Title: PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- GENERAL PLAYING-SEASON REGULATIONS -- GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR COMPUTING PLAYING SEASONS APPLICABLE TO ALL SPORTS -- NON-NCAA POSTSEASON CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPATION -- SWIMMING AND DIVING

Intent: In swimming and diving, to specify that practice and competition for the College Swimming Coaches Association of America National Invitational shall be exempt from the institution's declared playing and practice season limitations; further, to specify that the College Swimming Coaches Association of America National Invitational shall be an annual exemption from the maximum dates of competition limitations.

A. Bylaws: Amend 17.1.8, as follows:

17.1.8 General Regulations for Computing Playing Seasons Applicable to All Sports.

(f) Non-NCAA Postseason Championships Participation. Practice and/or competition in non-NCAA (or non-NAIA) postseason championships (e.g., an invitational tournament scheduled after a conference championship) must be counted against the institution's declared playing-season limitation, except that practice and competition for one postseason championship in each non-NCAA championship sport used for sports sponsorship purposes pursuant to Bylaw 20.9.6.1, practice and competition for one recognized national intercollegiate championship event in an emerging sport for women pursuant to Bylaw 20.02.4 and practice and competition for the National Invitational Softball Championship, the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) Women's Lightweight Rowing Championship, the National Invitational Volleyball Championship, College Swimming Coaches Association of America National Invitational and the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship are exempt from the institution's declared playing-season limitations in those sports.

Source: Mountain West Conference

Effective Date: August 1, 2017

Category: Amendment

Topical Area: Playing and Practice Seasons

Rationale: Currently, the CSCAA Invitational must be counted within the declared playing season and participation in the meet must be counted against institutional and individual dates of competition. The CSCAA Invitational has provided an opportunity for student-athletes who achieved the NCAA B time standard, but did not qualify for the NCAA championships, to compete in a highly competitive post-season meet. Since institutions must currently include CSCAA National Invitational within their playing seasons, there is a concern that the meet will cease to exist due to the application of current playing seasons. Currently, institutions are also required to withhold a date of competition in order to send qualifying student-athletes to the CSCAA National Invitational. Over the past several years, the number of NCAA men and women swimming and diving student-athletes who achieved NCAA B time standards, but did not qualify for the NCAA championships has been significant. The inclusion of the CSCAA Invitational as an exempted event will support the effort to
enhance the student-athlete experience and promote their achievements by providing greater postseason access.

**Budget Impact:** Costs for additional student-athletes to participate in a championship event.

**Time Impact:** Could extend the overall season for involved student-athletes, but similar to those athletes competing in the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

**History:**

Aug 31, 2016  Submitted to National Office

Sep 29, 2016  Comment/Sponsor Modification Period

**Legislative References**

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