

The Interpreter

February 2005

Proposed Legislation

The NCAA convention held in Dallas, Texas over the weekend of January 8-10 marked the 99th annual meeting.

The membership will continue to work on the academic reform program and recruiting, as well as a new challenge— fiscal responsibility. Overall, the focus will be on making athletic programs a value-based component of education.

Some of the proposals that gained initial approval are listed below:

Recruiting

Proposal 04-78 - To permit all institutional staff members to contact a prospect within 30 miles of campus during the prospect's official visit.

Proposal 03-32 - To permit an institution to send a prospect, a prospect's coach and any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospect is involved only general correspondence, questionnaires, camp brochures, institutionally prepared (nonathletics) publications available to all students, a recruiting or media guide (limited in size and length), NCAA educational materials and business cards; further, to permit all other recruiting materials to be posted on the institution's Web site; however such items may not be printed from the Web and provided to prospects via mail or during visits.

Proposal 04-99-A - In football and basketball, to reduce from five to four the maximum number of expense paid official visits for each prospect.

Financial Aid

Proposal 03-23-A - To permit a student-athlete who participates in an equivalency sport to receive institutional academic scholarships and need-based institutional aid under specified conditions without including such aid in an institution's equivalency computation in the applicable sport; further, to specify that all institutional financial aid (including aid that is exempted from an equivalency computation) awarded to a counter may be used to meet the minimum financial aid requirements for Division I membership

Proposal 04-29 - In football, to permit an institution to replace a counter who voluntarily withdraws during the pre-season practice period by immediately providing the financial aid to a student-athlete who has been a member of the team for at least one year and has not previously received athletically related financial aid.

Miscellaneous

Proposal 04-102 - To define the responsibilities of a head coach with regard to compliance with NCAA rules.

Proposal 04-17 - To specify that an institution shall certify that a student-athlete, in his or her final season of competition in the applicable sport, has satisfactorily completed six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term to be eligible to compete in postseason competition occurring between regular terms.

These proposals were sent back to the membership for a 60 day comment period and will be up for a final vote in April.

FOOTBALL AND SOCCER NLI SIGNING PERIOD



Football

Signing Dates:
February 2 ~ April 1

Dead Period:
January 31 ~ February 3*

Unlimited Phone Calls
(beginning at 7 am):
January 31 ~ February 3

Soccer

Signing Dates:
February 2 ~ August 1

Dead Period:
January 31 ~ February 3*

Unlimited Phone Calls
(beginning at 7 am):
February 2 ~ February 4



* The dead period remains in effect for the full four days, even if a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent during the dead period.

* All signees remain prospects until the first day of classes or the first day of practice, whichever is first.

2005-06 NLI Signing Dates

Cut-Lines Set for Academic Reform Standards

| Sport | Initial Date | Final Date |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Basketball (Early Period) | November 10, 2004 | November 17, 2004 |
| Basketball (Late Period) | April 13, 2005 | May 18, 2005 |
| Football (Midyear JC) | December 15, 2004 | January 15, 2005 |
| Football (Regular Period) | February 2, 2005 | April 1, 2005 |
| Soccer | February 2, 2005 | August 1, 2005 |
| All Other Sports (Early Period) | November 10, 2004 | November 17, 2004 |
| All Other Sports (Late Period) | April 13, 2005 | August 1, 2005 |

Under the plan approved January 10, 2005 college sports teams must graduate at least 50% of their student-athletes to avoid contemporaneous penalties.

The contemporaneous penalties will be based on the Academic Performance Rate (APR) of each team in addition to the performance of student-athletes. The APR is based on individual performance academically plus the retention of student-athletes. The adopted plan has set a cut score of 925 for the APR. A score of 925 is roughly equivalent to a graduation rate of 50%.

Preliminary data indicate that 51.2% of Division I institutions would have at least one team below the cut score. Should a team incur a penalty it will be unable to re-issue a scholarship of an ineligible student-athlete who leaves the school to a new student-athlete.



From the Interpretation File



Prospect Class Status

If a high school student changes his/her class status (i.e. from a junior to a senior) institutions may recruit that prospect accordingly. For example, at the start of the 2004-2005 school year a prospect is a junior. At mid-year, in December, that prospect has completed the necessary classes and requirements and is reclassified as a senior. Accordingly, once the school classifies the prospect as a senior, it would be permissible to make telephone calls or have contacts according to NCAA regulations with the senior prospect.



Game Day Simulations

It is not permissible to simulate game day activities regardless of whether it is in season or out of season and whether people are present or not.

Basketball Coaching Activities

Non-coaching staff members may not be involved in any activities during practice or games that could be considered a coaching activity. This includes passing balls to players or rebounding even if no coaching activities occur. In addition, no coaching activities are to take place on the bench during a game.





In the News....



Faculty coalition pushes for reform

A coalition of faculty members from 43 Division I-A colleges was formed in 2002 with the intention of reforming college athletics. Faculty members from 28 of the 43 colleges are meeting to draft a plan for reform this January.

The representatives intend to tackle such subjects as admissions, scholarships, contest scheduling and academic advising policies. Once a plan has been formulated and voted upon, the coalition will forward the draft to the NCAA for consideration at their 2006 and 2007 national conventions. Among the many reform ideas, is replacing one year renewable scholarships with five year scholarships, allowing the athletes to focus more on academics than sports.

The group has also suggested limiting sport seasons to a single semester, and scheduling contests only Friday through Sunday, easing the pressure on missed classes and time spent playing sports. (Walker, T. AP)

Exec gives gifts to OSU QB Troy Smith

Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was suspended from the Alamo Bowl after it was revealed that a local executive, Robert Baker, gave Smith an unspecified benefit at his place of business. Baker has since resigned from the company and has not commented on the situation.

No punishment has been handed down to either Smith or Baker yet, but university officials expect a decision later this month. Athletic director Andy Geiger notes that the violation is minor for Smith and suspects he will play next fall. Sanctions for Baker have yet to be discussed but likely possibilities include preventing him from buying Buckeye's football tickets, or from buying into a luxury suite at Ohio Stadium. (AP)

Brand Worried about Fiscal Responsibility

At this year's 99th annual NCAA convention, President Myles Brand is on a campaign of persuasion for fiscal responsibility and restraint.

Unlike the academic reforms instituted last year, fiscal responsibility cannot be governed by the NCAA. Instead, it is up to the colleges and universities to reign in their expenditures. 17 months ago, a comprehensive NCAA study revealed that each additional dollar expenditure for men's basketball and football yields only one additional dollar of revenue. In addition, the study found that spending changes have no effect on win-loss records or alumni donations.

A primary concern is the amount of infrastructure building that incur decades of debt. It is the facilities arms race for luxury, not the kind of building that brings stadiums and arenas up to code, or heightens safety standards that worries Brand the most.

Of secondary concern are the rising salaries of coaches. After the recent spree of hiring and resigning, there will be at least nine coaches earning more than \$2 million per year.

Brand is focusing on the idea of a feasible business plan, not necessarily on cutbacks. In particular, the pressure lies upon the shoulders of those Division I-A schools that are financially struggling to stay afloat in the top division, as well as the schools considering a jump up to I-A.

Ultimately, Brand hopes the athletic departments will be monitored more closely by the schools, as they would a music or science department. If the rate of expenditure is higher than the school as a whole, it is not a sustainable business plan. (Wieberg, S., USA Today)

Changes in Pell Grant Distribution May Affect Athletes

In an attempt to apportion money toward the ever growing national debt, new federal rules were adopted over the winter holidays to save the government \$300 million. As a result many as 89,000 students will be eliminated from the Pell Grant program, and nearly 1.3 million students will receive smaller grant amounts.

Some athletes from lower income families depend on Pell Grant monies to help pay for their living expenses beyond what a scholarship will cover. Moreover, non-scholarship, or partial scholarship athletes sometimes depend on Pell Grant money to pay for rent, and other basic necessities.

Will the Football Season go to 12 Games?

One agenda item at this year's NCAA convention is the proposal for the addition of a 12th game in the Division I football schedule.

Many athletic directors support the proposal for financial reasons. The additional game could mean up to \$4 million of supplementary revenue for some schools. Smaller schools could also benefit from a 12th game. They could use the additional game for a guarantee game.

However, some coaches are not in favor of the proposal. First, an additional game will make the road to the national title tougher. Second, in some conferences that have a playoff game, it could mean playing 14 games if they go to the playoff and subsequently a bowl game. (Ferrell, S., Shreveporttimes.com)



February Recruiting Calendar



Interpreter On-Line

COMPLIANCE STAFF

Football

Jan. 31-Feb 3
Feb 4-28

Dead

Quiet

Men's Basketball

Feb 1-28

Eval/Quiet

Women's Basketball

Feb 1-28

Eval/Quiet

Baseball

Feb 1-28

Quiet

Softball

Feb 1-28

Cont/Eval

Volleyball

Feb 1-18
Feb 19-28

Quiet
Cont/Eval

Soccer

Jan. 31-Feb 3

Dead

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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NLI Signing Dates**