



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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEET EARLIER THIS MONTH

Board of Directors Adopt Change in Phone Calls to Women's Basketball Prospects

During its late October meeting, the Board of Directors adopted twelve non-controversial legislative proposals, most of which dealt with executive regulations, including squad sizes for NCAA championships. The Board also adopted 2006-33, "Telephone Calls to Prospective Student-Athletes – Women's Basketball," which specifies that the one permissible telephone call in April of a prospects' junior year in high school may not be made until the Thursday after the conclusion of the NCAA Women's Final Four.

Further, the Board defeated Proposal 2005-097, which would have exempted graduated student-athletes with remaining eligibility from Academic Performance Rate calculations. This proposal was opposed by the Committee on Academic Performance. The Board also defeated an alternative proposal forwarded by the Management Council. The alternative would have included student-athletes if they were able to earn a point, while excluding them if they did not qualify for the eligibility point.

Finally, the Board upheld its defeat of Proposal 2005-128 (permitting I-AA football teams to compete in 12 regular-season contests). Therefore, Proposals 2005-128 and 2005-054 (which permits graduated student-athletes to compete at a second institution as a grad student regardless of previous transfers or sport), will both be voted on by the Division I membership at the NCAA Convention in January. The override period for all proposals adopted this month ends December 25, 2006.

Management Council Approves Alternative to Event Certification Proposal

During its meeting earlier in October, the Management Council approved an alternative to 2006-108-A, applicable to Bylaw 30.16, "Basketball Event Certification." The original recommendation addresses welfare concerns related to basketball prospects participating in certified events, and would revise current legislation by: (a) requiring qualified medical personnel (e.g., certified athletic trainers) to be present at an event; (b) precluding athletically related activities from beginning before 8 a.m. on a given day and to require the last athletically related activity to begin not later than 10 p.m.; and (c) limiting prospects to participating in no more than five games over a rolling two-day period with no more than three games on any given day. The alternative to 2006-108-A, 2006-108-B adds to the requirements the inclusion of academic information on prospects to event packets.

The Council did not support other proposals as emergency or noncontroversial, including: 2006-088 (men's soccer start date); 2006-107 (elimination of certification program for sports other than football and basketball); and 2006-121 (women's soccer start date). Therefore, these measures will remain in the normal legislative cycle.

Finally, the Council amended guidelines for the administration of the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund to preclude "Athletic Development Opportunities" as an approved use.

LRIS INTERPRETATION ON MEALS DURING HOME CONTESTS

Cash in Lieu of Meals in Conjunction with Home Competition. The committee determined that it is not permissible to provide cash to student-athletes in lieu of discretionary meals (except for \$10 in lieu of a meal following the competition) in conjunction with a home athletics contest. Further, the committee determined that following a home competition, regardless of the timing in which student-athletes are released by the appropriate institutional authority, an institution may provide only one meal (or snack) or \$10 in lieu of that meal (or snack). [Reference: NCAA Division I Bylaw 16.5.2-(d)-(2)] [Released October 16, 2006.]

DEAD PERIOD REMINDER!!!

A reminder about the November 6-9, 2006, dead period that surrounds the initial date for signing a NLI in all sports except football, soccer, field hockey, and men's water polo.

APPLICATION OF NCAA LEGISLATION TO...

Boosters Entertaining Prospects with Pre-Existing Relationships

As we all know, boosters and the entertainment of prospects don't normally mix and can result in major NCAA infractions. However, an example of a scenario that would be permissible under NCAA legislation follows. Keep in mind that NCAA bylaws always preclude boosters from soliciting a prospect's enrollment!

A booster brings his grandson and his grandson's high school friend, who is also a basketball teammate, to an institution's home basketball game and then buys the friend's dinner at a restaurant following the game. Previously, the booster has provided various friends of his grandson with similar dinners, game admission, and travel for several years. This scenario is permissible due to the following:

- a) *The booster enjoys a pre-existing relationship with his grandson's friend;*
 - b) *The booster's relationship with the friend is not the result of an "athletics nexus", rather, it started due to the booster's grandson's friendship; and*
 - c) *The booster is providing benefits he has provided to his grandson's friends (regardless of athletics ability) many times over the last several years.*
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PERSONAL WEBSITES

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the popularity of personal websites such as Myspace.com and Facebook.com. The question then arises if it is permissible for members of a coaching staff or athletic department staff member to have a Myspace.com or Facebook.com page or any personal website. It would be permissible for a coaching/athletic staff member to have an account, but there are certain guidelines that must be followed.

It is permissible for an athletics department staff member's personal website to include information related to the institution's athletics programs and a hyperlink to the institution's athletics website, provided neither the athletics department staff member's personal web site contains: (1) information regarding prospective student-athletes, except as permitted under Bylaw 13.11.8; (2) any hyperlink to the web site of a recruiting/scouting service or a non institutional publication that reports primarily on the institution's athletics program; nor (3) recruiting videos or other audio/video materials, except as permitted under Bylaw 13.4.2.1.



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