open to individuals other than collegiate competitors. Pursuant to an official interpretation [Reference: 5/8/95, Item No. 1], a student-athlete who participates in an open lane as part of a collegiate competition (e.g., a dual meet) is considered to be representing the institution against outside competition, regardless of whether the student-athlete's performance is included in the scoring of the competition. For example, if five institutions competed in an invitational cross country meet or swim meet that was open only to those institutions, the competition would not be considered an "open" event.

Question No. 2: What is the definition of intercollegiate competition?

Answer: Per Bylaws 14.02.7 and 17.02.8, intercollegiate competition occurs when a student-athlete:

- a. Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- b. Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification;
- c. Competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition; or
- d. Competes in outside competition as a member of a club team at a two-year or four-year collegiate institution, provided the institution sponsors the sport on the varsity level.

Question No. 3: What is the definition of unattached competition?

Answer: The outside competition legislation generally precludes a student-athlete from participating on an outside team during the institution's season. The legislation permits a student-athlete to participate in outside competition as an individual, not representing the institution or an outside team, during the academic year. An individual is considered to be competing unattached if: (1) the individual is representing only him or herself; (2) the event is open to noncollegiate competitors; and (3) the student-athlete's participation does not trigger the definition of intercollegiate competition.

Question No. 4: What is the definition of "academically eligible"?

Answer: The charts below outline the requirements for student-athletes to be academically eligible.

Student-Athlete's Classification	Requirements to be Academically Eligible
All student-athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted to the institution and enrolled in a four-year, degree-seeking program (Bylaw 14.1.6); <input type="checkbox"/> In good academic standing (Bylaw 14.01.2); <input type="checkbox"/> Meet all institutional and conference requirements to be academically eligible for intercollegiate competition; and <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled as a full-time student (Bylaw 14.1.7).

Additional requirements based on student-athlete classification:

Student-Athlete's Classification	Requirements to be Academically Eligible
Incoming freshman	<input type="checkbox"/> Final qualifier (Bylaw 14.3.1.1).
Incoming two-year college transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet applicable two-year college transfer requirements (Bylaw 14.5.4); and <input type="checkbox"/> Earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferrable degree credit in last full-time term attended (Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1, effective 8/1/16).
Incoming four-year college transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Earn nine-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferrable degree credit in last full-time term attended (Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1, effective 8/1/16).
Returning student-athlete	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet all applicable progress-toward-degree requirements (Bylaw 14.4.3, effective 8/1/16).

Question No. 5: What is the definition of "athletically eligible"?

Answer: The charts below outline the requirements for student-athletes to be athletically eligible.

Student-Athlete's Classification	Requirements to be Athletically Eligible
All student-athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet all institutional and conference requirements to be athletically eligible for intercollegiate competition; <input type="checkbox"/> Not serving a suspension for a failed NCAA drug test; and <input type="checkbox"/> Not fulfilling a withholding condition issued by the NCAA Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.

Additional requirements based on student-athlete classification:

Student-Athlete's Classification	Requirements to be Athletically Eligible
Incoming freshman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Receive a final amateurism certification with at least one season remaining and no year-in-residence requirement.
Incoming two-year college transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not under disciplinary suspension at previous institution (Bylaw 14.5.1.1); and <input type="checkbox"/> Receive a final amateurism certification with at least one season remaining and no year-in-residence requirement.
Incoming four-year college transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not under disciplinary suspension at previous institution (Bylaw 14.5.1.1); <input type="checkbox"/> Meet an exception to the transfer year-in-residence requirement (Bylaw 14.5.5.3); and <input type="checkbox"/> Receive a final amateurism certification with at least one season remaining and no year-in-residence requirement.

Question No. 6: Would a student-athlete who is redshirting be permitted to participate in unattached competition?

Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete is otherwise academically and athletically eligible to represent the institution's team in intercollegiate competition.

Question No. 7: Would this proposal prevent an ineligible cross country or track and field student-athlete from participating in a 5K race during the academic year?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 8: Would an ineligible student-athlete be permitted to compete unattached in the summer?

Answer: Yes. The requirement to be academically and athletically eligible would only apply during the academic year.

Question No. 9: Would an ineligible student-athlete be permitted to compete unattached during an institutional vacation period during the academic year (e.g., winter break, spring break)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 10: How does this proposal impact an ineligible student-athlete who wishes to compete unattached in preparation for the Olympic Games or other elite international events (e.g., World Championships, Pan American Games)?

Answer: Bylaw 14.7.5.1 (in all sports) outlines several exceptions to the outside competition legislation for participation in elite events. If an event is not included in the list of exceptions, an ineligible student-athlete would not be permitted to compete unattached without an approved legislative relief waiver.

Question No. 11: What are the consequences for an ineligible student-athlete who participates in unattached competition during the academic year?

Answer: The institution would need to report a secondary violation to enforcement and the student-athlete would have to be reinstated by the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement. If the student-athlete's participation triggers intercollegiate competition, he or she would also use a season of competition.

Proposal No. 2016-5 (No. 2-5) Playing And Practice Seasons -- General Playing Season Regulations -- Weekly Hour Limitations -- Outside The Playing Season -- Skill Instruction -- Football

Question No. 1: Would this proposal increase the total number of hours during which it is permissible for football student-athletes to participate in countable athletically related activities outside the playing season?

Answer: No.

Question No. 2: Would this proposal permit football student-athletes to participate in two hours of skill instruction and two hours of film review?

Answer: No. The proposal permits a combined maximum of two hours of skill instruction and/or film review.

Question No. 3: Would this proposal permit team activities (e.g., full team practice) outside the playing season in football?

Answer: No.

Question No. 4: Would this proposal permit football student-athletes to participate in skill instruction during the summer?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: Is it permissible for more than one group of student-athletes to participate in skill instruction at the same time?

Answer: Yes. More than one group of student-athletes may participate in skill instruction in the same facility or in different facilities at the same time, provided there is no comingling between the groups. Each group of student-athletes must have a separate coach.

Question No. 6: Is person-to-person contact permissible during individual skill instruction?

Answer: No.

Question No. 7: Would student-athletes be permitted to wear protective equipment (e.g., padded undergarments) while participating in skill instruction?

Answer: No. The use of protective equipment, including helmets, shoulder pads and other padded equipment, would not be permissible during skill instruction sessions. Only footballs and field equipment (e.g., shields, bags) would be permissible.

Football Protective Equipment -- Padded Undergarments (II)

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Item Ref: 1

Interpretation: The NCAA Division II Management Council determined that in football, any items with padding (e.g., padded undergarments) are considered protective equipment and may only be worn for activities during which the use of protective equipment is permitted.

[References: Bylaw 17.10.2.2 (five-day acclimatization period), 17.10.2.3.1 (exception -- "walk-through"), 17.10.8 (out-of-season athletically related activities)]

Question No. 8: Would this proposal change the legislation pertaining to spring practice in football (Bylaw 17.10.8-b)?

Answer: No.

Question No. 9: Would football teams be required to take a 14 consecutive calendar-day break at the end of the championship season prior to participating in out-of-season activities?

Answer: No. However, if the proposal is adopted, the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee will consider whether to make a legislative recommendation to add a 14 consecutive calendar-day break in football.

Proposal No. 2016-6 (No. 2-6) Playing and Practice Seasons -- Baseball, Softball and Women's Volleyball -- Conference Challenge Event

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation regarding conference challenge events?

Answer: Current legislation permits two contests to be exempted annually as part of a conference challenge event in basketball. The contests must be played during the weekend of the first permissible contest date against in-region, out-of-conference opponents.

Question No. 2: Will volleyball be permitted to exempt two dates of competition?

Answer: No. The proposal would only allow volleyball to exempt two contests. The chart below outlines potential scenarios and the application of the conference challenge event legislation for women's volleyball.

	Institution's Participation	Application of Conference Challenge Legislation
Scenario 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Institution plays three contests against in-region, out-of-conference opponents on the same day during the first permissible weekend of the volleyball season.	Institution would be charged with a date of competition because the third contest could not be exempted.
Scenario 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Institution plays one contest against an in-region, out-of-conference opponent. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Institution plays one contest against an in-region, out-of-conference opponent. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Institution plays two contests against an in-region, out-of-conference opponent.	Institution would be permitted to exempt both contests played on Friday and Saturday and would not be charged with a date of competition for Friday or Saturday; OR Institution would be permitted to exempt both contests played on Sunday and would not be charged with a date of competition for Sunday.
Scenario 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Institution plays in a three-day tournament during the first permissible weekend of the volleyball season. <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Institution plays two contests against in-region, out-of-conference opponents. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Institution plays two contests against in-region, out-of-conference opponents.	Institution would be permitted to exempt two contests and would not be charged with one of the dates of competition. Institution would be charged with two dates of competition.

	Institution's Participation	Application of Conference Challenge Legislation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Institution plays one contest against in-region, out-of-conference opponents.	
Scenario 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Institution does not play on Friday or Saturday. <input type="checkbox"/> Institution plays one contest against an in-region, out-of-conference opponent on Sunday during the first permissible weekend of the volleyball season.	Institution would be permitted to exempt the one contest and would not be charged with a date of competition.

Question No. 3: Would baseball or softball be permitted to exempt two doubleheaders as part of a conference challenge event?

Answer: No. Baseball and softball would be permitted to exempt only two contests. It would be permissible to exempt one doubleheader.

Question No. 4: Does this proposal impact the first permissible contest or date of competition?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If a conference challenge event contest(s) is cancelled due to circumstances outside the institution's control (e.g., weather), can the contest(s) be rescheduled after the first permissible weekend?

Answer: No. The institution may file an NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief waiver.

Question No. 6: For purposes of this proposal, what is a region?

Answer: For purposes of a conference challenge event, a region refers to the regions established for purposes of championships qualification and selection, and not to the geographical regions specified in Constitution 4.13 (geographical areas) for the purpose of representation on the NCAA Division II Presidents Council or the geographical districts defined in Bylaw 21.02.4 (districts) for purposes of the Division II committee

composition. The current regions and the corresponding conferences that constitute each region for championships are as follows:

- a. Atlantic Region: Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Mountain East Conference; and Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
- b. Central Region: Great American Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
- c. East Region: Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; East Coast Conference; and Northeast-10 Conference.
- d. Midwest Region: Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; and Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
- e. South Region: Gulf South Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; and Sunshine State Conference.
- f. South Central Region: Heartland Conference; Lone Star Conference; and Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
- g. Southeast Region: Conference Carolinas; Peach Belt Conference; and South Atlantic Conference.
- h. West Region: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; and Pacific West Conference.

Question No. 7: What entity is responsible for monitoring the use of exempted contests in a conference challenge event?

Answer: Each institution and/or conference is responsible for verifying compliance with NCAA legislation, including the maximum contest limitations and exempted contests.

Question No. 8: Is a conference office required to organize a conference challenge event or may individual institutions organize the event?

Answer: The legislation does not require conference offices to organize or administer a conference challenge event; however, the intent is for

conferences to organize in-region competition between the member institutions of each conference.

Question No. 9: For purposes of this proposal, what is the first full weekend following the first permissible contest date?

Answer: The first full weekend is the Friday, Saturday and Sunday following the first permissible contest or date of competition. If the first permissible date falls on a Friday, that is considered the first full weekend. An institution must complete contests that are part of a conference challenge event during this period to exempt the contests.

Question No. 10: Are institutions required to play conference challenge games beginning on Friday or may they begin playing on Saturday or Sunday?

Answer: No. Institutions would not be required to play on Friday. Contests may be exempted if they are played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday during the first full weekend of the playing season.

Question No. 11: Can an institution exempt a single contest in conjunction with a conference challenge event or would this require the institution to play two contests?

Answer: Yes, although the legislation permits institutions to exempt up to two contests, it does not require participation in two contests.

Question No. 12: Are all participating institutions required to exempt the contest(s)?

Answer: No. Each institution has the discretion to exempt the contest(s) or count them toward the institutional maximum limits as defined in Bylaw 17.

Question No. 13: Must all teams from a particular conference participate in an event in order for the event to be considered a conference challenge event?

Answer: No.

Question No. 14: Is there a minimum number of teams from a conference that must participate in a conference challenge event?

Answer: No.

Question No. 15: Can institutions in the same conference compete against one another in a conference challenge event and exempt the contests?

Answer: No. The exempted contests must be against in-region, out-of-conference opponents.

Question No. 16: Can an out-of-region institution participate in a conference challenge event representing a third (or more) conference for participating institutions to exempt the contest(s)?

Answer: No. If an out-of-region institution participates, the event is no longer a conference challenge event. An institution may not exempt any contests played as a part of that event under the conference challenge exemption if an out-of-region opponent participates.

Question No. 17: Is it permissible for institutions that are not a member of a conference to participate in a conference challenge event (e.g., independent institutions)?

Answer: No. If an independent institution participates, the event is no longer a conference challenge event. An institution may not exempt any contests played as a part of that event under the conference challenge exemption if an independent opponent participates.

Question No. 18: Can an institution exempt contests played against institutions in the Division II membership process?

Answer: Yes. Institutions in the Division II membership process are considered to be in-region opponents for the purpose of championship selection.

Question No. 19: How does the contiguous state principle in regionalization apply for purposes of this proposal?

Answer: The contiguous state principle does not apply to a conference challenge event. Contests must be played against in-region, out-of-conference opponents.

Question No. 20: May a conference challenge event be conducted at more than one site?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 21: Does a conference challenge event have to take place in the region in which the conferences are located?

Answer: No.

Question No. 22: Do contests exempted under this proposal count in the selection criteria and toward consideration for the NCAA championship?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 23: Do contests exempted under this proposal count for purposes of hardship-waiver calculations?

Answer: Yes, when the scheduled or completed contests calculation is used for the denominator in the percent computation for the hardship waiver. Only discretionary exemptions for the applicable sport are excluded from the calculation.

Proposal No. 2016-7 (No. 2-7) Playing And Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- Preseason Practice -- On-Court Practice -- 30 Days Of Countable Activities Between October 1 And Institution's First Contest

Question No. 1: What constitutes an institution's "first regular season contest"?

Answer: Any contest that occurs on or after the second Friday in November, including an exempted contest played as part of a conference challenge event. Scrimmages, exhibitions and other contests played before the first permissible contest date are not considered regular season contests for purposes of this proposal.

Question No. 2: If this proposal is adopted, would days on which scrimmages or discretionary exemptions occur count toward the 30 days of permissible activity?

Answer: Yes. All days on which countable athletically related activities occur must count toward the 30-day limit.

Question No. 3: May a student-athlete participate in voluntary athletically related activities (Bylaw 17.02.16) on the days that countable athletically related activities do not occur?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 4: If this proposal is adopted, would it be permissible to participate in a scrimmage or discretionary exemption October 1?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: How does this proposal impact the team activities legislation?

Answer: If this proposal is adopted, beginning October 1 a basketball team would be in season. Student-athletes would be permitted to participate in a maximum of four hours per day and 20 hours per week of countable athletically related activities. The restriction of two hours per week of team activities would no longer apply.

Question No. 6: How does the proposal compare to current legislation regarding preseason practice?

Answer: The chart below outlines the current legislation regarding preseason practice and the proposed changes.

	Current Rule	Proposed Change
First Permissible Date	October 15	October 1
Permissible Days of Practice	Six days per week. Required day off.	30 days between October 1 and institution's first regular season contest. Required day off.

Question No. 7: If the proposal is adopted, how many days off will be required in future years?

Answer: The chart below outlines the application of the legislation for the next 10 years should the proposal be adopted.

Academic Year	First Permissible Day of Practice	First Permissible Contest	Days Between First Permissible Practice and First Permissible Contest	Required Days Off, Based on 30 Permissible Days of Practice
2016-17	October 1	November 11	41	11
2017-18	October 1	November 10	40	10
2018-19	October 1	November 9	39	9
2019-20	October 1	November 8	38	8
2020-21	October 1	November 13	43	13
2021-22	October 1	November 12	42	12
2022-23	October 1	November 11	41	11
2023-24	October 1	November 10	40	10
2024-25	October 1	November 8	38	8
2025-26	October 1	November 14	44	14

Proposal No. 2016-8 (No. 2-8) Executive Regulations -- Selection Of Teams And Individuals For Championships Participation -- Automatic Qualification

Question No. 1: If this proposal is adopted, will all Division II championships have automatic qualification?

Answer: No. Sport committees will have the opportunity to request automatic qualification from the NCAA Division II Championships Committee. If approved, the sport will have automatic qualification. Finally, each conference would need to request automatic qualification from the respective sport committee and have it approved by the Championships Committee before automatic qualification is granted.

Question No. 2: When will sport committees have the opportunity to request automatic qualification from the Championships Committee?

Answer: If adopted, the sport committees may begin making recommendations to the Championships Committee before the August 1, 2017, effective date in order for the sport to have automatic qualification in the 2017-18 academic year.

Question No. 3: What is an affiliate member?

Answer: An affiliate member is an institution that competes as a member of a conference in a particular sport but is a primary member of another conference or is an independent institution.

Question No. 4: Is there a limit on the number of affiliate members a conference can count for purposes of meeting the minimum sponsorship requirements for automatic qualification?

Answer: No.

Question No. 5: If a conference adds an affiliate member to meet the six-team minimum (e.g., five conference institutions and one affiliate member), how long must the affiliate member compete as a member in the conference in order for the conference to qualify for automatic qualification in a particular sport?

Answer: Two years.

Question No. 6: If the proposal is adopted, when would affiliate members begin counting toward the minimum number required for the conference to sponsor the sport? For example, if an affiliate member has participated in a sport since the 2015-16 academic year, would the two-year period start when the affiliate member joined or August 1, 2017, when the legislation becomes effective?

Answer: The two-year period would begin when the affiliate member joined the conference. In the above example, the conference would be eligible to apply for automatic qualification in the 2017-18 academic year.

Question No. 7: If a conference institution adds a sport, bringing the conference to six sponsoring members, does the conference qualify for automatic qualification immediately or does the conference have to wait two years? For example, if a conference institution added a sport in the 2015-16 academic year, would the two-year period start when the institution added the sport or August 1, 2017, when the legislation becomes effective?

Answer: The two-year period would begin when the sixth conference institution adds the sport. In the above example, the conference would be eligible to apply for automatic qualification in the 2017-18 academic year.

Question No. 8: If an institution leaves Conference A to become a full member of Conference B and brings Conference B to six sponsoring members in a sport, does Conference B qualify for automatic qualification immediately or does the conference have to wait two years?

Answer: The two-year period would begin when the institution joins Conference B.

Question No. 9: If a conference previously had six institutions sponsoring a particular sport and one institution leaves the conference, does the conference lose its automatic qualification immediately?

Answer: No. The conference would remain eligible for automatic qualification for three academic years following the withdrawal of the institution, provided the conference remains within one member institution of the minimum number. See Bylaw 31.3.4.6 (grace period).

Question No. 10: If the proposal is adopted, and the requirement that at least 50 percent of the championship field must be reserved for at-large teams is eliminated, would sport committees be permitted to create a bracket made up entirely of automatic qualifiers?

Answer: Yes. Each sport committee will be responsible for recommending how many spots in the bracket should be reserved for at-large teams in that sport. All recommendations remain subject to Championships Committee approval.

Question No. 11: Which Division II sports currently have automatic qualification?

Answer: The chart below outlines the sports that currently have automatic qualification.

Men's Sports	Women's Sports
Baseball	Women's Basketball
Men's Basketball	Women's Soccer
Men's Golf	Softball
Men's Tennis	Women's Tennis
	Women's Volleyball

Question No. 12: Which Division II sports currently do not have automatic qualification?

Answer: The chart below outlines the sports that do not currently have automatic qualification.

Men's Sports	Women's Sports
Men's Cross Country	Women's Cross Country
Football	Field Hockey
Men's Indoor Track and Field	Women's Golf*
Men's Lacrosse	Women's Indoor Track and Field
Men's Outdoor Track and Field	Women's Lacrosse
Men's Soccer	Women's Outdoor Track and Field
Men's Swimming and Diving	Rowing
Wrestling	Women's Swimming and Diving

*Women's golf currently meets the requirements for automatic qualification, but the NCAA Division II Women's Golf Committee has not yet moved forward with awarding automatic qualifier spots in the field.

Question No. 13: If the proposal is adopted, what is the impact on the football earned access legislation?

Answer: The NCAA Division II Football Committee would have the opportunity to request automatic qualification from the Championships Committee. If such a request is approved, the Football Committee would recommend that the Presidents Council sponsor an administrative regulation to eliminate Bylaw 31.3.5 (earned access – football).

Question No. 14: Does this proposal impact automatic qualification requirements for National Collegiate Championships?

Answer: No.