Division II Financial Aid Review - 2017 Convention Question and Answer Guide

(Last Updated August 15, 2016)

Please note this is the first edition of the question and answer guide specific to the three financial aid proposals sponsored by the NCAA Division II Presidents Council. Additional questions may be sent to the primary contact person at kwolf@ncaa.org for inclusion in future updates.

A full question and answer guide inclusive of all proposals to be voted on during the 2017 Convention will be released in early December.

**Proposal No. 1:** FINANCIAL AID -- MAXIMUM LIMITS ON FINANCIAL AID -- TEAM LIMITS - INSTITUTIONAL ATHLETICS AID ONLY

**Question No. 1:** How are equivalencies currently calculated?

**Answer:**

Individual equivalencies are calculated for any student-athlete who is a counter (e.g., receives institutional aid based in any degree on athletics ability). For each counter, all institutional aid provided to cover the elements of a full grant-in-aid (i.e., tuition, fees, books and required course supplies, room and board) must be totaled. For purposes of this calculation, the full value of books for an academic year is $800, regardless of the amount received. Once all institutional aid is summed, certain aid types can be exempted from the calculation (e.g., academic awards provided the recipient meets national criteria, government grants based on need) to determine the amount of countable institutional aid received by the student-athlete.

Once the amount of countable institutional aid is determined, that number is used as the numerator. The denominator is either the actual or average cost of a full grant-in-aid. This fraction calculates the student-athlete’s individual equivalency. A student-athlete's equivalency may not exceed 1.0 since it is impermissible to receive athletically related aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid.

The sum of all individual equivalency limits in a sport cannot exceed the team limitation outlined in NCAA Bylaw 15.4.2.1 (maximum equivalency limits).

**Question No. 2:** How would equivalencies be calculated if this proposal is adopted?

**Answer:**

Individual equivalencies would be calculated for any student-athlete who receives athletics aid. The amount of athletics aid and outside educational expenses received by the student-athlete would be the numerator.
The rest of the calculation would not change. The denominator is either the actual or average cost of a full grant-in-aid. This fraction calculates the student-athlete's individual equivalency. A student-athlete’s equivalency may not exceed 1.0 since it is impermissible to receive athletically related aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid.

**Question No. 3:** What is "athletics aid"?

**Answer:** Athletics aid is financial aid awarded by the institution's athletics department, including institutional aid (e.g., leadership scholarship, tuition waiver) for which the athletics department is involved in selecting the recipient.

**Question No. 4:** Does this proposal change how grant-in-aid and cost of attendance are calculated?

**Answer:** No. A student-athlete may not receive athletics aid in excess of a full grant-in-aid. Additionally, a student-athlete may not receive financial aid (athletics and nonathletics aid) above the cost of attendance, as determined by federal financial aid policy and applied for all students at the institution.

**Question No. 5:** Does this proposal change the team maximum equivalency limits?

**Answer:** No.

**Question No. 6:** If this proposal is adopted, what information will be required on the financial aid form?

**Answer:** The NCAA Division II Legislation Committee will review the financial aid form and determine what information will be included if the proposal is adopted.

**Question No. 7:** What is the effective date of the proposal and how will it apply to student-athletes?

**Answer:** The effective date is August 1, 2018, for athletics aid agreements signed for the 2018-19 academic year. The athletics aid agreement may be signed prior to August 1, 2018, subject to applicable NCAA legislation and National Letter of Intent procedures.
Proposal No. 2: FINANCIAL AID - TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDING INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID -- PERIOD OF INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID AWARD -- ONE-YEAR LIMIT -- REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ATHLETICALLY RELATED FINANCIAL AID FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR

Question No. 1: What is the current legislation regarding period of the award?
Answer: Athletics aid may be awarded for a period less than one academic year (e.g., term-by-term) but not in excess of one academic year.

Question No. 2: Does athletics aid have to be awarded in equal amounts for each term of the academic year?
Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: Does the proposal change any provisions related to the conditions for reduction or cancellation of aid?
Answer: No. During the term of the award it is only permissible to reduce or cancel the aid based on the legislated conditions (Bylaw 15.3.4.2) and other nonathletically related conditions that are included in the financial aid agreement (Bylaw 15.3.4.2.2).

Question No. 4: May the one-year athletics aid award include summer?
Answer: No. Institutions must provide a separate award for a summer term.

Question No. 5: Is it permissible to provide an athletics aid agreement for more than one academic year (e.g., 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years)?
Answer: No.

Question No. 6: May a midyear enrollee sign an athletics aid agreement for two terms (e.g., 2018 spring term and 2018 fall term)?
Answer: No. It is not permissible for an athletics aid agreement to span two academic years.

Question No. 7: If a student-athlete's athletics aid is nonrenewed for the next academic year due to academic reasons, may the institution provide athletics aid for the spring term if the student-athlete performs well academically during the fall term?
Answer: Yes, provided the student-athlete meets the one-time exception for receipt of aid for less than a full academic year.

Question No. 8: The proposal's effective date is August 1, 2018. Would the exception for a student-athlete who graduated during previous academic year and will exhaust eligibility during the following fall term apply to a student-athlete who graduates at any time during the 2017-18 academic year and will exhaust his or her eligibility during the fall 2018 term?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 9: Does the exception for a student-athlete who graduated during previous academic year and will exhaust eligibility during the following fall term permit the institution to renew the student-athlete's athletics aid for subsequent terms of the academic year (e.g., spring semester, winter quarter, spring quarter)?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 10: For quarter schools, may the exception for a student-athlete who graduated during previous academic year and will exhaust eligibility during the following fall term be used if a student-athlete exhausts eligibility during the winter term?

Answer: No. The proposal specifically requires that eligibility will be exhausted during the fall term.

Question No. 11: If the exception for a student-athlete who graduated during previous academic year and will exhaust eligibility during the following fall term is used and the student-athlete does not exhaust eligibility in the fall term (e.g., medical hardship), is there a violation?

Answer: No. It would not be a violation and the institution may award the student-athlete athletics aid for the spring term.

Question No. 12: If the final semester/quarter exception is used and the student-athlete does complete degree requirements at the conclusion of the term, is there a violation?

Answer: No. It would not be a violation and the institution may award the student-athlete athletics aid for the next term.
Question No. 13: May the institution provide athletics aid for less than one academic year to a graduate student-athlete with remaining eligibility?

Answer: No, unless the graduate student-athlete meets a legislated exception.

Question No. 14: Is an institution required to provide a student-athlete who previously received athletics aid for a full academic year a hearing if the institution decides to award the student-athlete athletics aid for less than one academic year in accordance with one of the exceptions outlined in this proposal?

Answer: An institution's regular financial aid authority must notify a student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for a hearing if institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability reduced or not renewed for the following academic year.

Question No. 15: What is the effective date of the proposal and how will it apply to student-athletes?

Answer: The effective date is August 1, 2018, for athletics aid agreements signed for the 2018-19 academic year. The athletics aid agreement may be signed prior to August 1, 2018, subject to applicable NCAA legislation and National Letter of Intent procedures. If the proposal is adopted, regardless of when the aid agreement for the 2018-19 academic year is signed, athletics aid must be awarded for one academic year unless a legislated exception is met.

Question No. 16: Will an institution have the opportunity to file an NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief waiver on behalf of a prospective student-athlete who does not meet a legislated exception?

Answer: Yes.

Proposal No. 3: FINANCIAL AID - TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AWARDING INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID -- REDUCTION AND CANCELLATION DURING PERIOD OF AWARD -- INCREASE PERMITTED -- INCREASE FOR ANY REASON AT ANY TIME
Question No. 1: Who would be responsible for determining whether a student-athlete's athletics aid should be increased during the period of the award?

Answer: Each institution, at its discretion and in accordance with institutional policies regarding athletics aid, will be responsible for determining when and for what reason it is appropriate to increase athletics aid during the period of award.

Question No. 2: What documentation is required for an increase of athletics aid?

Answer: Each institution, at its discretion and in accordance with institutional policies regarding athletics aid, will be responsible for determining what documentation is required for such a request to be processed.

Question No. 3: If a student-athlete's athletics aid is increased during the academic year and the coach wants to return the student-athlete to the original athletics aid amount for the following academic year, is the institution required to provide a hearing opportunity?

Answer: Yes. The student-athlete's athletics aid would be reduced since he or she will receive less athletics aid for the subsequent academic year.

Question No. 4: Would this proposal permit an institution to increase a student-athlete's athletics aid during the period of award based on athletics performance?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 5: Does this proposal change the team maximum equivalency limits?

Answer: No. Any increases to athletics aid cannot exceed the individual or team maximum equivalency limits.

Question No. 6: What is the effective date of the proposal and how will it apply to student-athletes?

Answer: The effective date is August 1, 2018, for athletics aid agreements signed for the 2018-19 academic year. The athletics aid agreement may be signed prior to August 1, 2018, subject to applicable NCAA legislation and National Letter of Intent procedures.