

The Interpreter

February 2004

Proposed Legislation

The Division I Board of Directors and Management Council considered more than 100 proposals and amendments at their January meetings.

Some of the more significant measures that gained initial approval and triggered a 60-day membership comment period were proposals regarding academic reform, financial aid and increased student-athlete benefits.

Academic Reform

Proposal 03-112 - Establishes an Academic Progress Rate (APR) that measures academic performance for all sports teams on a term-by-term basis.

Proposal 03-113 - Puts penalties in place for teams that do not perform according to APR parameters.

Proposal 03-114 - Establishes a contemporaneous penalty for poor academic performance by prohibiting a team from re-awarding the athletics aid of a student-athlete who fails to meet academic eligibility requirements and withdraws from the institution to an incoming prospect.

Proposal 02-72 - Establishes a Graduation Success Rate (GSR), which is an alternative to the current federally mandated graduation-rate methodology required by the Student Right-to-Know Act.

Financial Aid

Proposal 02-83-A - Establishes a student-athlete's individual maximum financial aid limit at the "cost of attendance," and it would allow student-athletes to receive institutional aid based on athletics up to the full grant level, plus permit non-athletics aid up to the cost of attendance.

Proposal 03-139 - Allows institutions to pay for a student-athlete's medical expenses resulting from an injury or illness, provided the expenses are necessary for the student-athlete to return to competition.

Miscellaneous

Proposal 03-74 - Precludes an institution from counting a travel day to and from competition as the student-athlete's required day off.

Proposal 03-32 - Prohibits media guides and other athletics-specific brochures from being mailed to prospects; however, those materials could be posted on an institutional web site.

Proposal 03-76 - Eliminates the limit on the number of initial counters in men's basketball.

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 4 ~ April 1

Dead Period:
February 2 ~ February 5

Unlimited Phone Calls
(beginning at 7 am):
February 2 ~ February 5

Soccer

Signing Dates:
February 4 ~ August 1

Dead Period:
February 2 ~ February 5

Unlimited Phone Calls
(beginning at 7 am):
February 4 ~ February 6



* 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

Athletes who Leave Could Reduce Scholarship Counts

An estimated 10 percent of Division I teams could lose scholarships starting in the fall of 2005 if a broad academic reform proposal is approved by the NCAA in April.

The penalty would be enforced if an athlete leaves the school while in poor academic standing. The team could award the scholarship to a walk-on, but would be prevented from recruiting a new player for one year.

Teams could avoid a penalty if their academic progress rate—a formula used to determine progress towards graduation—is high enough.

Schools in violation of the proposed policy could receive an increasingly harsher penalty each year, from warning letters to ineligibility for post-season play and the loss of money from NCAA championship events.

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, 2005
All Other Sports (Late Period)	April 13, 2005	August 1, 2005

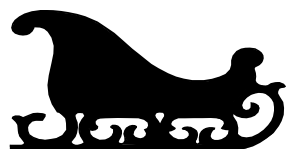


From the Interpretation File



Conditioning Equipment—Sleds

The NCAA Staff has discussed the issues with the use of “sleds” in football conditioning activities and agreed that it is not equipment related to the sport and, therefore, can be used in conditioning and nonmandatory activities. Therefore, the pieces of conditioning equipment that have commonly been referred to as “sleds” that do not have any padding and are simply pulled or pushed by student-athletes can be used in football conditioning activities as they are not used to teach sport-specific techniques.



Medical Examination for Prospective Student-Athletes Prior to Full-Time Enrollment

It is permissible for an institution to conduct a medical exam during a prospect's official or unofficial visit to campus. Further, it is permissible to conduct a medical exam after a prospect has been accepted for admission or signed a National Letter of Intent while the student is on campus for any reason at his or her expense.

Tuition and Course-Related Fees to Attend Another Institution

It would be permissible for an institution to provide tuition and course-related fees to attend another institution only when the certifying institution does not offer a course required by the student-athlete's degree program during the student-athlete's entire enrollment at the certifying institution (as opposed to a course not available during a particular semester or academic year).





In the News....



Fan Banned at UK

The University of Kentucky has banned a fan from any involvement with UK athletics for 27 years.

The decision to ban Brian Poe stems from unapproved contact with potential football recruits.

This means that Poe, who runs a UK fan web site, cannot purchase season tickets. It also means no coaches, players, staff or potential recruits can have contact with him.

UK originally banned Poe for two years, after it was found that he inappropriately interviewed high school recruits.

Sandy Bell, UK Compliance Director, found out from another booster that Poe was circulating e-mails asking for help in recruiting student-athletes to Kentucky. As a result, an additional 25 years were added.

Georgia Will Not Contest NCAA Findings

The University of Georgia will not contest the NCAA's findings of four rules violations in the school's basketball program.

Though only three of the four rules violations in the NCAA report had previously been made public, each of the violations had been self-reported. Charges of academic fraud and improper benefits were known last March when Jim Harrick, former head men's basketball coach, was suspended and then forced to resign.

When evidence of academic fraud and improper benefits was confirmed in Georgia's investigation, the school pulled the basketball team out of the Southeastern Conference and NCAA tournaments.

Fulmer Informed NCAA

A lawyer for two former Alabama football coaches suing the NCAA said newly released court documents show Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer secretly provided damaging information about the Crimson Tide to the NCAA.

The documents show Fulmer twice called the NCAA and gave them information implicating the Tide in rules violations, according to attorney Tommy Gallion.

Gallion, a Montgomery lawyer who represents former Alabama assistants Ronnie Cottrell and Ivy Williams, contends the NCAA ignored violations at Tennessee in exchange for Fulmer's help in the case against Alabama.

Two years ago, the NCAA placed Alabama on five years of probation, banned it from bowls for two years and imposed heavy scholarship reductions for recruiting violations.

NCAA Bans Former Women's Basketball Coach

Cheryl Littlejohn, a former women's basketball coach at Chicago State University and the University of Minnesota, may not work at any member institutions of the NCAA until 2009. Ms. Littlejohn's punishment is part of penalties handed down by the NCAA's Division I Committee on Infractions for the excessive practice time that Ms. Littlejohn required of Chicago State student-athletes.

Ms. Littlejohn had been punished previously for rules violations that occurred during her tenure at Minnesota, including providing players with rent money and scheduling excessive off-season practices. Minnesota fired her in 2001.

According to a report issued by the infractions committee, Ms. Littlejohn subsequently ordered players to participate in excessive practices, including telling team members to skip classes to attend practices.

Bloom Wants Endorsements

Jeremy Bloom, who for years has been in a legal tangle with the NCAA over rules that bar him from earning skiing-related endorsement money while playing football at the University of Colorado, said he will begin taking endorsements. He will also continue playing football, putting the onus on the NCAA to either allow him to do both or to strip him of his football eligibility.

Bloom's decision, a rare challenge to the NCAA's authority, will make him a test case in the debate over NCAA prohibitions on money earned by student-athletes. After averaging 16.2 yards on 22 receptions for Colorado last season, the sophomore is skiing in World Cup competitions.

Data Shows Gender Gap in Spending

Female participation in college sports has made significant gains, with Division I-AAA becoming the first NCAA division or subdivision to average an equal proportion of male and female student-athletes, according to the 2001-02 Gender-Equity Report.

While the increases in the number of female student-athletes are encouraging, the report also found that in most other categories—such as dollars spent on athletics, scholarships and coaches' salaries—women's athletics made only minor gains compared to their male counterparts.

In most cases, the total number of dollars spent on men's athletics increased just as much, if not more than, the money spent for women's athletics.



**February
Recruiting
Calendar**



**Interpreter
On-Line**

**COMPLIANCE
STAFF
644-4272**

Football

Feb 1	Quiet
Feb 2-5	Dead
Feb 6-29	Quiet

Men's Basketball

Feb 1-29	Eval/Quiet
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Women's Basketball

Feb 1-29	Eval/Quiet
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Baseball

Feb 1-29	Quiet
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Softball

Feb 1-29	Cont/Eval
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Volleyball

Feb 1-13	Quiet
Feb 14-29	Cont/Eval

Soccer

Feb 2-5	Dead
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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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**Proposed Legislation
NLI Signing Dates**