

Rule 6

INTERPRETIVE POLICIES

6.1 Interpretations. Interpretations of any rule or provision of the Handbook may be requested by any member institution's chief executive officer, director of athletics, senior woman administrator, faculty athletics representative, compliance coordinator or the Conference Commissioner. Interpretations shall include a determination of applicability of a rule to an actual or hypothetical situation. All authorized institutional representatives must seek interpretations in all cases for which they are in doubt.

6.1.1 Verbal Requests. The Commissioner (or designee) shall make verbal interpretations in response to verbal requests for interpretation. In response to a verbal request, the Commissioner may require that the request be submitted in writing.

6.1.2 Written Requests. The following procedures must be followed when written requests are received by the Conference office.

6.1.2.1 Requests Initiated by the Commissioner. If the Commissioner (or designee) determines that a ruling or provision of the Handbook needs clarification, he or she may make written explanation for the need for the clarification on his or her own initiative. It will then be handled as any other written request.

6.1.2.2 Requests Initiated by an Institution. Written requests initiated by member institutions shall be signed by either the chief executive officer, director of athletics, senior woman administrator, faculty athletics representative or compliance coordinator.

6.1.2.3 Responses to Written Requests. Within five working days of receipt of a written request, the Commissioner (or designee) shall issue a written response. A copy of both the request and response shall be sent to all member institutions. A copy will be retained in the Conference office to be available upon request.

6.2 Appeals of Interpretations and Rulings.

6.2.1 Appeal of the Commissioner's Interpretation or Ruling. Appeals of interpretations or rulings made by the Commissioner (or designee) may be made in the following situations.

a. For matters of student-athlete eligibility, the Commissioner's (or designee's) rulings and interpretations may be appealed. The appeal must be presented in writing to the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group within five working days of receipt of the written interpretation or ruling. The appeal must include the original written request and the Commissioner's (or designee's) response and must be forwarded to the chair of the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group. The committee shall meet either by telephone conference or in person, and issue a written ruling on the appeal within 30 days. (Revised April 2006)

b. For other rules and interpretations, the Commissioner's (or designee's) rulings and interpretations may be appealed in writing to the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group within five working days of receipt of the written interpretation or ruling. The appeal must include the original written request and the Commissioner's (or designee's) response and must be forwarded to the chair of the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group. The group shall meet either by telephone conference or in person, and issue a written ruling on the appeal within 30 days. (Revised April 2006)

- c. The ruling of the Commissioner (or designee) shall stand until such time as the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group has ruled on the appeal. (Revised April 2006)
- d. The decision of the faculty athletics representatives' designated governance group shall become effective immediately and shall not be retroactive. If, however, an institution appeals the decision of the group, the decision of the Commissioner shall stand until such time as the Joint Council renders a decision on the matter. (Revised April 2006)

6.2.2 Appeal of Committee Decisions. The following procedures must be followed when appealing the decision of a designated governance group. (Revised April 2006)

- a. Appeal of a governance group decision may be made to the Joint Council. The appeal must be in writing and received by the Joint Council within five working days of receipt of the governance group's decision. The appeal must include the original request, the Commissioner's (or designee's) response, the appeal to the governance group, and the group's decision. This information shall be forwarded to the chair of the Joint Council for consideration at its next meeting or conference call. All members of the Joint Council shall receive all information related to the appeal, prior to the next meeting or conference call of the Joint Council. (Revised April 2006)
- b. No representative of an appellant institution may vote on the appeal.
- c. Votes shall be by secret ballot. A majority vote of those present is required for each finding.
- d. The decision of the Joint Council shall become effective immediately or at a time specified by the Joint Council. The decision shall not be retroactive.