

**AN ACT REQUIRING FULL DISCLOSURE TO PROSPECTIVE ATHLETES  
BEING RECRUITED TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Athletic program" means any intercollegiate athletic program of an institution of higher education in this state that recruits student athletes by soliciting them to apply to, enroll in or attend such institution for purposes of participating in intercollegiate sporting programs, events, contests or exhibitions at such institution.

(2) "NCAA" means the National Collegiate Athletic Association or its successor.

(3) "Student athlete" means an individual who attends an elementary, middle or secondary school program of education or an institution of higher education and participates in any interscholastic athletic program in this state, whether or not such individual receives scholarship funds for such individual's athletic participation.

(b) Commencing January 1, 2012, an institution of higher education that offers athletic scholarships shall provide a hyperlink entitled "Student Athletes' Right to Know" on the front page of its official athletic Internet web site, which shall be linked to a web page containing all of the following information:

**(1) Athletic scholarship information, including, but not limited to:**

**(A) The most recent cost of attendance expenses as published by the institution of higher education's financial aid office for the academic year and for the summer school session.**

2011-2012 Cost of Attendance as defined in NCAA Bylaw 15.02.2 for the University of Connecticut

[http://financialaid.uconn.edu/index.php/Estimated\\_Cost\\_of\\_Attendance#Undergraduate.2C\\_Storrs\\_Campus](http://financialaid.uconn.edu/index.php/Estimated_Cost_of_Attendance#Undergraduate.2C_Storrs_Campus)

**(B) The sum of expenses identified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision that are prohibited from inclusion in a full grant-in-aid athletic scholarship pursuant to the NCAA's rules and regulations.**

\$3500 - \$450 (books) - \$1000 (transportation) - \$1650 (miscellaneous) = \$3100 cannot be included in the value of a full athletics grant-in-aid. Bylaw 15.02.5 Full Grant-in-Aid defines a full athletics grant-in-aid as financial aid that consists of tuition and fees, room and board, and required course-related books.

**(C) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding whether student athletes will receive athletic scholarships for summer school sessions, and, if so, whether such scholarships are proportional to athletic scholarships received during the regular academic year.**

Athletics aid for Intersession and Summer School is upon recommendation of the CPIA counselor and head coach, and must be approved by the Director of Athletics.

Pursuant to Bylaw 15.2.8.1.2 *Enrolled Student-Athletes*, after initial full-time enrollment during a regular academic year, a student-athlete shall not receive athletically related financial aid to attend the certifying institution's summer term or summer school unless the student-athlete received such athletically related aid from the certifying institution during the student-athlete's previous academic year at that institution. Further, such aid may be awarded only in proportion to the amount of athletically related financial aid received by the student-athlete during the student-athlete's previous academic year at the certifying institution, except that this proportionality restriction shall not apply to a student-athlete who has exhausted his or her eligibility and is enrolled in a summer program of studies that will permit the student-athlete to complete his or her degree requirements.

**(D) The full grant-in-aid athletic scholarship payment received by all student athletes who live on campus during the academic year and off campus during summer school session.**

Pursuant to approval by the Director of Athletics, a student-athlete who received athletically related financial aid during the academic year would be permitted to receive athletically related financial aid for the summer term in proportion to the amount of athletics aid the student-athlete received during the previous academic year at the certifying institution.

**(E) The following information relating to NCAA scholarship rules: (i) A verbal commitment is not binding on either the student athlete or the institution; (ii) the National Letter of Intent is a binding agreement between a prospective student athlete and an institution of higher education in which the institution agrees to provide a prospective student athlete, who is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules, athletics aid for one academic year in exchange for the prospective student athlete's agreement**

to attend the institution for one academic year; (iii) the National Letter of Intent must be accompanied by an institutional financial aid agreement; and (iv) if the prospective student athlete signs the National Letter of Intent but does not enroll at that institution for a full academic year, such student athlete may be subject to specific penalties, including loss of a season of eligibility and a mandatory residence requirement.

**(F) The policy of the institution of higher education regarding whether or not such institution may choose to sign more recruited student athletes than it has available athletic scholarships and the consequences to the athletic scholarship opportunities of recruited and current student athletes in such situations.**

Bylaw 15.5.1.10 *Offers Exceeding Maximum Allowable Awards* states that an institution may offer more than the maximum number of permissible awards in a sport in anticipation that not all of the offers will be accepted, but the institution shall not exceed the awards limitation in the sport in question. Consequently, the institution, at its discretion, may sign more recruited student-athletes than it has available athletic scholarships.

Further, Bylaw 15.5.1.10.1 *Limitation on Number of National Letter of Intent/Offer of Financial Aid Signings – Bowl Subdivision Football* states that in bowl subdivision football, there shall be an annual limit of 28 on the number of prospective student-athletes who may sign a National Letter of Intent or an institutional offer of financial aid from the initial signing date of the regular signing period of the National Letter of Intent through May 31.

If the number of signed National Letter of Intent or financial aid offers exceeds the number of available or permissible scholarships per NCAA legislation, the Director of Athletics, Sport Administrator, Compliance and Head Coach will meet to review the situation and determine how to proceed in the best interest of the student-athlete and institution.

**(2) Athletic scholarship renewal information, including, but not limited to:**

**(A) The NCAA's policy regarding scholarship duration.**

Bylaw 15.02.7 *Period of Award* states that the period of award begins when the student-athlete receives any benefits as a part of the student's grant-in-aid on the first day of classes for a particular academic term, or the first day of practice, whichever is earlier, until the conclusion of the period set forth in the financial aid agreement. Effective August 1, 2012, at the institution's discretion, an athletics grant-in-aid may be awarded in excess of one academic year.

**(B) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program concerning the renewal or nonrenewal of an athletic scholarship, including circumstances in which a student athlete in good standing suffers a temporary or permanent sports-related injury, there is a change in coaching, or a student athlete's athletic performance is deemed to be below expectations.**

Under normal circumstances, renewal of aid for subsequent years is customary. Additionally, an athletics grant-in-aid may be awarded in excess of one academic year; thus the aid would not need to be renewed during the duration of the award.

In the event of a career-ending injury or illness as a result of participation in the athletics program, the Division normally renews the award (for award periods less than the duration of the student-athlete's collegiate career), provided that you agree to perform appropriate alternate tasks within the Division. NCAA rules forbid the guarantee of an automatic renewal for such awards

Student-athletes should be aware that it is not the policy of the Division of Athletics to discontinue scholarships solely because of a physical or mental health condition, either temporary or permanent. Concern over the loss of a scholarship should never serve as a deterrent to seeking appropriate care for any health issue. Specifically, the Division of Athletics considers pregnancy a health matter and strongly recommends that its student-athletes seek out appropriate medical care and support from the Division of Athletics and University resources. A pregnant student-athlete is subject to the same considerations as any other injured or ill student-athlete, and should not carry the concern that her pregnancy could lead to a discontinuation of her scholarship.

For grants awarded less than the duration of the student-athlete's collegiate career, the renewal of institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability shall be made on or before July 1 prior to the academic year in which it is to be effective. The institution shall promptly notify in writing each student-athlete who received an award the previous academic year and who has eligibility remaining in the sport in which financial aid was awarded the previous academic year whether the grant has been renewed or not renewed for the upcoming academic year. Notification of renewals and non-renewals must come from the University Financial Aid Office.

If you believe the decision to reduce or cancel your aid is unfair or unjustified, you may request a hearing as provided by NCAA regulations. To make this request, contact the Director of Financial Aid, located in the Wilbur Cross Building, Room 102 within 2 weeks of the date of the non-renewal or reduction letter. A hearing will be scheduled with the Financial Aid Appeals Committee.

The appeal process must be completed prior to the commencement of the academic year of the award.

Inability to reach reasonable athletics performance goals, problems of motivation, incompatibility with the coaching staff or teammates, etc., are considered legitimate reasons for non-renewal. If, during the school year, you feel there is a possibility your scholarship may not be renewed, you should talk with your coach. Should you disagree with his or her assessment of your standing, contact the Director of Athletics as soon as possible.

- The head coach will meet with the student-athlete at the first sign of non-compliance of team rules to clearly delineate the responsibilities of the student-athlete to correct the reasons given by the coach as substandard. The head coach will memo the program administrator of this occurrence;
- If the student-athlete does not correct the behavior, the head coach will notify the program administrator of intent to recommend a student-athlete for non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid and present supporting documentation. It is the Division of Athletics policy and philosophy to continue grant-in-aid unless a severe case would warrant recommendation of non renewal. This can NOT be due to an athletics performance reason and must follow NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4;
- If approved, the head coach must have met face to face with the student-athlete to discuss the possibility of non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid;
- If, after a period of time, the student-athlete has not corrected the problem(s) as pointed out by the head coach in the face to face meeting, a formal written recommendation is submitted to the program administrator;
- The Division of Athletics notifies the Director of Financial Aid of the recommendation for non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid for the student-athlete;
- The student-athlete is notified of the non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid, including the reason, by letter from the Director of Financial Aid and the opportunity for a hearing. The student-athlete must notify the financial aid office within 14 days of the date on the letter;
- If the student-athlete does request a hearing within the prescribed time frame, a hearing is set-up in a timely manner. This hearing is scheduled at the convenience of the members of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee and the student-athlete is then notified of the date, time and place.

A hearing brings several people together in an effort to allow for the full consideration of a financial aid appeal. The hearing participants may include the student-athlete, the coach, witnesses, one or more support persons and members of the Financial Aid Appeal Committee. The Director of Student Financial Aid

Services will serve as Chair and will select two other University officials to serve on the committee. The Associate Director of Athletics/NCAA Rules Education and Compliance Services will be present and serve as an information resource to the committee. The Chair shall have the authority to discharge or remove any person whose presence is deemed unnecessary or obstructive to the proceedings. The number of witnesses coming to the hearing should be presented to the Chair of the hearing at least two days prior to the hearing.

An essential component of any hearing is the determination and the weighing of the facts that pertain to the non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid. Therefore, it is vital that personal statements and other information be presented clearly. All participants are expected to be respectful of each other's purpose in the hearing process and to conduct themselves according to the direction of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee Chair.

The hearing will open with the Chair of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee explaining the appeal process, including the organization of the hearing, participant presentations, rebuttal (if needed) and time lines on notification of results to all parties. The person(s) requesting the appeal hearing will give the first presentation, followed by the person representing the Division of Athletics. The committee may ask questions of either party as appropriate. The hearing will conclude with the Chair apprising all parties of the remaining process and timelines for notification.

Within 10 days, the Financial Aid Appeals Committee will reach a decision. Each party will be notified of the committee's decision in writing.

An essential component of any hearing is the determination and the weighing of the facts that pertain to the non-renewal of athletics grant-in-aid. Therefore, it is vital that personal statements and other information be presented clearly. All participants will be notified of the committee's decision in writing. The committee's decision is final.

**(3) Athletically-related medical expenses information, including, but not limited to:**

**(A) The NCAA's policy regarding whether athletic programs are mandated to pay for athletically-related medical expenses.**

NCAA Bylaw 3.2.4.8 Certification of Insurance Coverage states that an active member institution must certify insurance coverage for medical expenses resulting from athletically related injuries sustained by the following individuals while participating in a covered event:

(a) A student-athlete participating in a covered event in an intercollegiate sport as recognized by the participating institution; and

(b) A prospective student-athlete participating in a covered event who has graduated from high school and signed a National Letter of Intent or an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid to participate in an intercollegiate sport at a participating institution.

**(B) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding whether such program will pay for a student athlete's athletically-related medical expenses, including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, or any such medical expenses that exceed any maximum insurance coverage limits.**

The Division has obtained secondary insurance to cover athletically related injuries. This policy requires that, if injured, you file a claim with your primary medical insurance carrier. Any expenses not covered will then be paid under the University's policy, subject to its limitations and conditions. All documents from the primary carrier which deny coverage (denial documents) must be forwarded by you or your parents as soon as possible to the Insurance Coordinator in the Division of Athletics Business Office. The Sports Medicine staff can be of assistance with this.

Prior to the beginning of each new academic year, a cover letter, insurance questionnaire and a summary statement of the University's insurance coverage are sent to your parents. The questionnaire requesting information regarding your own health insurance coverage, along with a copy of your insurance card must be on file in the Athletic Training Room prior to your athletics participation in order for you to be covered by the University.

Coverage is available for injuries that occur during participation in the student-athlete's intercollegiate sport or in supervised practice or training sessions for that sport. Coverage is also provided for evaluation and treatment of illnesses that arise during the student-athlete's championship season. Any injury or illness that occurs outside that setting is the financial responsibility of the student-athlete.

**(C) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding who is required to pay for any required athletically-related insurance premiums for student athletes who do not have insurance coverage.**

All full time students are required by the University to maintain health insurance coverage.

Students may choose to be covered for accidents and illnesses through:

- a personal insurance policy,
- a plan carried by their parents, or
- the group policy sponsored by the University, which is sold and administered through Aetna Student Health.

**(D) The duration of time the institution of higher education's athletic program will continue to pay for athletically-related medical expenses after a student athlete's athletic eligibility expires.**

The University realizes that certain injuries which are the result of intercollegiate athletics participation may require additional medical attention after a student-athlete has exhausted his or her eligibility. Therefore, secondary insurance coverage is provided for up to two years after the date of a student-athlete's injury. This coverage is dependent upon documentation of injury, reasonable adherence to medical advice during rehabilitation and no further evidence of post-competition re-injury. Each case will be individually reviewed for strict adherence to these guidelines.

**(E) Whether or not an athletic program's medical policy covers expenses associated with attaining a second medical opinion for an athletically-related injury from a physician who is not associated with the athletic program, and whether the athletic program provides coverage for services provided by such a physician.**

Whenever the Director of Sports Medicine Services feels that you should be referred to a specialist, the Sports Medicine Staff will make the necessary arrangements. Should you take it upon yourself to see another physician or obtain a second opinion without a written referral from the Director of Sports Medicine Services, you are financially responsible for any fees incurred.

If you would like a referral for a second opinion, you may discuss the referral with your team physician. The physician providing the second opinion outside the UConn Sports Medicine system must provide the Sports Medicine Staff with written or verbal evaluation and restrictions before you may resume your athletic participation. A follow-up visit with your team physician may also be required before participation is allowed.

Your coach cannot refer you to a health care professional without approval from the Director of Sports Medicine Services. Specific appointments and referral information will be arranged by the team physician or an athletic trainer. If you cannot provide your own transportation, the Sports Medicine Staff will help you make the necessary arrangements.

A consultation between your parents and the attending physician will be arranged upon your parents' request. All decisions regarding medical approval for participation in athletics, however, rests with the Director of Sports Medicine Services.

**(4) Athletic release information, including, but not limited to:**

**(A) The NCAA's policy regarding whether an athletic program may refuse to grant an athletic release to a student athlete who wishes to transfer to another institution of higher education.**

13.1.1.3 Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining the written permission of the first institution's athletics director (or an athletics administrator designated by the athletics director) to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer and the institution shall not provide athletically related financial assistance to the student-athlete until the student-athlete has attended the second institution for one academic year. If permission is granted to contact the student-athlete, all applicable NCAA recruiting rules apply. If an institution receives a written request from a student-athlete to permit another institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall grant or deny the request within seven business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the request. If the institution fails to respond to the student-athlete's written request within seven business days, permission shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete.

13.1.1.3.1 Hearing Opportunity. If the institution decides to deny a student-athlete's request to permit any other institution to contact the student-athlete about transferring, the institution shall inform the student-athlete in writing that he or she, upon request, shall be provided a hearing conducted by an institutional entity or committee outside of the athletics department (e.g., the office of student affairs; office of the dean of students; or a committee composed of the faculty athletics representative, student-athletes and non-athletics faculty/staff members). The institution shall conduct the hearing and provide written results of the hearing to the student-athlete within 15 business days (see Bylaw 13.02.1) of receipt of the student-athlete's written request for a hearing. The student-athlete shall be provided the opportunity to actively participate (e.g., in person, via telephone) in the hearing. If the institution fails to conduct the hearing or provide the written results to the student-athlete within 15 business days, permission to contact the student-athlete shall be granted by

default and the institution shall provide written permission to the student-athlete.

**(B) The policy of the postsecondary educational institution's athletic program regarding whether it may refuse to grant an athletic release for a student athlete who wishes to transfer to another institution of higher education.**

Student-athletes in the sports of football and men's and women's basketball are not permitted to transfer, directly or indirectly, from one BIG EAST institution to another BIG EAST institution and participate in athletics. There are no exceptions or waivers to this rule.

Student-athletes in all other sports may transfer, directly or indirectly, from one BIG EAST institution to another BIG EAST institution and participate in athletics provided that prior to competing for the second Conference institution the student-athlete serves a year in residency at the second Conference institution. During the year in residency [two full semesters or three full quarters (which shall be determined in accordance with NCAA rules associated with transfers)] the student-athlete shall not lose a year of eligibility, and shall be eligible to practice and receive athletically-related financial aid.

In all situations, the NCAA rules regarding transfer students must be applied.

The decision to transfer from UConn to another institution is a matter that requires very careful thought. Below is a summary of NCAA rules which will help you better understand the consequences of such a decision.

- Before you may begin to discuss possibilities with a new school, your potential future school must first receive written permission from the UConn athletic administration;
- First, inform your coach of your interest in going elsewhere. It is important for you to understand that if you or your parents make contact with a new school they are obligated to let UConn know. The new school must receive written permission from us in order to have further discussions with you;
- NCAA regulations require that you sit out at the new institution for one academic year prior to participating in athletics unless you meet the requirements of the "One-Time Transfer Exception". This exception is not available to football, basketball or men's ice hockey players, unless you are transferring to a Division I-AA, II or III institution;
- One-Time Transfer Exception - In sports other than football (except when transferring from Division I-A to Division I-AA), baseball, basketball or men's ice hockey, it is possible under NCAA rules to receive a one-time

exception to the one-year residency requirement under certain circumstances. In other words, you may be immediately eligible at a new school if all of the conditions listed below are met:

- You participate in a sport other than baseball, football, basketball or men's ice hockey;
- It is your first transfer from one four-year college;
- You are in good academic standing and would be eligible if you returned to UConn;
- A graduate student-athlete who is enrolled in a specific degree program in a graduate or professional school of an institution other than the institution from which he or she previously received a baccalaureate degree may participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided the student-athlete has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable five-year period set forth in Bylaw 14.2.;
- The University of Connecticut certifies in writing that there is no objection to the granting of an exception to the one-year residency requirement;
- A participant in Division I-AA football at the institution to which the student is transferring may use this exception only if the participant transferred to the certifying institution from an institution that sponsors Division I-A football and has two or more seasons of competition remaining in football or the participant transfers from a Division I-AA institution that offers athletically related financial aid in football to a Division I-AA institution that does not offer athletically-related financial aid in football.

If you are not granted permission to discuss transfer possibilities with the new school, you may request a hearing with an institutional committee outside the Division of Athletics. If you are denied permission to discuss transfer possibilities with the new school, that school is prohibited from assisting in your transfer or discussing your status on the team until you have enrolled and begun attending classes full-time at the new institution. If you are denied a "release" to waive the residence requirement, you will be ineligible to receive athletic aid at the new institution. You may decide to go ahead and transfer anyway, in which case you would be able to practice. However, you could not receive athletic aid nor could you compete.

In all transfer cases, it is vital that you become familiar with the ramifications of your activities before you take action. Consult the Compliance Office or the Faculty Athletics Representative for information as soon as you think you may want to transfer.

**(C) Commencing January 1, 2012, an institution of higher education that provides, by any delivery method, written material regarding its athletic program to a student athlete shall include in such materials a direct link to such institution's Internet web page, where the student athlete shall have access to the "Student Athletes' Right to Know" hyperlink and all of the information regarding the institution's athletic scholarship program as provided in subsection (b) of this section.**