

The Interpreter

September 2003

Playing & Practice Seasons

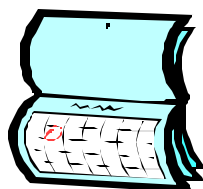
Declaration of Playing Season

According to **NCAA Bylaw 17.1.3**, every sport at Florida State is required to declare, in writing, the playing season at the beginning of the academic year. These declarations will be kept on file in the Compliance Office.

Countable Practice Hours

NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5.1 limits the amount of time student-athletes may participate in countable athletically related activities. This bylaw states that a student-athlete's participation in athletically related activities shall be limited to a maximum of four hours per day and 20 hours per week.

The NCAA defines countable athletically related activities as practice, meetings or any other instruction or activity involving sport-related information. Further, practice is considered to have occurred if one or more coaches and one or more student-athletes engage in activities such as chalk-talks, film study and weight training.



NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5.4 requires one day off per week during the declared playing season. A travel day can be considered a day off, as long as no countable related activities occur during that day.

NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5.2 states that outside the playing season during the academic year, a student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities is further limited to eight hours per week. Additionally, not more than two of the eight hours may be spent on individual workouts and in football, not more than two hours may be spent on viewing game film.

However, during the playing season, **NCAA Bylaw 17.1.5.3.6** states that daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply to countable athletically related activities occurring during an institution's official vacation period. These limitations do apply during examination periods.

Complimentary Admissions

As set forth in **Bylaw 16.2.1.1**, an institution may provide up to four complimentary admissions per home or away contests to a student-athlete in the sport in which he or she participates (either practices or competes).

Bylaw 16.2.1.1.2 states that an institution may provide each student-athlete who participates in or is a member of a team participating in a conference championship, NCAA championship or bowl game with six complimentary admissions.

Complimentary admissions will be issued through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. The individual utilizing the complimentary admission must present identification at the pass gate.

Student-athletes may not receive payment or any other item of value for his or her complimentary admission.





Redshirt vs. Medical Hardship vs. Medical Exemption



Redshirt

The term “redshirt” applies to a student-athlete who does not represent the institution against outside competition and is not charged with a loss of a season of competition. During a redshirt year, a student-athlete may practice and travel to away contests without being charged with the loss of season of competition, as long as the student-athlete does not engage in outside competition.

Medical Hardship

A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition by the conference for reasons of “hardship.” Hardship is defined as incapacity resulting from an injury that has occurred under **all** of the following conditions:

- a. The incapacitating injury or illness occurs in one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition at any two-year or four-year collegiate institution; and
- b. The injury or illness occurs prior to the

completion of the first half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship in that sport; and

- c. The injury or illness occurs when the student-athlete has not participated in more than two contests or 20 percent of the institution’s scheduled contests (whichever is greater).

Medical Exemption

NCAA rules allow a student-athlete to remain on financial aid and not be counted in accordance with the maximum award limitations provided the student-athlete becomes injured or ill to the point that the student-athlete will be unable to participate in intercollegiate athletics ever again. Such a student-athlete (if countable at the time the injury occurred) need not be counted again beginning the next academic year.

If circumstances change and the student-athlete subsequently practices or competes, the student-athlete again shall be counted; and the institution then would be required to count such financial assistance under the limitations of the sport in question during each academic year the financial aid was received.



From the Interpretation File



Four-Year College Transfer Prospect Participating in Nonmandatory Workouts During the Summer Conditioning Period.

It is permissible for a four-year college transfer prospective student-athlete to participate in nonmandatory workouts during the summer conditioning period in the sport of football, provided the prospect has signed a written offer of financial aid and/or admission, in as much as such individuals are not permitted to sign a National Letter of Intent.



Coaches’ Attendance at Organized High School Practices During the Summer Evaluation Period.

It is permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to evaluate prospective student-athletes at an organized high school team practice (as opposed to a non-scholastic team) during the summer evaluation period, provided the practice is approved or sanctioned by the applicable state high school athletics association and is conducted under the supervision of the high school coach.

Educational Expenses Provided to a Prospective Student-Athlete for Attendance at a Two-Year College.

Prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, it is permissible for a prospective student-athlete to receive educational expenses for attendance at a two-year college as a part-time student, from any individual or entity other than an agent, professional sports team/organization or a representative of an institution’s athletics interests, provided such expenses are disbursed directly through the prospective student-athlete’s educational institution.



In the News....



Terps Placed on Probation

Maryland was placed on one year of probation by the NCAA because an assistant football coach gave money to a high school recruit.

The NCAA's Committee on Infractions determined that coach Rod Sharpless gave prospect Victor Abiamiri cash in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$200 on five different occasions in order to gain an edge in the recruiting competition. It was also found that another coach gave a player a t-shirt and hat worth \$20.

Maryland escaped serious punishment for the violations, largely because of the actions the school took after the allegations arose. It forced Sharpless to resign and stopped recruiting both players.

Alabama State's Football Problems

Alabama State's internal investigation revealed an "almost totally out of control" football program that used ineligible players, changed athletes' grades and entertained recruits with strippers, athletic director Richard Cosby said.

The university submitted its findings to the NCAA and Southwestern Athletic Conference, Cosby said. He declined to reveal the specifics of the report but indicated Alabama State will have to forfeit "a substantial number of games" and faces penalties and stiff fines.

Clemson Assistant Violates Rule

A Clemson assistant football coach says he violated NCAA rules by running with a wide receiver he was disciplining.

NCAA rules prohibit coaches from working out with student-athletes during the summer.

Fresno State Only Signing Qualifiers

Fresno State has ended its practice of signing high school students who don't qualify academically under NCAA standards.

Fresno State has acknowledged academic fraud, lack of institutional control and use of ineligible players and has already imposed its own penalties, including a two-year probation, the reduction of scholarships and a postseason ban in 2003.

Academic nonqualifiers are students who do not meet the NCAA minimum academic requirements to be eligible for a scholarship or competition as a freshman. They are eligible to receive an athletic scholarship and join a team in their second year if they meet the requirements.

Of 691 Fresno State athletes on current rosters, 22 failed to meet NCAA minimum requirements out of high school. Nine nonqualifiers are on the football team. Five more are coming in with this year's freshman class but they won't be affected by the new policy.

"I think it's important to show the NCAA we're taking steps" athletic director Scott Johnson said. "It's part of the total campaign to improve image and perception of Fresno State athletics."

TCU Assistant Coach Resigns

Texas Christian University has reported two recruiting violations in its basketball program to the NCAA and has accepted the resignation of an assistant coach.

The school said an internal investigation discovered that assistant coach Jai Steadman helped a basketball player draft an academic paper and gave a highly touted recruit transportation to Mexico to get an international student visa.

Things Slushy at Baylor

Baylor University president Robert Sloan stated that no booster was involved in paying Baylor basketball players.

Allegations of NCAA violations surfaced after the disappearance of Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy.

One of Dennehy's friends has said an assistant coach gave Dennehy blank money orders to buy a vehicle and for his apartment rent. Dennehy's mother and stepfather have said that they were not paying his tuition — more than \$17,000 a year — and living expenses. Dennehy gave up his scholarship for one year when he transferred to Baylor.

Sloan would not elaborate on where two athletes got money for tuition, an NCAA violation that led to the resignations of head basketball coach Dave Bliss and athletic director Tom Staton.

Questions at Mizzou

Jessica Bunge, an ex-girlfriend of a former basketball player, has told *The Kansas City Star* and the NCAA that tutors at the University of Missouri did excessive academic work for Ricky Clemons.

Bunge gave details about her previous allegations that Clemons received money from someone in the university basketball program, and disputed coach Quin Snyder's account of how much clothing the player got from him.

She said she once went to the athletic support center to pick up Clemons. A tutor sitting on the other side of Clemons was typing a paper for him. Clemons was barely paying attention to the tutor.

September Recruiting Calendar



Football Sept 1-30	Eval/Quiet
Men's Basketball Sept 1-8 Sept 9-Oct 5	Quiet Contact
Women's Basketball Sept 1-8 Sept 9-29 Sept 30-Oct 7	Quiet Contact Quiet
Baseball Sept 1-11 Sept 12– Nov 9	Quiet Cont/Eval
Softball Sept 1-30	Cont/Eval
Volleyball Sept 1-30	Cont/Eval

Interpreter On-Line

The Interpreter can be found on-line at www.seminoles.com by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance", in the left column. The Interpreter icon is under the "What's New??" section. Past issues are archived here and contain more detailed information than space prohibits in the newsletter form.

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