“Cómo se what?!?”
Helping translate the cultural divide for international student-athletes
Texas A&M University Center for Student-Athlete Services

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• Incoming International Student-Athletes
  – Assistance with admissions/eligibility
  – Initial Entry/VISA guidance
• International Student-Athletes on campus
  – Familiarity with rules and regulations
  – Programming
VISA/I-20: No translation needed

• I-20: Document needed to procure F-1 Visa Status, legal document that binds ISA to university for Homeland Security Reason
• F-1 VISA: is issued to international students who are attending an academic program or English Language Program at a US college or university.
International Student-Athlete Liaison

• Incoming Internationals
  – I-20s/VISA Assistance
    • Liaison meets with compliance and/or sports specific staff to see list of incoming ISAs
    • Upon admission (& often times prior to) the designee reaches out to ISA to aid in process of I-20 Issuance
    • One liaison = streamlined process with campus office and athletics department/student-athlete
International Student-Athlete Liaison

• Assistance for Enrolled ISAs
  – Familiarize yourself with DHS/Campus Regulations
    • Enrollment—online classes and impact on full-time status
    • Reduced Course Loads
    • Work Authorization/Employment
    • OPT
    • VISA Extensions
“Cómo se what?!”: Academic Support

- Expectations communicated to ISA
  - Explain GPA/ NCAA Eligibility
  - Core Curriculum
  - Asking for Help

- English Proficiency
  - Remedial Courses and NCAA Eligibility
  - Can you provide any assistance? Educational Specialists, Tutors, Campus Academic Center
Programming

• New Student-Athlete Orientation
  – Offer break out session for ISAs
• Travel Signature Day(s)
• Tax Assistance (ITINs, 1098-S, April 15th!)
  – Did you know that ISAs are taxed on the amount of scholarship that they receive?
Outreach

• Campus Collaboration
  – Establish formal relationship with campus international office
    • Participate in their programs too!
      – Attended ISS Welcome Back Party, Hosted Dinner in a US Home, Encourage student-athlete involvement, offer your facilities too!
  • Biggest takeaway: get to know your campus international student office!
Outreach

• Promoting & encouraging your coaching staffs, department or sports information office to highlight your international student-athletes
When two worlds collide

TURKER AYAR

Student

Academics
Religion
Homesickness
Career

Athlete

PERFORMANCE
Training

CULTURAL
Dietary

MENTAL HEALTH
Team Dynamic

FUTURE/WHAT’S NEXT
Olympics

Inclusion Forum
#NCAAIInclusion
Administrative Takeaways

• Make your international student-athlete a priority
• Communicate with coaches
• Cross campus collaboration is vital
  – Pinpoint a liaison in both the athletics and campus side