

Athletics Newsletter

University of Wyoming

November 2011

DI Board adopts improvements in academic standards and student-athlete support

Published October 27, 2011, on NCAA.org

The Division I Board of Directors continued the quick-action precedent set earlier this summer, adopting a package of proposals Thursday that toughen academic standards and provide increased academic and economic support to student-athletes.

Academic changes

Earlier this year, the Board had voted to set the minimum academic standard for post-season participation as a 930 Academic Progress Rate (APR). The 930 APR predicts roughly a 50 percent Graduation Success Rate (GSR).

The new post-season eligibility structure will take effect in the 2012-13 academic year, with a two-year implementation window before the benchmark moves from 900 to 930. For access to post-season competition in 2012-13 and 2013-14, teams must achieve a 900 multi-year APR or a 930 average over the most recent two years to be eligible.

In 2014-15, teams that don't achieve the 930 benchmark for their four-year APR or at least a 940 average for the most recent two years will be ineligible for post-season competition.

In 2015-16, the 930 benchmark for post-season competition participation – and additional penalties – will be implemented fully. The APR requirement for post-season competition participation would be waived only in extraordinary circumstances.

The structure will allow for some adjustments for teams that improve once they enter the second level of penalties. The Board provided special allowances for historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and low-resource schools and supported the creation of an HBCU advisory group to study academic performance of student-athletes at those institutions.

In addition, the Board also approved a new three-level penalty structure:

The first level of the new structure limits teams to 16 hours of practice a week over five days, with the lost four hours to be replaced with academic activities. This represents a reduction of four hours and one day per week of practice time.

The second level adds competition reduction, either in the traditional or nontraditional season, to the first level penalties.

The third level, where teams could remain until their rate improves, provides for a menu of penalty options, including coaching suspensions, financial aid reductions and restricted NCAA membership.

The current process for data collection and penalty announcement will continue, though Committee on Academic Performance members are interested in studying ways to speed up the process.

Additionally, the presidents adopted new standards for two-year transfer student-athletes. Data show that transfers from two-year colleges often struggle academically after arriving at a four-year institution.

The Board approved an increase in the transferrable grade-point average from 2.0 to 2.5 and limited the number of physical education activity courses to two. Also, two-year college transfers who didn't qualify academically out of high school will be required to complete a core curriculum that includes English, math and science courses.

The new transfer requirements will apply to any student-athlete enrolling full-time in college for the first time in August 2012 or later.

Inside this issue:

Interp & Ed Column	2
Answers	2
DI Board (cont)	3
Faculty/Staff Corner	3
Department Spotlight	4
Word Puzzle	4
NLI Reminders	4
Events Calendar	5
Recruiting Calendar	6

The Compliance Office would like to thank Brian Benight for his work on this month's Newsletter

COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Question 1:

The local paper editor corners you to ask your opinion on a recruit's ability to play at the collegiate level. What can you say?

Question 2:

Your recruit, on their official visit, asks if you can get them tickets to the tennis match in Cheyenne that weekend. Can you provide the tickets?

INTERPRETATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL COLUMN OF INTEREST

Student-Athlete Performing Required Work other than Regular Employment

Date Published: October 20, 2011

Interpretation:

The academic and membership affairs staff confirmed that any work performed by a student-athlete (e.g., field or facility preparation for practice or competition) that is required, supervised or monitored by a coaching staff member (including strength and conditioning coaches) or noncoaching staff member with sports specific responsibilities, other than regular employment in accordance with NCAA employment legislation, is a countable athletically related activity.

Departments Outside Athletics Hosting Nonathletics High School, Preparatory School or Two-Year College Personnel

Date Published: October 20, 2011

Interpretation:

The Legislative Council determined that an institutional department outside the athletics department (e.g., president's office, admissions) may host nonathletics high school, preparatory school or two-year college personnel (e.g., guidance counselors, principals) in conjunction with a home intercollegiate athletics event and may provide such individuals reasonable expenses (e.g., food, refreshments, parking, room) and a nominal gift, provided the visit is not related to athletics recruiting and there is no involvement by the institution's athletics department in the arrangements for the visit, other than providing (in accordance with established policy) free admissions to an athletics event.

Expenses from a Recruiting Service or Event Operator

Date Published: October 6, 2011

Educational Column:

NCAA member institutions should note that all funds for the recruitment of prospective student-athletes shall be deposited directly with the member institution, which shall be exclusively and entirely responsible for the manner in which such funds are expended. Therefore, it is not permissible for any outside organization or individual (e.g., recruiting or scouting service, event operator) to provide institutional coaching staff members with expenses (e.g., travel, lodging) to attend any event for recruiting purposes. Such expenses are considered funds donated for recruiting purposes and such funds must be deposited directly with the member institution, as opposed to being provided directly to an institutional coaching staff member(s). Further, any individual or organization that provides funds directly to the athletics department would be considered a representative of athletics interests and subject to all legislation applicable to that status (e.g., contact, telephone and evaluation restrictions).

ANSWERS TO COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS

Answer 1:

If the athlete has not accepted their admissions offer, coaches cannot evaluate or rate a prospective athlete for the media, scouting services or recruiting services. They can only confirm the recruitment of the prospective athlete.

If the athlete has accepted their admissions offer. Coaches can answer the reporter's question.

Answer 2:

No. An institution can only provide complimentary admission to home athletic events if they are within a 30-mile radius of the main campus.

DI Board (Cont.)

The Board also adopted new initial eligibility standards. The presidents support a model that creates a higher academic standard for incoming freshman to compete than to receive aid and practice, creating an academic red shirt year.

Student-athletes who achieve the current minimum initial eligibility standard on the test score-grade-point average sliding scale with at least a minimum 2.0 core-course GPA would continue to be eligible for athletically related financial aid during the first year of enrollment and practice during the first regular academic term of enrollment. Student-athletes could earn the second term of enrollment for practice by passing nine semester or eight quarter hours.

The proposal increases the standard for immediate access to competition to at least a 2.3 GPA and an increased sliding scale. Specifically, incoming student-athletes would need to earn a half-point higher GPA for a given test score compared to the current standard. For example, an SAT score of 1,000 would require a 2.5 high school core-course GPA for competition and a 2.0 high school core-course GPA for aid and practice.

The presidents also agreed with a recommendation to require prospects to successfully complete 10 of the 16 total required core courses before the start of their senior year in high school. Seven of the 10 courses must be successfully completed in English, math and science. This legislation will impact student-athletes enrolling in college in August 2015 and later.

The proposal granting two-year college student-athletes a year of academic readiness remains in the 2011-12 legislative cycle and will be voted on for the first time at the NCAA Convention in January 2012.

Student-athlete welfare improvements

The Board also adopted legislation that addresses the miscellaneous costs of attending college. Student-athletes who receive full athletics scholarships or get other school financial aid will have the opportunity to receive additional athletics aid (or other institutional aid, including use of the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund) up to the full cost of attendance or \$2,000, whichever is less.

The figure will be adjusted according to the consumer price index, so the presidents will not need to approve new figures when the cost-of-living changes. The Board resolved to not revisit the \$2,000 amount for three years.

The new rule makes the additional aid available to student-athletes in head-count sports (football and basketball) and those in equivalency sports who reach the value of a full scholarship.

Pell Grants will be exempted from the calculation, and the Board adopted a best practice to encourage all student-athletes to fill out the federal application for student financial aid. In equivalency sports, only athletically related aid will count toward team limits.

The Board also approved multi-year grants up to the full term of eligibility, though one-year grants will remain the minimum. A prescribed minimum award value should apply to all scholarships (percentage amount to be decided in the coming months), and institutions could increase the allotted aid during the period of the award.

The current restrictions and processes for reducing or canceling aid will be maintained and only non-athletically related conditions for reduction or cancellation will be permitted in aid agreements. Student-athletes will continue to have a hearing opportunity for any reduction or cancellation of aid.

UW FACULTY/STAFF CORNER

CoSIDA to unveil new and improved Academic All-America program

Later this month, the College Sports Information Directors of America will introduce the first Academic All-America teams of the year, continuing the only program of its kind that has recognized student-athlete academic achievement for more than half a century.

What makes 2011-12 a benchmark year for the program, though, is that for the first time, CoSIDA will announce Academic All-America teams in all three NCAA divisions.

For years the program has been separated into “university” and “college” divisions to distinguish Division I honorees from the rest. Now, thanks to support from NCAA corporate partner Capital One and contributions from the Divisions II and III identity campaigns, the Capital One Academic All-America program will recognize 48 national teams annually in 12 sports – one team each for Divisions I, II and III, and a college division squad that combines NAIA institutions, two-year colleges and Canadian schools.

This year’s program kicks off when CoSIDA and Capital One announce Academic All-America Teams in men’s and women’s soccer on Nov. 29 (Division III), Nov. 30 (Division II) and Dec. 1 (Division I).

The university and college distinctions reflected the same names the NCAA used to distinguish competitive levels, but the labels lingered long after the NCAA went to its divisional structure in 1973. It became problematic for the Academic All-America program, particularly in the college division since that bucket was so full of potential nominees. SIDs with student-athletes carrying 3.6 or 3.7 grade-point averages became reluctant to nominate them because they knew the competition was so stout just because of the volume.

Humenik said the updated program expands CoSIDA’s grass-roots reach. “We’ll have 384 All-District teams per year and now 48 national teams instead of 24. That’s close to 4,000 student-athletes honored annually, from All-District to first-, second- and third-team Academic All-America.”

Student-athletes in other sports such as swimming and diving, tennis, golf, field hockey and ice hockey are eligible for the men’s and women’s at-large programs. The Academic All-District teams (in eight geographic districts) are voted on by the CoSIDA membership at large, with first-team selections advancing to the national Capital One Academic All-America ballot. At that point, first-, second- and third-team performers are chosen by the Academic All-America Committee members and CoSIDA board of directors.

In all, about 1,950 athletes earn all-district honors (in eight districts), 820 earn All-America honors and 288 are first-team Academic All-America selections.

NLI REMINDERS

- ✓ All NLI's must be accompanied by a scholarship agreement in order to be valid.
- ✓ To request an NLI/Scholarship please use the UW Financial Aid/NLI Checklist form which can be found in your compliance notebook and on the compliance website.
- ✓ NCAA bylaw requires that a prospective student-athlete have completed the amateurism questionnaire before an NLI or Scholarship can be provided to them.
- ✓ Only prospective student-athletes that will be entering a 4 year institution for the first time are eligible to sign NLI's.
- ✓ If a prospective student-athlete signs an NLI and subsequently a recruiting rule violation regarding that prospective student-athlete occurs, the prospective student-athlete will have the option of having their NLI declared void.
- ✓ If you have any questions please contact the Compliance Office or your Sport Supervisor.



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

A new feature starting this year for the Athletics Newsletter is the Department Spotlight. Each month we will be getting to know employees in various departments of Athletics. This month we will be talking with the Media Relations staff. The Media Relations staff includes Tim Harkins, Amy Dambro, Amil Anderson, Diane Dodson, Andy Chapman, Nick Kinney and Lauren Marchant. We asked all of them 4 questions that will help us get to know them.

- 1) What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?
Tim: Spending a day with family. It is always a great time to be with my daughter, Tess, and her family, particularly my four-year old grandson Hayden.
Amy: Watching football and turkey of course
Amil: Watching some NFL with my old man.
Diane: My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is spending time with family and the smell of turkey cooking in the oven.
Andy: There are several features of Thanksgiving that I like, including the awesome food, seeing my family, and watching the Dallas Cowboys dominate!
Nick: I think my favorite thing about Thanksgiving is sitting around watching football and eating all day!
Lauren: Family and food. Luckily I have family here in Laramie, so we all get together at my grandparents and play games and eat until we can't eat anymore.
- 2) How long have you lived in Wyoming?
Tim: This is my 21st year at UW. I moved here in July of 1991 from the University of Utah.
Amy: Since I was 11.
Amil: Just moved back, but a little over 13 years.
Diane: I have lived in Wyoming for 39 years (34 of those in Laramie).
Andy: I've been a Wyomingite my whole life. It's been a glorious 25 years.
Nick: I have lived in Wyoming my whole life (24 years)
Lauren: I have lived in Wyoming for 19 of my 24 years.

COMPLIANCE WORD SEARCH

N M L R X C T T Z V E A U W Y U K Y M S J S M Y P
 D Z H H J U R S W E W E N I G N L G Y J N T A A C
 R R Z T K A W Q M J Q O P Y B E M F U U T N K T R
 A A U D N E J P L H I Y F U C T M B E L D E C A F
 E I S S I M K L F T W T M D A H O M I I J M C U M
 S S F X U K G O A E L I G I B I L I T Y K E U P G
 I E N I E D Z S R R M U H C O C T X X H J R Y N R
 R Q D O B T N J A W F W X C K A V R C K R I O F Y
 Q C S R I E E Y G C G I X E B L M Z M Q F U O U W
 J C O X P T N X O Y T P H T R U U F J F X Q A M A
 J R B M V V C B T I S Y I V L A I U C I F F O E A P W
 Z Z O I C I D I N D Q R O R F F S G R O T R D E G
 U C G P G H Q S R Z Y I C N X H K V A D E R L N N
 M S P R B A B K V T C T Z K P R K Z S V W V R D C
 Z T I J T F G C I M S N F M S L Y E K S Y H V M R
 B Q V W F J E E L L V E V W D G A N L B T F T A L
 V C T G O Q H L U Y K B R F X F D N C M D M V F H
 H W Q Q V T Y Z B K G T B R P F H J R Z G A L R I
 M F Y Z L Y O E B Q Y I J G V H I P I J O R Z W B
 G G Q L J G O C S U R V O K Q S N W K E E Z Y G E
 K M G L Z Y O S B N Q F H O N Y O T D P E N L H I
 N H I U U V C L A C I H T E W R Z K R H M B K E U
 O G E K Z F P O P I N Z A G N Z E R Q S H Q F X C
 K R N K D W A V L E L W O K G C G M Y S N T H H C
 F O W P K D B P W I S D Y M Q K I H Q P N I Q J D

ACTION PLAN
 COMPENSATION
 ELIGIBILITY
 ETHICAL
 GPA

OFFICIAL VISIT
 REQUIREMENTS
 RESTRICTIONS
 TRANSFER
 UNETHICAL
 INSTITUTION

- 3) What is your favorite Winter hobby?
Tim: Since we don't have a lot of spare time in the winter, that is a hard question. I'm not a skier, so probably having some quiet time to read or see a movie.
Amy: Do you count sitting in the Arena watching basketball a hobby.
Amil: A long run on a brisk morning.
Diane: Going to basketball games – what else?
Andy: I love gearing up and being outside, whether it's ice fishing or snowmobiling.
Nick: My favorite winter hobby has to be snowshoeing.
Lauren: Staying inside by the fire, I am not a winter fan at all! I come from a skiing family, but I was never interested in being out in the cold.
- 4) What is your favorite vacation destination?
Tim: One of the best vacations I've had in recent years was a summer vacation to the central coast of California. We spent a week in Cayucos, Calif., which is a little beach town near San Luis Obispo. We rented a house with my oldest sister and her family.
Amy: Alaska
Amil: Any place I've never been.
Diane: Hawai'i or Jamaica
Andy: Anywhere in the mountains, near a creek or lake.
Nick: Although I have never been there I would have to say Bora Bora. But of places I have been I would have to say Savannah, Georgia and the coastal area around it.
Lauren: My favorite so far has been the Bahamas.



Nick Kinney, Tim Harkins, Andy Chapman, Amil Anderson,
 Lauren Marchant, Amy Dambro, Diane Dodson

RECRUITING CALENDAR November 2011

Sport	Contact/ Evaluation Period	Contact Period	Evaluation Period	Quiet Period	Dead Period
Men's Basketball			Oct 6 – Mar 28		Nov 7-10
Women's Basketball			Oct 7 – Feb 29		Nov 7-10
Football		Nov 27 – Jan 28	42 evaluation days during the months of Sept, Oct, & Nov	Aug 1-Nov 26 (except for 42 eval days)	
Men's Golf	Aug 1-July 31				Nov 7-10
Women's Golf	Aug 1-July 31				Nov 7-10
Women's Soccer	Aug 1-July 31				
Women's Tennis	Aug 1-July 31				Nov 7-10
Swimming & Diving	Aug 1-July 31				Nov 7-10
Track & Field/Cross Country		Aug 14 – Dec 11		Dec 12 – Jan 2	Nov 21-22
Volleyball		August 1 – Dec 4		Dec 5 – Dec 13	Nov 7-10
Wrestling	Aug 1-July 31				Nov 7-10

Recruiting Period Definitions

Contact Period: Permissible to make in-person, off-campus, recruiting contacts and evaluations.

Evaluation Period: Permissible to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospects. NO in-person, off-campus contacts may be made during evaluation periods.

Quiet Period: Permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts ONLY on the UW campus.

Dead Period: NOT permissible to make in-person contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or to permit official or unofficial visits.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Athletics Department staff for further information or for answers to NCAA related questions.

Matt Whisenant

Molly Moore

Jessica Kumke

Pam Shuster

CR Davis

Deputy Athletic Director

Sr. Assoc. AD Internal Ops/SWA

Director of Compliance

Athletic Financial Aid

Compliance Assistant

307-766-5551

307-766-4092

307-766-4960

307-766-6101

307-766-3795