



## MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2018

### VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics, Senior Compliance Administrators  
and Men's Basketball Head Coaches.

FROM: NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs and Enforcement Staffs.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the 2018 National Basketball Association  
Draft and Combine, Agents and Workouts.

The purpose of this document is to provide an educational resource you can share with your men's basketball student-athletes with eligibility remaining who may have a desire to "test the waters" as it relates to his pursuit of a potential professional basketball career. You are encouraged to talk through this document with those men's basketball student-athletes who are gauging their readiness for competition at the next level through a variety of methods, including tryouts with professional teams. These student-athletes will undoubtedly rely on a number of individuals to assist in the decision-making process.

At the end of this process, your men's basketball student-athlete may in fact reach the conclusion that it is not in his best interest to pursue a professional career at this time, but rather to continue athletics participation at the intercollegiate level while pursuing his academic degree. Involvement in activities during this process can affect his intercollegiate eligibility. The following information is designed to help him protect his eligibility while "testing the waters."<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that NCAA bylaws are subject to change. This document is intended for educational purposes only and does not usurp or supersede the current rules of the NCAA. All student-athletes with specific questions relating to their NCAA eligibility should contact the NCAA compliance officer at their respective institution to ensure an accurate and correct interpretation of the bylaws. Any questions related to NBA rules, which are also subject to change, should be directed to the NBA.

**Seven Points to Remember:**

A men's basketball student-athlete will lose his eligibility IF:

1. He agrees orally or in writing to be represented by an agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).<sup>2</sup>
2. He accepts any benefits from an agent, a prospective agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).
3. He participates in a tryout with an NBA team that lasts longer than 48 hours, which he has not personally financed (exception for the draft combine).
4. He uses an advisor throughout the process and does not pay the going rate for the advising services.
5. He misses class to participate in a tryout, including travel to and from the tryout (exception for the draft combine).
6. He enters the draft AND does not take the appropriate steps to withdraw and declare his intention to resume intercollegiate participation.
7. He enters the draft AND is drafted by a professional team.

---

<sup>2</sup> In January 2012, the NCAA Division I Legislative Council approved a rule that broadens the definition of agents to include third-party influences, including family members, who market student-athletes' athletics ability or reputation for personal financial gain. The rule includes individuals who either directly or indirectly:

- Represent or attempt to represent a prospective or current student-athlete in the marketing of his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
- Seek to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an institution or a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

The definition includes certified contract advisors, financial advisors, marketing representatives, brand managers or anyone who is employed by or associated with such individuals.

**2018 Key Dates:**

<b>April 13</b>	NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee, application deadline.
<b>April 11-14</b>	Portsmouth Invitational Tournament (Portsmouth, Virginia) (seniors only).
<b>April 22 (11:59 p.m. ET)</b>	NBA early-entry candidate application deadline.
<b>April 24</b>	After the NBA League Office circulates "early entry" list on this date, NBA teams can then begin conducting or attending workouts with early-entry players. (Please note that NBA teams are prohibited, prior to the date the League Office distributes to teams the official early entry list, from communicating with any early entry player or his representative, including for the purposes of scheduling a workout to take place after the list will be distributed.)
<b>April 27</b>	NBA Draft Combine invitations (and player questionnaires) sent to invitees. <sup>3</sup>
<b>May 16-20</b>	NBA Draft Combine (Chicago).
<b>May 30</b> (Ten days after the Combine.)	NCAA (post-Combine) withdrawal deadline.
<b>June 11 (5 p.m. ET)</b>	NBA early-entry withdrawal deadline.
<b>June 21</b>	NBA Draft (New York).

Student-athletes who receive either type of invitation may workout with their coaches for a maximum of four hours per day and 20 hours per week from the date of receipt of the invitation until the date on which the student-athlete withdraws from the draft or 10 days after the conclusion of the draft combine, whichever is earlier.

The NBA will send a questionnaire to selected players who do not receive an invitation that asks whether they would participate in the draft combine, if invited. It is important to note that a questionnaire is not considered an invitation. As such, student-athletes with remaining eligibility who receive a questionnaire are not permitted to use the legislative exception that allows coaches to engage in countable athletically related activities (CARA) with student-athletes invited to the draft combine for up to four hours per day and 20 hours per week.

The NBA will notify directors of athletics, senior compliance administrators and head coaches of student-athletes who receive an invitation or questionnaire to help ensure that underclassmen are properly advised on what they need to do to retain their academic and amateur eligibility for participation at an NCAA Division I institution.

<sup>3</sup> The NBA will send three types of email communications: (1) a Draft Combine invitation without a requirement to participate in on-court basketball activities, (2) a conditional Draft Combine invitation with a requirement to fully participate, including all on-court basketball activities, and (3) a letter of consideration and request for information stating that you will be contacted again once a determination regarding your invitation status has been made.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**1. Agents.**

Question No. 1: What is an "agent" according to NCAA rules?

Answer No. 1: An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly:

- (1) Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain.
- (2) Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

Question No. 2: May a student-athlete, his family members or any other individuals who are associated with him as a result of playing basketball (e.g., high school coach, nonscholastic team coach) have any type of agreement (e.g., written, oral, future) with an agent?

Answer No. 2: **NO!** A student-athlete, his family members or any other individuals who are associated with him as a result of playing basketball are not permitted to have an agreement (written, oral or future) with an agent, or anyone who is employed by or acting on behalf of an agent or sports agency (i.e., "runner").

Question No. 3: Is an agent allowed to provide a student-athlete or his family or his friends any benefits?

Answer No. 3: **NO!** A student-athlete, his family or his friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent. Examples of material benefits include money, transportation, dinner, clothes, cellphones, jewelry, etc. However, benefits may also include, but are not limited to, activities such as tryout arrangements with a professional team and coordinating tryout schedules.

Question No. 4: Is an agent allowed to contact teams on behalf of a student-athlete to arrange tryouts?

Answer No. 4: **NO!** A student-athlete cannot have an agent arrange a tryout (or private workout) with an NBA team.

Question No. 5: Who is considered an advisor?

Answer No. 5: An advisor is an individual who provides services including, but not limited to, advising a student-athlete about the likelihood of being drafted, and whom the student-athlete compensates in an amount equal to the services provided. An advisor may **not** contact teams on a student-athlete's behalf or assist in the arrangement of a private workout or tryout.

Question No. 6: May a student-athlete have an advisor during this process?

Answer No. 6: **YES**, provided the advisor does not market the student-athlete to NBA teams.

If the student-athlete is an undergraduate, he may also apply for an NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee evaluation. This application must be filed with the NBA no later than April 13, 2018. (See who to contact section.)

**2. NBA Draft.**

Question No. 1: Is a student-athlete allowed to enter the NBA Draft early?

Answer No. 1: **YES!** A student-athlete may enter a professional basketball league's draft each year during his collegiate career without jeopardizing his eligibility, provided:

- (1) He withdraws his name from the NBA draft by 11:59 p.m. on May 30, 2018;
- (2) He declares his intention to resume intercollegiate participation by 11:59 p.m. on May 30, 2018. This declaration must be in writing to his director of athletics; and
- (3) He is not drafted by any team.

**However, the NBA Collective Bargaining Agreement only allows for an individual to remove his name from the draft a maximum of two times.**

Question No. 2: May a student-athlete participate in the NBA draft combine in May?

Answer No. 2: **YES!** If invited, a student-athlete may participate in the NBA draft combine in May. (See key dates section.)

Question No. 3: Can the NBA pay for actual and necessary travel and room and board expenses associated with participating in the Draft Combine?

Answer No. 3: **YES!** A student-athlete may accept actual and necessary travel, and room and board expenses from the NBA to attend the draft combine.

**3. *Workouts/Tryouts.***

Question No. 1: Can a student-athlete's college coach assist with the logistical issues associated with on-campus or off-campus workouts/tryouts (tryout) (e.g., arranging and scheduling of a professional team tryout) during the academic year?

Answer No. 1: **YES!** It is permissible for a student-athlete's institutional head coach to assist in the logistical arrangements for a student-athlete to engage in a professional tryout that occurs on or off campus; however, it is not permissible for a coach to direct or supervise such workouts/tryouts.

Question No. 2: Can an NBA team pay for a student-athlete's private tryout with the team?

Answer No. 2: **YES!** In addition to being able to participate in the NBA draft combine in May, a student-athlete may also participate in a tryout with an NBA team, provided he does not miss class. The student-athlete may receive actual and necessary expenses from the NBA team in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per team. The 48-hour tryout period begins when he arrives at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, the student-athlete must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive return transportation expenses.

Question No. 3: Can an NBA team pay for a student-athlete's training in preparation for my tryout with the team?

Answer No. 3: **NO!** A student-athlete and his family are responsible for paying all expenses associated with any training in preparation for a tryout with a team.

Question No. 4: Can any other individual (e.g., agent, runner or "advisor") pay for a student-athlete's tryouts or training in preparation for his tryouts with NBA teams?

Answer No. 4: **NO!** Unless an NBA team pays for your expenses in conjunction with a tryout, a student-athlete and his family are responsible for paying all expenses associated with any tryouts as they are incurred.

Question No. 5: Can a student-athlete pay for his own tryouts with NBA teams?

Answer No. 5: **YES!** A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided the student-athlete doesn't miss class.

**4. *Athletics Scholarship.***

Question: Can an institution cancel a student-athlete's athletics scholarship if he has an agreement with an agent?

Answer: **YES!** An institution is permitted to rescind a student-athlete's athletics scholarship if he has an agreement with an agent.

**5. *Securing a Loan.***

Question: May a sports agent or booster play a role in securing a loan?

Answer: **NO!** A student-athlete may not allow a third party (including a sports agent, his institution's athletics department staff members or boosters) to be involved in any arrangement for securing a loan. For example, a student-athlete may not allow a third party to play a role in securing a personal loan or a loan to pay for disability or loss of value insurance.

**Helpful Tips:**

- A student-athlete should keep his head coach and compliance coordinator informed of all activities during this process.
- A student-athlete should coordinate all activities himself in conjunction with his head coach or athletics department staff at his institution. He may receive the assistance of his family members, provided they are not working with any individual who is marketing the student-athlete's athletics ability (e.g., contacting NBA teams, setting up tryouts with NBA teams).
- A student-athlete should remain enrolled in school and complete academic courses while "testing the waters."

**Who to Contact With Questions About NCAA Rules:**

NCAA Division I institutions with interpretive questions regarding the NBA draft and combine, agents and tryouts:

- Individuals not affiliated with an Division I institution, please contact the compliance staff at the school the student-athlete attends.
- For Division I institutions, please submit an interpretation request in Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO).

**Who to Contact With Questions About NBA Rules:**

1. Apply to the NBA draft as an early entrant:

If it is your intention to enter the 2018 NBA Draft, you may send your letter stating your desire to enter the 2018 NBA Draft to Erika Ruiz at:

- Email to: [DraftMailbox@nba.com](mailto:DraftMailbox@nba.com)

Please be sure that you **date** and **sign** your letter. **If your letter is not signed by hand or by electronic signature, such as DocuSign, it will not be accepted. If you are not able to scan your letter you may take a clear pic of the letter with your phone and attach it to your email.**

In your letter, please include the school you are playing for, your current year (for example: freshman, sophomore or junior), your date of birth, daytime phone number, home address and email address.

Once your letter has been received, an application may be sent to you, which should be promptly returned along with a clear photocopy of your proof of date of birth (i.e., driver's license, passport, birth certificate).

2. Withdraw from the NBA draft:

For those student-athletes who remain in the NBA draft after the NCAA deadline, all underclassmen who submitted their early-entry declaration must submit a written statement to Erika Ruiz by 5 p.m. Eastern time, June 11, 2018, indicating the following:

"I, {Student-Athlete, of NCAA college/university}, officially notify the NBA of my request to withdraw my name from consideration in the 2018 NBA Draft."

- Email to: [DraftMailbox@nba.com](mailto:DraftMailbox@nba.com)

Please be sure that you **date** and **sign** your letter. **If your letter is not signed by hand or by electronic signature, such as DocuSign, it will not be accepted. If you are not able to scan your letter you may take a clear pic of the letter with your phone and attach it to your email.**

In addition to the above information, please include contact information and date of submission. Contact Erika Ruiz at the NBA offices ([DraftMailbox@nba.com](mailto:DraftMailbox@nba.com)) if you have further questions.

NCAA MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2018

Page No. 10

---

For those student-athletes who wish to remove their name from the NBA Draft **AND** maintain their NCAA eligibility they must submit a written statement by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, May 30, 2018, indicating the following:

"I, {Student-Athlete, of NCAA college/university}, officially notify the NBA of my request to withdraw my name from consideration in the 2018 NBA Draft."

3. NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee:

- Chigozie Umeadi (NBA) at 212-407-8733 or [cumeadi@NBA.com](mailto:cumeadi@NBA.com).

The NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee is composed of NBA team executives who will provide a confidential projection of a potential draftee's likely draft position.

4. Questions regarding the NBA draft and combine process/logistics:

- Charnele Kemper, director of academic and membership affairs, at [ckemper@ncaa.org](mailto:ckemper@ncaa.org).
- Jeremy McCool, director of enforcement, at [jmccool@ncaa.org](mailto:jmccool@ncaa.org).
- Wes Harris (NBA) at 212-407-8073 / 516-242-2764 or [wharris@nba.com](mailto:wharris@nba.com), or Chris Clunie (NBA) at 212-407-8155 or [cclunie@nba.com](mailto:cclunie@nba.com).

KB:dks

cc: Selected NCAA Staff Members