

The Interpreter

June 2005

New Legislation

The following proposals were adopted by the Board of Directors at their April 28, 2005 meeting:

Conditions and Obligations of Active Membership – Certification of Insurance Coverage.

Intent: To require as a condition and obligation of NCAA membership that an institution certify on an annual basis insurance coverage for athletically related injuries sustained by specified participants in covered events. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Promotional Activities – Commercial Films.

Intent: To eliminate the prohibition on using footage of an institution's intercollegiate contest or event or individual performance of a student-athlete in a commercial film. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Institutional, Charitable, Educational or Nonprofit Promotions – Mileage Restriction.

Intent: To permit a student-athlete to receive actual and necessary expenses to participate in a permissible promotional activity, regardless of the location of the activity. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Employment on a Commission Basis.

Intent: To eliminate regulations regarding a student-athlete's employment on a commission basis. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Camps and Clinics – Student-Athlete Employment.

Intent: To eliminate the percent requirement on the coaching and officiating duties of a student-athlete employed in a sports camp or clinic. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

General Playing-Season Regulations – Segments of Playing Season – Exception – Severe Inclement Weather.

Intent: To permit an institution to temporarily discontinue a segment due to **severe** inclement weather (e.g., hurricane, snowstorm) and then restart the discontinued segment provided the permissible overall length of that segment is not exceeded; further, to specify that if an institution uses this exception, it is required to annually submit a detailed summary to the NCAA national office by July 31. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Expenses Provided by the Institution for Practice and Competition – Departure/Return Expense Restrictions -- Exception – Inclement Weather.

Intent: To establish an exception to the departure/return expense restrictions for inclement weather (e.g., hurricane, snowstorm) that permits the institution to adjust original travel plans to depart no more than 72 hours prior to the start of actual competition or return no more than 60 hours following the conclusion of the actual competition; further, to specify that if an institution uses this exception it is required to annually submit a detailed summary to the NCAA national office by July 31. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Conduct of Athletics Personnel – Responsibility of Head Coach.

Intent: To define the responsibilities of a head coach with regard to compliance with NCAA rules. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Practice or Competition Expenses – Apparel for Community Service or Team Travel.

Intent: To permit an institution to provide one shirt bearing the institution's logo per academic year to each student-athlete to be used for team travel or other events at which he or she is representing the institution; further, to specify that the shirt may bear a single manufacturer's distributor's normal trademark or logo not to exceed 2 1/4 square inches in area, including any additional material surrounding the normal trademark or logo. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Financial Aid – Maximum Team Limits – Selected Women's Sports.

Intent: To increase the maximum grant-in-aid limitations in women's gymnastics from 12 to 14, in women's volleyball from 12 to 13, in women's cross country/track and field from 18 to 20 and in women's soccer from 12 to 14. **Effective Date: August 1, 2006.**

Summer Practice – Facility Fees.

Intent: To permit an institution to pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities in his or her sport during the summer. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Printed Recruiting Materials – Page Limit on Athletics Publications.

Intent: To amend Proposal No. 2003-32 to increase from 200 to 208 the page limit for athletics publications. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005 (for publications prepared for the 2005-06 academic year and after).**

New Legislation

Recruiting – Printed Recruiting Materials.

Amended Intent: 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 (not to exceed a 208 page limit), 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. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005 (for publications prepared for the 2005-06 academic year and after)**



Definitions and Applications – Prospective Student-Athlete.

Intent: To revise the definition of a prospective student-athlete to specify that for purposes of Bylaws 13 and 16, an individual enrolled and receiving institutional athletics aid during the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment is not a prospective student-athlete. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Official Visit – Transportation.

Intent: To permit any member of an institution's athletics department to provide ground transportation during an official visit for a prospect and any prospect's parents or legal guardians between the campus and any bus or train station or airport. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Use of Institution's Facility.

Intent: To permit a state high-school association to use a member institution's facilities at a reduced rate. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Seasons of Competition – Preseason Exhibition Contests or Informal Practice Scrimmages.

Intent: In all sports, to specify that during the student-athlete's initial year of enrollment at the certifying institution, participation in preseason exhibition contests or informal practice scrimmages shall not result in the loss of a season of competition. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005; may be applied on a retroactive basis.**

Off-Campus Recruiting – Number of Coaches Recruiting Off Campus.

Intent: In all sports, to eliminate the requirement that a coach may not leave campus to engage in off-campus contact or evaluations until one of the other coaches who is off campus actually returns to campus (i.e., baton rule). **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Eligibility for Championships – Duration of Ineligibility.

Intent: To specify that the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (or designated subcommittee) shall have the authority in all sports to reduce the legislated penalty during a drug-test appeal to include the next 50 percent of a season of competition in all sports. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.** [Source: NCAA

Duration of Ineligibility and Breach of Protocol.

Intent: To specify that a student-athlete's breach of drug-testing protocol (e.g., no-show, tampering) shall result in the same penalties as a positive test for a nonstreet drug. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Positive Drug Test – Non-NCAA Athletics Organization.

Intent: To specify that a student-athlete under a drug-testing suspension from a national or international sports governing body that has adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency code shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition for the duration of the suspension. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements – 24-Semester Hour Requirement.

Intent: To specify that a student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall have satisfactorily completed at least 24-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005.**

Progress Toward Degree – Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements – Exceptions/Waivers.

Intent: To specify that a student-athlete may use hours earned during the term(s) of the missed-term exception and the medical-absence waiver to satisfy the 24/36-hour, percentage of degree and grade-point average requirements. **Effective Date: August 1, 2005 (for certifications for the 2005-06 academic year and thereafter).**

Official Visits. Intent: To permit all institutional staff member to contact a prospect within 30 miles of campus during the prospect's official visit. **Effective Date: Immediate.**

Complimentary Admissions – Official Visits – Exception.

Intent: To permit an institution to provide complimentary admissions to home contests that have been relocated outside the 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus due to the home facilities' inoperable conditions (e.g., construction or facility repairs). **Effective Date: Immediate.**



In the News....

Troubles Mount for Ohio State

In mid-May, the NCAA notified Ohio State University of nine alleged rules violations. Among the violations, there were cash gifts, improper academic assistance, and failure to properly monitor the men's basketball program. Seven of the nine violations involved the men's basketball team, including allegations that a booster was giving cash and academic help to a former player.

Ohio State president Karen Holbrook said that the allegations in the report were consistent with what the school expected. Over the past three years, the school has been faced with a number of investigations into their basketball and football programs.

Former basketball coach Jim O'Brien was fired after acknowledging that he gave \$6,000 to a recruit in 1999. This past December, the school placed a one-year post-season tournament ban on the team as a consequence of the former coach's actions.

The school must respond to the allegations by July 26th. From there, the Committee on Infractions will hold a hearing to assess the situation before imposing penalties or sanctions upon the school. (A.P., 2005, May 17, ABC ActionNews.com)

Eastern Michigan Inflates Attendance

Gate workers at Eastern Michigan University's football games were instructed to inflate the number of fans they counted during games. In a report on the situation, the gate workers were told by athletic department staff to "click, click, click," so they came up with a grossly inflated number.

EMU defended their practices, alleging that everyone in the Mid-American Conference inflates their numbers to some extent. (continued next column)

While the committee found that numbers involving the basketball and football attendance have been inflated for years, it was noted that the inflation at EMU is consistently more than double.

The ticket office hired one group to count fans, coming up with an average of 6,188 fans for the five home football games. Simultaneously, a group of baseball players were hired by the athletic department, also for the purpose of counting fans. The baseball players came up with an average of 14,047.8 fans for the five games. After the season, the university reported that it averaged 16,060 fans for six games (the five home games plus one game at Ford Field).

The baseball players hired by the athletic department were instructed, by athletic department staff members, to count concession workers, players, coaches, and staff despite the NCAA specifying that these groups should not be counted as fans.

In April, the NCAA altered its 15,000 fan minimum attendance requirement. Now, universities have to average 15,000 fans in actual attendance or paid attendance one out of every two years. This means schools may now count those who buy a ticket but do not come to the game. (Bomey, N., 2005, May 17, Eastern Echo)

Georgia Tech Proposes Sanctions

An internal investigation uncovered multiple inadvertent violations involving 17 athletes in four sports who competed but were in fact academically ineligible.

These violations occurred from 2000 to 2004. Georgia Tech self imposed a one year probation, which was agreed upon by the NCAA as well as scholarship cuts in football, and men's and women's track.

Steroids Crossing the Border

Louisiana State University football player, Shawn Jordan, was arrested last week after crossing the border from Juarez, Mexico back into El Paso, Texas. US Customs and Border inspectors found and seized 30 milliliters of anabolic steroids.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office, there were 9,606 seizures of steroids during the fiscal year of 2003. There are undoubtedly many illegal possessors who do make it through, whether with illegal prescription drugs or steroids. Roger Maier, a spokesman for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office, admits that since September 11, 2001, many do get through because anti-terrorism has been their number one priority.

While Mexico remains the largest source for steroids, Maier says the number of steroid seizures is decreasing. However, the White House's Office of national Drug Control Policy said that may be due to the increase of internet steroid trafficking. (Peter, J., 2005, May 22, nola.com)

Nicholls State Faces Four Years Probation

Nicholls State University has been placed on probation for four years and faces other penalties for "gross academic fraud" and other NCAA violations. In particular, student-athletes were provided with answers to lessons and tests, documents were falsified, and then there was an attempt to cover up the fraud.

The registrar's office first questioned the use of certain correspondence courses and initiated the investigation. The NCAA does not allow correspondence courses to be counted for progress toward degree requirements. While this is the first major infractions case for Nicholls State, it will now be subject to the repeat violator clause for 5 years. (2005, NCAA News)

June Recruiting Calendar

Interpreter On-Line

COMPLIANCE STAFF

Football

June 1-30 Quiet

Men's Basketball

June 1-30 Quiet/Eval

Women's Basketball

June 1 -30 Quiet

Baseball

June 1-30 Cont/Eval

Softball

May 31-June 9(noon) Quiet
June 9-30 Cont/Eval

Volleyball

June 1-30 Cont/Eval

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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