

February 6, 2026 – Eligibility Committee Meeting @ 1pm EST

1. Call to Order:

Rob Chaney, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM EST on February 6, 2026.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Rob Chaney, Vice-Chair: Troy Larson (2024), Division I Reps: Deron Clark (2023), Jeff Willis (2024); Division II Reps: Brian Anweiler (2024), Christina Hundley (2024); Division III Reps: Kristen Schuth (2024), Mike Belfiore (2025); PAC Rep: Dr. Tom Huebner Aspiring Leaders: Dane Vos, Bryan Nobile

Absent: Senior Men's Director: Dean Myrick; Senior Women's Director: Mary Young

NJCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance: Wanda Bodey

Other NJCAA Staff Members in Attendance: Carly Pitts, Bobby Alexander, Tyler Broderick, Jeff White

3. Approval of Agenda: Rob Chaney approves starting the agenda breakdown at 1:02 PM EST

4. NJCAA National Office Updates

Bobby drops the new data that came out for February and the new compliance video in the chat. Also brings up the new fan misconduct policy. Jeff White adds a few governance relation updates.

5. Tiered Sanctions Committee Update

Nothing new for tiered sanctions at that time.

6. Discussion Items

a. Draft proposal for Article V, Section 2.B (Entrance Eligibility)

Rob Chaney starts the discussion on entrance eligibility. He would like to see the pullback on the use of registrar letters to meet eligibility requirements. It can create some imbalance and not everyone is aware of the process.

Rob brings up the proposal and breaks it down. Rob supplements with the NCAA high school portal tool that is used by the NCAA to determine which high schools they will accept a transcript from.

Jeff White calls on Bobby to share the 3C2A does not enforce entrance eligibility. The student-athlete simply needs to be admitted.

Jeff Willis adds that a lot of the membership is open enrollment or admits students. Adds that it can be stringent and limits some individuals. Jeff White enforces the idea as athletics is an engagement or enrollment booster.

Rob Chaney shares that athletics is a privilege and that there should be a standard in place. Jeff Willis counters that there are safeguards for this with eligibility requirements once they start classes.

Jeff Willis asks if anyone has had a student-athlete they haven't been able to let play because of a high school transcript. No one in the group has had that occur and believe it is a small percentage of student-athletes.

Wanda brings up former rules that student-athletes could become eligible by passing 12 credits in one full time term.

Jeff White believes that challenging illegitimacy or quality of education is not a path that the NJCAA wants to go down. The NJCAA wants to start opportunities and student-athletes will need to keep the privilege through academic eligibility.

Rob Chaney thinks that open enrollment is not a constant across all schools.

Jeff Willis adds that the amount of work that is being used is just to limit a few students.

Deron adds the challenge of verification of international documentation as it is an ongoing issue.

Troy Larson adds that determining legitimacy is difficult and says that the majority of the international student-athletes bring a lot of good to campuses and at his school most of them are not receiving full scholarships.

Rob asks if international transcripts should be required. Jeff Willis says that it would be a legal issue if domestic transcripts are not required but required international documentation.

Christina asks if this will open the floodgates for international students and the cases of fraudulent documents. Troy Larson adds that there is a score for international students to ensure that the student athletes can be successful. Presidents do not want to have student-athletes that do not successfully graduate.

Dane asks if there are unintended consequences with not having the graduation date which would not require insight on gap years and other years where a student-athlete may have enrolled at another institution.

Rob believes that this could potentially be a scholarship vs non-scholarship topic and that there are a lot of academies that have students being taken advantage of while those students could be on members campuses. Troy Larson adds it might not be a scholarship vs non-scholarship issue as his school is a scholarship school that utilizes athletics for enrollment.

Deron asks if removing this leads to student-athletes withdrawing in fall sports or becoming ineligible. Also adds that it could be an avenue to increase women's sports numbers. Deron also asks if there is a chance it can be circulated to see if there is a larger support than just the committee.

Rob adds that they will start with the committee and then strategically ask members.

Christina adds that it should stick to the process and maybe work into the PAC to receive input.

- b. Request from Indoor Track & Field re: Article V, Section 2.C.2.b. (Enrollment Requirement for Two-Term Sports)

Rob starts the discussion about Indoor Track to not be considered a two-term sport as most teams start competitions during the end of the fall term.

Deron brings up findings from the track committee that it can cause issues as transfers that have already participated and used a season of eligibility. The committee is also going to bring up a proposal for scrimmages in track.

Rob adds that there are only 16 teams that participated in fall events for track & field events.

Christina adds that it is not a season issue but rather a calendar issue and that her school submits spring eligibility as they start beyond the fall term.

Rob confirms that it is considered a spring sport if the first meet is following the fall term. Adds the difficulty of scheduling a scrimmage by meeting the scrimmage definition.

Wanda adds that scrimmages are already allowed if they all agree to the scrimmage rules.

Rob thinks that this would be a bad precedent to create a sport specific exception on an eligibility bylaw where other sports will want exceptions.

Deron agrees that with 16 teams it may not be worth changing the rule and will disrupt more than it is intended.

- c. Proposal received from membership: Article V, Section 5.A.6 (Prep Schools/Post Grad/Academy)

Rob gives Mike the floor as he is the one that submitted the proposal. Mike explains the proposal as the current landscape prep schools become a good option for student-athletes to try and receive scholarship offers.

Rob brings up that Michelle says the NCAA does not directly address prep schools but includes something in their delayed enrollment section.

Christina believes that this is a scholarship vs non-scholarship proposal.

Brian Anweiler asks about the wording of the proposal and what the change is as he is reading the wording.

Kristen asks Christina what the issue is for scholarship schools because from a non-scholarship perspective it would provide more opportunity.

Christina adds that it is because of the age and the difficulty of tracking the prep schools that the student-athletes go to.

Rob says he will touch base with Michelle regarding the bylaw and goes into Kristen submitting some proposals for non-scholarship that will be vetted by the non-scholarship subcommittee.

- d. Draft proposal for Article VII, Section 1.B (Multi-Sport Participants/LOI counter rule)

Wanda brings up the proposal for multi-sport athletes to count for a LOI in both sports if they are receiving aid. The current bylaw does not specifically say they need LOI's signed. Jeff White brings up the example of NWAC dual members with the NJCAA and if they should have LOI's signed.

Rob still believes the way the proposal reads it can be interpreted that an LOI will need to be signed in both sports. Wanda and Dane agree that the wording will need to be added.

Jeff White reiterates that if a scholarship is received and is to count against both sports an LOI is implicitly required.

- e. Open dialogue on multi-Campus Colleges

Wanda brings up conversation on multi-campus colleges where student-athletes enroll in all 12 credits at another campus in the same umbrella since the college of participation doesn't have the class and they may take it online at the general college.

Kristen asks what about larger statewide systems such as SUNY, would it be allowable to utilize the multi-campus rules.

The group asks Wanda if the current exception process is increasing due to situations like this. Wanda confirms that it has been increasing.

The group outlines the possible advantages with the multi-campus members but understand the reasoning to be able to have multiple athletic programs. The group concludes that it is deeply rooted in membership and may be something to have the membership committee look at.

7. Good of the Order

8. Next Meeting: Friday, March 6, 1 PM EST

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Rob Chaney at 4:01 pm EST.