

Important Definitions

Academic Redshirt: A high school graduate who presented a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 (based on a maximum 4.000) in a successfully completed core curriculum of at least 16 academic courses per Bylaw 14.3.1.3, including the required courses set forth in Bylaw 14.3.1.1.

Actual and necessary expenses: Actual and necessary expenses are defined as: lodging; apparel, equipment and supplies; coaching and instruction; health/medical insurance; transportation (expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation from home to training/practice site at the beginning of the season/preparation for an event and from training/practice/event site to home at the end of season/event); medical expenses; facility usage; entry fees; and other reasonable expenses (e.g. entertainment).

Agent (Professional Sports Agent): An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly represents or attempts to represent any individual for the purpose of marketing the individual's athletics ability or reputation as a professional athlete for financial gain, or seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete. A professional sports agent may include, but is not limited to, a certified contract advisor, financial advisor, marketing representative, brand manager or anyone who is employed or associated with such persons.

Associated Entity: An associated entity is:(a) An entity that is or was known (or should have been known) to an institution's athletics department staff to exist, in significant part, for the purpose of promoting or supporting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program or student-athletes; and/or creating or identifying name, image and likeness opportunities solely for the institution's student-athletes; (b) An entity that has been directed or requested by an institution's athletics department staff to assist in the recruitment or retention of student-athletes or prospective student-athletes, or otherwise has assisted in the recruitment or retention of student-athletes or prospective student-athletes; or (c) An entity owned, controlled, or operated by, or otherwise affiliated with an associated individual or an associated entity defined in (a) or (b) above, other than a publicly traded corporation.

Associated Individual: An associated individual is: (a) An individual who is or was a member, employee, director, officer, owner, or agent of an associated entity; (b) An individual who directly or indirectly (including contributions by an affiliated entity or family member) has contributed more than \$50,000 during the individual's lifetime to an institution or to an associated entity defined in 22.02.1-(a); or (c) An individual who has been directed or requested by an institution's athletics department staff to assist in the recruitment or retention of student-athletes or prospective student-athletes, or otherwise has assisted in the recruitment or retention of student-athletes or prospective student-athletes.

Athletically Related Financial Aid: Athletically related financial aid is financial aid that is awarded on any basis that is related to athletics ability, participation or achievement. If an application process specifically requests athletics participation or achievements as criteria for consideration in determining whether an applicant receives financial aid, aid received pursuant to such a process is athletically related financial aid.

16.02.2 Benefits Pool/Benefits Cap. The benefits pool is the value of additional payments and/or benefits (see Bylaw [16.13](#)) an institution may provide to its student-athletes during an academic year pursuant to the House settlement. The pool is calculated based on revenue categories set forth in the

House settlement and pursuant to a formula and policies and procedures consistent with the settlement. The benefits cap refers to the limit on the value of additional payments and/or benefits an institution may provide to its student-athletes during an academic year. The value of the benefits pool and the value of the benefits cap are the same for each academic year.

Calculation of Actual and Necessary Expenses—Individual Sports and Women’s Beach Volleyball: In individual sports and women’s beach volleyball, the calculation of an individual’s actual and necessary expenses shall be based on expenses incurred during each calendar year (January-December).

Graduate Student Coach – Football: [FBS] In bowl subdivision football, a graduate student coach is any coach who has received a baccalaureate degree and has either received the individual’s first baccalaureate degree or has exhausted athletics eligibility in football (whichever occurs later) within the previous seven years (time spent under contract as a professional football player is excepted from this requirement) and is enrolled in graduate level coursework at the institution. For an individual who did not participate in football, exhaustion of eligibility occurs at the expiration of the individual’s five-year period of eligibility. The individual is not required to be enrolled in a specific graduate degree program unless required by institutional policy. The following provisions shall apply: (a) The individual may not serve as a graduate student coach for a period of more than two years except that if the individual successfully completes 24-semester or 36-quarter hours during the initial two-year period, the individual may serve as a graduate student coach for a third year; and (b) The individual may not evaluate or contact prospective student-athletes off campus.

Countable Coach – Sports Other than Football: In sports other than football, a countable coach is an institutional staff member or any other individual outside the institution (e.g., consultant, professional instructor) with whom the institution has made arrangements who engages in off-campus recruiting activities or provides technical or tactical instruction related to a sport to a student-athlete at any time.

Coach, Student Assistant: A student assistant coach is any coach who is a student-athlete who has exhausted eligibility in the sport or has become injured to the point that the individual is unable to practice or compete ever again, and who meets the following additional criteria: (a) Is enrolled at the institution where the individual most recently participated in intercollegiate athletics; (b) Is enrolled as a full-time graduate student within the individual’s five-year period of eligibility (see Bylaw 12.6) or is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in the individual’s first baccalaureate degree program, except that during the individual’s final semester or quarter of the degree program, the individual may be enrolled in less than a full-time degree program of studies, provided the individual is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements; and (c) Is not involved in contacting and evaluating prospective student-athletes off campus.

Competition Site: The “competition site” is the facility in which athletics competition is actually conducted, including any dressing room or meeting facility used in conjunction with the competition.

Contact Period: A period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations.

Contact: A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's parents, relatives or legal guardians and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged (e.g., staff member positions himself or herself in a location where contact is possible) or that takes place on the grounds of the prospective student-athlete's educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's high school, preparatory school, two-year college or all-star team shall be considered a contact, regardless of whether any conversation occurs. However, an institutional staff member or athletics representative who is approached by a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's parents, relatives or legal guardians at any location shall not use a contact, provided the encounter was not prearranged and the staff member or athletics representative does not engage in any dialogue in excess of a greeting and takes appropriate steps to immediately terminate the encounter.

Contest: A contest is any game, match, exhibition, scrimmage or joint practice session with another institution's team, regardless of its formality, in which competition in a sport occurs between an intercollegiate athletics team or individual representing a member institution and any other team or individual not representing the intercollegiate athletics program of the same member institution.

Cost of Attendance: The "cost of attendance" is an amount calculated by an institutional financial aid office, using federal regulations, that includes the total cost of tuition and fees, living expenses, books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses related to attendance at the institution.

Countable Athletically Related Activities: Countable athletically related activities include any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by, one or more of an institution's coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and must be counted within the weekly and daily limitations under Bylaws 17.1.7.1 and 17.1.7.2. Administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings) shall not be considered as countable athletically related activities.

Dead Period: A dead period is a period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospective student-athletes to the institution's campus. It remains permissible, however, for an institutional staff member to communicate with (other than in person) a prospective student-athlete during a dead period.

Diversified Sports Camp: A diversified sports camp is a camp that offers a balanced camping experience, including participation in seasonal summer sports and recreational activities, without emphasis on instruction, practice or competition in any particular sport.

Enrolled Student-Athlete: An enrolled student-athlete is an individual whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in the intercollegiate athletics program. Any other student becomes a student-athlete only when the student reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department.

Evaluation Period: A period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospective student-athletes. No in person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall be made with the prospective student-athlete during an evaluation period. [D] (Revised: 10/30/14)

Evaluation: Evaluation is any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a prospective student-athlete, including any visit to a prospective student-athlete's educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or the observation of a prospective student-athlete participating in any practice or competition at any site.

Extra Benefit: An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of the institution's athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete family member or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their family members or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students or their family members or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

Family Member: An individual with any of the following relationships to the prospective student-athlete: spouse, parent or legal guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, domestic partner or any individual whose close association with the prospective student-athlete is the practical equivalent of a family relationship.

Full Grant-in-Aid: full grant-in-aid is financial aid that consists of tuition and fees, living expenses, books and other expenses related to attendance at the institution up to the cost of attendance established pursuant to Bylaws 15.02.2 and 15.02.2.1.

Home: In general, a prospective student-athlete's "home" is the prospective student-athlete's legal residence, or the community of the educational institution in which the prospective student-athlete is enrolled while residing there.

Individual Sports: Cross Country, Fencing, Golf, Gymnastics, Rifle, Skiing, Swimming and Diving, Skiing, Tennis, Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor), Women's Bowling, Women's Equestrian, Women's Triathlon, and Wrestling.

Institutional Control: Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA legislation. Specifically, the NCAA constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA; monitoring

its program to ensure compliance, identifying and reporting to the NCAA instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective actions; and ensuring that members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institution's athletics interests comply with NCAA regulations.

Institutional Financial Aid: The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid: All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to scholarships; grants; tuition waivers; employees dependent tuition benefits, unless the parent or the legal guardian of a student-athlete has been employed as a full-time faculty/staff member for a minimum of five years; and loans; aid from government or private sources for which the institution is responsible for selecting the recipient or determining the amount of aid, or providing matching or supplementary funds for a previously determined recipient.

Institutional Staff Member: For purposes of Bylaw 14, an institutional staff member is any individual, excluding a student employee, who performs work for the institution or the athletics department, regardless of whether he or she receives compensation for such work.

Intercollegiate Competition: Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following: Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies; competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or competes and receives expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, housing or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

Manager: A manager is an individual who performs traditional managerial duties (e.g., equipment, laundry, hydration) and meets the following additional criteria: (a) In sports other than basketball, the individual shall be appointed as a manager within seven years of the individual's initial full-time collegiate enrollment. [Circumstances that are excepted from the application of a student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility per Bylaw [12.6.1](#) (e.g., military service, religious mission) are excepted from the application of the seven-year period]; (b) The individual shall be a full-time undergraduate or graduate student (see Bylaw [14.2.2](#)) at the institution for which the individual serves as a manager, except that during the individual's final semester or quarter of a degree program, the individual may be enrolled in less than a full-time program of studies, provided the individual is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements; (c) The individual may participate in limited on-court or on-field activities during practice (e.g., assist with drills, throw batting practice) or competition (e.g., assist with warm-up activities) involving student-athletes on a regular basis; (d) The individual shall not provide instruction to student-athletes; (e) The individual shall not participate in countable athletically related activities (e.g., practice player) except as permitted in Bylaw [11.02.5](#)-(c); and (f) The individual shall forfeit any remaining eligibility in the sport at the institution where the individual serves as a manager (see Bylaw [17.2.2.6](#)).

Name, Image and Likeness Activity. Name, image and likeness activity is any activity that involves the use of an individual's name, image likeness or appearance to advertise or endorse the sale or use of a commercial product or service. Name, image and likeness activity is also any activity that involves the use of an individual's name, image, likeness or appearance to support noncommercial (e.g., charitable, educational, nonprofit) entities or endeavors, or in activities considered incidental to the individual's participation in intercollegiate athletics.

Name, Image and Likeness Payments. The value of payments from an institution for a student-athlete's name, image and likeness (see Bylaw [22.2.1](#)) must count toward the benefits cap, including payments in which an institutional designee or contractor (e.g., multimedia rights holder) acts as an agent, facilitator, and/or administrator for an institution whereby payments are made to a student-athlete that originate from or are paid by the institution.

Nonqualifier: A nonqualifier is a student who has not graduated from high school or who, at the time specified in the regulation (see Bylaw 14.3.2.1), has not successfully completed the required core curriculum or has not presented the required minimum core-curriculum grade-point average required for a qualifier or academic redshirt.

Official Visit: An official visit to a member institution by a prospective student-athlete is a visit financed in whole or in part by the member institution.

Organized Competition: Athletics competition shall be considered organized if any of the following conditions exists: Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance; official score is kept; individual or team standings are maintained; official timer or game officials are used; admission is charged; teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined; team uniforms are used; a team is privately or commercially sponsored; or the competition is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, an organization or any other agency.

Playing Season: The playing (practice and competition) season for a particular sport is the period of time between the date of an institution's first officially recognized practice session and the date of the institution's last practice session or date of competition, whichever occurs later. An institution is permitted to conduct officially recognized practice and competition each academic year only during the playing season as regulated for each sport in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw. The institution must conduct the same playing season for varsity and subvarsity teams in the same sport.

Professional Athletics Team: A professional team is any organized team that: (a) Provides any of its players more than actual and necessary expenses for participation on the team, except as otherwise permitted by NCAA legislation; or (b) declares itself to be professional.

Prospective Student-Athlete: A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's family members or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until: (a) The individual signs the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or a settlement related

benefits agreement, or the institution receives the individual's financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, completes all high school graduation requirements or all transfer academic eligibility requirements and receives benefits or expenses from the institution that may be provided to a student-athlete (see Bylaw 16); (b) The individual participates in summer athletic activities, or regular squad practice or competition that occurs before the beginning of any term at the institution; (c) The individual enrolls in and attends classes during the institution's summer term before initial full-time enrollment or enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in a regular term at the institution; or (d) The individual reports to an institutional orientation session that is open to all incoming students within 14 calendar days prior to the opening day of classes of a regular academic year term.

Qualifier: A qualifier is a student who, for purposes of determining eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition, has met all of the following requirements (see Bylaw 14.3): Graduation from high school; successful completion of a required core curriculum consisting of a minimum number of courses in specified subjects; and specified minimum grade-point average in the core curriculum.

Quiet Period: During a quiet period, a college coach may only have face-to-face contact with college-bound student-athletes or their parents on the college's campus. A coach may not watch student-athletes compete (unless a competition occurs on the college's campus) or visit their high schools. Coaches may write or telephone college-bound student-athletes or their parents during this time.

Recruited Prospective Student-Athlete: Actions by staff members or athletics representatives that cause a prospective student-athlete to become a recruited prospective student-athlete at that institution are: (a) Providing the prospective student-athlete with an official visit; (b) Having an arranged, in-person, off-campus encounter with the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's family members; or (c) Issuing the institution's written offer of athletically related financial aid to the prospective student-athlete. Issuing a written offer of athletically related financial aid to a prospective student-athlete to attend a summer session prior to full-time enrollment does not cause the prospective student-athlete to become recruited; or (d) Issuing a settlement related benefits agreement to the prospective student-athlete.

Recruiting: Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospective student-athlete or a prospective student-athlete's family members by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospective student-athlete's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

Representative of Athletics Interest: A "representative of the institution's athletics interests" is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity (e.g., apparel or equipment manufacturer) or other organization who is known (or who should have been known) by a member of the institution's executive or athletics administration to: (a) Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics program; (b) Have made financial contributions to the athletics department or to an athletics booster organization of that institution; (c) Be assisting or to have been requested (by the athletics department staff) to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes; (d) Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or

their family members; or (e) Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program.

Specialized Sports Camp: A specialized sports camp is a camp that places special emphasis on a particular sport or sports and provides specialized instruction.

Sports wagering: Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

Student Employee: For purposes of Bylaw 14, a student employee is an institutional staff member if: They have institutional responsibilities to provide academic services to student-athletes; or they engage in an academic integrity violation at the direction of a nonstudent employee, a student employee who has institutional responsibilities to provide academic services to student-athletes, or a representative of the institution's athletics interests.

Student-Athlete Discretionary Time: Student-athlete discretionary time is time during which a student-athlete may only participate in athletics activities at his or her discretion. There shall be no required workouts and institutions are not permitted to recommend that student-athletes engage in weight-training or conditioning activities; however, if the student-athlete opts to work out, the strength and conditioning coach may monitor the facility in use for health and safety purposes.

Team Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Water Polo, Women's Beach Volleyball, Women's Flag Football, Women's Rowing, and Women's Rugby.

Transfer Student: A transfer student, in the application of NCAA eligibility requirements, is a student who transfers from any collegiate institution after having met any one of the conditions set forth in Bylaw 14.5.2.

Unofficial Visit: An unofficial visit to a member institution by a prospective student-athlete is a visit made at the prospective student-athlete's own expense. The provision of any expenses or entertainment valued at more than \$100 by the institution or representatives of its athletics interests shall require the visit to become an official visit, except as permitted in Bylaws 13.5 and 13.7.

Voluntary Athletically Related Activities: In order for any athletically related activity to be considered "voluntary," all of the following conditions must be met: The student-athlete must not be required to report back to a coach or other athletics department staff member (e.g., strength coach, trainer, manager) any information related to the activity. In addition, no athletics department staff member who observes the activity (e.g., trainer, manager) may report back to the student-athlete's coach any information related to the activity; the activity must be initiated and requested solely by the student-

athlete. Neither the institution nor any athletics department staff member may require the student-athlete to participate in the activity at any time. However, it is permissible for an athletics department staff member to provide information to student-athletes related to available opportunities for participating in voluntary activities (e.g., times when the strength and conditioning coach will be on duty in the weight room or on the track). In addition, for students who have initiated a request to engage in voluntary activities, the institution or an athletics department staff member may assign specific times for student-athletes to use institutional facilities for such purposes and inform the student-athletes of the time in advance; the student-athlete's attendance and participation in the activity (or lack thereof) may not be recorded for the purposes of reporting such information to coaching staff members or other student-athletes; and the student-athlete may not be subjected to penalty if he or she elects not to participate in the activity. In addition, neither the institution nor any athletics department staff member may provide recognition or incentives (e.g., awards) to a student-athlete based on his or her attendance or performance in the activity. [Note: Coaching staff members may be present during permissible skill-related instruction pursuant to Bylaws 17.1.7.2.2 and 17.1.7.2.3]

Wager: A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value

Waiver: A waiver is an action exempting an individual or institution from the application of a specific regulation. A waiver requires formal approval (e.g., an NCAA committee or a conference, as specified in the legislation) based on evidence of compliance with the specified conditions or criteria under which the waiver is authorized or extenuating circumstances (see Bylaw 14.02.6).