

The Interpreter

MAKING THE GRADE

January 2004

In order to practice and compete in intercollegiate athletics, student-athletes must meet several standards for academic achievement. Specifically, a student-athlete must remain in good academic standing, maintain satisfactory progress towards a degree and meet minimum GPA percentage and credit hour requirements.

Good Academic Standing

All students at Florida State must remain in good academic standing and student-athletes are treated no differently. "Good academic standing" is defined by Florida State and varies depending on the student-athlete's major field of study. For additional information regarding good academic standing, please consult your team's academic counselor.

Percentage of Degree

Satisfactory progress requirements set forth by the NCAA require that student-athletes are not eligible for competition unless they have met a certain percentage of their requirements for graduation.

Student-athletes in their first two years of enrollment who have not designated a degree program may use classes that apply toward any FSU degree program.

For student-athletes who enrolled as a full-time college student before August 1, 2003, they must complete 25% of their requirements for their declared degree by the beginning of their third year of enrollment. They must achieve 50% of their degree requirements by the beginning of their fourth year and 75% by the beginning of their fifth year.

For student-athletes who enrolled as full-time college student after August 1, 2003, they must complete 40% of their requirements for their declared degree by the beginning of their third year of enrollment. They must achieve 60% of their degree requirements by the beginning of their fourth year and 80% by the beginning of their fifth year.

Credit Hour Requirements

For student-athletes entering a collegiate institution before August 1, 2003, they must complete an average of at least 12 hours per semester during each of the previous academic terms in which they are enrolled, with not more than 25% of those hours being earned during the summer terms.

For student-athletes entering a collegiate institution after

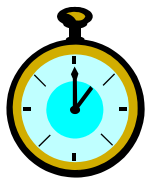
August 1, 2003, they must complete a minimum of 18 hours during the academic year (fall and spring semesters).

All student-athletes will be required to complete at least 6 degree applicable hours the preceding semester to be eligible for the upcoming semester.

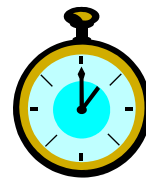
GPA Requirements

For student-athletes entering college before August 1, 2003, they must have a minimum GPA that equals no less than 90% of the minimum GPA required to graduate by the beginning of their third year of enrollment, and 95% of the minimum GPA by the beginning of their fourth or subsequent year of enrollment.

For student-athletes entering college after August 1, 2003, they must have a minimum GPA that equals no less than 90% of the minimum GPA required to graduate by the beginning of their second year of enrollment, 95% of the minimum GPA required for graduation by the beginning of their third year of enrollment and 100% of the GPA required for graduation by the beginning of their fourth or subsequent year of enrollment.



Athletically-Related Time Demands



At the 2003 NCAA Convention, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Division I Management Council had an opportunity to meet with the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, at which time the student-athletes addressed a number of issues, including concerns about the “20/8-hour rule.” Two issues became clear over the course of the discussion: first, that there is a general misunderstanding regarding what activities are included and not included in the current “20/8-hour rule” and, second, enhanced monitoring and enforcement of the current legislation is critical to helping student-athletes balance their academic and athletics commitments.

The “20/8-hour rule” involves the number of hours a student-

athlete is permitted to practice in a week. During the sport’s declared playing season, a student-athlete can practice no more than 20 hours a week. Outside the playing season, a student-athlete can practice no more than 8 hours a week.

In response to the student-athlete’s concerns, a working group was formed this summer and charged with examining and developing ways to enhance the educational and monitoring efforts surrounding the time limitations on athletically related activities.

The working group has been hard at work and already has begun to address the first phase of its charge, which is to develop an educational program designed to assist student-athletes, coaches and administrators in understanding the

current rules regarding athletically related activities.

New legislation has been proposed to help curb abuses of athletically-related time demands on student-athletes.

One proposal would limit a multisport student-athlete’s participation in countable athletically related activities to no more than 20 hours per week. Currently, multisport student-athletes could be requested to practice up to 20 hours per week per sport.

The other proposal would specify that an institution could not count a travel day as the one day off per week that the NCAA requires. This proposal would require that an additional day off be given to the student-athletes.

These proposals will be reviewed by the Management Council during its January meeting. The Management Council will vote on these proposals at their April meeting.



From the Interpretation File



Winter Coats/Travel Suits

The only apparel and/or equipment that may be provided to student-athletes are those sport-related items utilized during actual practice and/or competition (Bylaw 16.8.2.1). As a result, it is not permissible to provide (on a permanent or issue/retrieval basis) winter coats for student-athletes that participate in basketball, volleyball or any other sport in which a winter coat is not utilized during practice and/or competition. In addition, it is not permissible to provide a “travel warm-up suit” unless that warm-up suit was utilized for previous practice activities.

Permissible Timing for Providing Annual Participation Awards

It is not permissible for an institution to provide an annual participation award (e.g., winter coats, travel blazers) to a student-athlete in a particular sport prior to the conclusion of the institution’s regular playing season in that sport.



Certification of Outside Aid Unrelated to Athletics Ability

If an outside financial aid award includes athletics participation or achievements on the application form, such an award may satisfy the provisions of NCAA Bylaw 15.2.5.2 as being awarded solely on bases having no relationship to athletics ability only if:

- a. The application form does not request the applicant to list athletics participation, achievements, extracurricular activities or any other category in which athletics may be relevant; and
- b. The awarding agency verifies that it does not consider athletics participation in the awarding of the aid.



In the News....



Missouri Questioned by NCAA

The University of Missouri and the NCAA have spent months investigating allegations surrounding troubled former guard Ricky Clemons, including assertions by Clemons' ex-girlfriend that he received improper help with school work. Missouri coach Quin Snyder has said he had no knowledge of his former player receiving improper academic help.

Questions have arisen about how Clemons accumulated 24 academic credits—enough to enroll at Missouri from a Kansas junior college—during a two-month period in the summer of 2002.

Clemons pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors in April for assaulting his ex-girlfriend, Jessica Bunge.

The investigation intensified this summer because of allegations by Bunge that Clemons had also received cash and clothes while playing for Missouri.

Clemons said in taped jail telephone conversations that two assistant coaches gave money to him and other players.

The NCAA and Missouri had said they expected the investigations to be wrapped up by this month.

van Breda Kolff Ethics Under Scrutiny

The NCAA could charge former St. Bonaventure coach Jan van Breda Kolff with unethical conduct for his role in a player eligibility scandal that led to his dismissal.

If the NCAA sanctions van Breda Kolff, he could be restricted from returning to coach at the college level for a set period of time.

Sherril Accused of Improper Benefits

A Mississippi State recruit's grandfather told investigators that retired coach Jackie Sherrill offered to provide the player a car, the NCAA said in its report on alleged rules violations by the football program.

The 22-page document released by the school, lists 13 possible violations that occurred from 1998-2002.

Several of the alleged violations involved assistant coach Glenn Davis and former assistant Jerry Fremin giving cash and gifts and offering improper benefits to prospective student-athletes and their families.

Mississippi State's response to the NCAA's notice of allegations, known as an official letter of inquiry, is due by March 2.

Sherrill, who retired in November after 13 seasons with Mississippi State, was mentioned in two of the allegations.

According to the notice of allegations, the mother of a Mississippi State recruit told the recruit's grandmother that Sherrill got her son "a nice ride."

In the other case involving Sherrill, a recruit's stepfather said Sherrill told him that he would make sure that he and his family were taken care of, and if the stepfather was in need of employment or anything, to call Sherrill.

Mississippi State's football program was found guilty of major NCAA infractions in 1996 and received one year probation and a loss of scholarships.

Because the current allegations go back to 1998, Mississippi State could be dealt with as a repeat violator by the NCAA, which could lead to harsher penalties being imposed.

Hazing Alive on Campuses

Researchers at Alfred University in New York have determined that during the 1998-99 school year, more than a quarter of a million intercollegiate student-athletes experienced some form of hazing to join a college athletic team.

One in five of these student-athletes were subjected to unacceptable and potentially illegal hazing. They were kidnapped, beaten or tied up and abandoned. They were also forced to commit crimes including destroying property.

Half of the athletes surveyed were required to participate in drinking contests or alcohol-related hazing. Two in five consumed alcohol on recruitment visits even before enrolling.

Two-thirds of the student-athletes surveyed were subjected to humiliating hazing, such as being yelled or sworn at or made to wear embarrassing clothing.

The study found that the athletes who are most at risk for hazing were male; non-Greek members; and either swimmers, divers, soccer players or lacrosse players.

It also found that women were more likely to be involved in alcohol-related hazing than in other forms of hazing and football players were most at risk for dangerous and potentially illegal hazing.

Coaches and athletic administrators need to send a clear anti-hazing message in policy, education and enforcement.

January Recruiting Calendar

Football

Dec 22-Jan2	Dead
Jan 3-4	Quiet
Jan 5-8	Dead
Jan 9-10	Quiet
Jan 11-31	Contact

Men's Basketball

Nov 20-Mar 15	Eval/Quiet
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Women's Basketball

Oct 8-Feb 29	Eval/Quiet
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Baseball

Jan 1	Quiet
Jan 2-6	Dead
Jan 7-31	Quiet

Softball

Jan 1	Quiet
Jan 2-Jan 31	Cont/Eval

Volleyball

Jan 1—Feb 13	Quiet
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Interpreter On-Line

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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**January 2004
Progress Towards Degree
Requirements
Athletic Time Demands**