



# 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*

November/December 2002

Prepared by The Compliance Group

---

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

The Board of Directors and Management Council approved the academic reform package effective August 1, 2003. In its approval of the proposals, the Board reiterated its support for additional proposals currently under review that will continue the academic reform movement. All of the following have been reviewed in an earlier edition of Division I-AAA Legislative Headlines.

The following proposals are effective August 1, 2003:

- Increase the number of high-school core courses required by prospects to participate in sports as a freshman from 13 to 14, would maintain the requirement for a 2.000 grade-point average in core courses, and would extend the sliding-scale relationship between standardized test scores and core-course GPA by eliminating the minimum test score currently in place. (Proposal [02-22-B](#))
- Require: (i) 24 semester hours of academic credit before the student-athlete enters his or her second year of collegiate enrollment; (ii) 18 semester hours per academic year; and (iii) six hours of academic credit per term. (Proposal No. [02-23](#))
- Require that student-athletes achieve 90 percent of the minimum cumulative grade-point average necessary for graduation by the start of the second year of enrollment, and that the standard increase to 95 percent by the beginning of the third year and 100 percent by the beginning of the fourth year and thereafter. (Proposal [02-24-B](#) as amended by [02-24-B-2](#)). The proposal would also increase the minimum percentage of degree requirements a student-athlete must satisfy to be eligible for competition from 25/50/75 to 40/60/80 (for student-athletes in five-year degree programs, the increase would be from 20/40/60 to 33/50/67). [Note: The Board also directed the Management Council to develop legislation that would require institutions to verify eligibility at the end of each term. The proposal as passed requires verification only once a year at the beginning of the fall term.]
- Hold two-year college transfers who were partial qualifiers or non-qualifiers to the same percentage degree requirements as those who enroll in four-year institutions as freshmen. (Proposal [02-25](#))
- Reduce the number of credits in remedial, tutorial or noncredit course work that may be used to satisfy the minimum academic progress requirement from 12 semester hours to six semester hours. (Proposal [02-26](#))

The Board of Directors and Management Council also adopted the following legislative proposals:

- Specify that the international student-athlete form in basketball and soccer must be completed and signed prior to competition.
- To exempt a student-athlete's on- and off-campus employment earnings from both individual and institutional financial aid limits.

## MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Management Council gave first approval to the following proposals that are being forwarded to the membership for comment. They will be reviewed again in April 2003.

□ **Proposal No. 02-46 – Amateurism – Professional Draft – Basketball – Two-Year College Prospects**

Recommendation. In basketball, to permit an enrolled 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 student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares his or her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft.

Rationale. Two-year college prospective student-athletes currently are the only individuals who may not enter a professional league's draft without jeopardizing their amateur status. Legislation recently was adopted allowing prospects without any collegiate attendance and student-athletes to enter a professional league's draft without jeopardizing his or her amateur status, depending upon certain conditions.

Impact. This proposal would have very little impact, if any.

□ **Proposal No. 02-49 – Amateurism – Professional Athletics Team – Definition**

Recommendation. To specify that a professional team is one that provides any of its players more than the value of actual and necessary expenses, but clarifies that other reasonable expenses incidental to participation should not cause the team to be considered professional.

Rationale. Under NCAA rules, any team that provides an expense not listed as an actual and necessary expense under the definition of a professional team is considered a professional team. The intent of the legislation was to clarify that only teams providing substantial funding to its team members, not merely expense money, should be classified as professional. This amendment clarifies that the provision of other reasonable expenses (such as telephone calls and local entertainment) does not cause the team to be considered professional under NCAA rules.

Impact. This will reduce the number of restoration requests.

□ **Proposal 02-67 Initial-Eligibility – Requirements Applicable to Entering Freshman**

Recommendation. Require prospects to meet initial-eligibility standards in effect at the time of initial college enrollment rather than those in effect at the time of high-school graduation.

Rationale. This proposal is one in a package of academic reform proposals developed by the Division I Academic Consultants. Currently, prospective student-athletes may be certified using either the initial-eligibility standards in effect at the time of the student's graduation from high school or the standards in effect at the time of the student-athlete's initial full-time collegiate enrollment. If the proposed changes to the initial-eligibility standards are approved, this will require the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse to operate a dual system for certifying and reporting students' status. This dual system is more costly to operate and more confusing to report out to students, parents, high schools and NCAA member institutions. This proposal will bring simplicity to the Clearinghouse operations and to the understanding of the initial-eligibility requirements by prospective student-athletes, high-school guidance counselors and member institutions.

Impact. This will simplify eligibility determination.

□ **Proposal No. 02-69 Continuing Eligibility – Students with Learning Disabilities – Fourth Season of Competition**

Recommendation. Permit learning-disabled student-athletes to earn a fourth season of competition provided they complete 80 percent (rather than 75 percent) of their degree program by the start of year five.

Rationale. Current legislation permits a student-athlete with a learning disability who was not a qualifier to earn a fourth season of competition, provided the student-athlete has satisfied specified conditions and has completed at least 75 percent of his or her degree program at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment. If the percentage of degree requirements are increased from 25/50/75 to 40/60/80, this proposal will ensure that there is continued consistency between the requirements for earning a fourth season of competition for a student with a learning disability and the required percentage of degree requirements at the beginning of the student-athlete's fifth academic year.

Impact. This should have only a significant effect for learning-disabled student-athletes.

□ **Proposal No. 02-70 Eligibility – Satisfactory Progress – Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirement – Six Credit Hours**

Recommendation. Require all currently enrolled student-athletes to earn six credit hours per term effective after the Fall 2003 academic term.

Rationale. The requirement that all student-athletes complete six-semester or -quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term will ensure that all student-athletes are making appropriate progress toward a degree each term of enrollment.

Impact. This should have only a marginal impact on eligibility.

□ **Proposal No. 02-66 Eligibility – Credit-Hour Requirement – Graduate Student – Six-Credit Hours**

Recommendation. Require graduate students who are still competing to complete six hours per term.

Rationale. A student-athlete should maintain continual academic progress, regardless if the student-athlete is seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Impact. This should have only a marginal impact on eligibility.

□ **Proposal No. 02-68 Eligibility – Two-Year College Transfers -- Qualifier**

Recommendation. Permit two-year college transfers who were qualifiers to be eligible if they (1) present a cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 and (2) satisfactorily complete 12 semester hours of credit per term of enrollment.

Rationale. This proposal emphasizes the philosophy that a two-year college transfer who was certified as a qualifier should mirror the academic progress of other student-athletes. Such philosophy is reflected in the requirement that a student should maintain continual progress toward a degree by completing a minimum of 12-semester or -quarter hours each term of full-time attendance.

Impact. This proposal could significantly impact the number of eligible transfer student-athletes. This proposal allows a qualified student-athlete to transfer after one semester and could increase the number of mid-year transfers.

□ **Proposal No. 02-91 – Division I Membership – Scheduling Requirements**

Recommendation. To permit Division I members to count provisional and reclassifying institutions as Division I opponents at the time those institutions are required to comply with the Division I membership scheduling requirements.

Rationale. The current legislation requires provisional and reclassifying Division I members to comply with all Division I scheduling requirements beginning in the second year of either provisional or reclassifying status. This proposal permits active Division I members to count provisional or reclassifying members as Division I opponents during the year in which those institutions must comply with Division I scheduling requirements.

Impact. This will assist provisional and reclassifying members in satisfying the Division I scheduling requirements. It also increases the scheduling opportunities for Division I, subject to conference requirements.

The Management Council also:

- i. requested a proposal in draft form at the July meeting that would permit institutions to provide additional official visits (up to 25 percent of the limitation) when a new coach is hired and the previous coaching staff used 75 percent or more of the official visits allotted for that academic year in the applicable sport. This item was referred to the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet; and
- ii. reviewed a recommendation of the Governance Subcommittee amending the current Division I legislative process to provide for one legislative cycle annually. The Council agreed that the NCAA staff should develop a draft policy revision setting forth one legislative cycle.

**ANTITRUST LAWSUIT**

Status: February continues to be the target date for court comment.

Quote of the Month: "Not every restraint of trade is illegal. If we have a good purpose behind what we're doing, which we think we do, then we should win."

NCAA General Counsel Elsa Cole

Source: CNN/Money, November 16, 2002



P.O. Box 16428  
Cleveland, Ohio 44116  
440/892-4000  
440/892-4007 (Fax)  
www.nacda.com



8527 Bluejacket Drive  
Lenexa, Kansas 66214-1656  
913/599-3210  
913/599-1568 (Fax)  
www.tcgathletics.com