Division: I

Proposal Number: 2026-10

Title: RECRUITING -- TRANSFER OUTSIDE OF THE NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES -- INSTITUTIONAL PENALTIES

Status: Adopted Final

Intent: To specify that if an institution does not obtain authorization to contact a four-year college transfer student-athlete through the notification of transfer process and the student-athlete participates in an athletically related activity at the institution signs an institutional financial aid agreement or settlement-related benefits agreement or is added to an institution's submitted roster, the head coach for the sport is prohibited from all coaching, recruiting and administrative duties until after the completion of the equivalent of 50% of the maximum number of contests in the sport's championship segment per Bylaw 17; and the institution is fined 20% of the sport's budget for the most recent fiscal year.

Category: Amendment

Bylaws: Amend 13, as follows:

13 Recruiting

[13.01 unchanged.]

13.02 Definitions and Applications.

[13.02.1 through 13.02.13 unchanged.]

13.02.14 Prospective Student-Athlete. A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's family members or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until:

[13.02.14-(a) through 13.02.14-(d) unchanged.]

[13.02.14.1 unchanged.]

13.02.14.2 Exception -- After Commitment. After an individual has signed the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or a settlement related benefits agreement, or after the institution has received the individual's financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, the individual shall no longer be subject to the recruiting contact restrictions of Bylaw 13.1. The individual remains a prospective student-athlete for purposes of applying the remaining provisions of Bylaw 13 and other bylaws. **Bylaw 13.1.1.4.9 continues to apply to a situation in which the institution does not obtain authorization to contact a four-year college transfer student-athlete through the notification of transfer process as required per Bylaw 13.1.1.4.**

[13.02.15 through 13.02.21 unchanged.]

13.1 Contacts and Evaluations. Recruiting contacts (per Bylaw 13.02.4) and telephone calls by institutional staff members or representatives of the institution's athletics interests are subject to the provisions set forth in this bylaw. [D]

13.1.1 Contactable Individuals.

[13.1.1.1 through 13.1.1.3 unchanged.]

13.1.1.4 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not communicate or make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA Division I institution, or any individual associated with the student-athlete (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly, without

first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process. Before making contact, directly or indirectly, with a student-athlete of an NCAA Division II or Division III institution, or an NAIA four-year collegiate institution, an athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the rule of the applicable division or the NAIA rule for making contact with a student-athlete. [See Bylaw 19.1.3-(f).]

[13.1.1.4.1 through 13.1.1.4.8 unchanged.]

13.1.1.4.9 Transfer Outside of the Notification of Transfer Process and Participation in Athletically Related Activities -- Institutional Penalties. If an institution does not obtain authorization to contact a four-year college transfer student-athlete through the notification of transfer process as required per Bylaw 13.1.1.4 and the student-athlete participates in an athletically related activity at the institution, signs an institutional financial aid agreement or settlement-related benefits agreement or is added to an institution's submitted roster per Bylaw 17.2.1, the following penalties apply:

(a) The head coach for the sport is prohibited from all coaching, recruiting and administrative duties until after the completion of the equivalent of 50% of the maximum number of contests in the sport's championship segment per Bylaw 17; and

(b) The institution is fined 20% of the sport's budget for the most recent fiscal year.

[13.1.2 through 13.1.10 unchanged.]

[13.2 through 13.18 unchanged.]

Source: NCAA Division I Cabinet (Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee)

Effective Date: Immediate; applicable to transfers on or after February 25, 2026.

Topical Area: Recruiting

Rationale: This proposal addresses circumvention of the written notification of transfer process. The integrity of the notification of transfer rules and the transparency provided by the NCAA Transfer Portal are undermined when an institution does not obtain authorization to contact a four-year college transfer student-athlete through the notification of transfer process as required per Bylaw 13.1.1.4 and the student-athlete participates in an athletically related activity at the institution, signs an institutional financial aid agreement or settlement-related benefits agreement or is added to an institution's submitted roster.

Estimated Budget Impact: None.

Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics): None.

History:

Feb 25, 2026	In Progress	Introduced by the Football Bowl Subdivision Oversight Committee. The committee recommends that the Cabinet adopt the proposal as emergency legislation.
Feb 27, 2026	In Progress	The Cabinet amended the proposal to apply to all sports.
Apr 1, 2026	In Progress	The Cabinet amended the proposal to include the following additional triggers for the institutional penalties to apply: a student-athlete signs an institutional financial aid agreement or settlement-related benefits agreement or is added to an institution's submitted roster.
Apr 1, 2026	Adopted Final	The Cabinet adopted the proposal as emergency legislation.

Legislative References

Legislative Cite	Title
13	Recruiting
13.02	Definitions and Applications.
13.02.14	Prospective Student-Athlete.
13.02.14.2	Exception -- After Commitment.
13.1	Contacts and Evaluations.
13.1.1	Contactable Individuals.
13.1.1.4	Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes.
13.1.1.4.9	Transfer Outside of the Notification of Transfer Process -- Institutional Penalties.

Student-Athlete Success/Well-Being:

Enforceable and Merits Outweigh Monitoring Burdens:

Consequential or Nationally Significant:

Division I Commitment:
