

Q and A regarding the proposal by the NWCA DII Coaches Association

As you know the DII AdCom recently put out information on granting relief to teams that participate in less than 50% of a season. While that seems to be helpful to team sports, it does not address the individual student athlete that comes back this year and in good faith participates with the expectation of having the opportunity to compete for a regional and national championship only to experience another cancellation.

The NWCA DII Leadership Group feels strongly that in fairness to all the student athletes who are thinking of coming back this year and taking the chance of competing in these uncertain times they deserve to know whether they would be eligible for the waivers necessary to regain a season of eligibility if the season is cancelled at any point along the way due to COVID 19.

Do you agree that any student athlete, in an individual sport, deserves to regain a season of eligibility, if their season is cut short ANY time due to COVID 19. And you support the concept even if there is no change in the GIA limit for the team in the following years. (In all likelihood there will not be additional grant in aid funds to increase the GIA limits)

Questions and Answers

1. Does this mean that a student athlete that does not qualify for the NCAA National Championships during the regionals would be eligible for another year if the championships are cancelled due to COVID 19.

NO. Since the wrestler failed to qualify during the regionals their season would have concluded even if the championships had been held.

2. Can a student athlete not participate in the regionals and therefore get another year back.

NO. Unless the wrestler is not allowed to participate due to COVID 19 the season cannot be recovered.^[JF1] Conditions that would permit another season is any reason that the wrestler cannot compete in the regionals or has qualified for nationals and cannot compete in nationals due to COVID 19.

3. If a wrestler does not compete in the NWCA National Duals can they regain a season of eligibility?

NO. The relieve only applies to cancellation of the season or the regionals or the nationals. If the season is cancelled prior to the regionals and the student athlete has competed in more than 50% of the team dates they would be eligible to regain the season lost.

4. What happens if a wrestler competes in more than 50% of the matches but gets hurt, suspended or dismissed from the team and then nationals are cancelled. Does the wrestler regain the season?

NO. Since the wrestler's season was concluded prior to the cancellation the wrestler would have been charged with a season of competition.

5. If having a wrestler return requires an over award of GIA exceeding the allowable NCAA limit will this be permitted.

NO. The legislation is permissive in granting another season to the student athlete however any award of GIA will need to fit into the NCAA maximums.