

UPDATED JULY 10, 2017 - Division II 2017 Football Preseason Information

During the April NCAA Division II Presidents Council and Management Council meetings, the Councils approved [emergency legislation](#), which is effective immediately, to specify that in football, an institution may not conduct multiple on-field practice sessions on the same day. This change aligns the division with new health and safety recommendations endorsed by the NCAA Sport Science Institute (SSI) and leading scientific and sports medicine organizations.

While approving the emergency legislation, the Councils expressed a desire for more details around the appropriate activities that coaches could hold on the same day as a preseason practice, such as weightlifting, and days off. Therefore, the Councils referred this issue to the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) and the SSI and asked both groups to bring back clarifications on these activities.

In May, CSMAS and the Division II Committee for Legislative Relief acted on the following:

- Approved a blanket waiver to permit Division II football to begin preseason practice for the 2017 football season August 7, 2017, or 10 days before the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier. The blanket waiver also permits the use of a football during walk-throughs after the five-day acclimatization period. Please reference [the chart](#) that provides an additional illustration of the application of this part of the blanket waiver.
- Guidelines for additional activities that may occur on a day in which an on-field practice session occurs following the five-day acclimatization period.
- Guidelines for what may and may not occur on the no football practice day in the preseason.

On June 21, 2017, the NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief approved a [second blanket waiver](#) for the fall 2017 preseason to permit NCAA Division II football teams to participate in film review and team meetings during the three-hour recovery period. As a result of the second blanket waiver, an updated [question and answer document](#) has been created to assist the Division II membership in its understanding of the application of the emergency legislation, the approved blanket waivers and the additional guidance provided by CSMAS.

In addition, the NCAA staff has collaborated with the Division II Football Coaches Connection to develop [sample permissible schedules](#) to assist institutions in planning for the fall.

Please reference the [CSMAS's position on current football preseason issues](#) for additional information.

Information regarding blanket waivers can be found on the [Committee for Legislative Relief website](#) and information on the year-round football practice contact recommendation can be found on the [Sports Science Institute's page](#)