



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE
PUBLIC INFRACTIONS DECISION
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions is an independent administrative body of the NCAA comprised of individuals from the Division I membership and the public. The committee decides infractions cases involving member institutions and their staffs.¹ This case centered on an expansive, systemic breakdown in the eligibility certification process at Southern University that caused numerous violations of multiple NCAA bylaws.² The institution also violated financial aid legislation when it improperly awarded financial aid in multiple sports. Further, the institution failed to comply with penalties prescribed by the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) because the institution had failed to attain academic performance standards.³ Collectively, these failures demonstrate that the institution lacked control over certain aspects of its athletics program.

The scope and breadth of the institution's eligibility certification violations span multiple years and involved over 200 student-athletes in every sport sponsored by the institution. Several factors contributed to the institution's improper certification violations, including a lack of training, a faulty student information system and insufficient checks and balances in the certification process by institutional staff members from departments outside of athletics.

The institution also committed violations when it improperly awarded financial aid in five sports. Specifically, from the 2011-12 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution erroneously applied financial aid legislation to tuition waivers provided by the state.

Further, the institution failed to comply with playing and practice season penalties levied by the CAP. Specifically, during the 2014-15 academic year and the fall 2015 semester, the institution did not comply with a reduction in the amount of in-season and out-of-season practice time and reductions in the number of competitions.

¹ Infractions cases are decided by hearing panels comprised of NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions members. Decisions issued by hearing panels are made on behalf of the Committee on Infractions.

² A member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, the institution has an enrollment of approximately 4,400. It sponsors six men's and nine women's sports. The institution had previous infractions cases in 1984 (football) and 1970 (football).

³ The Committee on Academic Performance has been renamed the Committee on Academics.

These systemic deficiencies were indicative of the institution's violation of core NCAA constitutional requirements of institutional control. The panel concludes that the institution lacked control and failed to monitor certain aspects of its athletics program.

The enforcement staff also had alleged that a former director of athletics committed violations when he questioned the registrar about a student-athlete's major, and the registrar changed the student-athlete's listed major in the institution's student information system. The panel concludes that, under the circumstances presented, the former director of athletics' actions did not constitute violations of NCAA legislation because the former director of athletics was justified in questioning the major, and the major was incorrectly designated.

The panel classifies this case as Level I-Aggravated. The violations straddled the October 30, 2012, implementation of the new penalty structure. In conducting an analysis of when the violations took place, the panel concludes that the violations predominately occurred before implementation of the new structure's effective date. Consequently, the case requires a comparison of the penalty structure in effect prior to October 2012 and the current penalty structure to determine which penalty structure is more lenient. The panel concludes that former NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2 (2012-13 NCAA Division I Manual) afforded the institution with less stringent penalties for a Level I-Aggravated case. Thus, utilizing that former bylaw, the panel adopts and prescribes the following penalties, most of which were proposed by the institution: a five-year probationary period, scholarship reductions, a financial penalty, vacation of records and other administrative penalties.

II. CASE HISTORY

This case originated in February 2013 when the NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA) staff began an academic performance program (APP) data review of the institution. The review determined that the institution erroneously certified student-athletes over several years. In July 2013, the institution and AMA notified the NCAA enforcement staff of possible NCAA violations involving the institution's eligibility certification process.

In mid-March 2015, the institution submitted a self-report to the enforcement staff identifying what the institution believed to be a violation committed by the then director of athletics. In the fall of 2015, the institution submitted a series of self-reports to the enforcement staff identifying violations involving eligibility certification, financial aid and failures to implement penalties prescribed by the Committee on Academic Performance because of the institution's failure to attain NCAA mandated academic standards.

In early February 2016, the enforcement staff informed the institution of the notice of allegations contents and asked the institution and the then director of athletics to consider processing this case through summary disposition. In mid-June 2016, the then director of athletics notified the enforcement staff that he intended to contest the alleged violation involving him, thus precluding the use of summary disposition. On July 7, 2016, the enforcement staff sent the notice of allegations to the president of the institution and the then director of athletics. A week later, the

parties asked the hearing panel to review this case on the written record and with an accelerated hearing docket. The chair of the Committee on Infractions denied the request to review the case on the written record because it did not meet legislative requirement for a decision on the written submissions. However, the chair encouraged the parties to use an accelerated timeline. On July 21, 2016, the institution submitted its response to the notice of allegations. The then director of athletics submitted his response two weeks later and submitted a revised response on August 23, 2016. The following day, the enforcement staff submitted its written reply and statement of the case to the hearing panel, institution and the former director of athletics. Representatives from the institution and the former director of athletics appeared before the hearing panel through videoconference on September 23, 2016.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

Eligibility certification process

This case centered on a systemic breakdown in the institution's eligibility certification process. The eligibility certification failures took place over six years and involved 218 student-athletes in all 15 sports sponsored by the institution. The institution's improper certification occurred for three primary reasons: 1) numerous coding and other errors, that occurred when students' (including student-athletes') academic records were transferred from an outdated student information system to a new system; 2) poor record keeping within the athletics department and; 3) a general lack of training and an absence of involvement by campus departments outside of athletics in the certification process. The institution's certification of eligibility was often rushed, particularly for fall sports, and sometimes occurred just prior to competitions.

Regarding the first category, the transfer of student records from the previous student information system to the new system, Banner, required a daunting amount of computer coding. During this process the institution made many coding errors, one of the most significant of which involved students' majors. The majors listed in Banner for many students, including student-athletes, did not reflect their correct major or course of study. This rendered the institution incapable of generating accurate academic records for all students. The institution's academic record keeping was so ineffectual that, during the APP review, the institution could not compile the documents (e.g., transcripts and certification forms) necessary for AMA to determine whether the institution had properly academically certified student-athletes.

Second, poor record keeping also contributed to the eligibility certification errors. Neither the registrar's office nor the athletics department maintained paper copies of major declaration forms between the 2009-10 and 2013-14 academic years. Athletics officials certified student-athletes in the degree program that they believed to be correct, but there was no process to verify the accuracy of the major. On occasion, athletics officials certified student-athletes in a different major than listed in Banner. For transfer students, the institution did not have a process to evaluate students' transcripts for transfer credit. Transfer students were forced to visit the various academic departments associated with their courses to determine whether credits earned at a previous institution would transfer. Sometimes, this led to inconsistent transfer credit appearing in the Banner system. Moreover, athletics did not have a viable record keeping

system to authenticate degree percentage either for continuing or transfer students. The inaccuracies in the student information system made determination of compliance with NCAA progress-toward-degree rules untenable.

Finally, lack of training was also an issue for the institution. Between 2009-10 and 2013-14, the institution did not provide adequate training of staff members responsible for certification of eligibility. The lack of training was exacerbated by the fact that staff members from other departments outside of athletics were not involved in the certification process.

During the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years, a former director of compliance (former director of compliance 1) performed all continuing eligibility certifications for the institution. The process she used to certify eligibility was flawed and included the use of an obsolete website to determine if a prospective student-athlete met initial eligibility requirements. The institution made little or no effort to determine whether earned credit hours were degree applicable. Former director of compliance 1 reported she knew very little about NCAA progress-toward-degree legislation, and the institution provided her little to no training on the subject.

A former academic coordinator and another former director of compliance (former director of compliance 2) assumed eligibility certification duties during the 2011-12 academic year. The former academic coordinator was responsible for determining percentage-toward-degree requirements, while former director of compliance 2 oversaw the eligibility certification process until 2014-15. As with former director of compliance 1, both the former academic coordinator and former director of compliance 2 reported they received little to no NCAA rules training.⁴

The eligibility certification process had no checks and balances outside of athletics. Athletics department staff members handled eligibility certification with little, if any, assistance or collaboration from campus academic departments. An example of this lack of collaboration was the fact that the registrar's office and the athletics department did not communicate about official major declarations.

Because of the institution's weaknesses in its eligibility certification process, it encountered difficulties in complying with requirements relating to amateurism and general eligibility, academic eligibility and benefits. Most of the issues were concentrated in academic eligibility. The institution also permitted ineligible student-athletes to receive travel expenses associated with competition.

In the area of amateurism and eligibility, during a five-year period, the institution did not obtain the required final certification of amateur status from the NCAA Eligibility Center for 65 student-athletes. Relating to general eligibility, institutions are required to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition. On numerous occasions the institution did not withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition. Also relating to general eligibility, the institution

⁴ The former academic coordinator reported first attending a NCAA Regional Rules Seminar in 2012 and sporadically attended other NCAA Regional Rules Seminars in later years.

allowed two student-athletes to compete for more than four years, the maximum allowed under NCAA legislation.

Regarding initial academic eligibility, the institution allowed six student-athletes to practice and compete who were not academically qualified (nonqualifiers) to do so. Further, the institution allowed one student-athlete who was an initial nonqualifier to compete for a fourth year without having completed a required percentage of a degree program necessary for the fourth year of competition.

In some instances, student-athletes were not enrolled full-time. The institution allowed five student-athletes to practice who were not enrolled full time at the institution. It also allowed one student-athlete to engage in competition who was also enrolled less than full time.

Some student-athletes did not meet certain academic requirements relating to credit hours, progress-toward-degree and minimum grade-point average (GPA). In the area of credit hours, six student-athletes did not pass the required 24 semester hours of academic credit prior to the start of their second year of collegiate enrollment. Further, 77 student-athletes did not complete 18 semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular two semesters. In addition, 56 student-athletes did not complete six semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular term. Further, football has a unique credit hour completion requirement. In that regard, 10 football student-athletes failed to complete at least nine semester hours during the fall term or did not earn an Academic Progress Rate (APR) eligibility point for the fall term. Finally, 17 student-athletes did not maintain the minimum GPA for eligibility.

The institution also had difficulties with certifying the eligibility of transfer student-athletes. Regarding two-year college transfer student-athletes, the institution certified as eligible five two-year college transfers who were initial qualifiers but who did not complete minimum required transferable-degree credit at the two-year college to be eligible at the institution. The institution also certified as eligible seven two-year transfer student-athletes who were nonqualifiers, but who did not meet specific requirements at their two-year institution to be eligible at the institution. The requirements that were not met included graduation from the two-year college, minimum transferable credit hours, full time enrollment and minimum GPA. Regarding four-year college transfers, the institution allowed a four-year transfer student-athlete to compete for the institution without fulfilling the required one-year residence requirement.

As a result of the difficulties the institution encountered in the eligibility certification process, the institution allowed 188 ineligible student-athletes to receive travel expenses.

Finally, during the institution's rushed attempt to certify the eligibility of football student-athletes before the first contest of the 2014 season, the former director of athletics sent an email to the registrar, questioning the accuracy of the student-athlete's major as listed in the institution's student information system. In the email, he also asked to discuss this issue with the registrar. In response to this inquiry, the registrar accessed the system and, on her own initiative, changed the student-athlete's major.

Financial aid calculations

The investigation also revealed issues relating to financial aid application. Louisiana state law allows all student-athletes who receive athletics-related financial aid to obtain non-resident fee waivers and qualify for in-state tuition. Because the non-resident fee waiver only applies to student-athletes receiving athletics aid, NCAA legislation requires all member institutions in Louisiana taking advantage of this tuition waiver to consider it as "countable" aid. In some instances, the institution did not properly account for this financial aid waiver in determining a student-athlete's financial aid package. Further, there was a lack of awareness of how this waiver would affect student-athletes' financial aid. Consequently, the institution exceeded grant-in-aid limits in some sports.

The financial aid award process required coaches to provide the compliance office with a separate list of all student-athletes who should receive the non-resident fee waiver. The compliance office then forwarded this list to the registrar's office so it could verify the out-of-state residency of the identified student-athletes. However, no one in the registrar's office confirmed whether the student-athletes on the non-resident fee waiver list were receiving athletics aid and qualified to receive the waiver. This resulted in the institution awarding the non-resident waiver to some student-athletes who were not receiving athletics aid. Additionally, former director of compliance 2 correctly ascertained that the institution should count the non-resident fee waiver toward the institution's equivalency limits. That had not been the institution's practice up to this point. In 2013, shortly after this discovery, former director of compliance 2 moved out of compliance and into a new position in athletics. Because of this move and subsequent turnover in the compliance office, the institution did not investigate whether it had exceeded equivalency limits at that time.

Although most coaches understood that a student-athlete could only receive a non-resident fee waiver if receiving athletics aid, the head baseball coach mistakenly thought that all out-of-state student-athletes, including non-scholarship walk-ons, could receive the fee waiver. Further, the head baseball coach incorrectly believed that the non-resident fee waiver did not apply to either the initial counters or the maximum equivalency amounts because the institution did not "disperse" any aid. Eventually, a newly hired assistant baseball coach informed the head baseball coach that the institution's baseball program was not counting the non-resident fee waiver toward equivalency limits. The head baseball coach's misunderstanding of this legislation was because the institution provided him with very limited, if any, NCAA rules training.

The head baseball coach's misunderstanding of how this waiver would apply led to the baseball program consistently having overages in initial counters and maximum allowable grants-in-aid. In addition to the overages in baseball, the fact that the institution did not count the in-state tuition waiver in some instances resulted in the institution exceeding annual equivalency limits in men's track, women's track, softball and football. Despite the fact the institution did not correctly treat fee waivers as countable, most sports remained within NCAA financial aid limits due to the limited funding provided by athletics for athletics scholarships or lack of non-resident student-athletes. Baseball consistently exceeded financial aid and equivalency limits for the additional reasons discussed.

Compliance with Committee on Academic Performance Penalties

In addition to the difficulties the institution had in academically certifying student-athletes and deficiencies in applying certain financial aid legislation, the institution did not meet certain NCAA mandated academic performance benchmarks. Consequently, the NCAA's CAP prescribed several restrictions on the institution's athletics programs. Among these penalties were limitations relating to in-season practice opportunities and contests. Specifically, the CAP required that the institution reduce the amount of in-season playing and practice to five days and 16 hours per week for all sports. Further, the CAP also limited out-of-season practice time and reduced the number of contests in the sports of men's and women's track and field, men's basketball and football. The NCAA notified the institution of these penalties in a May 6, 2014, email. Due to extensive turnover in the institution's administrative staffs, especially in the athletics compliance office, the institution never communicated these restrictions to the coaches. Consequently, during the 2014-15 academic year and fall 2015 semester, the institution did not comply with these CAP prescribed penalties.

IV. ANALYSIS

The violations in this case occurred over a six-year period, included all 15 of the institution's sport programs and involved over 200 student-athletes. The crux of this case was a systemic failure by the institution to properly certify student-athletes' eligibility. Other violations occurred involving impermissible financial aid and noncompliance with penalties prescribed by the CAP as the result of the institution's failures to meet NCAA mandated academic performance standards. Because of the nature of the violations in this case, the institution agreed that it lacked institutional control. The panel concludes that this case involved Level I and Level II violations.

A. IMPROPER CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY [[NCAA Division I Manual Bylaws 12.1.1.1.3 and 14.5.4.1⁵ (2010-11 through 2014-15); 12.11.1 (2014-15); 14.1.7.1 (2012-13 through 2013-14); 14.1.8.1 (2010-11 through 2011-12); 14.1.8.2 and 14.5.5.1 (2010-11); 14.2.1 and 14.2.1.1 (2009-10, 2011-12 through 2012-13); 14.3.1, 14.11.1 and 16.8.1.2 (2009-10 through 2012-13); 14.3.3.1 (2012-13); 14.4.3.1, 14.4.3.2 and 14.4.3.3 (2009-10 through 2014-15); 14.4.3.1.6⁶ (2011-12 through 2014-15); 14.4.3.1.7 (2009-10, 2010-11, 2013-14, 2014-15); 14.4.3.1.8 (2011-12 through 2012-13); 14.5.4.2 (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12); 14.5.4.2.1 (2012-13 through 2014-15); 14.10.1 and 16.8.1⁷ (2013-14)]

The institution improperly certified over two hundred student-athletes during a six-year period. In doing so, the institution allowed student-athletes to compete while ineligible and receive

⁵ For student-athletes who initially enrolled full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2012, the minimum GPA increased from 2.000 to 2.500.

⁶ The effective date for this bylaw was August 1, 2011.

⁷ This bylaw was revised January 19, 2013, with an August 1, 2013, effective date. The bylaw was consolidated and has no substantive impact on the allegation.

impermissible travel expenses. The institution agreed to the facts and that a Level I violation occurred. The panel agrees.

1. NCAA legislation relating to eligibility certification, responsibility to withhold from competition and eligibility to receive travel expenses.

The applicable portions of the bylaws may be found at Appendix Two.

2. For a six-year period, the institution improperly certified the eligibility of 218 student-athletes in all 15 of its sports programs, and as a result, 188 student-athletes received travel expenses while in eligible.

The core of expansive violations in the case rests with eligibility certification failures. Beginning in the 2009-10 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution improperly certified as eligible for practice and/or competition 218 student-athletes on 439 instances in 15 sports. As a result, 188 student-athletes received travel expenses while ineligible. Surrounding the certification failures is the institution's conduct that violated numerous, interrelated portions of NCAA Bylaws 12, 14 and 16.

NCAA Bylaws 12, 14 and 16 establish well-understood and core requirements and prohibitions. NCAA Bylaw 12 relates to amateurism and general athletics eligibility. NCAA Bylaw 14 specifically addresses academic eligibility requirements. NCAA Bylaw 16 governs benefits that can, and cannot, be provided to student-athletes.

Regarding basic principles of amateurism certification and eligibility, NCAA Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3 requires student-athletes to receive a final certification of amateur status from the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to his or her request for final certification of eligibility or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I institution (whichever occurs earlier). Regarding institutional responsibility relating to eligibility and competition, NCAA Bylaw 12.11.1 obligates institutions to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition.⁸

NCAA Bylaw 14 outlines core academic requirements for student-athletes to be eligible for practice and competition. NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1 sets forth the academic requirements for an entering freshman to be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition (a "qualifier") and provides that the NCAA Eligibility Center must certify eligibility. If a student-athlete is not a qualifier in his or her first year at an institution, NCAA Bylaw 14.3.3.1 allows such student-athletes a fourth season of intercollegiate competition if, at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has completed at least 80 percent of his or her designated degree program.⁹

⁸ 2014-15 NCAA Division I Manual

⁹ 2012-13 NCAA Division I Manual

Regarding program, hours and years to compete, NCAA Bylaws 14.1.7.1 and 14.1.8.1 require student-athletes to be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies to be eligible to practice.¹⁰ Similarly, NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.2 requires that, to be eligible for competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least 12 semester or quarter hours. A student-athlete must complete four years of competition within five calendar years as set forth in NCAA Bylaw 14.2.1. For purposes of starting this "five-year clock," NCAA Bylaw 14.2.1.1 specifies that a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term for a minimum full-time program of studies and attends the first day of classes for that term.

Beyond program, hours and years to compete requirements, NCAA bylaws establish progress-toward-degree benchmarks. NCAA Bylaw 14.4 sets progress-toward-degree requirements with specific requirements for competition identified in NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3. To maintain eligibility, NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1 requires a student-athlete to complete a required number of semester hours toward his or her designated degree beginning with the student-athlete's second year of enrollment and prior. Similarly, NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.2 requires a student-athlete to have completed certain percentage benchmarks toward his or her degree upon entering the third, fourth and fifth year of enrollment. Further, NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.3 requires a student-athlete to meet minimum grade-point averages beginning with the second year of enrollment. These minimums are indexed to the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average (GPA) required for graduation on an increasing scale beginning at 90 percent at the start of the second year of enrollment and concluding at 100 percent by the start of the fourth year. NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6 sets forth an additional academic requirement for football. Specifically, a football student-athlete who does not successfully complete at least nine semester hours during the fall term and earn the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests the following playing season. NCAA Bylaws 14.4.3.1.7 and 14.4.3.1.8 require that a student-athlete's credit hours under progress-toward-degree requirements shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit in a student-athlete's degree program.¹¹ The bylaws also requires a student-athlete to declare a major by the beginning of the third year of enrollment. By that time, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be applicable to the student-athlete's designated degree program. The bylaws also outline academic requirements if a student-athlete changes his or her major.

NCAA Bylaw 14.5 outlines eligibility requirements for transfer student-athletes. Regarding two-year college transfers, NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.1 sets forth the requirements for a student-athlete who was a qualifier to attain eligibility the first year at the certifying member institution.¹² These requirements include a minimum residency of one semester at the two-year

¹⁰ NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.1 in the 2010-11 through 2011-12 NCAA Manuals was renumbered to NCAA Bylaw 14.1.7.1 for the 2012-13 through 2013-14 Division I Manuals.

¹¹ The provisions of this legislation were set forth in NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7 in the 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2013-14 NCAA Division I Manuals and NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.8 in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Division I Manuals.

¹² 2010-11 NCAA Division I Manual.

institution, at least a 2.5 GPA and 12 hours of transferrable-degree credit hours.¹³ On the other hand, NCAA Bylaws 14.5.4.2 and 14.5.4.2.1 outline requirements for a two-year transfer who was a nonqualifier to be eligible the first year of residency.¹⁴ Specifically, a nonqualifier must have graduated from the two-year college, completed a minimum of 48 semester hours that include transferable math and English credits, attended the college for at least three semesters (or four quarters) and have at least a 2.5 GPA.¹⁵ Regarding four-year college transfers, NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.1 requires a student-athlete transferring from a four-year institution to fulfill a residence requirement of one full academic year before being eligible.

As it relates to institutions' responsibilities, NCAA Bylaws 14.11.1 and 14.10.1 obligate institutions to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition.¹⁶ Finally, NCAA Bylaws 16.8.1.2 and 16.8.1 permit institutions to provide actual and necessary travel expenses only to eligible student-athletes.¹⁷

The scope and breadth of the institution's conduct in this case implicates these numerous, interrelated NCAA bylaws. The case, however, starts with certification failures. Over the course of six years, the institution improperly certified 218 student-athletes in all its sports programs.¹⁸ These failures violated provisions of NCAA Bylaw 12 (amateurism and general athletics eligibility), NCAA Bylaw 14 (academic eligibility) and NCAA Bylaw 16 (benefits). The clear majority of the violations were concentrated in NCAA Bylaw 14.

Over a five-year period, the institution failed to obtain final certification of amateur status from the NCAA Eligibility Center for 65 student-athletes. When the institution did not certify the amateurism status of these student-athletes, it violated NCAA Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3. Also within NCAA Bylaw 12 is the requirement for institutions to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition. The institution failed to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition on numerous occasions, violating NCAA Bylaw 12.11.1 (2014-15 Division I Manual)¹⁹

¹³ Prior to August 1, 2012, 2.0 was the minimum GPA required for a two-year college transfer who was a qualifier.

¹⁴ The provisions of this legislation were set forth in NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.2 in the 2009-10 through 2011-12 NCAA Manuals in Bylaw 14.5.4.2.1 for the 2012-13 through 2014-15 Division I Manuals.

¹⁵ Prior to August 1, 2012, 2.0 was the minimum GPA required for a two-year college transfer who was a nonqualifier.

¹⁶ NCAA Bylaw 14.11.1 in the 2009-10 through 2012-13 NCAA Division I Manuals was renumbered to NCAA Bylaw 14.10.1 in the 2013-14 Division I Manual.

¹⁷ NCAA Bylaw 16.8.1.2 in the 2009-10 through 2012-13 NCAA Division I Manuals was renumbered to NCAA Bylaw 16.8.1 in the 2013-14 Division I Manual.

¹⁸ Some student-athletes were involved in multiple violations. The 218 student-athletes were involved in 439 separate instances of violations.

¹⁹ This requirement is mirrored in NCAA Bylaw 14. When the institution failed to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition it also violated NCAA Bylaws 14.11.1 (2009-10 through 2012-13) and 14.10.1 (2013-14).

The institution also violated numerous provisions of NCAA Bylaw 14 relating to seasons of competition, initial academic eligibility, continuing eligibility/progress-toward-degree eligibility and transfer eligibility. On two occasions the institution allowed student-athletes to compete for more than four years, the maximum allowed under NCAA legislation. The institution also allowed one student-athlete to compete after she exhausted her four seasons of competition. It also improperly calculated the start of another student-athlete's five-year eligibility period (the "five-year clock"). The institution's errors caused the student-athlete to compete after he exhausted his four seasons, the institution violated NCAA Bylaws 14.2.1 and 14.2.1.1.

The institution also allowed student-athletes to compete who did not qualify for initial eligibility. Only qualifiers can receive financial aid, and engage in practice and competition. When the institution allowed six nonqualifier student-athletes to practice and compete, it violated NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1. Further, student-athletes who were initial nonqualifiers (but later obtained eligibility) must have completed 80 percent of their degree program to get a fourth season of eligibility. When the institution allowed a fourth year of eligibility for a nonqualifier who had not completed 80 percent of a degree program, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.3.3.1.

The institution committed additional violations when it allowed some student-athletes to practice and compete who were not enrolled full-time. To be eligible for practice, student-athletes must be enrolled full-time as defined by the institution. To engage in intercollegiate competition, student-athletes must also be enrolled full time, but the full-time enrollment cannot be less than 12 hours. When the institution allowed five student-athletes to practice while enrolled less than full time at the institution, it violated NCAA Bylaws 14.1.7.1 and 14.1.8.1. Further, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.2 when it allowed one student-athlete to compete while enrolled less than full time at the institution.

The institution also committed violations in the area of academic progress. Beginning in the 2009-10 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution allowed student-athletes to compete who did not meet various credit hour requirements and benchmarks needed for continuing eligibility and progress-toward-degree under NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3. When six student-athletes failed to pass 24 semester hours of academic credit prior to the start of their second year of collegiate enrollment, the institution violated NCAA Bylaws 14.4.3.1-(a) and 14.4.3.1.7. Further, when 77 student-athletes failed to complete 18 semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular two semesters, the institution violated NCAA Bylaws 14.4.3.1-(b) and 14.4.3.1.7 (or NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.8). Finally, when 56 student-athletes failed to complete six semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular term, the institution violated NCAA Bylaws 14.4.3.1-(c) and 14.4.3.1.7 (or NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.8).

The institution committed additional violations of progress-to-degree legislation unique to football. When, over the course of four years, 10 football student-athletes failed to complete at least nine semester hours during the fall term or did not earn an Academic Progress Rate (APR) eligibility point for the fall term, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6.

Some student-athletes were allowed to compete who failed to meet the minimum grade-point average (GPA). These minimums are indexed to the institution's overall cumulative GPA required to graduate (for all students). When, over a six-year period beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, 17 student-athletes failed to maintain the minimum GPA, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.3.

The institution also violated several provisions of academic eligibility legislation governing transfer student-athletes under NCAA Bylaw 14.5. The violations involved both two-year college transfers and four-year college transfers.

With regard to two-year college transfers, beginning in the 2010-11 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.1-(c). It did so when it impermissibly certified as eligible five two-year college transfer student-athletes who were qualifiers. They did not, however, complete an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit for each full time academic term at the two-year college. Further violations of NCAA Bylaw 14.5 occurred involving two-year transfers who were nonqualifiers. Beginning in the 2009-10 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution violated NCAA Bylaws 14.5.4.2 and 14.5.4.2.1 and their subparts when it impermissibly certified seven two-year college transfer student-athletes who were nonqualifiers. The violations involved four areas for the two-year transfers: 1) five of the seven failing to graduate from a two-year institution; 2) three of the seven failing to complete a minimum of 48 semester hours of transferable-degree credit; 3) one failing to attend a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters; and 4) one failing to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5.

Regarding four-year college transfers, the institution violated NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.1 during the 2010-11 academic year when a four-year transfer student-athlete competed for the institution without fulfilling the one full academic year residence requirement.

Finally, student-athletes who were ineligible received impermissible travel expenses. When, over a six-year period, the institution provided actual and necessary travel expenses to 188 student-athletes who were ineligible, it violated NCAA Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2009-10 through 2012-13) and 16.8.1 (2013-14).

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.1.1, the panel concludes that the violations are Level I because it seriously undermines and threatens the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model, includes many student-athletes participating over multiple years while ineligible and provided the institution with a substantial or extensive competitive advantage. Further, the institution's actions are contrary to the fundamental responsibility of a Division I member institution to maintain institutional control and to certify the eligibility of all student-athletes under the terms and conditions of the NCAA constitution and bylaws.

B. FINANCIAL AID VIOLATIONS. [NCAA Division I Manual Bylaws 15.02.4.1, (2011-12 through 2013-14), 15.02.4.2 (2014-15), 15.5.3.1.1, 15.5.3.1.2, 15.5.4 and 15.5.6.2 (2011-12 through 2014-15)]

Over a four-year period, the institution exceeded grant-in-aid and counter limits when it failed to properly apply financial aid legislation to tuition waivers provided by the state. The institution agreed to the facts and that a Level II violation occurred. The panel agrees. Specifically:

1. NCAA legislation relating to financial aid.

The applicable portions of the bylaws may be found at Appendix Two.

2. Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year and continuing through the 2014-15 academic year, the institution exceeded financial aid limits in five sports when, in the process of determining student-athletes' financial aid packages, it failed to properly account for tuition waivers provided to student-athletes by the state of Louisiana.

The institution exceeded financial aid limits in the sports of baseball, women's track, men's track, football and softball when it did not properly account for a state-mandated student-athlete financial aid waiver when determining some student-athletes' financial aid packages. This failure resulted in the institution exceeding annual equivalency limits in men's track, women's track, softball, football and baseball. It also caused the institution to exceed the limit on the total number of counters in baseball. This failure resulted in violations of NCAA Bylaw 15.

NCAA Bylaw 15 governs financial aid for student-athletes. A fundamental responsibility of NCAA member institutions is the proper application of financial aid rules and regulations.

NCAA Bylaws 15.02.4.1 and 15.02.4.2 identify the various sources of funds that qualify as "countable" institutional financial aid.²⁰ Among these sources are tuition waivers as specified in NCAA Bylaws 15.02.4.1-(a)-(3) and 15.02.4.2-(a)-(3). Louisiana state law provides all state institutions a non-resident tuition fee waiver for any out-of-state student-athlete receiving athletics aid. The non-resident fee waiver allows a student-athlete to pay in-state tuition rather than the more expensive out-of-state tuition.

NCAA Bylaw 15.5 sets forth the maximum institutional grant-in-aid limitations by sport. Specifically, NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.1.1 identifies the maximum grant-in-aid equivalencies in various men's sports, while NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.1.2 does the same for women's sports. NCAA Bylaw 15.5.4 sets the equivalency limit for baseball and limits the number of "counters" that are allowed in baseball. NCAA Bylaw 15.5.6.2 sets equivalency and counter limits Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) football.²¹

²⁰ NCAA Bylaw 15.02.4.1 in the 2011-12 through 2013-14 NCAA Division I Manuals was renumbered to NCAA Bylaw 15.02.4.2 in the 2014-15 Division I Manual.

²¹ Some NCAA Division I sports, including basketball, women's tennis, women's gymnastics, women's volleyball and Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) football are "head count" sports, with each student-athlete receiving a "full" grant-in-aid. All other

The institution violated several provisions of NCAA Bylaw 15 when it failed to count in-state tuition waivers in determining some student-athletes' financial aid packages. This failure resulted in the institution exceeding equivalency limits in the sports of men's track, women's track, softball, football and baseball. It also exceeded the maximum number of counters in baseball. When the institution did not properly account for the out-of-state tuition waiver, causing the institution to exceed the grant-in-aid equivalency limits in men's track, it violated NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.1.1. Similarly, when it exceeded the equivalency limits in women's track and softball, it violated NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.1.2. Further, when the institution exceeded the grant-in-aid equivalency limits in FCS football, it violated NCAA Bylaw 15.5.6.2. Finally, when the institution exceeded equivalency and counter limits in baseball, it violated NCAA Bylaw 15.5.4.

The misapplication of financial aid legislation resulting in the over-awarding of grants-in-aid and overages in counters is a significant breach of conduct because the violations were not isolated and they provided the institution with more than a minimal recruiting and competitive advantage. The panel concludes the violations are Level II pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.1.2.

**C. THE INSTITUTION'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CAP PENALTIES.
[NCAA Division I Manual Bylaw 14.8.1.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16)]**

Over the course of three semesters beginning in the fall of 2014, the institution did not fulfill practice and competition limitations levied by the CAP for failures to achieve performance standards required by the academic performance program. The institution agreed to the facts and that a Level II violation occurred. The panel agrees.

1. NCAA legislation relating to Academic Performance Program and penalties.

The applicable portions of the bylaws may be found at Appendix Two.

2. During the 2014-15 academic year and fall 2015 semester, the institution failed to fulfill penalties pursuant to the NCAA Academic Performance Program for institutions with APR scores that fall below the designated standards.

Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year and concluding in the fall of 2015, the institution did not comply with penalties in the form of limitations on practice time and competitions prescribed by the CAP. These penalties resulted from the institution's failure to satisfy the appropriate academic standards required under the academic performance program. The NCAA notified the institution of these penalties in a May 6, 2014, email. But the institution did not inform the coaches of the limitations, so they were not implemented. This conduct violated NCAA Bylaw 14.

sports are "equivalency" sports, which allows for student-athletes to receive a fraction of a grant-in-aid. Some sports, including baseball and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) football are limited in the number of team members ("counters") allowed.

NCAA Bylaw 14.8.1.1 requires the CAP to notify an institution when it fails to satisfy the appropriate academic standards as outlined in the academic performance program. If required, the institution shall then apply the applicable penalty pursuant to the policies of the academic performance program.²² When the institution failed to comply with penalties prescribed by the CAP, it violated NCAA Bylaw 14.8.1.1.

The failure to apply penalties prescribed by CAP is a significant breach of conduct because the violation compromises the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model, was not isolated and provided the institution with more than a minimal recruiting and competitive advantage. Further, the purpose of limiting the institution's countable athletically related activities (CARA) is for the institution to substitute that time for academic programming. By failing to comply with these limits, the institution also failed to substitute this time for academically related activities. The panel concludes the violation is Level II pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.1.2.

D. LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL [NCAA Constitution 2.1.1, 2.8.1 and 6.01.1 (2009-10 through 2015-16 Division I Manual)]

The institution failed to monitor its athletics department and exhibited a lack of institutional control in three areas. First, the institution failed to monitor the athletics eligibility certification process. Second, the institution failed to properly apply financial aid legislation. Third, the institution did not comply with penalties prescribed by CAP. The enforcement staff and institution agreed to the facts and that a Level I violation occurred. The panel agrees.

1. NCAA legislation relating to member institutions' responsibility to monitor and exercise control over athletics programs.

The applicable portions of the bylaws may be found at Appendix Two.

2. The institution fell short of its obligations under the NCAA Constitution as a member institution when it failed to correctly certify over 200 student-athletes during the course of six years; failed to account for an out-of-state tuition waiver in determining student-athletes' financial aid packages, which led to equivalency grants in aid and counters overages; and failed to implement CAP penalties.

From the 2009-10 through the 2015-16 academic years, the institution lacked control when it improperly certified the academic eligibility of 218 student-athletes. The improper certifications of eligibility were due to several factors, including a lack of training and/or understanding of NCAA eligibility legislation, a faulty student information system and the lack of involvement by individuals outside of athletics in the certification process. The institution also lacked control when it failed to treat an out-of-state tuition waiver as countable aid when determining student-athletes financial aid packages. Finally, the institution demonstrated a lack of control when it

²² NCAA Bylaw 14.8.1.1.1 requires the CAP to publish annually the standards for determining unsatisfactory performance under the academic performance program. An institution may be required to apply penalties for failing to meet the identified review factors, as determined by the committee's policies and procedures.

did not fulfill penalties prescribed by CAP. These failures violated NCAA Constitution Articles 2 and 6.

NCAA Constitution 2.1.1, 2.8.1 and 6.01.1 require that each member institution comply with all rules and regulations of the Association, monitor its programs to ensure control over all aspects of its intercollegiate athletics program. The Constitution also establishes that the institution's administration or faculty, or a combination of the two, exercise control and responsibility over the conduct of the institution's intercollegiate athletics programs. The institution failed in this regard.

The eligibility certification failures occurred in large part because individuals responsible for athletics certification often did not have the background or expertise necessary to perform these tasks. They lacked the rules education to fully understand the complexities of the NCAA eligibility certification process and there was no opportunity, or time, to develop internal systems to apply the rules. Some athletics department staff members responsible for eligibility certification indicated that they often performed several jobs within the department. They also reported that they often felt overworked and did the best job they could with limited resources. The institution should have devoted more resources, time and training to ensure that the eligibility certification process worked.

A faulty student information system also contributed to eligibility certification errors. When the institution made an abrupt transition to a new information system, many computer coding errors occurred, often resulting in the incorrect recording of students' (including student-athletes') majors. This rendered the institution incapable of generating accurate academic records for all students. The institution's academic record keeping was so flawed that during the APP review the institution could not compile the documents (e.g., transcripts and certification forms) necessary for AMA to determine whether the institution had properly academically certified student-athletes.

A lack of assistance or involvement from other campus departments was another weakness in the eligibility certification process. Eligibility certification had no checks and balances outside of athletics. Athletics department staff members often handled eligibility certification exclusively with little or no assistance or collaboration from staff members outside of athletics. The institution would have been better served by more closely involving other departments, most notably the registrar, in the certification of eligibility.

A failure to properly account for an out-of-state tuition waiver was also indicative of a lack of institutional control. The institution failed to treat this waiver as countable aid. As a result, the institution exceeded equivalency limits in five sports and surpassed the allowable counters in one of the five sports, baseball. In this case, the institution's financial aid department should have verified student-athletes' eligibility for non-resident fee waivers.

Finally, the institution demonstrated a lack of institutional control when it failed to comply with practice and competition penalties prescribed by the CAP. The information relating to these penalties was conveyed to the institution in an email from the NCAA's AMA staff to several

individuals within the institution's administration. However, due to frequent staff turnover and poor communication protocol, the coaches of sports affected by the penalties were never informed of them. Given the on-going issues with eligibility certification, the institution should have been in a state of heightened awareness and sensitivity to compliance with legislated requirements and appropriately reacted to the penalties prescribed by the CAP.

The panel has concluded that extensive failures to certify eligibility demonstrate a lack of institutional control under the NCAA Constitution. *See University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff* (2014) (concluding that, over five academic years, the institution erroneously certified 124 student-athletes for competition when it failed to apply NCAA Bylaw 14 progress-toward-degree, degree credit hours, nonqualifier status and two-year transfer requirements. As a result, the institution permitted ineligible student-athletes to practice, compete and receive travel expenses while ineligible); and *Southeastern Louisiana University* (2013) (concluding that, over five academic years, the institution erroneously certified 137 student-athletes for competition when it failed to apply NCAA Bylaw 14 progress-toward-degree, minimum credit hours for eligibility, and two-year transfer requirements. The institution permitted 136 of the 137 ineligible student-athletes to practice, compete and receive travel expenses while ineligible). The violations in this case are comparable—if not greater—to those cases.

The panel concludes that the facts demonstrate Level I violations of NCAA bylaws because the way the institution administered its athletics program seriously undermined and threatened the NCAA Collegiate Model. Further, pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.1.1-(a), a lack of institutional control is considered an example of a Level I violation.

V. VIOLATIONS NOT DEMONSTRATED

The enforcement staff alleged that the former director of athletics violated NCAA legislation by (1) impermissibly causing the changing of a student-athlete's major in an effort to gain the student-athlete's eligibility and (2) failing to withhold the student-athlete from competition. The panel concludes that the former director of athletics' actions did not violate NCAA legislation.

Regarding the changing of the student-athlete's major, the former director of athletics sent an email to the registrar questioning the accuracy of the student-athlete's major as listed in the institution's student information system. In the email, he also asked to discuss this issue with the registrar. In response to this inquiry, the registrar accessed and changed the student-athlete's major. The registrar reported that the former director of athletics did not ask her to change the student-athlete's major. As part of this allegation, the enforcement staff alleged that the former director of athletics caused the student-athlete's major to be changed without proper documentation. However, after the notice of allegations was issued, the institution located a document reflecting that the student-athlete's major had been properly changed but this change was not correctly reflected in the system. The former director of athletics was justified in questioning the student-athlete's major and the registrar changed the student-athlete's major to the correct one. For these reasons, the panel concludes that a violation of NCAA Bylaws 14.9.1 and 14.10.1 was not demonstrated.

The enforcement staff also alleged that the former director of athletics failed his obligation to withhold the above student-athlete from competition. There was no dispute that the student-athlete competed in two contests while ineligible before going through the student-athlete reinstatement process. The institution followed its policy and procedures to certify the student-athlete, which led to an erroneous certification, just as it did in hundreds of other instances. The institution as a whole, rather than the former director of athletics as an individual, bears the responsibility for this and the other instances of improper certifications. Consequently, the panel concludes that the violation was not demonstrated.

VII. PENALTIES

For the reasons set forth in Sections III, IV and V of this decision, the panel concludes this case involved Level I and II violations of NCAA legislation. Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.9.1, the panel concludes the violations did not predominate after implementation of the new penalty structure. As a result, the panel conducted a penalty analysis to determine whether the current or former penalty structure provided the institution with more lenient penalties. The panel determines the former penalty structure provides the institution with more lenient penalties. Therefore, the panel prescribes penalties pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2 (2012-13 Division I Manual).

Under the current structure, the panel concluded whether violations occurred and whether those violations were Level I, II or III. To determine the appropriate classification for the institution's case, the panel then considered aggravating and mitigating factors pursuant to NCAA Bylaws 19.9.3 and 19.9.4. When assigning appropriate classification, the panel assessed aggravating and mitigating factors by weight as well as number. Additionally, because the violations in this case occurred over six years, resulted in hundreds of student-athletes competing while ineligible and included a failure to monitor and a lack of institutional control, the panel classifies the institution's case as Level I – Aggravated.

The panel then conducted a penalty analysis under former NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2. In considering cases under the former penalty structure, the panel reviewed past cases as guidance. Considering the required core penalties established under the current structure in Figure 19-1, including postseason bans, significant reductions in grants-in-aid and significant financial penalties, the panel determines that the former penalty structure provides the institution with more lenient penalties. Therefore, the panel prescribes penalties under the former NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2.

All of the penalties prescribed in this case are independent of and supplemental to any action the Committee on Academics has taken or may take through its assessment of postseason ineligibility, historical penalties or other penalties.²³ The institution's corrective actions are contained in Appendix One. After considering all information relevant to the case, the panel

²³ Over the past five years, all the institution's sports programs have at various times been banned from postseason competition for failure to attain academic performance program (APP) requirements. All sports have had multi-year postseason bans except for women's tennis which had only a one-year ban.

prescribes the following penalties. Those self-imposed (or proposed) by the institution are so noted.

Penalties and Disciplinary Measures (NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2 (2012-13))

1. Public reprimand and censure.
2. Five years of probation from November 16, 2016, through November 15, 2021, or completion of the final penalty, whichever is later.²⁴
3. A financial penalty of \$5,000. (Institution proposed)
4. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in women's soccer by one award during the 2016-17 academic year and by one award during the 2017-18 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
5. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in softball by 1.5 awards during the 2016-17 academic year, by 1.5 awards during the 2017-18 academic year and by .78 award during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
6. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in baseball by 2.3 awards during the 2016-17 academic year, by 2.3 awards during the 2017-18 academic year and by 2.3 awards during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
7. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in football by five awards during the 2016-17 academic year, by five awards during the 2017-18 academic year and by five award during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
8. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in women's volleyball by one award during the 2016-17 academic year and by one award during the 2017-18 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
9. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in men's track by 2.11 awards during the 2016-17 academic year, by 2.11 awards during the 2017-18 academic year and by 2.1 awards during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)

²⁴ Probation periods always commence with the release of the infractions decision. Pursuant to NCAA Bylaws 19.3.6-(e) and 19.9.5.7 and Division I Committee on Infractions Internal Operating Procedure 2-1-1, the committee tethers probationary periods to the prescribed penalties. The institution proposed a three-year probationary period. The authority to prescribe NCAA probation, however, rests solely with the committee. In a similar case involving the *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff* (2014), a panel of the committee also prescribed a five-year postseason ban.

10. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in women's track by 3.6 awards during the 2016-17 academic year, by 3.6 awards during the 2017-18 academic year and by 3.6 awards during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
11. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in men's basketball by 1 award during the 2016-17 academic year, by 1 award during the 2017-18 academic year and by 1 award during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
12. The institution is reducing and will reduce, the number of total number of athletically related financial aid awards in women's basketball by 1 award during the 2016-17 academic year, by one award during the 2017-18 academic year and by one award during the 2018-19 academic year. (Institution imposed.)
13. Over the course of the six years this case encompassed, hundreds of student-athletes competed while ineligible at the institution. Therefore, pursuant to NCAA Bylaws 19.9.7-(g) and 31.2.2.3, the institution shall vacate all regular season and conference tournament records and participation in which the ineligible student-athletes detailed in this decision participated.²⁵ This order of vacation includes all regular season competition and conference tournaments. The individual records of the ineligible student-athletes will also be vacated. However, the individual finishes and any awards for all eligible student-athletes will be retained. Further, the institution's records regarding its athletics programs, as well as the records of head coaches, will reflect the vacated records and will be recorded in all publications in which such records are reported, including, but not limited to, institutional media guides, recruiting material, electronic and digital media plus institutional, conference and NCAA archives. Any institution that may subsequently hire the affected head coaches shall similarly reflect the vacated wins in their career records documented in media guides and other publications cited above. Head coaches with vacated wins on their records may not count the vacated wins toward specific honors or victory "milestones" such as 100th, 200th or 500th career victories. Any public reference to the vacated contests shall be removed from the athletics department stationary, banners displayed in public areas and any other forum in which they may appear. Any trophies awarded by the NCAA in these sports shall be returned to the Association.

Finally, to ensure that all institutional and student-athlete vacations, statistics and records are accurately reflected in official NCAA publications and archives, the sports information

²⁵ Among other examples, the committee has indicated that a vacation penalty is particularly appropriate when cases involve a lack of institutional control. See *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (2014)*, *Southeastern Louisiana University (2013)* as well as *Division I Internal Operating Procedure 4-16-4*. Further, the committee has consistently applied a comprehensive vacation of records in cases that involved student-athletes competing when they failed to meet eligibility or amateurism requirements. See *Alcorn State University (2016)*, *Campbell University (2016)*, *Samford University (2016)*, *University of North Carolina, Greensboro (2015)*, *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (2014)* and *Southeastern Louisiana University (2013)*.

director (or other designee as assigned by the director of athletics) must contact the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office and appropriate conference officials to identify the specific student-athletes and contests impacted by the penalties. In addition, the institution must provide the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office with a written report, detailing those discussions. This document will be maintained in the permanent files of the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office. This written report must be delivered to the office no later than 45 days following the release of this decision. The sports information director (or designee) must also inform the Office of the Committees on Infractions of this submission to the NCAA Media Coordination and Statistics office.

14. The institution shall retain an independent, external agency or consultant experienced in NCAA compliance matters to conduct a thorough review of the institution's athletics compliance program. The institution will include the results of this compliance review in the institution's first annual compliance report, and any recommendations made as a result of this compliance review shall be implemented by the institution as soon as possible, but no later than the conclusion of the second year of probation. (Institution proposed)

Other Administrative Penalties

15. During the period of probation, the institution shall:

- a. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive educational program on NCAA legislation to instruct the coaches, the faculty athletics representative, all athletics department personnel and all institution staff members with responsibility for the certification of student-athletes for admission, retention, financial aid or competition;
- b. Submit a preliminary report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions by January 15, 2017, setting forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educational program;
- c. File with the Office of the Committees on Infractions an annual compliance report indicating the progress made with this program by September 30 of each year during the period of probation. Emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring relating to eligibility certification and compliance with financial aid legislation;
- d. Inform all prospective student-athletes in writing that the institution is on probation for five years and detail the violations committed. If a prospective student-athlete takes an official paid visit, the information regarding violations, penalties and terms of probation must be provided in advance of the visit. Otherwise, the information must be provided before a prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent; and
- e. Publicize specific and understandable information concerning the nature of the infractions by providing, at a minimum, a statement to include the types of violations and the affected sport programs and a direct, conspicuous link to the public infractions decision located on the athletic department's main website "landing page" and in the

media guides for the involved sports. The institution's statement must: (i) clearly describe the infractions; (ii) include the length of the probationary period associated with the major infractions case; and (iii) give members of the general public a clear indication of what happened in the major infractions case to allow the public (particularly prospective student-athletes and their families) to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. A statement that refers only to the probationary period with nothing more is not sufficient.

16. Following the receipt of the final compliance report and prior to the conclusion of probation, the institution's president shall provide a letter to the committee affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

The Committee on Infractions advises the institution that it should take every precaution to ensure that it observes the terms of the penalties. The committee will monitor the penalties during their effective periods. Any action by the institution contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations shall be considered grounds for extending the institution's probationary period, prescribing more severe penalties or may result in additional allegations and violations.

NCAA COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS PANEL

Greg Christopher
Thomas Hill, Chief Hearing Officer
Larry Parkinson
Greg Sankey
Sankar Suryanarayan

APPENDIX ONE
Corrective Actions

(as set forth in the institution's July 21, 2016, response to the Notice of Allegations)

1. The institution retained outside counsel to objectively and thoroughly investigate NCAA infractions and assist with the implementation of corrective actions (February 2014 to present).
2. The institution created a new compliance position with responsibility for compliance oversight in the eligibility certification process and oversight of financial aid awards and rules compliance (July 2014).
3. The institution hired a new registrar experienced in the Banner student information system who currently serves as the certifying official (April 2014).
4. The institution hired an outside registrar office consultant, to reconcile student information issues that harmed the eligibility certification process, update the Banner student information system and train personnel to utilize the Banner information system (March 2014).
5. The institution implemented the "Degree Works" component of the Banner information system to assist with the eligibility certification process (December 2014).
6. The institution updated the university course catalog to provide clarity to policies and procedures that effect the eligibility certification system, including the "repeat/delete" policy, transfer grade application and calculation of remedial course credits for GPA purposes (July 2014).
7. The institution standardized departmental policies on curriculum used to determine graduation for ensuring accuracy and consistency in the eligibility certification process (April 2014).
8. The institution established a new policy and procedure for eligibility certification which calls for the participation of compliance, academic advisors in athletics, department heads, deans or designees responsible for independent progress toward degree calculation, the registrar and faculty athletic director for the purpose of utilizing the most official and accurate records for each student-athlete, ensuring checks and balances among campus, ensuring responsible auditing practices and ensuring appropriate storage of eligibility certification records (February 2014).

9. The institution trained all individuals responsible for the eligibility certification process via education workshops administered by an outside consultant April 2014, June 2014).
10. The institution required all individuals with responsibility for the eligibility certification process to attend at least one regional rules seminar (May 2014, June 2015).
11. The institution implemented a new policy for filing official major declaration and change of major declaration forms in the registrar's office and athletics department (March 2014);
12. The institution implemented a new policy for filing external transcripts for incoming student- athlete transfers (March 2014).
13. The institution implemented a new policy for filing course credit "articulations" for transfer credit earned by incoming student-athlete transfers (March 2014).
14. The institution purchased and utilized the ACS Athletics electronic compliance system to assist with compliance functions related to eligibility certification and financial aid compliance (January 2016).
15. The institution's chancellor issued a directive to all academic departments for the purpose of enforcing campus-wide participation in the eligibility certification system (April 2014).
16. The institution hired an outside consultant to train the financial aid officer responsible for athletics scholarship awards and other financial aid related compliance functions, as well as the compliance office and athletics staff members who are responsible for athletics financial aid (April 2015).
17. The institution provided extensive rules education to coaches regarding the calculation of out- of-state waivers, equivalency computations and other aspects of compliance related to financial aid (June 2015).
18. The institution implemented new policies and procedures for financial aid renewals, and financial aid equivalency monitoring which incorporate head coaches, compliance and the financial aid office (April 2015).
19. The institution implemented a new policy for collection and submission of APR data (February 2014).

APPENDIX TWO
Bylaw Citations

Division I 2009-10 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

14.2.1 Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official church mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States.

14.2.1.1 Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period. For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term.

14.3.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A student-athlete who enrolls in a member institution as an entering freshman with no previous full-time college attendance

shall meet the following academic requirements, as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, as approved by the Executive Committee, and any applicable institutional and conference regulations, to be considered a qualifier and thus be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition during the first academic year in residence.

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.1.7 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs;
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward-degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) A student-athlete who has designated a specific degree program with an identified major may not use a course to fulfill the credit-hour requirement for meeting progress toward degree even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program, if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum GPA (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative GPA required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative GPA (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum GPA required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum GPA (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum GPA required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall GPA required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest GPA required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum GPA. The minimum GPA must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.2 Not a Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six semesters or eight quarter hours of transferable English credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.000.

14.11.1 Obligation of Member to Withhold Student-Athlete from Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and NGB championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A licensed postseason football game (see Bylaws 18.7 and 30.9 for conditions required for licensing);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition; (*Adopted: 1/10/92*)
- (e) Other institutional competition permissible under NCAA legislation, including postseason events; and
- (f) Fundraising activities that an institution counts against its maximum contest limitations per Bylaw 17.

Division I 2010-11 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.1.8.1 Requirement for Practice. To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution. A violation of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, it shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility.

14.1.8.2 Requirement for Competition. To be eligible for competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, which shall not be less than 12 semester or quarter hours.

14.2.1 Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official church mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States.

14.3.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A student-athlete who enrolls in a member institution as an entering freshman with no previous full-time college attendance shall meet the following academic requirements, as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, as approved by the Executive Committee, and any applicable institutional and conference regulations, to be considered a qualifier and thus be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition during the first academic year in residence.

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.1.7 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs;
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward-degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) A student-athlete who has designated a specific degree program with an identified major may not use a course to fulfill the credit-hour requirement for meeting progress toward degree even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program, if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum GPA Requirements A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum GPA (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative GPA required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative GPA (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum GPA required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a

cumulative minimum GPA (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum GPA required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall GPA required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest GPA required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum GPA. The minimum GPA must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition in the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter in residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions);
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2); and
- (c) Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.

14.5.4.2 Not a Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2).

14.5.5.1 General Rule. A transfer student from a four-year institution shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition at a member institution until the student has fulfilled a residence requirement of one full academic year (two full semesters or three full quarters) at the certifying institution (see Bylaw 14.02.13).

14.11.1 Obligation of Member to Withhold Student-Athlete from Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution

(competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and NGB championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A licensed postseason football game (see Bylaws 18.7 and 30.9 for conditions required for licensing);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition; (*Adopted: 1/10/92*)
- (e) Other institutional competition permissible under NCAA legislation, including postseason events; and
- (f) Fundraising activities that an institution counts against its maximum contest limitations per Bylaw 17.

Division I 2011-12 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.1.8.1 Requirement for Practice. To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution. A violation of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, it shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility

14.2.1 Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official religious missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official religious mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States.

14.2.1.1 Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period. For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.3) when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term (see Bylaw 14.2.2).

14.3.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A student-athlete who enrolls in a member institution as an entering freshman with no previous full-time college attendance shall meet the following academic requirements, as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, as approved by the Executive Committee, and any applicable institutional and conference regulations, to be considered a qualifier and thus be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition during the first academic year in residence.

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.1.6 Additional Requirements—Football. In football, a student-athlete who is a member of the institution's football team and who does not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours or eight quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term and earn the Academic

Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.

14.4.3.1.8 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1) shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs;
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward- degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward the degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) A student-athlete who has designated a specific degree program with an identified major may not use a course to fulfill the credit-hour requirement for meeting progress toward degree even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program, if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete

who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall grade-point average required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest grade-point average required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum grade-point average. The minimum grade-point average must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition in the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter in residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions);
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2); and
- (c) Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.

14.5.4.2 Not a Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2).

14.11.1 Obligation of Member to Withhold Student-Athlete from Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

15.02.4.1 Institutional Financial Aid. The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid:

(a) All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Scholarships;
- (2) Grants;
- (3) Tuition waivers;
- (4) Employee 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
- (5) Loans.

(b) 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.

15.5.3.1 Maximum Equivalency Limits

15.5.3.1.1 Men's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following men's sports:

Cross Country/ Track and Field: 12.6
Fencing: 4.5
Golf 4.5
Gymnastics: 6.3
Lacrosse: 12.6
Rifle: 3.6
Skiing: 6.3
Soccer: 9.9
Swimming and Diving: 9.9
Tennis: 4.5
Volleyball: 4.5
Water Polo: 4.5
Wrestling: 9.9

15.5.3.1.2 Women's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following women's sports:

Bowling: 5
Cross Country/Track and Field: 18
Equestrian: 15

Fencing: 5
Field Hockey: 12
Golf: 6
Lacrosse: 12
Rowing: 20
Rugby: 12
Skiing: 7
Soccer: 14
Softball: 12
Swimming and Diving: 14
Water Polo: 8

15.5.4 Baseball Limitations. There shall be an annual limit of 11.7 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters and an annual limit of 27 on the total number of counters in baseball at each institution.

15.5.6 Football Limitations.

15.5.6.2 Championship Subdivision Football. [FCSD] There shall be an annual limit of 30 on the number of initial counters (per Bylaw 15.02.3.1), an annual limit of 63 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters, and an annual limit of 85 on the total number of counters (including initial counters) in football at each football championship subdivision institution.

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and NGB championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A licensed postseason football game (see Bylaws 18.7 and 30.9 for conditions required for licensing);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition; (*Adopted: 1/10/92*)
- (e) Other institutional competition permissible under NCAA legislation, including postseason events; and
- (f) Fundraising activities that an institution counts against its maximum contest limitations per Bylaw 17.

Division I 2012-13 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.1.7.1 Requirement for Practice. To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution.

14.2.1 Five-Year Rule. A student-athlete shall complete his or her seasons of participation within five calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted. For international students, service in the armed forces or on an official church mission of the student's home country is considered equivalent to such service in the United States.

14.2.1.1 Determining the Start of the Five-Year Period. For purposes of starting the count of time under the five-year rule, a student-athlete shall be considered registered at a collegiate

institution (domestic or foreign; see Bylaw 14.02.3) when the student-athlete initially registers in a regular term (semester or quarter) of an academic year for a minimum full-time program of studies, as determined by the institution, and attends the student's first day of classes for that term (see Bylaw 14.2.2).

14.3.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A student-athlete who enrolls in a member institution as an entering freshman with no previous full-time college attendance shall meet the following academic requirements, as certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, as approved by the Executive Committee, and any applicable institutional and conference regulations, to be considered a qualifier and thus be eligible for financial aid, practice and competition during the first academic year in residence.

14.3.3.1 Fourth Season of Competition—Not a Qualifier. A fourth season of intercollegiate competition shall be granted to a student-athlete who is not a qualifier, provided that at the beginning of the fifth academic year following the student-athlete's initial, full-time collegiate enrollment, the student-athlete has completed at least 80 percent of his or her designated degree program.

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.1.6 Additional Requirements—Football. In football, a student-athlete who is a member of the institution's football team and who does not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours or eight quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term and earn the Academic

Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.

14.4.3.1.8 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1) shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs;
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward- degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward the degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) Once a student-athlete has begun his or her third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a course may not be used to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major, even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program.

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall grade-point average required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest grade-point average required for any of the institution's degree programs in

determining the cumulative minimum grade-point average. The minimum grade-point average must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition in the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter in residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions);
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2); and
- (c) Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.

14.5.4.2.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable natural/ physical science credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2).

14.11.1 Obligation of Member to Withhold Student-Athlete from Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

15.02.4.1 Institutional Financial Aid. The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid:

- (a) All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to the following:
 - (1) Scholarships;
 - (2) Grants;
 - (3) Tuition waivers;

- (4) Employee 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
- (5) Loans.

(b) 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.

15.5.3.1 Maximum Equivalency Limits

15.5.3.1.1 Men's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following men's sports:

Cross Country/ Track and Field: 12.6
Fencing: 4.5
Golf 4.5
Gymnastics: 6.3
Lacrosse: 12.6
Rifle: 3.6
Skiing: 6.3
Soccer: 9.9
Swimming and Diving: 9.9
Tennis: 4.5
Volleyball: 4.5
Water Polo: 4.5
Wrestling: 9.9

15.5.3.1.2 Women's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following women's sports:

Bowling: 5
Cross Country/Track and Field: 18
Equestrian: 15
Fencing: 5
Field Hockey: 12
Golf: 6
Lacrosse: 12
Rowing: 20
Rugby: 12
Skiing: 7
Soccer: 14

Softball: 12
Swimming and Diving: 14
Water Polo: 8

15.5.4 Baseball Limitations. There shall be an annual limit of 11.7 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters and an annual limit of 27 on the total number of counters in baseball at each institution.

15.5.6 Football Limitations.

15.5.6.2 Championship Subdivision Football. [FCSD] There shall be an annual limit of 30 on the number of initial counters (per Bylaw 15.02.3.1), an annual limit of 63 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters, and an annual limit of 85 on the total number of counters (including initial counters) in football at each football championship subdivision institution.

16.8.1.2 Competition While Representing Institution. An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for intercollegiate competition. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and NGB championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A licensed postseason football game (see Bylaws 18.7 and 30.9 for conditions required for licensing);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition; (*Adopted: 1/10/92*)
- (e) Other institutional competition permissible under NCAA legislation, including postseason events; and
- (f) Fundraising activities that an institution counts against its maximum contest limitations per Bylaw 17.

Division I 2013-14 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.1.7.1 Requirement for Practice. To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution.

14.4.3 Eligibility for Competition.

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to the start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement) (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1.4); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution (see Bylaw 14.1.9 for postseason certification)

14.4.3.1.6 Additional Requirements—Football. [FBS/FCS] In football, a student-athlete who is a member of the institution's football team and who does not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours or eight-quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term

or does not earn the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term (or does not successfully complete either requirement) shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.

14.4.3.1.7 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1) shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs; (*Revised: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06*)
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward- degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward the degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) Once a student-athlete has begun his or her third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a course may not be used to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major, even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of

the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall grade-point average required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest grade-point average required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum grade-point average. The minimum grade-point average must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition in the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter in residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions);
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2); and
- (c) Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.

14.5.4.2.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable natural/ physical science credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2).

14.10.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete From Competition.

If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student- Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 14.11 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

15.02.4.1 Institutional Financial Aid. The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid:

(a) All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Scholarships;
- (2) Grants;
- (3) Tuition waivers;
- (4) Employee 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
- (5) Loans.

(b) 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.

15.5.3.1 Maximum Equivalency Limits

15.5.3.1.1 Men's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following men's sports:

Cross Country/ Track and Field: 12.6
Fencing: 4.5
Golf 4.5
Gymnastics: 6.3
Lacrosse: 12.6
Rifle: 3.6
Skiing: 6.3
Soccer: 9.9
Swimming and Diving: 9.9
Tennis: 4.5
Volleyball: 4.5
Water Polo: 4.5
Wrestling: 9.9

15.5.3.1.2 Women's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following women's sports:

Bowling: 5
Cross Country/Track and Field: 18
Equestrian: 15

Fencing: 5
Field Hockey: 12
Golf: 6
Lacrosse: 12
Rowing: 20
Rugby: 12
Skiing: 7
Soccer: 14
Softball: 12
Swimming and Diving: 14
Water Polo: 8

15.5.4 Baseball Limitations. There shall be an annual limit of 11.7 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters and an annual limit of 27 on the total number of counters in baseball at each institution.

15.5.6 Football Limitations.

15.5.6.2 Championship Subdivision Football. [FCSD] There shall be an annual limit of 30 on the number of initial counters (per Bylaw 15.02.3.1), an annual limit of 63 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters, and an annual limit of 85 on the total number of counters (including initial counters) in football at each football championship subdivision institution.

16.8.1 Permissible. An institution may provide actual and necessary expenses to a student-athlete to represent the institution in practice and competition (including expenses for activities/travel that are incidental to practice or competition). In order to receive competition-related expenses, the student-athlete must be eligible for competition.

Division I 2014-15 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an

institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

12.11.1 Obligation of Member Institution to Withhold Student-Athlete from Competition. If a student-athlete is ineligible under the provisions of the constitution, bylaws or other regulations of the Association, the institution shall be obligated to apply immediately the applicable rule and to withhold the student-athlete from all intercollegiate competition. The institution may appeal to the Committee on Student- Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of the student-athlete's eligibility as provided in Bylaw 12.12 if it concludes that the circumstances warrant restoration.

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier).

14.4.3.1 Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements. Eligibility for competition shall be determined based on satisfactory completion of at least:

- (a) Twenty-four-semester or 36-quarter hours of academic credit prior to the start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment (third semester, fourth quarter);
- (b) Eighteen-semester or 27-quarter hours of academic credit since the beginning of the previous fall term or since the beginning of the certifying institution's preceding regular two semesters or three quarters (hours earned during the summer may not be used to fulfill this requirement) (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1.4); and
- (c) Six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit during the preceding regular academic term (e.g., fall semester, winter quarter) in which the student-athlete has been enrolled full time at any collegiate institution (see Bylaw 14.1.9 for postseason certification)

14.4.3.1.6 Additional Requirements—Football. [FBS/FCS] In football, a student-athlete who is a member of the institution's football team and who does not successfully complete at least nine semester hours or eight quarter hours of academic credit during the fall term or does not earn the Academic Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term (or does not successfully complete either requirement) shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.

14.4.3.1.7 Hours Earned or Accepted for Degree Credit. The provision that the calculation of credit hours under the progress-toward-degree regulation shall be based on hours earned or accepted for degree credit at the certifying institution in a student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree program (see Bylaw 14.4.3.1) shall be met as follows:

- (a) During the first two years of enrollment, a student-athlete may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs; (*Revised: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06*)
- (b) By the beginning of the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a student-athlete shall be required to have designated a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree. From that point, the credits used to meet the progress-toward-degree requirements must be degree credit toward the student's designated degree program;
- (c) A student-athlete who changes his or her designated degree program may comply with the progress-toward-degree requirements if:
 - (1) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
 - (2) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward the degree previously sought; and
 - (3) The credits earned from the time of the change are acceptable toward the new desired degree.
- (d) Once a student-athlete has begun his or her third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter), a course may not be used to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree if the student ultimately must repeat the course to fulfill the requirements of the student's major, even if the course fulfills an elective component of the student-athlete's degree program.

14.4.3.2 Fulfillment of Percentage of Degree Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 40 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fourth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 60 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. A student-athlete who is entering his or her fifth year of collegiate enrollment shall have completed successfully at least 80 percent of the course requirements in the student's specific degree program. The course requirements must be in the student's specific degree program (as opposed to the student's major).

14.4.3.3 Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements. A student-athlete who is entering his or her second year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum 4.000) that equals at least 90 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 95 percent of the institution's overall cumulative minimum grade-point average required for graduation. A student-athlete who

is entering his or her fourth or later year of collegiate enrollment shall present a cumulative minimum grade-point average (based on a maximum of 4.000) that equals 100 percent of the institution's overall cumulative grade-point average required for graduation. If the institution does not have an overall grade-point average required for graduation, it is permissible to use the lowest grade-point average required for any of the institution's degree programs in determining the cumulative minimum grade-point average. The minimum grade-point average must be computed pursuant to institutional policies applicable to all students.

14.5.4.1 Qualifier. A transfer student from a two-year college who was a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for competition in the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has spent at least one full-time semester or one full-time quarter in residence at the two-year college (excluding summer sessions);
- (b) Has presented a minimum grade-point average of 2.000 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2); and
- (c) Has satisfactorily completed an average of at least 12-semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each full-time academic term of attendance at the two-year college.

14.5.4.2.1 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition. A transfer student from a two-year college who was not a qualifier (per Bylaw 14.3.1.1) is eligible for institutional financial aid, practice and competition the first academic year in residence only if the student:

- (a) Has graduated from the two-year college;
- (b) Has completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48-semester or 72-quarter hours of transferable-degree credit acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution, including six-semester or eight-quarter hours of transferable English credit, three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semesters or four quarter hours of transferable natural/ physical science credit;
- (c) Has attended a two-year college as a full-time student for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms); and
- (d) Has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.500 (see Bylaw 14.5.4.5.3.2).

14.8 Academic Performance Program.

14.8.1 Penalties, Rewards and Access to Postseason Competition.

14.8.1.1 Penalties. The Committee on Academic Performance shall notify an institution or team when it fails to satisfy the appropriate academic standards as outlined in the academic performance program. The institution shall then apply the applicable penalty pursuant to the policies of the academic performance program.

15.02.4.2 Institutional Financial Aid. The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid:

(a) All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Scholarships;
- (2) Grants;
- (3) Tuition waivers;
- (4) Employee 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
- (5) Loans.

(b) 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.

15.5.3.1 Maximum Equivalency Limits

15.5.3.1.1 Men's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following men's sports:

Cross Country/ Track and Field: 12.6
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Gymnastics: 6.3
Lacrosse: 12.6
Rifle: 3.6
Skiing: 6.3
Soccer: 9.9
Swimming and Diving: 9.9
Tennis: 4.5
Volleyball: 4.5
Water Polo: 4.5
Wrestling: 9.9

15.5.3.1.2 Women's Sports. There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards (per Bylaw 15.02.4.1) that an institution may provide in any academic year to counters in the following women's sports:

Bowling: 5
Cross Country/Track and Field: 18
Equestrian: 15
Fencing: 5
Field Hockey: 12
Golf: 6

Lacrosse: 12
Rowing: 20
Rugby: 12
Skiing: 7
Soccer: 14
Softball: 12
Swimming and Diving: 14
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15.5.4 Baseball Limitations. There shall be an annual limit of 11.7 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters and an annual limit of 27 on the total number of counters in baseball at each institution.

15.5.6 Football Limitations.

15.5.6.2 Championship Subdivision Football. [FCSD] There shall be an annual limit of 30 on the number of initial counters (per Bylaw 15.02.3.1), an annual limit of 63 on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters, and an annual limit of 85 on the total number of counters (including initial counters) in football at each football championship subdivision institution.

Division I 2015-16 Manual

NCAA Constitution

2.1.1 Responsibility for Control. It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

6.01.1 Institutional Control. The control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control.

NCAA Bylaws

14.8 Academic Performance Program.

14.8.1 Penalties, Rewards and Access to Postseason Competition.

14.8.1.1 Penalties. The Committee on Academic Performance shall notify an institution or team when it fails to satisfy the appropriate academic standards as outlined in the academic performance program. The institution shall then apply the applicable penalty pursuant to the policies of the academic performance program.