



# Division I-AAA Legislative Headlines



*An electronic newsletter provided by  
**The Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association**  
on NCAA legislative trends and issues affecting Division I-AAA*

February 2005

Prepared by The Compliance Group (TCG)

## **PROPOSAL 2004-40 – PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASON AND BASKETBALL EVENT “COUNTING”**

As mentioned in the January newsletter, much support exists for that portion of the legislation that relates to basketball event certification/counting. Less support exists for other sections of the legislation that affects the non-traditional seasons in numerous sports. Last week, the Championships/Competition (CC) Cabinet elected not to pursue lobbying for the legislation, which means their interest is lessening.

During a recent meeting of the NCAA Staff with the conference compliance coordinators, it was reported that no conference had any interest in eliminating the non-traditional seasons for soccer or volleyball and there was no interest in amending the 20 hours currently permitted during the playing and practice season. Lesser options concerning the non-traditional season were discussed, including a restriction against missing class to compete in the non-traditional season and prohibiting air travel for non-traditional competition.

It is believed that the legislation’s sponsors have no interest in lobbying for passage of the legislation.

The proposal is still in a 60-day comment period for the membership. It is anticipated that after the comment period, prior to Management Council review, that portion of the legislation permitting the multiple in-season basketball event, which allows the participation in up to four games in a 14-day period to count as one contest. TCG believes that portion of the legislation pertaining to basketball will need to be split out or the other portion of the proposal will be withdrawn.

---

## **PRESIDENT OF A DIVISION I-AAA ATHLETICS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION MEMBER BECOMES CHAIR OF DIVISION I EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford, was appointed chair of the NCAA Executive Committee, effective in May 2005. The Executive Committee is composed of the following number of chief executive officers from each division: Eight from I-A, and two each from I-AA, I-AAA, II, and III. Its primary responsibility is the final approval and oversight of the NCAA’s budget and provide strategic planning for the Association.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Harrison previously has chaired the Division I-AAA Presidential Advisory Board, which represents I-AAA on issues affecting the division. He also chaired the Board’s review of the new academic standards legislation.

---

## RECENT INTERPRETATIONS OF NOTE

### Media Releases Regarding Signings – Press Conferences – One-Time Exception – Booster Group Functions

According to NCAA Bylaw 13.11.8, publicity released by an institution concerning a prospect's commitment to attend the institution shall occur only after the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent or subsequent to the prospect's signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. Such communications (with no limit on number or content) may be released to media outlets at the institution's discretion except as limited by Bylaw 13.11.8.1. However, an institution is prohibited from purchasing or receiving commercial advertising (e.g., print, media, or billboard) to be used to identify a prospect by name or picture.

Bylaw 13.11.8.1 indicates that institutional press conferences, receptions, dinners, and similar meetings held for the purpose of announcing the signing of a prospect or prospects are expressly prohibited. However, Bylaw 13.11.8.1.1 allows an institution to make an announcement on the institution's campus for the sole purpose of presenting at one time to the media the names of all prospects who have accepted offers of admission and/or athletically related aid in a particular sport from that institution, with the understanding that no prospects (or their friends or relatives) may be in attendance.

Functions that are designed to celebrate the institution's signees in a particular sport, at which the institutional coaching staff members appear and discuss prospects who have signed commitments to attend the institution, would not be contrary to the provisions of Bylaw 13.11.8.1, provided:

- a. The institution previously has released communication of a prospect's commitment to attend the institution to media outlets normally used by the institution and by the educational institutions currently and formerly attended by the prospect;
- b. The function or activity is not held in conjunction (simultaneously) with an announcement to the public of the prospect's signing commitment; and
- c. The function is closed to the working media.

Such functions may be open to the working media only if the function is conducted on the institution's campus and the announcement of signings is considered the institution's one-time press conference to the media pursuant to Bylaw 13.11.8.1.1. [Date Issued: January 27, 2005; Type Ed. Column; Item Ref: 1]

---

## SPORTS WAGERING

The NCAA Staff, in conjunction with a special NCAA task force, soon will announce several recommendations concerning the prevention or reduction in the amount of sports wagering activities being undertaken by coaching staff members and student-athletes. In that regard, the newsletter occasionally will contain information about this topic.

### Words Of Wisdom From A Former Organized Crime Member

Michael Franzese, a former member of the La Cosa Nostra (i.e., Mafia), spoke at the 2005 American Football Coaches Association Convention about sports wagering. He indicated his beliefs that:

- Approximately 25-50% of all college students, including student-athletes, gamble on the Internet,

but not necessarily on sports.

- Bookmakers are readily available on campus.
- The only “upside” to gambling is that it is a cheap thrill.
- Gambling has caused more personal problems than drugs or alcohol.
- Any gambler may approach a student-athlete about fixing a game, not only someone connected with organized crime.
- Coaches and university personnel should emphasize to the student-athletes that shaving points is game fixing, regardless of whether their team still wins.

### **Sports Wagering Eligibility Case – Student Athlete Loses Competition**

A freshman football student-athlete (SA) engaged in Internet gambling on intercollegiate and professional basketball contests. SA indicated that this was his first venture onto the gambling Web site and that the Web site indicated that it was “legal.” SA used his debit card and bet \$365 overall until he closed his account after a few days. The SA understood that since he was a football SA, he could not wager on football contests but was not sure about other sports. The SA’s eligibility was reinstated based on: (i) SA being withheld from all regular-season and postseason competition for a minimum of a one-year period; and (ii) charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of competition. (Case #21612)

**REMEMBER THAT NCAA BYLAW 10.3 PROHIBITS STAFF MEMBERS OF A CONFERENCE OR INSTITUTION AND STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS WAGERING POOLS ON OR OFF CAMPUS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A PRIZE TO THE WINNER IS AWARDED.**



P.O. Box 16428  
Cleveland, Ohio 44116  
440/892-4000  
440/892-4007 (Fax)  
[www.nacda.com](http://www.nacda.com)



8889 Bourgade Street  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219  
913/599-3210  
913/599-1568 (Fax)  
[www.tcathletics.com](http://www.tcathletics.com)