Intercollegiate Rowing Association Compliance Memo
Re: Updated Division I Waivers in response to COVID-19

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

To: IRA Institutional Compliance Contacts and Head Coaches

<u>The purpose of this memo is for the IRA membership to be aware that at this time, the IRA will not be taking a more restrictive stance than what is outlined above.</u>

The NCAA Division I Council has voted to provide spring-sport student-athletes an additional season of competition and an extension of their period of eligibility.

The Council's decision allows schools to self-apply waivers to restore one of those seasons of competition for student-athletes who had competed while eligible in the COVID-19-shortened 2020 spring season.

The Council also will allow schools to self-apply a one-year extension of eligibility for spring-sport student-athletes, effectively extending each student's five-year "clock" by a year.

Members also adjusted financial aid rules to allow teams to carry more members on scholarship to account for incoming recruits and student-athletes who had been in their last year of eligibility who decide to stay. In a nod to the financial uncertainty faced by higher education, the Council vote also provided schools with the flexibility to give students the opportunity to return for 2020-21 without requiring that athletics aid be provided at the same level awarded for 2019-20. This flexibility applies only to student-athletes who would have exhausted eligibility in 2019-20.

As always, coaches are encouraged to bring forward questions and concerns regarding the above to their compliance officers. Institutions and conferences may choose to adopt more restrictive policies in response to the above. It is important these conversations continue to be had at the institutional and conference level. The IRA compliance staff will answer questions and concerns from institutional compliance staff. **<u>We will not answer questions directly from coaches.</u>**

The full NCAA article regarding these waivers can be found here.