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# The Irish Interpreter

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## Countable Athletically Related Activities

During the playing and practice season, time limits are placed on the amount of time a student athlete may spend on countable athletically related activities.

While in season, student-athletes may not participate in countable athletically related activities for more than four hours per day and 20 hours per week and they are required to have one day per week off. When out of season during the academic year, student-athletes may not participate in countable athletically related activities for more than eight hours per week (and no more than four hours per day). When out of season, student-athletes must have two days off per week. Days off, both in and out

of season, may occur on any day of the week and may change from week to week.

Common activities that count against daily and weekly time limits are: practice, competition, required weight training and conditioning, required/ supervised/monitored film or videotape review, required participation in camps/clinics/ workshops, meetings initiated by coaches on athletically related matters, and required individual workouts. Administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings) as well as any voluntary athletic activities are not countable in the daily and weekly time limits.

An NCAA rule that became effective August 1, 2006 prohibits countable athletically related activities one week prior to the start of the final exam period for sports that are out of season. Therefore, any sports that are currently out of season must cease countable athletically related activities on December 7, 2007 as the final exam period for the fall semester begins on December 14, 2007. Voluntary activity is permitted.

To be considered voluntary activity, the following conditions must be met:

The student-athlete must not be required to report back to a coach or other athletics depart-

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## Overrides to be Voted on at NCAA Convention

For the third consecutive year, Division I delegates will participate in override voting during the Division I Legislative Forum at the NCAA Convention. The membership will have the opportunity to provide the final word on three proposals, one modifying the financial aid regulations for baseball student-athletes,

another eliminating text messaging and other forms of electronic communication with recruits and a third that changed dates-of-competition rules for men's and women's golf.

The legislation regulating financial aid for baseball student-athletes

limits the number of baseball student-athletes receiving athletically related financial aid to 27 (30 in 2008-2009) with each student-athlete receiving a minimum of 25% of a full grant-in-aid (tuition and fees, room and board, and required course-related books). When the legis-

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## Countable Athletically Related Activities

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ment staff member (e.g., strength coach, trainer, manager) any information related to the activity. In addition, non-coaching staff members who observe the activity may not report back to the student-athlete's coach any information related to the activity. Coaches may not observe voluntary activities.

The activity must be initiated and requested solely by the student-athlete and neither the

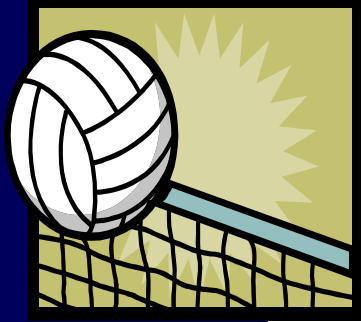
institution nor any athletics department staff member may require the student-athlete to participate in the activity at any time.

The student-athlete's attendance and participation in the activity (or lack thereof) may not be recorded for purposes of reporting such information to coaching staff members or other student athletes.

The student-athlete may not be subjected to penalty if he or she elects not to participate

in the activity.

NCAA rules require each institution to record countable hours. In turn, these records are reviewed by the Athletic Compliance Office on a monthly basis.



**Happy Holidays  
from the Athletic  
Compliance  
Office!**



## Cheating Scandal Could Leave Florida State Without Top Players

From USA TODAY.com—  
As many as 25 Florida State football players — close to a quarter of the roster — won't travel to the Dec. 31 Music City Bowl, many because of academic improprieties under investigation by the school since spring.

The school and coach Bobby Bowden made the announcement in a statement Tuesday. "Our staff is in the process of determining what adjustments we must make for the game," said Bowden, whose 7-5 Seminoles face Kentucky. "We will have a few practices to get our plans in place."

The Tallahassee Democrat, citing people with knowledge of the case, said at least 11 players with starting experience are among 23 suspended for academic reasons. Suspensions of non-seniors will carry into next season. The Seminoles won't fill holes in the lineup by using players about

to complete redshirt seasons, offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher told the newspaper.

The suspended players are connected to a tainted online course in which a part-time tutor was found to have given students answers while they were taking tests. A full-time academic adviser also provided answers on quizzes and typed papers for students, the school found.

Some 600 students, including about 100 athletes, were enrolled in the class. Investigators are looking five semesters back, though it's believed most of the abuses came last spring, a school official with knowledge of the investigation told USA TODAY.

By September, 23 athletes had admitted misconduct. All but two are still in school, have served suspensions and been reinstated. Two were football players who sat out four games during the early stages of the

investigation, and FSU has settled on a 30%-of-the-season penalty for all implicated athletes, according to the official with knowledge of the case.

That would be 3.6 games in football, starting with the bowl. Whether the school will round up to three more games next season or down to two games hasn't been determined.

None of the athletes' names has been released by the school, which submitted an initial report to the NCAA in September.

The infractions case is Florida State's first since nine football players were found to have gone on an agent-bankrolled shopping spree at a Foot Locker store in November 1993, while the Seminoles were en route to a national title. The NCAA charged the school with "failure to monitor" but hit the program with only a year's probation.

# Override Legislation

(Continued from page 1)

lation was first adopted by the NCAA Board of Directors in April 2007, the minimum amount of athletically related financial aid a student-athlete was to receive was set at 33% of a full grant-in-aid. During the sixty day override period, 72 schools submitted a request for an override. The Board reviewed its action in August 2007 and amended the legislation to specify that an institution shall provide each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid 25% of a grant-in-aid. After the amendment, the legislation entered an override period again and for the second override period, 56 schools requested an override. The Board again reviewed its adoption of the legislation and upheld the adoption, thus setting the stage for the override vote by each active Division I institution at the NCAA Convention.

In April 2007, the NCAA Board of Directors adopted legislation that in effect banned text messaging in college recruiting. After the legislation was adopted, a sixty day override period began and by the end of the override period, 34 schools requested an override. The Board was forced to

reconsider its decision and ultimately upheld the legislation. Therefore, each active Division I member will have a vote to either uphold the legislation or to override the legislation when voting at the NCAA Convention.

Finally, the men's and women's golf legislation allows Division I golf teams the option to break from the current 24 competition days and instead select to play in nine three-day tournaments (maximum 54 holes), which in effect would give a team 27 playing dates. If a school selects the three-day option, it is not permitted to play in any two-day events. After the legislation was adopted in April 2007, 69 schools requested an override, the Board subsequently upheld the adoption after their review, and the legislation will be voted on at the Convention in January.

At least a 5/8ths majority vote of the membership is required to override the legislative action taken by the Board of Directors. If a 5/8ths majority vote is not obtained, the Board of Directors action is final and the legislation will remain as it currently is.



## Vacation Periods and Meals

The University's official vacation period begins on Thursday, December 20 and continues through Monday, January 14, 2008.

It is permissible to provide student-athletes three meals per day during an official vacation period in which they are required to remain on campus for practice and competition. Student-athletes may receive cash in lieu of a meal during a vacation period.

In addition to the three meals per day, an institution may provide an additional meal to student-athletes to meet nutritional needs during each day of the vacation period that the student-athlete is required to remain on campus to be involved in practice or competition. It is NOT permissible to provide cash to student-athletes in lieu of the additional meal.

## Test Your Knowledge

Now that his team has completed its regular season competition, Coach Distance is deciding on what type of awards he would like to give his student-athletes for their participation in the sport of cross country.

Are there any limitations on the number of, or dollar amount on the awards provided to student-athletes?

Yes. **NCAA Bylaw 16.1.4.1** states that awards for participation in intercollegiate athletics may be presented each year, limited in value and number as specified. Awards for participation in special events may be provided only to student-athletes eligible to participate in the competition.

Annual participation awards may not exceed \$175 for an underclassman and \$325 for a senior.

