

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS – ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS

Intent: To revise the playing and practice season regulations to exempt from contest limitations in each sport competition in one championship tournament among independent institutions, conducted after the end of the regular season and prior to the NCAA championship.

[Note: This proposal is presented in a nontraditional format. Revisions will be made to the appropriate bylaws to reflect the concepts endorsed by this proposal, if adopted. Below, the sport of baseball (representative of all other sports, except fencing and football) is used to illustrate the proposed changes.]

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.4.5.3, Page 137, as follows:

“17.4.5.3 Annual Exemptions. The maximum number of baseball contests shall exclude the following:

- (a) Conference Championship. Competition in one conference championship tournament in baseball or the tournament used to determine the conference’s automatic entry in the NCAA baseball championship;
- (b) Conference Playoff. Competition involving member institutions that tie for a conference baseball championship. Such teams may participate in a single-elimination playoff to determine the conference’s automatic entry in the NCAA baseball championship without the game(s) being counted as a postseason tournament;
- (c) Season-Ending Tournament. Competition in one season-ending baseball tournament (e.g., NCAA championship, NAIA championship, NCCAA championship). A season-ending tournament involves competition after the end of the regular season between teams that are not identified until the close of that regular season;
- (d) NCAA Championship Play-In Competition. Competition in play-in contests conducted pursuant to NCAA championships;
- (e) **Independents Championship. Competition in one championship tournament among independents in baseball, conducted after the end of the regular season and prior to the NCAA championship.**
- (ef) Alumni Game. One baseball contest each year with an alumni team of the institution;
- (fg) Foreign Team in U.S. One baseball contest each year with a foreign opponent in the United States;

- (gh) Fund-Raising Activity. Any baseball activities in which student-athletes from more than one of the institution's athletics teams participate with and against alumni and friends of the institution, the purpose of which is to raise funds for the benefit of the institution's athletics or other programs, provided the student-athletes do not miss classes as a result of their participation; and
- (hi) Celebrity Sports Activity. Competition involving a maximum of two student-athletes from a member institution's baseball team who participate in local celebrity baseball activities conducted for the purpose of raising funds for charitable organizations, provided:
- (1) The student-athlete(s) do not miss classes as a result of the participation;
 - (2) The involvement of the student-athlete(s) has the approval of the institution's athletics director; and
 - (3) The activity takes place within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus.

Source:

Effective Date: Immediately.

Rationale: Current NCAA legislation affords conference members an exemption from contest limitations for participation in conference championships. The current exemption for conference members provides student-athletes at those institutions a culminating postseason competitive experience, regardless of whether they are selected for NCAA championship competition. This proposal would permit a similar exemption and postseason competitive opportunity for student-athletes at "true" independent institutions (i.e., institutions not members of NCAA conferences). Student-athletes at independent institutions should not be precluded from competitive opportunities, nor should institutions be placed at a disadvantage, solely by virtue of their independent status. This opportunity would be well received by administrators, coaches and student-athletes at independent institutions and would significantly enhance the independent student-athlete's experience by having a chance to compete in postseason competition similar to championships conducted among conference members.