

# THE BAYLOR BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the Office of Athletics Compliance

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## Division I upholds texting ban, baseball rules

Attempts to allow text messaging of prospective student-athletes, delete scholarship minimums for baseball student-athletes and expand squad-size limits for baseball teams failed during the Division I business session January 12. However, the membership did override a proposal regarding the dates of competition in men's and women's golf.

The lopsided vote on the text-messaging rule - only 21.3 percent supported the override was foretold by the assembly's initial refusal to move the proposal. Even once the override was on the floor for consideration, Kerry Kenny, vice chair of the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, persuasively reiterated the student-athletes' position that text messaging between prospective student-athletes and coaches was intrusive, unprofessional and expensive.

"We believe that text messaging and instant messaging are both highly unprofessional in the recruiting process," Kenny said. "You wouldn't use text messaging to contact an employer when searching for a job, and it's unlikely that an employer would contact you with a text message to offer you the job."

Momentum for the text-ban override dwindled even before the vote when Big East Associate Commissioner Joe D'Antonio announced the league would withdraw its proposal to add instant messaging to the list of approved communications with recruits.

The baseball rule was part of a package developed by a working group and approved as emergency legislation by the Board in April. The first part of the proposal requires individual aid packages for student-athletes to include a minimum of 25 percent athletics aid. The second portion capped the squad size at 35.

Before the override vote, the legislation was split at the request of a delegate, and several presidents and others spoke in favor of both parts. Ron Wellman, athletics director at Wake Forest and chair of the Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group that developed the baseball package, pointed out the connection between the minimum aid piece up for a vote and the elimination of the one-time transfer exception.

"We proposed the transfer rule be eliminated for baseball players so they would be required to have a year of residency. To have that expectation of baseball players when they are on a minimal amount of aid and we can cite example after example of baseball players on a books scholarship - to ask them to make that type of commitment to the institution without the institution making a reciprocal commitment to the baseball player seems very unfair to our committee," Wellman said. "We believe it is a student-athlete well-being issue."

Hartford President Walter Harrison and Georgia President Michael Adams both supported the rule as well, indicating that the legislative process in place for Division I worked exactly as intended.

Only 30.3 percent of those present and voting wanted to override the minimum financial aid requirement, while 24.5 percent wanted to eliminate the squad-size limit.

The proposals will take effect in August.

About two-thirds of the membership present voted to override the proposal that would provide for nine three-day tournaments (with 54 holes per tournament) or 24 dates of competition in golf. There was no discussion on the motion.

HAVE A SUGGESTION OR AN ARTICLE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN A FUTURE **BAYLOR BULLETIN** SEND AN EMAIL TO :

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### Roster Revisions

Please notify the Compliance Office if a student-athlete has left your program and they are still noted as an active student-athlete on the most recent edition of the Eligibility Roster that was emailed to each program.