

# THE IRISH INTERPRETER



Volume 2, Issue 6

January 2008

## ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE OFFICE

### Eligibility Certification Process

At the beginning of each semester, institutions are required to certify the continuing eligibility of all student-athletes prior to competition. In order to be eligible for the spring semester, each student-athlete must be in good academic standing, enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies, have completed satisfactory progress towards degree requirements and be in good university standing.

Good academic standing requires that student-athletes receive a 1.7 GPA at the end of the first semester, 1.85 GPA at the end of the second semester and a 2.0 GPA each semester thereafter.

All student-athletes must be enrolled as a full time student in a minimum of 12 credit hours. Exception: A student athlete who is in their final academic year of their degree program may be enrolled in the number of credit hours required to graduate, provided the institution certifies that the student is enrolled in courses necessary to complete degree requirements.

Satisfactory progress towards degree requires that the student-athlete has successfully passed six semester hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester) in which the student-athlete has

been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

A student-athlete must also maintain "good standing" in the University community. A student-athlete may be declared ineligible if placed on "Disciplinary Probation" by the Office of Residence Life as a result of violations of the University code of conduct found in the student handbook.

To certify that a student-athlete has meet all of these requirements, an "Eligibility Checklist" is compiled in the Athletic Compliance Office and verified and signed by designees in the Registrar's Office, Academic Services for Student-Athletes, Resi-

### Athletic Grant-in-Aid Limits

The NCAA places a maximum limit on the amount of financial aid that may be awarded to an athletics team by an institution. Aid limits exist in all sports and each sport is generally categorized as either a head-count sport or an equivalency sport.

#### Head-count sports

A "counter" is a student-athlete who is receiving institutional financial aid that is countable

against the aid limitations in a particular sport. A student-athlete is counted against that limit if the student-athlete receives any amount of aid based on athletics ability.

Each counter is tallied as one grant-in-aid in head-count sports. Each team has a maximum amount of grants-in-aid that can be awarded (see below). It is possible for a student-athlete to

be awarded only a portion of a full grant-in-aid. However, in a head-count sport, the student-athlete will still count as one toward the maximum team limit even if they were awarded only a partial grant-in-aid.

#### Head count sports maximum limits:

Men's Basketball—13

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## Newly Adopted Legislation



The NCAA Board of Directors recently approved a number of legislative proposals some of which are effective immediately, others which become effective August 1, 2008. A few of the highlights:

**Proposal 2007-47:** After the calendar day on which a prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent, there shall be no limit on the forms of electronically transmitted correspon-

dence sent to the prospective student-athlete or his or her relatives or legal guardians by the institution with which the prospective student-athlete has signed. Effective immediately.

**2007-110:** To specify that institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may not be reduced or cancelled during the period of its award because of an injury, illness or physical or

mental medical condition. Effective immediately.

**2007-2:** To specify that misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championship, that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics. Effective August 1, 2008.

## Athletic Grant-In-Aid Limits, cont.

Women's Basketball—15

Football—85

Volleyball—12

Women's Tennis—8

### Equivalency Sports

In equivalency sports, one grant-in-aid can be divided among more than one student-athlete. Each team has a maximum amount of grants-in-aid that can be divided among team members.

### Men's Sports Equivalency limits:

Baseball—11.7 (limited to 30 counters in 2008-09 and 27 in 2009-10 and after)

Cross Country/Track and Field—12.6

Fencing—4.5

Golf—4.5

Hockey—18 (limited to 30 counters)

Lacrosse—12.6

Soccer—9.9

Swimming/Diving—9.9

Tennis—4.5

### Women's Equivalency limits:

Cross Country/Track and Field—18

Fencing—5

Golf—6

Lacrosse—12

Rowing—20

Soccer—14

Softball—12

Swimming/Diving—14

An athletic grant-in-aid is awarded to a student-athlete for one academic year and can not be awarded in excess of one academic year nor for a period less than one academic year.

Only in limited circumstances may an athletic grant-in-aid may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award. Reduction or cancellation is permissible if the student-athlete:

- Becomes ineligible for

participation in the sport (e.g., forfeits amateur status, fails to meet initial or continuing eligibility requirements, violates institutional, conference, and/or NCAA rules);

- Voluntarily withdraws from the team in the sport;
- Is dismissed or withdraws from the institution;
- Misrepresents information on an Application for Admission, Athletic Grant-In-Aid Agreement, National Letter of Intent, and/or medical records or withholds information related to eligibility for or ability to participate in the sport; or
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty by the Department of Athletics or the institution (e.g., Division of Student Affairs).

### Definition to

#### Know

**Full Grant-In-Aid:** financial aid that consists of tuition, fees, room, board and required course-related books.

## The NCAA News: Texting Ban Upheld

Attempts to allow text messaging of prospective student-athletes, delete scholarship minimums for baseball student-athletes and expand squad-size limits for baseball teams failed during the Division I business session January 12.

However, the membership did override a proposal regarding the dates of competition in men's and women's golf.

The lopsided vote on the text-messaging rule - only 21.3 percent supported the override - was foretold by the assembly's initial refusal to move the proposal. Even once the override was on the floor for consideration, Kerry Kenny, vice chair of the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, persuasively reiterated the student-athletes' position that text messaging between prospective student-athletes and coaches was intrusive, unprofessional and expensive.

"We believe that text messaging and instant messaging are both highly unprofessional in the recruiting process," Kenny said. "You wouldn't use text messaging to contact an employer when searching for a job, and it's unlikely that an employer would contact you with a text message to offer you the job."

Momentum for the text-ban override dwindled even before the vote when Big East Associate Commissioner Joe D'Antonio announced the league would withdraw its proposal to add instant messaging to the list of approved communications with recruits.

The baseball rule was part of a package developed by a working group and approved as emergency legislation by the Board in April. The first part of the proposal requires individual aid packages for student-athletes to include a minimum of 25 percent athletics aid. The second portion capped the squad size at 35.

Before the override vote, the legislation was split at the request of a delegate, and several presidents and others spoke in favor of both parts. Ron Wellman, athletics director at Wake Forest and chair of the Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group that developed the baseball package, pointed out the connection between the minimum aid piece up for a vote and the elimination of the one-time transfer exception.

"We proposed the transfer rule be eliminated for baseball players so they would be required to have a year of residency. To

have that expectation of baseball players when they are on a minimal amount of aid - and we can cite example after example of baseball players on a books scholarship - to ask them to make that type of commitment to the institution without the institution making a reciprocal commitment to the baseball player seems very unfair to our committee," Wellman said. "We believe it is a student-athlete well-being issue."

Hartford President Walter Harrison and Georgia President Michael Adams both supported the rule as well, indicating that the legislative process in place for Division I worked exactly as intended.

Only 30.3 percent of those present and voting wanted to override the minimum financial aid requirement, while 24.5 percent wanted to eliminate the squad-size limit.

The proposals will take effect in August.

About two-thirds of the membership present voted to override the proposal that would provide for nine three-day tournaments (with 54 holes per tournament) or 24 dates of competition in golf. There was no discussion on the motion.



**Bylaw 13.4.1.2 Electronic Transmissions: Electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective-student-athlete is limited to electronic mail and facsimiles. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., Instant Messenger, text messaging) are prohibited.**

"Sports do not build character. They reveal it."

- John Wooden

## Test Your Knowledge

Sky Hook, a basketball prospective student-athlete, signed a National Letter of Intent with East State University this morning. ESU would like to show video clips of Sky during their announcement of Sky's signing.

Is this permissible?

Yes. **NCAA Bylaw 13.10.9.1** states that it shall be permissible for an institution to show video clips of a prospective student-athlete during its announcement of the prospective student-athlete's signing, provided such publicity occurs only after the prospective student-athlete has signed a National Letter of Intent or after the prospective student-athlete's signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. Other prospective student-athletes may appear in the video clips, provided the focus of the clips is related to the prospective student-athlete who has committed to the institution. (*Adopted: 2/16/00; Revised: 4/1/05*)

## January Recruiting Calendar

### **Baseball**

January 1-2: Quiet Period

January 3-7: Dead Period

January 8-31: Quiet Period

### **Men's Basketball**

January 1-31: Evaluation Period

### **Women's Basketball**

January 1-31: Evaluation Period

### **Cross Country/Track and Field**

January 1-2: Quiet Period

January 3-31: Contact Period

### **Football**

January 1-3: Dead Period

January 4-6: Quiet Period

January 7-10: Dead Period

January 11-12: Quiet Period

January 13-31: Contact Period

### **Men's Lacrosse**

January 1-3: Dead Period

January 3-31: Contact Period

### **Women's Lacrosse**

January 1: Quiet Period

January 2-31: Contact Period

### **Softball**

January 1: Quiet Period

January 2-31: Contact Period

### **Women's Volleyball**

January 1-18: Quiet Period

January 19-31: Contact Period

**Contact period** - permissible for authorized athletic department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations

**Dead period** - not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or permit official or unofficial visits

**Evaluation period** - permissible for authorized athletics department staff to be involved in off-campus activities to assess academic qualifications and playing abilities; no in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete are permitted

**Quiet period** - permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution's campus