

NCAA Division I  
Interpretations  
Philosophy

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Overview

- Background.
- Data.
- Feedback.
- Case Studies.
- NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief (CLR).

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Background

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# Background

- Aligns with the NCAA Working Group on Collegiate Model - Rules initiative from 2011.
- Developed collaboratively by academic and membership affairs, enforcement, Collegiate Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators (CCACA) and National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC).
- Goal is to develop shared responsibility by increasing local decision making.
- Minimize burdensome procedures and improper outcomes.

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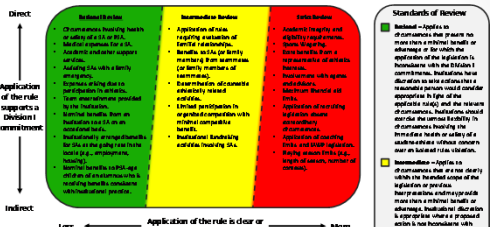
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## Application of the NCAA Division I Interpretations Philosophy



- The following questions may help to determine whether rule-based discretion is appropriate, regardless of the application of the rule. These questions do not represent an exhaustive list and the rule is not intended to suggest a hierarchy of importance.
1. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete at risk?
  2. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family?
  3. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family members?
  4. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family members?
  5. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family members?
  6. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family members?
  7. Is there an immediate health or safety of an athlete's family members?

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# Background

- Institutions and conferences are encouraged to apply philosophy as appropriate.
  - Situations involving the immediate health or safety of a PSA, SA and/or his or her family members.
- Academic and membership affairs staff can provide guidance when requested via Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO).
- NCAA Division I bylaw teams review waiver submissions.
- Student-Athlete Reinstatement (SAR) and secondary enforcement flag cases for academic and membership affairs interpretations team review.

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Data

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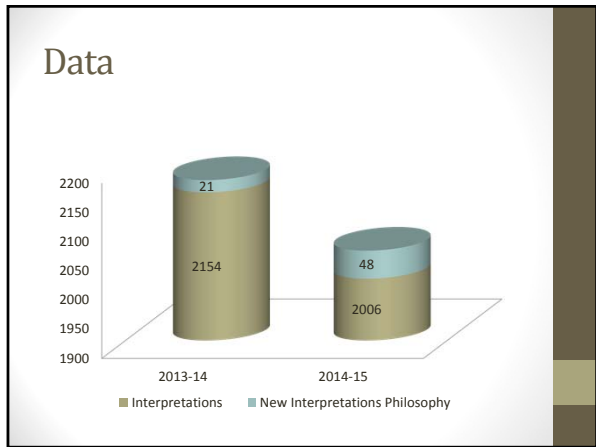
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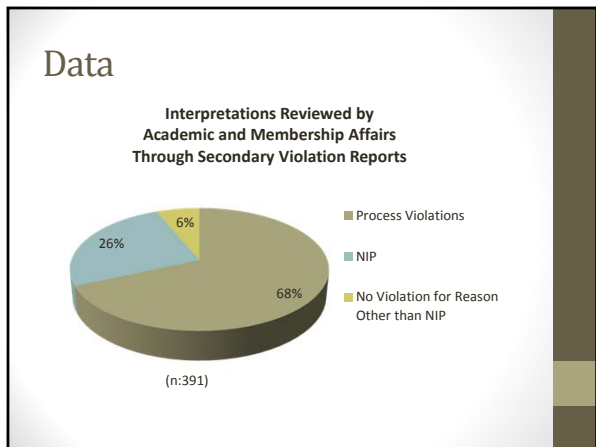
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Feedback

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When reviewing interpretative issues on my campus, I regularly consider the new interpretations philosophy.

1. Yes.
2. No.



Option	Percentage
1	0%
2	0%

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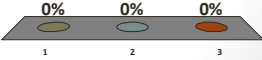
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Have you applied the new interpretations philosophy on your campus?

1. Yes, within the last 6 months.
2. Yes, within the last 30 days.
3. No.



Option	Percentage
1	0%
2	0%
3	0%

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The new interpretations philosophy is most easy to apply with the following bylaw:

- 1. NCAA Division I Bylaw 11. 0%
- 2. Bylaw 12. 0%
- 3. Bylaw 13. 0%
- 4. Bylaw 14. 0%
- 5. Bylaw 15. 0%
- 6. Bylaw 16. 0%
- 7. Bylaw 17. 0%
- 8. Bylaw 20. 0%

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The new interpretations philosophy is most difficult to apply with the following bylaw:

- 1. Bylaw 11. 0%
- 2. Bylaw 12. 0%
- 3. Bylaw 13. 0%
- 4. Bylaw 14. 0%
- 5. Bylaw 15. 0%
- 6. Bylaw 16. 0%
- 7. Bylaw 17. 0%
- 8. Bylaw 20. 0%

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I apply the new interpretations philosophy most frequently with the following bylaw:

- 1. Bylaw 11. 0%
- 2. Bylaw 12. 0%
- 3. Bylaw 13. 0%
- 4. Bylaw 14. 0%
- 5. Bylaw 15. 0%
- 6. Bylaw 16. 0%
- 7. Bylaw 17. 0%
- 8. Bylaw 20. 0%

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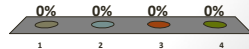
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When I am uncertain as to whether to apply the new interpretations philosophy in a particular situation, I most frequently:

1. Submit a request in RSRO.
2. Contact my conference office.
3. Contact other colleagues in the membership.
4. Do not apply the philosophy.



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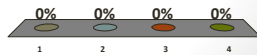
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When applying the interpretations philosophy I use the following resources:

1. September 15, 2014, NCAA educational column.
2. Spectrum of cases (red, yellow, green)
3. Both the educational column and the spectrum.
4. None of the above.



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Case Studies

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### NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.6.4.1 – Length of an Official Visit

- During a PSA's official visit, PSA's mother reschedules departing flight due to family member's illness.
- PSA and her mother depart campus within the 48-hour limit and drive to a nearby city to visit her critically ill grandmother.
- Later the same day and outside of the 48-hour period, PSA and her mother return to the locale of the institution to fly home.

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Would your institution apply the interpretations philosophy to provide expenses for the PSA's flight home?

1. Yes
2. No



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### Academic and Membership Affairs Response and Rationale

- Applied the philosophy to permit institution to provide return transportation expenses to PSA.
- The reason for the delay was not associated with any recruiting initiative.
- The circumstances involved the immediate health of the PSA's family member.

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### Bylaw 13.6.7.1.1 – Meals and Lodging While in Transit

- PSA planned to arrive in locale of institution night prior to start of official visit and receive lodging expenses.
- PSA's parents were traveling separately and planned to meet PSA at hotel night prior to visit.
- PSA's connecting flight to locale of institution was cancelled due to weather.
- PSA's parents arrived on time and stayed at the hotel.

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Would your institution apply the interpretations philosophy to permit PSA's parents to receive lodging expenses?

1. Yes.
2. No.



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### Academic and Membership Affairs Response and Rationale

- Applied the philosophy to permit PSA's parents to receive lodging expenses on the night prior to the start of the official visit.
- If not for weather and PSA's flight cancellation, institution could have paid for the hotel room for PSA.
- There was no intent to provide a recruiting advantage.
- The action is an isolated occurrence.

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### Bylaw 16.6.1 – Expenses for Student-Athlete’s Friends and Family Members

- SA’s father flew to an away contest and stayed at the team hotel. Flight and hotel reservation arranged and paid for by the father.
- SA’s father did not rent a car during the trip and relied on other modes of transportation.
- SA’s father used hotel shuttle to get to the contest which began at 8:30 p.m.
- After the game, and at approximately 11 p.m., SA’s father could not find return transportation to the hotel, which was approximately two miles away.

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Would your institution apply the interpretations philosophy to permit the SA’s father to ride the team bus back to the hotel?

1. Yes
2. No



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### Academic and Membership Affairs Response and Rationale

- Applied the philosophy to permit the institution to provide the SA’s father to ride the team bus from the contest to the team hotel.
- The transportation is related to the immediate safety and well-being of the SA’s father.
- The action is an isolated occurrence.
- The provision of transportation is a nominal benefit.

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### Summary

- Interpretations philosophy cases are different than flexible interpretations.
  - Staff continues to issue confirmations and determinations that may provide flexibility.
- Generally, philosophy cases are:
  - Not intended to be applied broadly; and
  - Interpretive analysis is not complex because legislation is clear.
- Analysis is whether the legislation is intended to apply to fact scenario presented.

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### CLR Waivers and Interpretations Philosophy

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### Fact Scenario

- Head coach invited to attend former SA's wedding.
- Former SA played for head coach and has maintained 10+ year relationship.
- Former SA's brother is a PSA who is being recruited by head coach.
- PSA will be in attendance at wedding.
- Wedding occurs during quiet period.
- Head coach would like to attend and provide wedding gift to former SA.

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Would your institution submit the fact scenario as a CLR waiver request or apply the interpretations philosophy?

1. CLR Waiver
2. Interpretations Philosophy



Option	Percentage
1. CLR Waiver	0%
2. Interpretations Philosophy	0%

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### Academic and Membership Affairs Response and Rationale

- Apply interpretations philosophy to permit:
  - Incidental contact between PSA and head coach; and
  - Provision of wedding gift to former SA by head coach.
- The purpose of the event is not associated with any recruiting initiative.
- Neither recruiting conversations nor activities will occur.
- Presence of PSA is not being initiated or coordinated by the institution.
- Activity is an isolated incident.

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### Summary

- May consider application of interpretations philosophy instead of waiver submission when:
  - Very specific fact scenario; and
  - Analysis results in a permissible response without any conditions.

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