Proposed Amendments to the NAIA Constitution

19-C-01
Constitution Amendment #1 – Voting Delegate Authorization
Current Rule: Institutions and conferences must authorize a voting delegate no later than one week prior to the annual business meeting.
Proposed Change: Shorten the deadline prior to the annual business meeting by which a voting delegate must be authorized.
Effective Date: August 1, 2019
Submitted By: Council of Presidents

Q1: Has the current deadline of authorizing a delegate one week in advance of the business meeting been difficult for members to meet?
A: On occasion, yes. Understandably, this is one of those administrative items that can be easy to put off and forget about, only to be reminded when campus representatives arrive at the national convention. By that point it is too late to register a delegate under the existing deadline. A 72-hour deadline would mean convention attendees would have a short window to register delegates after convention begins. For example, when applied to this year's convention schedule, this proposal would allow delegates to be registered until 11:30am Friday.

Q2: Can there be changes made to delegates after the 72-hour deadline?
A: Yes. Once a delegate has been authorized, an institution can change its delegate up until the morning of the business meeting. This is the current process, and this would continue under the proposal.

Q3: What determines a school’s voting delegate?
A: An institution’s president or a conference’s commissioner has the sole authority to authorize a voting delegate. The president or commissioner can choose to authorize himself or herself as the voting delegate, or another representative of the institution/conference.
Proposed Amendments to the NAIA Bylaws

19-B-01
Bylaws Amendment #1 – Women’s Wrestling Frequency of Play and Medical Hardship Limits

Current Rule: Not applicable

Proposed Change: Establish 20 dates and zero additional scrimmage dates as the maximum number of contests in which a women’s wrestling team may compete, and establish four dates as the maximum limit a student may compete in to be eligible to receive a medical hardship in women’s wrestling.

Effective Date: August 1, 2019
Submitted By: National Administrative Council

Q1: Why is the limit established as 20 dates?
A: The existing limitation for men’s wrestling is 20 competition dates that may be used throughout the 24-week season. The National Administrative Council (NAC) oversees the process by which a sport transitions from emerging to invitational to championship status and, in conjunction with the Women’s Wrestling Coaches Association, has determined there is no reason to structure women’s wrestling in a different way than the men’s programs.

Q2: How was the medical hardship limit of four dates determined?
A: Per bylaw, medical hardship limits are equivalent to 20% of the total allowable number of contests. If the sport of wrestling has a season limitation of 20 dates, 20% of the season equates to four dates for the medical hardship limit.

Q3: Why are these frequency of play limits being proposed at this time?
A: Women’s wrestling is completing Year 1 of Invitational Sport status this year (2018-19). In Year 2 of Invitational status (2019-20), any NAIA institution sponsoring an intercollegiate women’s wrestling team is required to abide by all NAIA regulations. This includes frequency of play limits, meaning the NAIA must determine appropriate limitations for the sport of women’s wrestling now so that these limits are in place for the 2019-20 year.

Q4: My campus has a varsity women’s wrestling team. I have a wrestler who sustained a season-ending injury in 2017 when we were competing under the Women’s Collegiate Wrestling Association (WCWA). The injury occurred in the second meet of the season and fits all other medical hardship requirements. Can we request a medical hardship through the NAIA?
A: No, because this competition is not considered to be intercollegiate competition. Beginning August 1, 2019, NAIA institutions may begin to request women’s wrestling medical hardships from the NAIA. Any season-ending injury that occurred in previous academic years cannot be reviewed by the NAIA and should be requested from the national governing body in which the student was competing at the time. NAIA regulations related to eligibility and seasons of competition (including medical hardships) will not apply to women’s wrestling competition until August 1, 2019.

Q5: How are women’s wrestling medical hardships currently evaluated?
A: Women’s wrestling is not currently regulated by NAIA eligibility rules, meaning the NAIA does not have authority to charge seasons of competition or return a season by issuing a medical hardship. All determinations of seasons of competition for women’s wrestlers – including medical hardships – are currently determined by the rules of the WCWA or any other collegiate association through which the institution was competing at the time of the injury.

19-B-02
Bylaws Amendment #2 – Lacrosse Frequency of Play Limits - Scrimmages
**Current Rule:** A lacrosse team is permitted two scrimmage dates to be used at any point during its 24-week season, and three scrimmage dates to be used during the fall term.

**Proposed Change:** Clarify that the three fall scrimmage dates may only be played on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2019

**Submitted By:** Constitution & Bylaws Committee

**Q1:** How does this proposal apply to international competitions?
**A:** NAIA lacrosse teams would be held to the standard of using the fall scrimmage dates on weekends or dates when their institution does not hold classes, despite the fact that international competitions do not count towards frequency of play limits. This applies regardless of where the competition is held, or whether the students are located in the vicinity of campus to be able to attend classes on those dates.

**Q2:** Why is this proposal coming from the Constitutions & Bylaws Committee?
**A:** NAIA membership voted to allow lacrosse teams additional fall scrimmages in April of 2017. The intention at the time was to mirror the additional spring scrimmages that are available for soccer teams, which may only be used on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates. However, this was a late clarification (submitted as a friendly amendment) and while it was discussed during the 2017 convention, it was not part of the proposal that membership officially voted on during the annual business meeting. This was realized by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee in discussing this year’s softball proposal (19-B-03). Because this was the initial intent of the Lacrosse Coaches Association, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee sponsored this proposal to align the existing legislation with this intent.

**Q3:** Can two or more scrimmages be held on one of these additional dates?
**A:** Yes. A scrimmage “date” permits a team to scrimmage on that date but does not restrict the number of scrimmage contests. A team could scrimmage multiple teams on a single scrimmage date, and only use one of its additional three scrimmage dates.

**Q4:** How is the end of the fall term determined?
**A:** Per Bylaws Article V, Section B, Item 3, the end of a term is defined as the “date listed in the institutional catalog as the last day of a term. If no such date is given the n of the terms shall be the last day of the final exam period for that term.”

**Q5:** If a student competes in these three additional scrimmage dates, but does not compete in the spring term, will the student be charged a season of competition?
**A:** The student will not be charged a season of competition solely for participating in scrimmages, regardless of when the scrimmage(s) occurs. A student will be charged a season of competition for participating in an exhibition or game, whether that occurs in the fall, winter or spring term.

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**19-B-03**

**Bylaws Amendment #3 – Softball Frequency of Play Limits – Scrimmages**

**Current Rule:** A softball team is permitted two scrimmage dates to be used at any point during its 24-week season.

**Proposed Change:** In addition to the two scrimmage dates, allow a softball team to compete in three scrimmage dates during the fall term, to be played on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2019

**Submitted By:** Softball Coaches Association

**Co-sponsored By:** Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference

**Q1:** My softball team wants to host a scrimmage the first weekend in September, but we host several other games on Saturdays and we don’t allow Sunday play. Could we host the scrimmage on Friday night as one of our three additional scrimmages? count as a non-scheduled class date?
A: That depends on whether your institution hosts classes on that Friday or not. If your institution holds classes on that Friday, then it must be considered a class day and could not be used towards one of your three additional scrimmages. You could however choose to host the scrimmage anyway and simply use one of your two allotted scrimmage dates that are available to be used at any point during the 24-week season.

Q2: How does this proposal work for quarter or trimester schools?
A: The proposal dictates the additional scrimmage dates must be used during the fall term. This applies to any school’s fall term, regardless of whether it’s a semester, quarter or trimester institution. There is not a separate calendar or interpretation for non-semester terms.

Q3: Can these scrimmages be played before classes start in the fall term?
A: Yes. As with any fall contest, the contests can be played any time beginning August 1, regardless of the date fall classes commence. The only restriction unique to these additional scrimmages is that they must be completed before the end of the fall term.

Q4: What does the friendly amendment mean?
A: The friendly amendment is the result of further discussion between the sponsors that occurred after the proposals were initially published. The sponsors concluded the legislation they wish to sponsor supports three additional scrimmage dates rather than five.

Q5: Why do the sponsors believe this is a necessary addition for the sport of softball?
A: The sponsors believe these fall scrimmages would give players the opportunity to learn how to play together in game situations and provide coaches a chance to evaluate what they should work on before spring games commence.

Additionally, for cold-weather schools that frequently have fall events canceled due to weather, the opportunity to schedule additional fall scrimmages would provide a greater likelihood that the team would be able to play at least one scrimmage.

19-B-04
Bylaws Amendment #4 – Competitive Cheer and Competitive Dance Frequency of Play Limits - Scrimmages
Current Rule: Competitive cheer and competitive dance are not provided with any additional scrimmages beyond the frequency of play limits (10 cheer competitions and 10 dance competitions).
Proposed Change: Allow one additional scrimmage date for both competitive cheer and competitive dance.
Effective Date: August 1, 2019
Submitted By: Competitive Cheer Coaches Association, Competitive Dance Coaches Association
Co-sponsored By: Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference

Q1: Can you keep score or use a performance rubric during the scrimmage?
A: Yes, but teams cannot post the rubric or post results publically anywhere. If the placings or rubrics are made public, then the competition will no longer meet the definition of a scrimmage, meaning a violation will have occurred that will be reviewed by the National Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Q2: Is the intent so that teams can have one practice competition?
A: In a manner of speaking, yes. In competitive cheer and competitive dance, the outcome of competitions is determined on scoring from a rubric. As a relatively new intercollegiate sport, the rubric is still changing frequently for a variety of reasons, including the evolution of the sport within the NAIA and for health and safety concerns. Therefore, coaches and students could benefit from having an opportunity to have a “practice competition” where they can see how the new regulations will apply and receive hands-on coaching or adjustments.

Basically do they want this so that they can have an extra competition or so they can have a practice round (I think I remember Hannah saying most teams only compete in 4-6 competitions.)
Q3: How many competitions do most competitive cheer or competitive dance teams compete in?
A: The number varies based on the particular team, but in general most teams compete in approximately 4-6 competitions each regular season.

Since the sport was established as an NAIA championship sport a few years ago, campus administrators and staff recognized regular season schedules would have to be built up and grow over time. As the sport continues to become more established, it is the intention of the National Administrative Council and the respective coaches associations that teams’ regular season schedules will continue to grow until they reach the anticipated season length. While most teams are currently only participating in 4-6 competitions, the expectation is that number will grow closer to 10 for most teams over the next five years.

19-B-05
Bylaws Amendment #5 – Financial Assistance
Current Rule: A student may not receive any aid from anyone other than immediate family or the institution’s scholarship and student loans committee. Institutions may provide a maximum value of no more than tuition + room/board + books fees. Exceptions exist for athletically related medical expenses, student-athlete leadership activities, occasional meals, and natural disasters or emergencies.
Proposed Change: To reorganize the existing financial assistance regulations and to expand permissible assistance to include aid and benefits provided by the institution, expenses incidental to athletic competition provided by an institutional or outside team, and permit some financial benefits derived from third parties under specific guidelines.
Effective Date: May 15, 2019
Submitted By: Athletic Directors Association
Co-sponsored By: National Conduct and Ethics Committee

Q1: The terms financial assistance, financial aid and financial benefits are all used throughout this proposal. What is the difference?
A: Financial aid refers to institutional aid provided to a student for purposes of scholarship and loans. Financial benefits refers to any additional benefits provided by the institution or from outside parties. Financial assistance is the overarching term we use to incorporate all of these items.

Q2: Who would monitor this proposal if it is approved?
A: As with most NAIA regulations, it would be the responsibility of the campus to ensure that the regulation is followed and monitored, and to self-report any violations to the national office. It would be the responsibility of the institution to determine how to best track this information and ensure the rule is complied with.

Q3: Why are preloaded debit cards specifically prohibited?
A: Preloaded debit cards are treated as the equivalent of cash, and as such cannot be provided to students. Cash equivalent generally refers to anything that could be cashed in or traded for exact cash value, like gift cards or credits.

Q4: What happened to Exception #2? Does this proposal mean my institution could no longer pay for our student-athletes’ expenses when they participate in conference/national ASA activities?
A: While Exception #2 no longer appears as an exception, funding for student leadership activities would be permissible under this proposal as part of Section 2 – Athletically Related Expenses. This would fall under Section 2b, which provided for ancillary expenses not directly related to competition, but that are related to a student’s membership on the team. The institution, institutional representative or conference/national office can pay for such expenses, but authorize boosters cannot provide these expenses.

Q5: What happened to Exception #3? Does this proposal mean my teams could no longer receive an occasional meal?
A: While Exception #3 no longer appears as an exception, the occasional meals would be permissible under this proposal as part of Section 2 – Athletically Related Expenses. Section 2 allows for the institution, its representative or authorized booster to provide such meals that are incidental to competition without limitation (e.g. meals on road trips). Additionally, Section 2 allows meals to be provided that are not incidental to competition but are related to the student’s membership on the team (e.g. team dinner, dinner at the campus president’s house, etc.) to be provided by the institution or its representative, but not a booster.

Any meal or that would not fit within either of these topics – expenses incidental to competition or ancillary expenses related to team participation – must be accounted for within Section 3 – Financial Benefits, depending on the specifics of the meal and who provides it.

Q6: What does Exception #4 (renamed to Exception #1) remain in the proposal, but with certain removed?
A: The component of Exception #4 that is struck through deals with an institution providing financial assistance to students in cases of natural disasters or emergencies, and this is now handled by the language in Section 1b (Institutionally Provided Financial Aid and Financial Benefits). Section 1b permits a student-athlete to receive any such financial benefits that are available to the general student body.

The rest of Exception 4 remains to ensure that a student-athlete could receive benefits in natural disasters of emergency situations without limitations. If this part of exception #4 was struck, then a student would be able to receive benefits from third parties but such benefits would be limited to $1,000, and that is not the intention.

Q7: Why is Section 3 necessary?
A: Under current regulations, a student cannot receive any benefits from anyone other than their immediate family or the institution’s scholarship committee. That means that dinners at a faculty member or coach’s house, lunch provided by a roommate’s parents, gifts from friends or significant others are all impermissible and violations of the NAIA financial assistance regulations.

Therefore, it’s likely the current rule is being violated regularly, and any new proposal needs to find a way to incorporate such benefits and provide clear parameters and regulations for what is allowable. Because there are a variety of types of items and benefits that may be provided and common sense would generally say are allowable, this section is fairly open ended for types of benefits that can be provided. Therefore, the dollar limitation of $1,000 is how the sponsors have chosen to reign in benefits of this nature and provide some parameters.

19-B-06
Bylaws Amendment #6 – Campus Visitations and Tryouts
Current Rule: All prospective student campus visits requiring missed class time must receive advance approval by both the student’s current and prospective institution, and all tryouts of prospective student-athletes must occur on the NAIA school’s campus.

Proposed Change: Remove existing restriction requiring tryouts to occur on campus, and requirement that student receive advance approval for any missed class time due to a campus visit.

Effective Date: May 1, 2019
Submitted By: Athletic Directors Association
Co-sponsored By: National Conduct and Ethics Committee

Q1: Under this proposal, is a coach allowed to hold a tryout with a prospective student-athlete when the coach is on the road and away from our campus?
A: Yes. The primary purpose behind this proposal is to allow just that. The proposal recognizes that coaches may be traveling a significant distant away from campus and wish to visit recruits in the area, and it may be more efficient and cost efficient for the coach to conduct the tryout in the student’s home locale, rather than the coach’s.
Q2: What if an NAIA coach is coaching an outside club team, or hosting one-on-one lessons off campus? Would that off-campus training now be considered a school tryout?
A: No. Just as it is viewed currently, in those scenarios the coach has a legitimate purpose for engaging with the prospective student and is acting in his role as club coach or private instructor when meeting with the prospective student. As such, the coach is not viewed as evaluating or trying out the student on behalf of the institution. Similarly, if approved this proposal would not impact a coach’s ability to coach an outside team or provide private lessons.

Q3: Does this proposal include campus visits and/or tryouts of transfer students or just high school students?
A: The campus visitation and tryout rule applies to all prospective students, and that is not changed in any way by this proposal. A prospective student is defined as an individual who has never identified or whose previous collegiate identification was with another collegiate institution. Therefore, both high school students and transfers are included in this regulation.

Q4: Does this mean that students can only tryout two days at any NAIA institution in their career?
A: No. A student may tryout for a maximum of two days with any NAIA institution. The two-day limitation applies to each NAIA institution, meaning a student may tryout with each NAIA institution for a maximum of two days if they choose.

19-B-07
Bylaws Amendment #7 – Initial Eligibility – Class Rank Exception
Current Rule: An entering freshman must satisfy two of three available criterion – appropriate ACT/SAT score, high school 2.0 GPA, high school class rank in the top 50% – to be eligible.
Proposed Change: Create alternative criterion that allows a student to submit successful completion of nine institutional credit hours in place of the existing class rank criterion, if the student receives a “C” or better and the credit hours are accepted by the certifying NAIA institution as institutional credit.
Effective Date: May 1, 2020
Submitted By: Council of Faculty Athletics Representative
Co-sponsored By: Athletic Director Association

Q1: If a student has 12 institutional credit hours but only nine are earned with a grade of “C” or better, would the student meet this exception?
A: Yes. The only requirement is that the student earn nine hours with a grade of “C” or better, but not that a student must pass all courses attempted with a grade of “C” or better. In fact, this is the reason why the legislation requires courses to be earned with a grade of “C” rather than requiring a student to have a 2.0 GPA. The sponsors’ intent is for a student to meet the requirement in at least nine hours, but not to be penalized if the student attempted more coursework and was unsuccessful.

Conversely, if a student earns nine hours and has a 2.0 GPA but passed six hours with an “A” and three hours with a “D,” that student would not satisfy the exception because he did not have nine hours passed with a “C” or better.

Q2: How does this impact early decisions?
A: It doesn’t. For a student to receive an early decision following her 6th or 7th high school semester, she must have a qualifying high school GPA and a qualifying ACT/SAT test score. Class rank is not a factor in early decisions, meaning that this proposal – as an exception to the class rank criterion – is also not a factor in early decisions.
Q3: When do the nine hours need to be completed? Are they required to be completed in the summer prior to the student enrolling in the fall term? Or can the hours be from dual enrollment courses while the student was still in high school?
A: The hours are not required to be earned at any specific time, meaning high school dual credit hours or credit hours earned after high school graduation are all applicable. The biggest key is that the hours must be earned and accepted by the NAIA institution (as noted on the transcript) prior to the term in which the student wishes to compete.

Q4: How do we deal with Pass/Fail notations, or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and the equivalent?
A: Pass/Fail and Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory are considered to be grades. This means that a course with a grade of “Pass” and earned hours awarded is considered to be an institutional credit. Further, a course with a passing/satisfactory grade that is also awarded earned hours is a passing grade and by default the student is deemed to have receive a “C” or better

Q5: The proposal says a student has to have nine institutional credit hours. Can the nine hours come from multiple schools?
A: Yes. There is no requirement that all nine hours come from the same school, or that any/all of these hours come from a student’s NAIA school. The key is that the student must have earned at least nine hours, and at least nine hours must be accepted by their NAIA school.

Q6: If a student receives a class rank from their high school but does not rank in the top 50%, can the student use this exception? Or is this exception only available for students who cannot obtain a class rank?
A: The legislation does not limit the exception to only apply to those students who do not have access to a class rank. That means that any prospective student who does not have a qualifying class rank can instead submit the appropriate nine hours of college coursework to meet that criterion.

Q7: If a student takes a course at a junior college and gets a “C-” and is awarded earned hours, but our institution will not accept transfer hours passed with a “C-,” does the final sentence mean the course gets to count towards the nine hours anyway?
A: No. The final sentence simply clarifies that there is no distinction whatsoever between a C-/C/C+ for purposes of determining if the student has the appropriate grade.

However, also note that the third sentence of the proposal requires that the course must be accepted by the NAIA institution and applied to the NAIA transcript. If your NAIA school does not accept transfer credits earned with a “C-,” the course will not appear on your transcript and the student will not be able to satisfy the exception.

Q8: How will AP or CLEP courses be treated if they do not show a grade on the college transcript?
A: For AP or CLEP hours to be earned and posted on the transcript, the student must be deemed to have successfully passed the standard required for awarding credit. Therefore, by default those courses will be deemed as passed with a grade of “C” or better. This proposal does not require the Eligibility Center to evaluate a student’s AP score or CLEP results.

19-B-08
Bylaws Amendment #8 – Freshman Eligibility Requirements – Home-Schooled Students
Current Rule: Home-schooled students who achieve an ACT score of 18 / SAT score of 950 and complete a home schooling program in conjunction with state law will satisfy entering freshman eligibility requirements without needing a waiver from the Home School Committee.
Proposed Change: Adjust the home-school requirements to reflect that a student needs an ACT score of 20 / SAT score of 1040 to receive an eligible determination without requiring a waiver from the Home-School Committee.
Q1: Why is there another change to the ACT/SAT requirements?
A: While it seems like a lot of changes to this rule in a short time, this proposal was anticipated even last year.
For a three-year period following changes to the SAT made in 2016, NAIA regulations were lowered to recognize these changes and the lack of clarity regarding test scores concordances. In April 2018, NAIA membership approved a legislative change to return ACT and SAT scores back to previous ranges for purposes of initial eligibility requirements, effective May 2019.

Home-school requirements were not addressed at that time, as the concordance tables had not actually been published yet and the specific score equivalents were not yet clear. Once the concordance tables were published in June 2018, the Home School Committee reviewed these and affirmed that the home-school requirement would be equate to an ACT score of 20 / SAT score of 1040. This information has been communicated and messaged as the expected score that would be required beginning May 2019, but could not be voted on before now.

Q2: Why is there an elevated test score for home-schooled students, as opposed to the standard initial eligibility requirements?
A: Home-schooled students are provided an expedited option for freshman eligibility that is not afforded to traditional students. Generally speaking, a home-schooled student must receive a waiver from the Home-school Committee because the student has only met one of the three freshman eligibility requirements. (A home-schooled student’s high school GPA and class rank are not accepted.) Home-schooled students who meet an elevated test score are not required to receive the waiver.

Q3: If a student took the ACT in April 2019 and received a score of 18, would the student meet the eligibility requirement to play in Fall 2019?
A: Yes. The requirement is based on the date the test is taken, and specifies the new requirements go into effect for any test taken beginning May 2019. Therefore, a test taken in April 2019 will not yet be subject to the elevated requirement of 20, and instead the student could utilize a score of 18.

Q4: What about students who received a 18 prior to March 2016? Is there an exception for these students?
A: Implementation of the new grading scale for the redesigned SAT occurred beginning with the March 2016 test. The change was not in effect prior to this date. Therefore, the test score minimums that were in place during the previous time period accurately reflect the test score minimums that were approved by NAIA membership. In other words, that is not a basis for an exception.
A: No, there is no requirement that the 1-of-3 criterion (found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2) be met prior to the student’s initial identification. A student could take the ACT or SAT test in the first term, and use this test score to satisfy the 1-of-3 piece of the proposal. In addition, the student would also have to earn 12 hours in that fall term.

Q2: Does a student need a specific GPA to utilize the exception?
A: No. The requirement is that the student must earn 12 hours with a grade of “C” or better. There is no GPA requirement because a student’s performance in any additional hours the student decides to take should not impact his or her ability to satisfy the exception.

Q3: What if a freshman student gets a C in three courses (nine institutional credit hours) at my NAIA school, and a C in one course (three institutional credit hours) at another institution during his first term of attendance. Can he use this exception?
A: Yes. Per NAIA rules, a student who takes nine institutional credit hours at an NAIA school and three institutional credit hours elsewhere in the same term will be considered a term of attendance at the NAIA institution. The legislation simply requires 12 hours need to be earned with a C, but does not require all 12 hours be earned from the NAIA institution.

Q4: Does a student have to maintain continuous identification to use the exception?
A: No. However, a student does have to have earned all 12 institutional credit hours during their first term of attendance. Non-term hours cannot be included to satisfy the 12 hours needed.

Q5: How does this work if a student initially identifies after the fall term (i.e., a student’s first term is the spring semester)? Can the student use this exception?
A: Yes. If a student’s first term of attendance is the spring semester, the student could gain eligibility to compete the subsequent fall semester by earning 12 institutional credit hours with a grade of C during the spring semester, and also satisfying one of the initial eligibility criteria.

Q6: For quarter schools, if a student wishes to compete in a spring sport, do the 12 hours have to be earned in the fall quarter, or in the winter quarter, or a combination of the two?
A: The proposal requires that the hours must be earned in the student’s first term of attendance. If the student identifies in the fall, that means the 12 hours must have been earned in the fall, regardless of whether the student will compete in the winter quarter or in the spring quarter. The rule turns on the student’s first term of attendance, not the term prior to competition.

Q7: How does inter-term impact this legislation? Does it matter whether we attach our inter-term to the fall term, or to the spring term?
A: Inter-term does not impact this legislation, as the legislation requires the hours to be earned within the student’s first term of attendance. How your institution chooses to attach the inter-term matters for purposes of when you certify students, but does not change the fact that this proposal would require the hours to actually be earned within the first term.

Q8: If I transfer after the fall term, can I use this exception at a different NAIA institution from where I went in the fall?
A: No. The proposal requires that the hours must have been earned at the certifying NAIA institution.

19-B-10
Bylaws Amendment #10 – 24/36-Hour Rule – Associate Degree Exception
Current Rule: A student who does not meet the 24/36-Hour Rule can meet an exception if she has graduated with her associate degree within the last year and needed less than 24/36 hours in the last two semesters/three quarters to graduate, and the student has used no more than 5 semester/7 quarter terms of attendance.
Proposed Change: Remove the existing restriction that this exception can only be used by students who have used no more than 5 semester/7 quarter terms of attendance.

Effective Date: May 1, 2019

Submitted By: Athletic Directors Association

Co-sponsored By: National Conduct and Ethics Committee

Q1: Why do the sponsors believe this is warranted?
A: The belief is that it the exception is not utilized nearly as much as it could be, solely because of the terms of attendance (TOA) limitation. Relying on the Eligibility Center experience, over half the students who would otherwise be eligible for the exception are barred because they don’t meet the TOA criteria.

Q2: Should we be concerned that this change would discourage institutions from recruiting students who are ready for the rigors of collegiate coursework?
A: The current language of the exception has appeared in the bylaws largely unchanged since 1988, when it was more common for students to take a traditional, uninterrupted path to graduation without gaps in enrollment or an extended number of terms prior to receiving an associate degree. Now that many students are experiencing a less direct college path, the limitation is serving as a barrier that prohibits these students from competing despite the fact they may well meet the other intents of the exception.

Q3: What constitutes a junior college? If a student receives an associate degree from a four-year institution, could they utilize the exception?
A: In general terms, a junior college is any post-secondary institution holding itself out as a junior college or focused on providing associate degrees and vocational training. These days, many junior colleges do offer four-year degrees in addition to associate degrees. The fact an institution offers a four-year degrees does not inherently prevent it from being considered a junior college. A common determining factor is if the institution sponsors athletics and is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), it will be treated as such under NAIA rules even if it awards bachelor’s degrees.

Q4: I have a prospective student who has earned her associate degree from a junior college, but she only enrolled part-time. She has never enrolled full-time. Would she be able to use this exception, or does she have to be identified at the junior college?
A: She would not be able to utilize this exception, and in fact the 24/36-Hour Rule would not even apply to her. As she has not ever identified at a collegiate institution, under NAIA rules she would meet the definition of an entering freshman and accordingly would have to meet the entering freshman requirements (i.e. 2-of-3 criteria), regardless of how much coursework she’s earned.

Additionally, the rule refers to transfer students coming from a junior college, which is defined in Article V, Section B, Item 21 as a student who has previously been identified at a two- or four-year institution. As such, this student would not be considered a transfer student.

19-B-11

Bylaws Amendment #11 – Repeat Courses

Current Rule: A student who earns a “C” or better in a course and subsequently repeats the course cannot use the retake towards the 24/36-Hour Rule.

Proposed Change: Allow repeat courses to count towards the 24/36-Hour Rule when the student has previously taken the course and earned a “C” or “D” but the student’s major requires a grade of “B.”

Effective Date: May 1, 2019

Submitted By: Heart of America Athletic Conference

Co-sponsored By: Registrars Association

Q1: How does this proposal affect the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule?
A: The exception would permit one repeat course per term to be used towards the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule if
the course was repeated because the student initially earned a “C” or “D” and the student’s major field of study
requires a grade of “B” or higher.

Q2: For a transfer student, is the student’s previous declared major the deciding factor, or is it the
student’s declared major at the NAIA institution?
A: The student’s major at the NAIA institution is what will determine whether the repeat course can be used to
satisfy the 24/36-Hour Enrollment Rule.

Q3: Why is this change necessary?
A: The sponsors of this proposal are concerned with the fact that a student’s major may require that students
pass a given course with a grade of “B” or higher, yet NAIA rules currently prevent that repeat course from
being used to satisfy the 24/36-Hour Rule. The sponsors believe there should be some allowance for these
requirements when academic standards dictate the course be retaken.

Q4: If a student took a course that was repeated a course that was required for a prior declared
major, and then the student switches majors, can the course still while declared with a different
degree, will it still be accepted?
A: The course must be required to be completed with a grade of “C” or better under the student’s declared
major at the time of certification.

Q5: How are students treated who have not declared a major?
A: These students would be unable to utilize the exception.

Q6: Does it matter how much time passes between the student’s initial attempt of the course and
the retake?
A: No. The course can be repeated immediately, or several terms later. The rule applies the same regardless of
how much time passes in the interim.

19-B-12
Bylaws Amendment #12 – Amateur Code – Recognized Awards
Current Rule: A student may receive an award of a person nature in recognition of athletic performance
valued at no more than $500, or multiple such awards within the same event valued at no more than $600
total.
Proposed Change: Increase the maximum value of an amateur award a student-athlete can receive in
recognition of athletic participation from $500 to $1,000 per award, for a combined value of no more than
$1,500 per event (increased from $600).
Effective Date: August 1, 2019
Submitted By: Bowling Coaches Association
Co-sponsored By: Mid-South Conference

Q1: Why do the sponsors believe such an increase is necessary?
A: The maximum dollar limit on NAIA amateur awards has not increased since 1999, so the sponsors believe an
increase is necessary to reflect cost of living increases. Estimates show that college tuition rates have increased
by approximately 150% within that same time period. The sponsors recognize there have also been changes
that have occurred throughout the athletics world with rising entry costs and the increased prevalence of
valuable awards based on place of finish.

Q2: Does this mean a student-athlete (or prospective student-athlete) would be able to accept
cash?
A: No. Cash and cash equivalents (i.e. gift cards) are not considered awards of a personal nature. A student who accepts a cash (or cash equivalent) in recognition of his or her place of finish in an athletic competition will violate the NAIA amateur code.

Q3: How is the value of the awards determined?
A: For many awards of a personal nature, the value could be obvious (e.g. clubhouse credits, scholarships, etc.). For other awards when the value is not immediately obvious (e.g., watch, trophy, golf bag, etc.), the fair market value of the award will be used.

Q4: What does the combined amount of $1,500 mean? And is there any kind of limit on how many awards I can earn as long as the value doesn’t exceed $1,500?
A: The combined value refers to the fact that a student may earn more than one “award of a personal nature” at a single event. The combined value refers to awards of a personal nature at the same event. There is not a maximum limit that applies to multiple events over the course of the season.

For example, assume a student wins a golf tournament and the first place prize is a clubhouse credit. The student also wins the Mr. Congeniality award and is gifted an engraved watch. This proposal would state that the maximum combined value of the clubhouse credit and the watch is $1,500.

Q5: How does this proposal relate to bowling?
A: It is common in bowling events for top finishers to earn SMART Fund scholarships, which can then be applied to college tuition. Additionally, bowling tournaments often recognize additional performance standards, like 300 game, 900 series, 7/10 Split, etc.

The Bowling Coaches Association provided a sampling of bowling tournaments that occur nationwide on a regular basis, showing that it is very common for such tournaments to pay between $50-$2,000 in SMARTFund scholarships for top finishers that can then be used towards college tuition.
Proposed Resolution of the NAIA Membership

19-R-01

NAIA Resolution #1 – Student-Athlete Day Off

Current Rule: Not Applicable

Proposed Change: Resolve that each student-athlete should be given one day off per week from athletically related activities.

Effective Date: XX

Submitted By: Association of Student-Athletes

Co-sponsored By: Council for Student-Athletes, Council of Presidents, Athletic Trainers Association, Athletic Directors Association, Conference Commissioners Association

Q1: What is a resolution, and how does it differ from a constitution or bylaws amendment?

A: A resolution is a non-binding statement of belief. Unlike constitutional or bylaws amendments, it does not become an enforceable part of the NAIA Handbook. Rather, a resolution is a way for the association to identify its beliefs on a particular topic and make a statement to that effect to the greater membership and public at large. As a definitive statement of belief by the membership, resolutions can then help guide future discussion, education and/or decision making.

Q2: There was proposed legislation on this concept in 2018. Why is this coming forward as a resolution this year?

A: A bylaws proposal was discussed at the 2018 convention that mandated each team observe a mandatory day off each week. During the course of the 2018 convention and in the several months thereafter, there was significant discussion across many constituency groups on the topic. It was clear that there was overwhelming support for the concept of students receiving a day off. However, there were challenges in achieving consensus regarding specific components of a legislative proposal, such as restrictions on particular activities or when/how to allow for appropriate flexibility. The sponsors and co-sponsors chose to propose a resolution to ensure that the NAIA is communicating its belief to all students and schools that students need a day off, but allow each institution to determine its own approach to how to institute this belief.

Q3: Will this resolution be added to the handbook?

A: If approved, the final paragraph of the resolution will be included in the Introduction section of the NAIA Handbook, which includes information about the NAIA’s history and philosophy.

Q4: Are “athletically related activities” just talking about conditioning, practices and games?

A: The intention is to recognize that students benefit from a day away from all team activities, including non-physical ones. In addition to needing a physical break for their bodies to rest and recover, research shows students also benefit from mentally and emotionally by having a day free from team obligations.

Q5: My team never plays or practices on Sundays. Could the team still get together for team activities such as a team meetings or team dinners on Sundays?

A: As a resolution, there is no enforcement component to this proposal. That means that while the resolution suggests a day off from all athletically related activities, the resolution will not mandate that your team follows this suggestion. If your institution or team chooses to institute a day off, it will be within your purview to determine how to interpret activities like team meetings or team dinners and whether that is consistent with the spirit of a day off.