NCAA Board of Governors’ Action on Report of Federal and State Legislation Working Group

After receipt, review and adoption of the report and recommendations provided by the Federal and State Legislation Working Group and student-athletes, it was voted by the Board of Governors that:

“It is the policy of the Association that NCAA member schools may permit students participating in athletics the opportunity to benefit from the use of their name, image and/or likeness in a manner consistent with the values and beliefs of intercollegiate athletics. To effectuate this change, the Board of Governors directs each of the three Divisions to immediately begin considering modification and modernization of relevant NCAA bylaws and rules in harmony with the following principles and guidelines:

- Assure student-athletes are treated similarly to non-athlete students unless a compelling reason exists to differentiate.
- Maintain the priorities of education and the collegiate experience to provide opportunities for student-athlete success.
- Ensure rules are transparent, focused and enforceable and facilitate fair and balanced competition.
- Make clear the distinction between collegiate and professional opportunities.
- Make clear that compensation for athletics performance or participation is impermissible.
- Reaffirm that student-athletes are students first and not employees of the university.
- Enhance principles of diversity, inclusion and gender equity.
- Protect the recruiting environment and prohibit inducements to select, remain at, or transfer to a specific institution.

The federal and state working group will continue to gather feedback from the membership and its student-athletes through April 2020 on how best to respond to the state and federal legislative environment and refine its recommendations on the Association-wide principles and regulatory framework. The working group will periodically report its progress to the Board of Governors including at its January and April 2020 meetings and provide regular public briefings about its progress. Further, gathering as much feedback and information as necessary through a process that is inclusive and transparent, divisions shall work to create new NCAA bylaws reflecting divisional priorities on a timeline most appropriate for those authorized to legislate, commencing immediately and concluding not later than January 2021.

These guidelines, principles and potential changes will form the basis for those continued conversations and engagement with state and federal lawmakers around enacted, introduced and proposed legislation on name, image and likeness. Further, the Board directs the NCAA leadership to develop and advance a comprehensive plan to prepare the membership to collaborate with legislators on important issues in college sports.

Lastly, the Board reaffirms its commitment to the college model of athletics in America. We – our schools, conferences, and the NCAA national governance boards – exist for the purpose of providing for the well-being of the over 500,000 student-athletes and will continue to advocate for them. This has been exhibited through benefits such as $3.5 billion in scholarships annually; degree-completion programs; enhanced nutrition and wellness; academic assistance; and much more. Let us continue to
work together to advocate and provide for the best interests of the student-athlete, working with them, on our campuses and nationally.”