



## Division I-AAA Legislative Headlines



*An electronic newsletter provided by  
**The Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association**  
on NCAA legislative trends and issues affecting Division I-AAA*

October 10, 2002

Prepared by The Compliance Group

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### **CABINETS FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ACTION**

The majority of this issue focuses upon legislation being forwarded from the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance and Championships/Competition Cabinets to the Management Council for its October 21-22, 2002, meeting. As a Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association member, you are encouraged to review the proposals that affect basketball and contact the following Division I-AAA members of the Management Council who are I-AAA Association members if you have any concerns or questions:

- Mike Bobinski, Xavier University, 513/745-3414
- Mike Moore, IUPUI, 317/274-5247
- Tom O'Connor, George Mason University, 703/993-3256
- Cheryl Levick, Santa Clara University, 408/554-5344

### **ACADEMICS/ELIGIBILITY/COMPLIANCE CABINET**

The AEC Cabinet met in September and made some changes to the academic enhancement package. The package will go before the Management Council for the second time in October.

The primary change the AEC asked the Management Council to support deals with the minimum grade-point average requirements in the progress-toward-degree component of the package. Proposal No. 02-24-B requires a student-athlete entering their second year to have 90 percent of the minimum grade-point average necessary to graduate. Further, the proposal requires student-athletes entering their third year to have 100 percent of the cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation in the specified degree program.

The AEC is supporting an amendment that would require a student-athlete entering their third year to have 95 percent of the grade-point average required by the institution to graduate (1.900 in most cases), as opposed to 100 percent of the grade-point average required to graduate in the specified degree program (2.000 or higher in some cases).

The AEC also supported an amendment that would permit a student-athlete who satisfies the requirements of the missed-term exception, or the medical absence or international competition waivers, to be prorated nine semester or quarter hours per term of actual attendance during an academic year.

Under current legislation, the student-athlete is permitted to prorate 12 hours toward the degree-credit requirement if he or she satisfies one of the exceptions or waivers.

The AEC believes that with the above changes, the entire academic enhancement package will earn the required support from the membership.

Other items of interest discussed by the AEC included:

- The issue of an annual Academic Progress Rate (APR) (a snapshot of a team's current academic performance at a given time) and recommended that the Management Council initially approve legislation that would preclude a team or individual competitor from participating in an NCAA championship unless the institution has satisfied the provisions of the APR.
- Discussed the matter of certifying prospective student-athletes through the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse if the proposed academic enhancements are adopted. The cabinet agreed that prospects would be held to the new standards for purposes of the preliminary certification, then those who do not meet the requirements of the new standard during the final certification process will be reevaluated using the current standard. In essence, give the prospects two chances to meet the requirements.

In addition to the academic enhancement package, the Management Council will review several other proposals, including:

### **Proposal No. 99-27 Eligibility Seasons of Competition Basketball.**

Recommendation. Declined to support proposal that would require that an individual who does not enroll in a collegiate institution within one year following completion of secondary studies lose a season of competition for each year in which the individual has participated in organized basketball competition subsequent to the one-year time period. Further, an individual who engages in organized competition (except for military competition) subsequent to the one-year time period must fulfill one academic year in residence upon enrollment at an NCAA Division I institution.

Rationale. Proposal No. 99-27 had been tabled for a significant time period pending final resolution of the vote on the Division I amateurism deregulation package. The Board of Directors recently defeated the proposed new organized competition rule, and the Management Council recently issued a directive for student-athletes who compete on professional teams. This proposal is no longer necessary.

Impact. It would create administrative burden and require all basketball student-athletes to be charged with seasons of competition for lower level competition.

### **Proposal No. 02-02-3 Eligibility Certification Form For International Student-Athletes.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal to remove the requirement that the evaluation of an international basketball student-athlete's amateur status shall be based on a guide to international amateurism standards. The cabinet continues to support the portion of the proposal that would require student-athletes to sign the International Student-Athlete Form prior to participating in competition (as opposed to practice).

Rationale. The establishment of a guide to determine an international basketball student-athlete's amateur status is neither practical nor economical, given the ever-changing structure of international sports systems.

Impact. It also would create more administrative burden.

**Proposal No. 02-44 Recruiting - Telephone Calls Women's Basketball.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal that would reduce from four to three the number of permissible telephone calls with prospective women's basketball student-athletes during the period of June 21-July 31.

Rationale. A reduction in the number of telephone calls to prospective women's basketball student-athletes will be less intrusive to prospects who are participating in competitive activities during July and provide more flexibility for such calls to be conducted during the month of June.

Impact. Self-explanatory.

**Proposal No. 02-45 Recruiting – Women's Basketball Contacts.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal that would prohibit institutional staff members in attendance at non-scholastic certified events from having any communication with a prospect, the prospect's relatives or legal guardians, the prospect's coach, or any individual associated with the prospect as a result of the prospect's participation in basketball during the time period in which the prospect is participating in a non-institutional, organized certified event. Such a restriction would be applicable to all types of interaction (e.g., in-person contact, telephone calls, letters, facsimiles, pager).

Rationale. This proposal is identical to legislation applicable in men's basketball.

Impact. It would create more consistency in legislation.

**Proposal No. 02-46 Amateurism - Professional Draft For Basketball 2-Year College Prospects.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal that would permit a currently enrolled prospective student-athlete attending a two-year collegiate institution to enter a professional league's draft one time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing eligibility in that sport, provided the individual is not drafted by any team in that league and the individual declares his or her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft.

Rationale. Currently, two-year college prospective student-athletes in the sport of men's basketball are the only individuals who may not enter to enter the draft without immediate eligibility consequences.

Impact. This proposal would provide an equitable opportunity for two-year college students by imposing a comparable standard that exists for currently enrolled student-athletes.

**Proposal No. 02-76 Amateurism/Eligibility Professional Basketball Predraft Camp.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal that would permit:

- (i.) A basketball student-athlete using the exception in Bylaw 12.2.4.2.1 to compete in a predraft basketball camp (e.g. NBA predraft camp) sponsored by a professional sports organization, provided the student-athlete has received written permission from the institution's athletics director (or the director's official representative) for participation in the predraft camp.
- (ii.) A basketball student-athlete to accept actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses from a professional sports organization to participate in its predraft camp when the student-athlete is using the exception in Bylaw 12.2.4.2.1.

Rationale. Current legislation permits basketball student-athletes to declare for the professional draft without jeopardizing eligibility per Bylaw 12.2.4.2.1 but not receive expenses. It makes sense to allow such student-athletes to then test their skills in a competitive environment with others who are similarly situated.

Impact. The student-athletes will be less likely to accept money from sports agents and other impermissible sources.

### **Proposal No. 02-79 Recruiting Calendar Men's Basketball.**

Recommendation. Supported proposal that would amend Bylaws 13.1.8.4 and 30.11.1-(f) to limit evaluations in the sport of men's basketball that occur during the April contact period at sites other than the prospect's educational institution to only on Saturday and Sunday. Further, to specify that no such evaluations may occur on any weekend during which the PSAT, SAT or ACT national standardized tests are administered.

Rationale. The men's basketball recruiting calendar was modified to allow coaches to evaluate prospective student-athletes at weekend events, which included Friday evening. This has resulted in prospective student-athletes missing additional class time to travel to such events.

Impact. It will require the intercollegiate coach to evaluate the prospect on the weekend at the non-scholastic event.

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS/COMPETITION CABINET**

During its September meeting, the C/C Cabinet endorsed the following:

- A recommendation from the NCAA Men's Basketball Committee to require sports committees and encourage coaches associations to develop a plan for (1) educating participants about their obligations as role models; and (2) improving sportsmanship during competition. Further, the cabinet referred the recommendation to the NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct for the committee's input on suggestions for implementation of the recommendation.
- A recommendation from the men's basketball rules committee to make rim testing mandatory starting with the 2004-2005 season. It was noted that National Association of Basketball Coaches research has shown that the rebound/elasticity of many rims varies greatly from court to court and, often, from one end of the same court to another. A rim-testing device costs approximately \$1,350. It is anticipated that costs could be reduced by sharing devices or having equipment manufacturers do the testing for a cost of approximately \$300.

The C/C Cabinet also appointed members to the Men's and Women's Basketball Issues Committees.

Men's Basketball Issues. Appointed Steve Bilsky, director of athletics, University of Pennsylvania; John Chaney, head men's basketball coach, Temple University; Lee Fowler, director of athletics, North Carolina State University; Doug Fullerton, commissioner, Big Sky Conference; Charles Jones Jr., director of athletics, Central Connecticut State University; Larry Keating, associate commissioner, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Stan Morrison, director of athletics, University of California, Riverside; James O'Brien, head men's basketball coach, Ohio State University; Lew Perkins, director of athletics, University of Connecticut; Jean Lenti Ponsetto, director of athletics, DePaul University; Lorenzo Romar, head men's basketball coach, University of Washington; Orlando (Tubby) Smith, head men's basketball coach, University of Kentucky; Craig Thompson, commissioner, Mountain West Conference; and Richard Villarreal, director of athletics, University of North Texas. [Note: Prior to

making appointments to this committee, the cabinet agreed to appoint no more than one individual from the same conference. In addition, a chair will be appointed and terms of office will be established at a later date.]

Women's Basketball Issues. Appointed Sandy Barbour, associate director of athletics, University of Notre Dame; Sandy Hatfield Clubb, senior associate director of athletics, Arizona State University; Carolyn Schlie Femovich, commissioner, Patriot League; Martha Gasser, associate director of athletics, United States Air Force Academy; Marcy Girton, senior woman administrator, Texas Christian University; Alfreeda Goff, senior woman administrator, Horizon League; Wendy Larry, head women's basketball coach, Old Dominion University; Bernadette McGlade, associate commissioner, Atlantic Coast Conference; M. Dianne Murphy, director of athletics, University of Denver; Deborah Polca, associate director of athletics, Eastern Illinois University; Gary Clark, director of athletics, Furman University; Crista Trosta, associate director of athletics, University of Tulsa; Marsha Sharp, head women's basketball coach, Texas Tech University; and Patty Viverito, senior associate commissioner, Missouri Valley Conference. [Note: Prior to making appointments to this committee, the cabinet agreed to appoint no more than one individual from the same conference. In addition, a chair will be appointed and terms of office will be established at a later date.]

### **INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE – COMPLIANCE TIP**

The majority of the prospective student-athletes from international countries arrive in the United States and shortly thereafter enroll at intercollegiate institutions, as opposed to enrolling at scholastic or preparatory institutions. For those prospects who were enrolled in a U.S. high school, a valuable source of information for the NCAA institution could be the high school athletics association within the state they enroll.

TCG recently developed a model international student-athlete questionnaire for the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS). The NFHS has recommended to the state associations that they utilize this or a similar form if the high school has student-athletes from international countries. Many of the state associations that have had significant international prospects within their jurisdiction have initiated the use of a form that must be completed by the high school and forwarded to the state association prior to the prospect participating for the high school. The university's compliance coordinator, utilizing a release from the prospect, could utilize this information to assist the institution in its responsibility to monitor the previous academic and athletics experiences of the prospect.

### **GOVERNANCE**

This is the second of a two-part series summarizing the results of the NCAA Ad Hoc Committee that studied the effectiveness of the NCAA governance structure.

The committee conducted numerous personal interviews with leaders of the Management Council, National Student-Athlete Advisory Committees, Executive Committee, Division I Board of Directors, and members of the NCAA national office staff. The following is an overview of the consensus of several questions:

#### **What are the biggest concerns about the current structure?**

- *As division autonomy grows, the Association as a whole is diminished;*
- *As the new structure has achieved greater presidential control, a concern exists that overall presidential involvement may be less than it was in the previous structure;*
- *CEOs should be more involved in conference affairs;*
- *The overall NCAA agenda is frequently vague; and*

- *The NCAA bureaucracy may not lead to timely consideration of important matters, especially the legislative approval process, which may be more complicated.*

**What are the key issues facing the Association and Division I?**

- *The need for greater Association focus is paramount;*
- *Presidents believe that NCAA communication needs improvement. Message points often are not clear or concise. Improvement is necessary at all NCAA levels;*
- *The NCAA should remain focused on the student-athlete, especially initial eligibility, improved graduation rates, the length of the playing seasons, and the amount of time required of student-athletes who choose to compete;*
- *Restructuring has minimized the importance of the annual Convention in Division I. The result is that the complete membership of the NCAA no longer gathers as one, making it more difficult to operate as one Association;*
- *The Association must give greater consideration to public relations as it develops and implements policy. Many times, the staff is placed in the position of explaining rules that are difficult for the general public to understand;*
- *Financial trends in intercollegiate athletics must be monitored closely. Increasing salaries for athletics personnel and facility costs are particular causes for concern;*
- *The Association must constantly renew its commitment to diversity within intercollegiate athletics;*
- *The Association oftentimes appears to lack a shared vision. In such an environment, balance-of-power issues have emerged among conference commissioners, college and university presidents, and the NCAA leadership. While debate among the membership is always healthy, the NCAA should stand together on major issues;*
- *Concern exists about the power wielded by major Division I-A conferences. Such conferences have a special duty to protect the overall interests of Division I-A; they have an additional responsibility to join with the entire NCAA leadership in addressing the major issues facing intercollegiate athletics; and*
- *The Association needs to clarify the role of the NCAA president.*

Written surveys were also distributed. The following thoughts were consistent in many of the responses for the athletics directors:

- i. The Association should take more of a leadership role in the areas of compliance and competitive equity;
- ii. Written communication from the NCAA national office is preferred as opposed to web-casting or video conferencing;
- iii. More information should be provided concerning NCAA policy decisions; and
- iv. The Association needs to continue to examine ways to provide financial assistance to qualified student-athletes.



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