

The Centennial Conference
Reform Proposals
June 4, 2003

Reform. To put or change into an improved form or condition.

At the 2003 NCAA Convention, a meeting was held with presidential representatives and administrative officers of the Centennial Conference, the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), and the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), to discuss "The Future of Division III." The presidents agreed to charge the administrative officers with the task of creating a "reform agenda" for possible legislative action at the 2004 NCAA Convention.

Over the past four months, the administrative officers have constructed an agenda for reform. This agenda ranges from changes in the playing and practice season bylaws to reform in the nontraditional segment. From red-shirting to eligibility, this agenda aims to restore "sanity" in a division that increasingly asks for more - more contests, more playoff teams, more time in the nontraditional segment, and more say in the place that athletics takes in an academic setting.

Although the alliance among the three conferences is not active, the Centennial Conference Executive Committee has reviewed the "reform agenda" and is asking the membership to consider the following:

- 1) Adopt the following proposals for the Conference;
- 2) Consider sponsoring these proposals as legislation for the 2004 NCAA Convention in Nashville.

It seems hypocritical for the Conference to ask for national consideration of these proposals before discussing whether they are appropriate for us to adopt within our Conference. A positive vote could lead us to introduce this "reform agenda" as legislation for the Division III membership for the '04 Convention in Nashville. The division's governance structure has provided the membership with an opportunity to engage in an open and ongoing conversation during this year. By taking each piece of this "reform agenda" to the Convention floor, it is an opportunity for us to stay true to the ideals of Division III while working within the structure of the Association. The NCAA deadline for submitting legislative proposals for the 2004 Convention is July 15, 2003.

The Executive Committee agrees with presidential bodies representing NESCAC and the NCAC that the Centennial Conference wishes to work within the governance structure of the Association to enact change, but also realizes the difficulty involved in establishing a majority position.

If meaningful reform cannot be achieved within the present NCAA Division III governance structure, a time may come for a dialogue on more substantive reforms in the areas of playing and practice seasons, eligibility and postseason opportunities. The future of Division III and those who believe in its ideals are at stake.

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ELIGIBILITY/RED-SHIRTING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL:

Intent: To eliminate red-shirting in Division III by specifying that a student that practices with the team beyond the first contest will utilize one year of eligibility.

Proposal for NCAA Convention: The proposal will be written to amend Bylaw **14.2.4.1**—on page 92 of the current NCAA Division III Manual. The proposal will indicate that a student will be limited to four years of participation and will have used a season of competition/one year of eligibility if the student-athlete participates in a game or practices with the team beyond the first contest. Note: The proposal will include language indicating that exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances or for medical hardship.

14.2.4.1 Minimum Amount of Competition. A season of competition shall be counted when a student-athlete participates in any regular-season **practice or** competition (including scrimmages occurring after the first contest or date of competition and competition in the nontraditional segment) **beyond the first contest or date of competition** or postseason intercollegiate competition. A season of competition shall not be counted when a student-athlete participates in a preseason scrimmage or preseason exhibition. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics competition conducted by a two-year or four-year collegiate institution at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team level. **Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances or for medical hardship under Bylaw 14.2.5.**

DELEGATES PROPOSAL:

Intent: To eliminate red-shirting in Division III by specifying that a student that practices with the team beyond the first contest will utilize one year of eligibility.

Proposal for NCAA Convention: The proposal will be written to amend Bylaw **14.2.4.1**—on page 92 of the current NCAA Division III Manual. The proposal will indicate that a student will be limited to four years of participation and will have used a season of competition/one year of eligibility if the student-athlete participates in a game or practices with the team beyond the first contest. Note: The proposal will include language indicating that exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances or for medical hardship.

14.2.4.1 Minimum Amount of Competition. A season of competition shall be counted when a student-athlete participates in any regular-season **(traditional)** practice or competition (including scrimmages occurring after the first contest or date of competition and competition in the nontraditional segment) beyond the first contest or date of competition or postseason intercollegiate competition. A season of competition shall not be counted when a student-athlete participates in a preseason scrimmage or preseason exhibition. This provision is applicable to intercollegiate athletics competition conducted by a two-year or four-year collegiate institution at the varsity, junior varsity or freshman team level. Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances or for medical hardship under Bylaw 14.2.5.

MOTION: Bryn Mawr moved to amend the proposal for Minimum Amount of Competition as follows: "A season of competition shall be counted when a student-athlete participates in any regular-season **(traditional)** practice or competition ..." **Passed 11-0.**

MOTION: Bryn Mawr moved the adoption of the Eligibility and Red-shirting Proposal as amended. **Passed 11-0.**

MOTION: Ursinus moved to recommend that the Presidents Council sponsor the following as a national legislative proposal for the 2004 NCAA Convention. **Passed 11-0.**

<p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Both proposals are more restrictive than current NCAA rules. The Delegates wanted to clarify practice or competition in the traditional segment and recommended a noncontroversial editorial change.</p>

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NONTRADITIONAL SEGMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL: Committee recommended permitting a maximum of 15 practice opportunities and no contests with an outside or another institution's team during the nontraditional segment.

- 1. Preseason Practice.** Preseason practice may not begin prior to September 1 or the first date on which classes are scheduled for the institution's fall term, whichever date comes first.
- 2. Competition.** No contest with an outside or another institution's team may occur during the nontraditional season.
- 3. Season Length.** All practice during the nontraditional segment shall be limited to a maximum of five consecutive weeks. An institution that conducts its nontraditional segment in the fall must complete all practice by October 30 of the academic year involved; conversely, an institution that conducts its traditional segment in the fall may not begin practice during the nontraditional segment until February 15.
- 4. Practice Opportunities.** Conference members permit a maximum of 15 practice opportunities with no more than four practice opportunities in any one week.
- 5. Class/Laboratory Time.** No class or laboratory time may be missed for practice.

Rationale: This proposal recognizes that students want the opportunity to refine their skills during the "off-season." The proposal also recognizes that preparation for a contest or game takes away from the opportunity for teaching individual skills, placing the focus on strategy and preparation for an opponent.

Impact: NCAA regulations permit practice and competition during a five-week nontraditional segment with one required day off during a calendar week - a maximum of 30 practice opportunities with no more than six in any one week. The following sports currently permit four contests/dates of competition during the nontraditional segment- field hockey, soccer, volleyball and lacrosse. The following sports permit five contest/dates of competition during the nontraditional segment - baseball and softball. The Centennial Conference will reduce its nontraditional segment limitations from 18 to 15 opportunities and eliminate competition.

DELEGATES PROPOSAL: Gettysburg moved to permit a maximum of 16 practice opportunities and not more than one date of competition with outside competition during the nontraditional segment, amending the proposal of 15 opportunities and no competition. **Passed 11-0.**

- 1. Preseason Practice.** Preseason practice may not begin prior to September 1 or the first date on which classes are scheduled for the institution's fall term, whichever date comes first.
- 2. Competition.** **One date of competition with an outside or another institution's team may occur during the nontraditional season.**
- 3. Season Length.** All practice during the nontraditional segment shall be limited to a maximum of five consecutive weeks. An institution that conducts its nontraditional segment in the fall must complete all practice by October 30 of the academic year involved; conversely, an institution that conducts its traditional segment in the fall may not begin practice during the nontraditional segment until February 15.
- 4. Practice Opportunities.** Conference members permit **a maximum of 16 practice opportunities** with no more than four practice opportunities in any one week.
- 5. Class/Laboratory Time.** No class or laboratory time may be missed for practice.

Rationale: This proposal recognizes that students want the opportunity to refine their skills during the "off-season." The proposal also recognizes that permitting one date of competition enables the students to have a culminating event for the segment and also provides the opportunity for competition with alumni.

Impact: NCAA regulations permit practice and competition during a five-week nontraditional segment with one required day off during a calendar week - a maximum of 30 practice opportunities with no more than six in any one week. The following sports currently permit four contests/dates of competition during the nontraditional segment- field hockey, soccer, volleyball and lacrosse. The following sports permit five contest/dates of competition during the nontraditional segment - baseball

and softball. The Centennial Conference will reduce its nontraditional segment limitations from 18 to 16 opportunities and permit just one date of competition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Both proposals are more restrictive than current NCAA rules. The difference between the two proposals is the **one date of competition (DOC)** against an outside team. The Delegates felt that one DOC provided an opportunity for a culminating event for the season, while also providing an opportunity for alumni involvement (varsity vs. alumni). This DOC would be added onto the 15 practice opportunity maximum for a total of 16. The Delegates would also like to recommend that the Centennial Conference Presidents Council sponsor this legislation at the 2004 NCAA Convention for national consideration.

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PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS

FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL (13 weeks traditional, 5 weeks nontraditional)

1. The preseason practice starting date shall be in accordance with the number of practice opportunities as defined by NCAA regulations - 27 for football, 16 for cross country, field hockey, soccer, and volleyball.
2. Competition Start Date: First Saturday in September (earliest date: Sept. 1, latest date: Sept. 7)
3. Competition End Date, All Sports other than Football, Golf and Tennis: The second Sunday in November (earliest date: Nov. 8, latest date: Nov. 14).
Competition End Date for Football: November 16 (date provides 11 Saturdays for 10 games).
Competition End Date for Golf and Tennis: October 30.

FALL DELEGATES PROPOSAL (14 weeks traditional, 5 weeks nontraditional)

1. The preseason practice starting date shall be in accordance with the number of practice opportunities as defined by NCAA regulations - 27 for football, 16 for cross country, field hockey, soccer, and volleyball.
2. Competition Start Date: **see below**
3. Competition End Date, All Sports other than Football, Golf and Tennis: The second Sunday in November (earliest date: Nov. 8, latest date: Nov. 14).
Competition End Date for Football: November 16 (date provides 11 Saturdays for 10 games).
Competition End Date for Golf and Tennis: October 30.

MOTION: Haverford moved to change the fall and spring playing and practice traditional season to 14 weeks from the proposed 13-week traditional segment. *Rationale: Consistency with the winter season and flexibility for outdoor competition and the weather.* **Passed 11-0.**

MOTION: Bryn Mawr moved to keep the current NCAA start dates for the fall season from the proposed date of competition start date of the first Saturday in September. *Rationale: The students are already on campus and would prefer to compete rather than practice.* **Passed 11-0.**

MOTION: McDaniel moved to add one date of competition for the sport of volleyball, increasing its maximum to 19. **Passed 9-2.**

Sport	Current Centennial Conference and NCAA regulation	Executive Committee Recommended Changes CON: Contests. DOC: Date of Competition	Administrative Delegates Recommendation Bold – proposed changes
Cross Country	1st DOC: September 1 DOC: 9	1st DOC: 1st Sat. in SEPT DOC: 9	1st DOC: September 1 DOC: 9
Field Hockey	1st DOC: September 1 CON: 20	1st CON: 1st Sat. in SEPT CON: 18 (1 scrimmage)	1st CON: September 1 CON: 18 (1)
Football	11 weeks prior to start of DIII championship 1st DOC: 1st Sat. in SEPT CON: 10 (1 scrimmage)	1st CON: 1st Saturday in SEPT CON: 10 (1)	1st CON: 1st Saturday in SEPT CON: 10 (1)
Soccer	1st DOC: September 1 CON: 20 (3 scrimmages)	1st CON: 1st Sat. in SEPT CON: 18 (1)	1st CON: September 1 CON: 18 (1)
Volleyball	1st DOC: September 1 DOC: 22	1st CON: 1st Sat. in SEPT DOC: 18 (1 scrimmage)	1st CON: September 1 DOC: 19 (1)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Both proposals are more restrictive than current NCAA rules. The Delegates noted that most students involved in athletics have returned to campus by September 1 and would prefer to compete rather than practice. An additional DOC for volleyball was recommended to reduce the percentage cut from 14 to 9 percent.

WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL (19 weeks traditional)

1. Preseason practice may not begin at an institution until October 22, or if that date falls on a Sunday or Monday, the preceding Saturday.
2. Preseason practice for swimming may begin on October 8.
3. Competition Start Date: Contests may begin on the following dates:
Basketball: Friday before Thanksgiving.
Others: The first Saturday in November (earliest date: Nov. 1, latest date: Nov. 7).
4. Competition End Date: The first Sunday in March.

WINTER DELEGATES PROPOSAL (19 weeks traditional)

1. Preseason practice may not begin at an institution until see below.
2. Preseason practice for swimming may begin on September 23.
3. Competition Start Date: Contests may begin on the following dates:
Basketball: Friday before Thanksgiving.
Others: The first Saturday in November (earliest date: Nov. 1, latest date: Nov. 7).
4. Competition End Date: The first Sunday in March.

Sport	Current Centennial Conference and NCAA regulation	Executive Committee Recommended Changes CON: Contests. DOC: Date of Competition	Administrative Delegates Recommendation Bold – proposed changes
Basketball	Practice Starts: OCT 15 CON: 25 (2 scrimmages)	Practice starts: OCT 22 CON: 25 (1)	Practice starts: OCT 22 CON: 25 (1)
Swimming	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 16	Practice starts: OCT 8; 1st DOC: 1st Saturday in NOV DOC: 16	Practice starts: SEPT 23 1st DOC: 1st Saturday in NOV DOC: 16
Track and Field, indoor	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 9	Practice starts: OCT 22 1st DOC: 1st Saturday in NOV DOC: 9	
Wrestling	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 16	Practice starts: OCT 22 1st DOC: 1st Saturday in NOV DOC: 16	Practice starts: SEPT 23 1st DOC: 1st Saturday in NOV DOC: 16

MOTION: Dickinson moved that the practice start date for swimming move to September 23 from the proposed date of October 8. *Rationale: Because the swimming season is split among two semesters and is treated as two competitive seasons, there are health and safety concerns. Also, this is a compromise from the current start date of September 7 and the proposed date of October 8.* **Passed 5-1-5.**

MOTION: Haverford moved to ask the Presidents Council for its intent on the track and field proposals before the Delegates make a recommendation. **Passed 11-0.**

MOTION: Gettysburg moved that the practice start date for wrestling move to September 23 from the proposed date of October 22. *Rationale: The Delegates felt that students participating in wrestling need six weeks to adequately prepare for competition.* **Passed 5-0-6.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Both proposals are more restrictive than current NCAA rules. The Delegates noted health and safety concerns surrounding preparation for swimming and wrestling competition for the recommended start date changes.

SPRING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL (13 weeks traditional, 5 weeks nontraditional)

1. Preseason practice may not begin at an institution until February 1.
2. Competition Start Date: Contests may not begin until March 1, or if that date falls on a Sunday or Monday, the preceding Saturday. If spring vacation falls before March 1, the starting date would be the first day of spring vacation.
3. Competition End Date: The second Sunday in May (earliest date: May 8, latest date: May 14).

SPRING DELEGATES PROPOSAL (14 weeks traditional, 5 weeks nontraditional)

1. Preseason practice may not begin at an institution until February 1.
2. Competition Start Date: Contests may not begin until March 1, or if that date falls on a Sunday or Monday, the preceding Saturday. If spring vacation falls before March 1, the starting date would be the first day of spring vacation. **Note changes below.**
3. Competition End Date: The second Sunday in May (earliest date: May 8, latest date: May 14).

MOTION: Franklin & Marshall moved that the first date of competition for lacrosse move to February 22 from the proposed date of March 1. **Passed 8-2-1.**

MOTION: McDaniel moved that the first date of competition for tennis move to February 22 from the proposed date of March 1. **Passed 10-1.**

MOTION: Ursinus moved to add one date of competition for the sport of lacrosse, increasing its maximum to 15. **Passed 8-1-1.**

MOTION: Haverford moved that the reform proposals have an effective date of August 1, 2004, citing that most scheduled contests for 2003-04 are contracted. **Passed 11-0.**

Sport	Current Centennial Conference and NCAA regulation	Executive Committee Recommended Changes CON: Contests. DOC: Date of Competition (1st varsity game)	Administrative Delegates Recommendation Bold – proposed changes
Baseball	Practice Starts: CON: 40	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: MAR 1 CON: 30 while in session	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: MAR 1 CON: 30 while in session
Golf	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 20	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 18	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 18
Lacrosse:	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 17	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 14 while in session	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: FEB 22 DOC: 15 while in session
Softball	Practice Starts: CON: 40	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: MAR 1 CON: 30 while in session	Practice starts: FEB 1 1st DOC: MAR 1 CON: 30 while in session
Tennis	Practice starts: SEPT 7 1st DOC: SEPT 7 DOC: 20	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 18	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: FEB 22 DOC: 18
Track and Field, outdoor	Practice Starts: SEPT 7 DOC: 9	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 9	Spring Practice starts: FEB 1 Spring 1st DOC: MAR 1 DOC: 9

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Both proposals are more restrictive than current NCAA rules. The Delegates noted the difficulty posed by inclement weather in the Mid-Atlantic region and the compressed schedules in the spring for the recommended start date changes.

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Playing and Practice Seasons - Games (Scrimmages)

Sport	Current Centennial / NCAA limits	2003 NCAA Prop 41 Limits	Executive Committee Proposed Limits	Delegates Proposed Limits	Percentage Change
Cross Country	9	9 (2)	9	9	0
Field Hockey	20	18 (2)	18 (1)	18 (1)	10%
Football	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	10 (1)	0
Soccer	20 (3)	18 (2)	18 (1)	18 (1)	10%
Volleyball (W)	22	18 (2)	18 (1)	19 (1)	9 or 14%
Basketball	25 (2)	25 (2)	25 (1)	25 (1)	0
Indoor Track	9	9 (2)	9	9	0
Swimming	16	16 (2)	16	16	0
Wrestling	16	16 (2)	16	16	0
Baseball	40	36 (2)	30 # 10 (1)	30 # 10 (1)	TBD
Softball	40	36 (2)	30 # 10 (1)	30 # 10 (1)	TBD
Lacrosse	17	18 (2)	14[^]3 (1)	15[^]2	TBD
Outdoor Track	9	9 (2)	9	9	0
Tennis	20	20 (2)	18	18	10%
Golf	20	20 (2)	18	18	10%

* Days of competition per competitor

Baseball and softball: 40-game maximum; no more than 30 games while school is in session.

^ Lacrosse: 17-game maximum; no more than 14 / 15 games while school is in session.

Prop 41: Proposal 41 came before the Division III membership at the 2003 NCAA Convention in Anaheim. Its intent was to revise the playing and practice seasons regulations. The proposal was defeated, 166-196-6. Nearly 90 percent of the 32-member Alliance voted for Proposal 41 as amended at the 2003 NCAA Convention (29 yes, 3 no) and the Centennial Conference vote was 10 yes, 1 no.

Executive Committee Proposal: The contest / dates of competition reductions are taken from sports that play the majority of their contests during daylight hours when classes could be in session. The sports that do not have reductions conduct most of their competition on weekends or in the evening hours. The additional reduction in spring sports addresses the major concern of missed class time for competition by limiting the maximum number of games played while class is in session.

In 2002, spring Centennial teams averaged this many games: Baseball (34.6) including 7.8 during spring break; Softball (31.7); Men's Lacrosse (13.6); Women's Lacrosse (16.0). The average number of games only includes those games played during the regular season and does not include Conference tournament nor NCAA/ECAC tournament contests.

Impact: The additional reductions from Proposal 41 primarily address the missed class time issue. Members may still play up to the NCAA maximum number of contests, but will not sacrifice class or lab time during the spring semester to do so.