



**ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY**  
**PUBLIC INFRACTIONS DECISION**  
**September 11, 2018**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions (COI) is an independent administrative body of the NCAA comprised of individuals from the Division I membership and public. The COI is charged with deciding infractions cases involving member institutions and their staffs.<sup>1</sup> This case involved systemic failures in the academic eligibility certification process at Alabama A&M University (AAMU).<sup>2</sup> A COI panel considered this case through the cooperative summary disposition process in which all parties agreed to the primary facts and violations as fully set forth in the summary disposition report (SDR). The panel proposed additional penalties to AAMU, which the institution contested in part. After conducting an expedited penalty hearing, the panel modified the contested penalties based on additional information presented at the expedited hearing. NCAA Bylaw 19.6.4.5 allows parties to appeal contested additional penalties.

Academic eligibility certification is a fundamental responsibility of Division I membership. AAMU fell short of this responsibility when systemic failures plagued its certification process over at least five academic years. The failures began when AAMU hired inexperienced staff to conduct certification and then failed to adequately train or educate them. Making matters worse, AAMU did not involve the appropriate staff from outside of athletics in the certification process. When certifying student-athletes, staff often misapplied the legislation and failed to use correct information.

The systemic failures demonstrated a lack of institutional control resulting in some of the most extensive and widespread certification failures in recent case history. AAMU improperly certified more than 100 student-athletes in nearly all its sports from the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years. The improper certification allowed the student-athletes to compete and receive travel expenses while ineligible. AAMU also failed to withhold 60 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. Although AAMU took meaningful action to understand and correct the systemic failures after it learned of these violations, the response does not absolve the institution of the violations. The panel concludes that all violations in this case are Level I.

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<sup>1</sup> Infractions cases are decided by hearing panels comprised of COI members. Panels issue decisions on behalf of the COI.

<sup>2</sup> A member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, AAMU has an enrollment of approximately 6,000 students. AAMU sponsors seven men's sports and nine women's sports. This is AAMU's third major, Level I or Level II infractions case. Previously, AAMU had major infractions cases in 1996 (multiple sport programs) and 1986 (men's soccer).

The panel accepts the parties' factual agreements and concludes violations occurred. Because the violations predominantly occurred after October 30, 2012, the current penalty structure applies. After considering applicable aggravating and mitigating factors, the panel classifies this case as Level I-Standard. Utilizing the current penalty guidelines and NCAA bylaws authorizing additional penalties, the panel adopts and prescribes five years of probation, a fine of \$5,000 plus one percent of the budgets for four sport programs, a one-year postseason ban and scholarship reductions for the same four programs, recruiting restrictions in all programs involved in the violations and vacation of records. The penalties section details these and other penalties.

## **II. CASE HISTORY**

The NCAA selected AAMU for an Academic Performance Program (APP) data review in May 2015. Three months later, NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA) staff alerted NCAA enforcement staff that it discovered that AAMU misapplied progress-toward-degree legislation resulting in ineligible competition. On February 7, 2017, AMA staff issued the final report, which closed the data review and marked the beginning of the enforcement staff investigation. The enforcement staff issued a verbal notice of inquiry on June 6, 2017. The parties conducted interviews one month later.

On January 2, 2018, the parties submitted the SDR to the COI.<sup>3</sup> The panel reviewed the SDR on February 2, 2018. The panel accepted the facts and violations as set forth in the SDR but determined that additional penalties were warranted. On February 12, 2018, the panel proposed the following additional penalties: five years of probation; a fine of three percent of the budgets for four sport programs; a one-year postseason ban and 10 percent reduction in scholarships in the same four programs; a 25 percent reduction in recruiting visits, recruiting communications and off-campus recruiting in all programs involved in the violations; public reprimand and censure; vacation of records; and a requirement that all individuals involved in the eligibility certification process and their immediate supervisors attend an NCAA Regional Rules Seminar each year during the period of probation. AAMU notified the panel one day later that it did not accept the proposed additional penalties and requested an expedited penalty hearing pursuant to Bylaw 19.6.4.5. Over the next two months, AAMU expressed uncertainty as to whether it would pursue a hearing. AAMU, however, verified on April 9, 2018, that it continued to request an expedited hearing and asked the panel to conduct the hearing via videoconference. On April 11, 2018, AAMU provided a written submission detailing its objections to the panel's classification of the case, the fine from the budgets of the four sport programs and the application of the football scholarship reduction. The panel conducted the videoconference expedited hearing on July 11, 2018.

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to COI Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 4-9-2-1, panels in future cases may view this decision as less instructive than a decision reached after a contested hearing because violations established through the summary disposition process constitute the parties' agreement.

### **III. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS**

#### **A. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON FACTUAL BASIS, VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION AND VIOLATION LEVELS**

The parties jointly submitted an SDR that identified an agreed-upon factual basis, violations of NCAA legislation, violation levels, and aggravating and mitigating factors.<sup>4</sup> The SDR identified:

- 1. [NCAA Division I Manual Bylaws 14.5.4.2 (2011-12); 14.4.3.1.8 and 14.5.6 (2011-12 and 2013-14); 14.4.3.1, 14.4.3.1.6 and 14.4.3.2 (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.2, 14.2.1, 14.10.1, 14.11.1 and 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 14.1.7.1 and 14.1.7.2 (2012-13 and 2013-14); 14.4.3.3 (2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16); 14.10.1 and 14.4.3.1.7 (2013-14); 14.5.4.2.1<sup>5</sup> (2013-14 and 2014-15); 16.8.1<sup>6</sup> (2013-14 through 2015-16); 14.2.1, 14.2.2, 14.5.4.1 and 14.5.5.1 (2014-15); 12.11.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16); and 12.8 and 12.11.1 (2015-16)]<sup>7</sup> (Level I)<sup>8</sup>**

AAMU and the enforcement staff agree that during at least the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, AAMU improperly certified as eligible for practice and/or competition 101 student-athletes on 188 instances in 14 sports. As a result, the student-athletes competed and received travel expenses while ineligible. Additionally, the institution failed to withhold 60 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. Specifically:

- a. During the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, 24 student-athletes on 30 different instances competed without meeting credit-hour requirements. Specifically:

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<sup>4</sup> This decision provides the agreed-upon factual basis, violations and violation levels as exactly stated in the SDR, except for shortening references to AAMU and a footnote addressing bylaws cited by the parties.

<sup>5</sup> For student-athletes who initially enrolled full time in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2012, the minimum grade-point average increased from 2.000 to 2.500.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Regarding the statute of limitations, AAMU first became aware of certification problems as a result of an APP data review that began in May 2015. The certification violations cited here date back four years from that date.

<sup>8</sup> The panel notes that not all the bylaws cited in the agreed-upon violations appear in the heading. Specifically, the parties cited Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7 from the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 manuals in the violations; however, only Bylaw 14.4.3.1.7 from the 2013-14 manual is in the heading. The parties also cited Bylaw 14.4.3.1.8 from the 2011-12 and 2012-13 manuals in the violations; however, Bylaw 14.4.3.1.8 from the 2011-12 and 2013-14 manuals is in the heading. Finally, the parties cited Bylaw 16.8.1.2 from the 2011-12 and 2012-13 manuals in the violations; however, only Bylaw 16.8.1.2 from the 2012-13 manual is in the heading. These references do not impact the agreed-upon violations.

- (1) Nine student-athletes in the sports of baseball, football, men's golf, women's soccer, men's and women's track, and volleyball failed to pass 24 semester hours of academic credit prior to the start of their second year of collegiate enrollment. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold six of the nine student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.4.3.1-(a) (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.11.1 and 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 14.10.1 (2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2014-15)]
  - (2) Twelve student-athletes in the sports of baseball, football, women's soccer, and men's and women's track failed to complete 18 semester hours of academic credit during the institution's preceding regular two semesters. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold eight of the 12 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.4.3.1.8 and 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 and 2012-13); 14.4.3.1-(b) (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.11.1 (2012-13), 14.10.1 and 14.4.3.1.7 (2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16)]
  - (3) Nine student-athletes in the sports of men's basketball, football, men's golf, women's soccer, and men's and women's track failed to complete six semester hours of academic credit during the preceding regular term. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold three of the nine student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 and 2012-13); 14.4.3.1-(c) (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.11.1 (2012-13); 14.10.1 (2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16)]
- b. During the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, nine football student-athletes on 10 different instances competed during the first four contests of the following playing season without earning at least nine semester hours during the fall term or did not earn an Academic Progress Rate eligibility point for the fall term. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold four student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 and 2012-13); 14.4.3.1.6 (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.10.1 (2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2014-15)]
  - c. During the 2011-12 through 2014-15 academic years, five student-athletes in the sports of women's basketball, football, women's soccer and volleyball, on six different occurrences, were in their third year of enrollment or later and competed without designating a program of

- studies. [Bylaws 14.4.3.1.7 and 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 through 2012-13) and 14.4.3.1.7-(b) and 16.8.1 (2013-14 and 2014-15)]
- d. During the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, 80 student-athletes on 119 different instances in 14 sports, competed without meeting the required percentage of degree requirements. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold 45 of the 80 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.4.3.2 (2011-12 through 2015-16); 14.11.1 and 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 14.10.1 (2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2015-16)]
- e. During the 2011-12 through 2014-15 academic years, eight two-year college transfer student-athletes in the sports of men's and women's basketball and softball, who were not qualifiers, competed without meeting transfer requirements. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold four of the eight student-athletes from competition during subsequent years before securing their reinstatement. Specifically:
- (1) Three student-athletes failed to graduate from a two-year institution. AAMU failed to withhold two of the three student-athletes from competition during subsequent years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.5.4.2.1-(a) (2013-14 and 2014-15); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16)]
  - (2) Two student-athletes failed to complete a minimum of 48 semester hours of transferable-degree credit. AAMU failed to withhold one of the two student-athletes from competition during subsequent years before securing her reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.5.4.2-(b) (2011-12); 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 and 2012-13); 14.11.1 (2012-13); and 14.5.4.2.1-(b) and 16.8.1 (2013-14)]
  - (3) Four student-athletes failed to complete three semester hours of transferable math credit. AAMU failed to withhold one of the four student-athletes from competition during subsequent years before securing her reinstatement. [Bylaws 14.5.4.2.1-(b) (2014-15); 16.8.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16); and 12.11.1 (2015-16)]
- f. During the 2011-12 and 2013-14 academic years, two 4-2-4 college transfer student-athletes in the sports of baseball and women's tennis competed without graduating from the two-year college. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold both student-athletes from competition during subsequent years before securing their reinstatement. [Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2011-12 and 2012-13); 14.5.6-(c) (2011-12 and 2013-14); 14.11.1 (2012-13); 16.8.1 (2013-14 and 2014-15); and 12.11.1 (2014-15)]

- g. During the 2012-13 academic year, one men's golf student-athlete; and during each of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years, one football student-athlete; engaged in practice and competition while enrolled less than full time at the institution. Additionally, AAMU failed to withhold one of the two football student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing his reinstatement. [Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 14.1.7.1 and 14.1.7.2 (2012-13 and 2013-14); 16.8.1 (2013-14 through 2015-16); 14.2.1 and 14.2.2 (2014-15); and 12.11.1 (2015-16)]
  - h. During the 2012-13 academic year, two women's soccer student-athletes competed after exhausting their five-year eligibility period; and during the 2012-13 and 2015-16 academic years, a total of three football student-athletes competed after exhausting their four seasons of competition. [Bylaws 14.2 14.2.1, 14.10.1 and 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 12.8 (2015-16); 12.11.1 and 16.8.1 (2015-16)]
  - i. During each of the 2012-13 and 2014-15 academic years, one men's golf student-athlete; and during the 2015-16 academic year, one women's track student-athlete; competed without meeting the necessary minimum grade-point average requirement. [Bylaws 16.8.1.2 (2012-13); 14.4.3.3 (2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16); and 16.8.1 (2014-15 and 2015-16)]
  - j. During the 2014-15 academic year, one women's basketball student-athlete, a two-year college transfer who was a qualifier, competed without satisfactorily completing an average of at least 12 semester or quarter hours of transferable-degree credit for each full time academic term. [Bylaws 14.5.4.1-(c) and 16.8.1 (2014-15)]
  - k. During the 2014-15 academic year, two transfer football student-athletes participated in intercollegiate competition without fulfilling the academic year in residence requirement. [Bylaws 14.5.5.1 and 16.8.1 (2014-15)]
- 2. [NCAA Division I Manual Constitution 2.1.1, 2.8.1 and 6.01.1 (2011-12 through 2015-16)] (Level I)**

AAMU and the enforcement staff agree that the scope and nature of the violations set forth in Violation No. 1 demonstrate that from the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, AAMU failed to exercise institutional control and monitor the conduct and administration of its athletics program. Specifically, the institution failed to: (1) sufficiently monitor and educate employees directly involved in the certification process; (2) sufficiently involve appropriate institutional staff members from departments outside of athletics in the certification process; (3) properly apply a multitude of

academic certification legislation; and (4) withhold more than 100 ineligible student-athletes from team travel and competition.

## **2. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS**

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.6.2-(g), the parties agreed to the following aggravating and mitigating factors:

1. Aggravating factors [Bylaw 19.9.3]
  - a. Multiple Level I violations by AAMU. [Bylaw 19.9.3-(a)]
  - b. Lack of institutional control. [Bylaw 19.9.3-(c)]
2. Mitigating factor [Bylaw 19.9.4]

Prompt acknowledgement of the violation, acceptance of responsibility and imposition of meaningful corrective actions and penalties. [Bylaw 19.9.4-(b)]

## **IV. REVIEW OF CASE**

### **Agreed-Upon Violations**

The SDR fully detailed the parties' positions and included the agreed-upon primary facts, violations, violation levels, and aggravating and mitigating factors. After reviewing the parties' principal factual agreements and respective explanations surrounding those agreements, the panel accepts the parties' SDR and concludes Level I violations occurred. Specifically, the panel concludes that systemic failures in the institution's eligibility certification process from the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years resulted in violations of Bylaws 12, 14 and 16.<sup>9</sup> The failures also demonstrated the institution's lack of institutional control and failure to monitor that violated Articles 2 and 6 of the Constitution.

As acknowledged by the parties, systemic failures distressed AAMU's eligibility certification process over at least five academic years. The parties agreed that staff lacked the requisite experience, rules education and training to conduct certification, AAMU did not appropriately involve staff outside of athletics in certification, and the certifying staff failed to correctly apply the legislation. As a result, more than 100 student-athletes in nearly all AAMU's sport programs competed and received travel expenses while ineligible. The failures resulted in certifications, competition and benefits that violated Bylaws 14, 12 and 16, respectively. The violations involved all facets of continuing and transfer eligibility requirements.

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<sup>9</sup> The full text of all bylaws violated in this case is at Appendix Two.

Bylaw 14 and its subparts establish the requirements for academic eligibility. To be eligible to practice or compete, continuing student-athletes must meet minimum progress-toward-degree requirements and transfer student-athletes must meet minimum academic and residency requirements. Bylaw 12 governs amateurism and athletics eligibility. The bylaw requires institutions to withhold student-athletes from competition if they are ineligible.<sup>10</sup> Finally, Bylaw 16 governs awards, benefits and expenses for student-athletes. The bylaw prohibits institutions from providing ineligible student-athletes actual and necessary travel expenses.

AAMU's certification process failed in several areas. First, AAMU employed inexperienced staff to conduct certification and did not adequately train or educate them. During the 2012-13 academic year, the institution hired new staff in nearly all significant roles of the certification process. The staff, however, lacked the requisite experience to correctly certify student-athletes. For instance, the compliance director never previously worked in college athletics and the registrar never previously certified eligibility. AAMU also allowed the assistant compliance director position to remain vacant for seven months during the fall 2013 eligibility certification cycle. Making proper certification even more difficult, AAMU provided little—if any—rules education to the registrar, as well as the academic enhancement coordinator and academic advisor who certified continuing eligibility.

Worsening matters, AAMU did not involve appropriate institutional staff from outside of athletics in the certification process. AAMU only designated the registrar as the official certifying officer beginning the fall of 2014 and did not delegate roles or responsibilities for continuing eligibility to the registrar's office. Instead, because of the compliance director's inexperience, the academic enhancement coordinator and academic advisor almost exclusively certified continuing eligibility. These individuals relied on degree curricula provided by student-athletes to determine whether courses were degree applicable without verifying the information. No campus academic department or the registrar's office then confirmed the accuracy of their eligibility calculations or use of the correct degree curricula. In fact, AAMU did not designate a position in the registrar's office for completing degree audits to check progress-toward-degree calculations until the APP data review. Relatedly, the admissions office only participated in certification of transfer student-athletes and limited its involvement to providing information on what courses would transfer to the institution. Because of this limited involvement, the academic enhancement coordinator and academic advisor determined whether transfer courses applied to a specific degree and the compliance director determined whether student-athletes met transfer requirements.

AAMU also erred in applying certification legislation. Staff sometimes certified continuing and transfer eligibility without official or all necessary transcripts. Other times, academic enhancement staff used outdated degree curricula. In some instances, staff completed eligibility certification before the registrar's office processed official paperwork regarding change of major or course substitution. Staff also at times misapplied elective space in degree programs in determining transfer eligibility.

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<sup>10</sup> Beginning with the 2014-15 manual, a member institution's obligation to withhold ineligible student-athletes from competition moved from Bylaw 14.10.1 to Bylaw 12.11.1. For ease of reference, this decision will refer to that obligation in the context of Bylaw 12, not Bylaw 14.

Because of these systemic failures, during at least the 2011-12 through 2015-16 academic years, AAMU improperly certified as eligible for practice and/or competition 101 student-athletes on 188 instances in 14 sports. AAMU violated Bylaw 14 when it improperly certified these student-athletes. The violations involved all facets of continuing and transfer certification—seasons of competition, five-year clock, grade-point average, full-time enrollment, credit hour, degree declaration and percentage of degree. Because of the improper certification, the student-athletes competed and received travel expenses while ineligible, which violated Bylaws 12 and 16. Additionally, the institution's failure to withhold 60 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement violated Bylaw 16.

Although AAMU took meaningful corrective action after it learned of the systemic failures, the extent of the violations was severe. The COI has encountered only a few recent cases with certification violations involving as many student-athletes and sport programs. See *Morgan State University* (2017) (concluding Level I violations when the institution improperly certified 94 student-athletes in 10 sports over four academic years); *Southern University, Baton Rouge* (2016) (concluding Level I violations when the institution improperly certified 218 student-athletes in all the institution's 15 sports over six academic years); and *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff* (2014) (concluding Level I violations when the institution improperly certified 124 student-athletes in eleven sports over five academic years). In these cases, like this one, the COI concluded violations of Bylaws 14, 12 and 16 when the institution improperly certified student-athletes resulting in competition and expenses while ineligible.

The prevalence of certification violations in recent cases concerns the COI. This is the eleventh case since 2016 in which the COI concluded certification violations. See *North Carolina Central University* (2018); *Morgan State*; *Grambling State University* (2017); *Mississippi Valley State University* (2017); *Morehead State University* (2017); *Southern*; *Alcorn State University* (2016); *Campbell University* (2016); *Norfolk State University* (2016); and *Samford University* (2016). The panel reiterates and emphasizes that appropriate certification is an expectation of Division I membership.

Eligibility certification is more than a basic requirement for intercollegiate competition—it is a fundamental responsibility for a Division I institution. The COI recognizes that many institutions have limited resources for athletics at its disposal. Institutions, however, must ensure that appropriately trained and educated individuals certify student-athletes, certification involves appropriate touchpoints throughout the institution and that staff correctly applies the legislation. Leadership must promptly act when these and other certification processes fail. Otherwise, institutions will fall short of the expectations associated with administering a Division I athletics program.

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.1.1, the panel concludes, and the parties agree, that the certification, ineligible competition and benefits violations are Level I. These violations provided AAMU a substantial and extensive advantage, and were contrary to the fundamental responsibility of a Division I institution to certify the eligibility of all student-athletes under the terms and conditions of the NCAA legislation. This Level I classification is consistent with *Morgan State*, *Southern* and *Arkansas at Pine Bluff*, which involved violations of a similar size and scope.

The systemic failures demonstrate a lack of institutional control and failure to monitor during the five-year period of the certification violations. The parties agreed that AAMU did not sufficiently monitor and educate employees directly involved in certification, involve appropriate staff from outside of athletics in certification, properly apply certification legislation and withhold more than 100 ineligible student-athletes from travel and competition. The lack of control and monitoring violated Articles 2 and 6 of the Constitution.

The Constitution requires member institutions to control and monitor their athletics programs. Constitution 2.1.1 and 6.01.1 set forth the principle of institutional control and specifically require institutions to control their programs to assure compliance with NCAA legislation. Constitution 2.8.1 similarly requires institutions to monitor their athletics programs.

As established by the systemic certification failures, AAMU failed to control and monitor its athletics program. AAMU did not provide the staffs of athletics compliance, academic enhancement and the registrar's office with the support and resources necessary to control and monitor certification. AAMU also lacked the necessary checks and balances from campus departments to review whether athletics compliance and academic enhancement staff performed certification correctly. Finally, AAMU erred in applying legislation, at times failing to use official or all necessary transcripts, change of major and course substitution records, and current degree curricula when certifying student-athletes. AAMU thus failed in its responsibility to control and monitor its athletics program pursuant to Constitution 2.1.1, 2.8.1 and 6.01.1.

The COI has consistently concluded that certification violations involving similar failures, as well as the number of student-athletes and sport programs involved in the violations, support an institutional control violation. *See Morgan State* (concluding the certification violations demonstrated that the institution lacked institutional control); *Southern* (same); and *Arkansas at Pine Bluff* (same). As in the cases cited above, and consistent with Bylaw 19.1.1 that identifies lack of institutional control as a Level I violation, the panel concludes, and the parties agree, that the institutional control violations are Level I.

### **Contested Penalties**

After accepting the facts, violations, violation levels, aggravating and mitigating factors, self-imposed penalties and corrective actions, the panel initially classified the case as Level I-Aggravated and proposed additional penalties to AAMU. At the expedited penalty hearing, the institution argued that the case should be classified as Level I-Standard and requested modifications to the financial penalty and application of the football scholarship reduction. After considering new information, including the meaningful corrective action by AAMU, the panel changes classification of the case to Level I-Standard and modifies the financial penalty and application of the football scholarship reduction.

### *Classification of Case*

In considering penalties, the panel assessed aggravating and mitigating factors by weight and number to determine the appropriate case classification. Based on its initial assessment, the

panel classified the case as Level I-Aggravated. After reviewing new information presented by AAMU at the expedited hearing, the panel changes the classification to Level I-Standard.

AAMU argued that the case be classified as Level I-Standard. AAMU focused much of its argument on the weight the panel gave an aggravating and mitigating factor during its initial review. Specifically, AAMU argued that the panel should give Bylaw 19.9.3-(b) *A history of Level I, Level II or major violations* little weight as an aggravating factor. Conversely, AAMU argued that the panel should give Bylaw 19.9.4-(b) *Prompt acknowledgement of the violation, acceptance of responsibility and imposition of meaningful corrective actions and/or penalties* more weight as a mitigating factor.

The panel changes its assessment of Bylaw 19.9.3-(b) *A history of Level I, Level II or major violations* to give the factor less weight. AAMU's two prior major infraction cases occurred in 1996 and 1986.<sup>11</sup> The enforcement staff proposed and AAMU initially disagreed that the factor applied because AAMU was not a member of Division I in all sports at the time of the violations. At the hearing, however, AAMU submitted that the panel should apply the factor but give it little weight and made new arguments regarding the prior cases. Specifically, AAMU clarified its corrective actions in those prior cases and that the cases did not involve systemic certification failures like in the present case. The panel continues to reject the argument that the factor should not apply because the violations occurred when AAMU was a member of another division. Although it was not a Division I member, AAMU was still required to comply with NCAA legislation. The panel, however, gives the factor less weight because of the amount of time between the prior cases and the present case in conjunction with the different certification failures in the prior cases.

The panel also changes its assessment of Bylaw 19.9.4-(b) *Prompt acknowledgement of the violation, acceptance of responsibility and imposition of meaningful corrective actions and/or penalties*. The panel gives more weight to this factor based on new information submitted at the hearing. Specifically, AAMU provided additional information on and clarified its corrective actions and prompt acceptance of responsibility. In May 2016, within one year of the beginning of the data review and nearly one year prior to the beginning of the enforcement staff investigation, AAMU began taking corrective action by hiring a compliance director with substantial compliance experience. AAMU then made additional improvements in its compliance processes. For instance, AAMU developed a formal certification procedure. The written procedure provided a step-by-step process for certification, identified the staff members responsible for certification and described these individuals' duties. AAMU also implemented an academic improvement plan during the 2016-17 academic year. The plan identified areas related to certification and academic performance of student-athletes with goals, action plans, individuals responsible for implementation and a timeline. The new information demonstrates that AAMU promptly acknowledged the violations, accepted responsibility and imposed meaningful action to understand and correct the systemic failures.

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<sup>11</sup> In the 1996 case, the COI concluded major violations involving impermissible practice, travel, competition and expenses by ineligible student-athletes that did not meet academic requirements; impermissible benefits provided to prospects and student-athletes; failure to maintain accurate squad lists; impermissible financial aid; and lack of institutional control. The COI concluded major financial aid, eligibility for NCAA championships and institutional control violations in the 1986 case.

After changing the weight given to Bylaws 19.9.3-(b) and 19.9.4-(b), the panel reassesses the aggravating and mitigating factors by weight and number. The panel changes classification of the case from Level I-Aggravated to Level I-Standard based on this reassessment.

### *Financial Penalty*

The panel modifies the proposed financial penalty. The panel initially proposed a financial penalty consisting of \$5,000 plus three percent of the budgets for the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf programs pursuant to the penalty guidelines.<sup>12</sup> AAMU contested the penalty. The panel reduces the amount of the penalty pursuant to the change in case classification.

AAMU requested that the panel modify the proposed financial penalty in either of two ways. First, to enhance its athletics compliance program, AAMU asked to retain the three percent of the budgets for the four programs. In the alternative, AAMU requested that the penalty be reduced to \$5,000 plus one percent of the budgets for the four programs.

The panel modifies the proposed financial penalty because of the change in case classification. In accordance with the penalty guidelines for a Level I-Standard case, the panel reduces the penalty to \$5,000 plus one percent of the budgets for the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf programs. The panel, however, continues to require AAMU pay the financial penalty directly to the NCAA. In almost all cases, the COI has required institutions pay financial penalties directly to the NCAA. This practice is well-established through years of case guidance.<sup>13</sup>

### *Football Scholarship Reduction*

The panel modifies application of the proposed scholarship reduction in the football program. The panel initially proposed a 10 percent reduction in the amount of grants-in-aid awarded in the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf programs pursuant to the penalty guidelines.<sup>14</sup> The panel clarified that the reductions be based on the average amount of aid awarded in each program over the past four academic years. The panel also permitted AAMU to aggregate the reduction over the five-year period of probation. AAMU contested the application of only the football scholarship reduction. The panel extends the period in which AAMU may aggregate the reduction based on new information.

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<sup>12</sup> In proposing the penalty, the panel deviated from the guidelines and did not propose a fine from the budgets of the other sport programs in which the violations occurred due to the relatively smaller numbers of student-athletes from those sports involved in the violations.

<sup>13</sup> The panel notes that the NCAA allocates funds received through financial penalties to the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund.

<sup>14</sup> In proposing the penalty, the panel deviated from the guidelines and did not propose scholarship reductions in the other sport programs in which the violations occurred due to the relatively smaller numbers of student-athletes from those programs involved in the violations.

AAMU requested that the period in which it may aggregate the football scholarship reduction be extended from five to seven years because of circumstances related to a football game contract. Specifically, AAMU requested that the penalty be stayed during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years due to a contract AAMU entered into in February 2016 to play a football bowl subdivision team in 2020. The contract required AAMU to award 61 scholarships during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. The contract also required AAMU to award an average of 56.7 scholarships—90 percent of the maximum number of scholarships per academic year—in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years.

AAMU recognized that the average amount of aid awarded in the program over the past four academic years is the baseline for the scholarship reduction. AAMU, however, asserted that because of the contract it could not comply with the penalty without failing to renew a substantial number of previous scholarship student-athletes to make room for the scholarship reduction and newly offered awards. AAMU also advised the panel that it would lose more than one million dollars through liquidated damages and loss of payment to play the game should it breach the contract by not meeting the scholarship requirements under the contract.

The panel modifies application of the football scholarship reduction because of the unique circumstances associated with the football game contract. The panel permits AAMU to aggregate the scholarship reduction over a seven-year period—through the 2024-25 academic year—with the penalty stayed during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. Given the unique circumstances of the contract, including that AAMU entered into it before the panel's review of the SDR and the substantial financial impact on AAMU for breaking the contract, further deviation from the guidelines is appropriate in this case. The panel notes, however, that this deviation is limited to just this case and the unique circumstance of the football game contract.

## **V. PENALTIES**

For the reasons set forth in Sections III and IV of this decision, the panel accepts the parties' agreed-upon factual basis and violations and concludes this case involved Level I violations. Level I violations are severe breaches of conduct that seriously undermine or threaten the integrity of the collegiate model, including violations that provide a substantial or extensive recruiting, competitive or other advantage.

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.9.1, the panel prescribes penalties under the current penalty structure because the violations predominantly occurred after October 30, 2012. In considering penalties, the panel first reviewed aggravating and mitigating factors pursuant to Bylaws 19.9.2, 19.9.3 and 19.9.4 to determine the appropriate classification of the case. The panel assessed the aggravating and mitigating factors by weight and number. Based on its assessment, the panel classifies this

case as Level I-Standard. The panel then used the current penalty guidelines (Figure 19-1) and Bylaws 19.9.5 and 19.9.7 to prescribe penalties.<sup>15</sup>

AAMU agreed to the facts, violations and all additional penalties except for a portion of the financial penalty and the application of the scholarship reduction in the football program. The panel modified the contested penalties based on new information AAMU presented at the expedited hearing. Bylaw 19.6.4.5 allows parties to appeal contested additional penalties. All penalties prescribed in this case are independent and supplemental to any action that has been or may be taken by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics through its assessment of postseason ineligibility, historical penalties or other penalties. In prescribing penalties, the panel considered AAMU's cooperation in all parts of this case and determines it was consistent with the institution's obligation under Bylaw 19.2.3. The panel also considered AAMU's corrective actions, which are set forth in Appendix One. After considering all information relevant to this case, the panel prescribes the following penalties (self-imposed penalties are so noted):

#### **Core Penalties for Level I-Standard Violations (Bylaw 19.9.5)**

1. Probation: Five years of probation from September 11, 2018, to September 10, 2023.
2. Competition penalties: During the 2018-19 academic year, the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf teams shall end their seasons with the playing of their last regularly-scheduled in-season contest and shall not be eligible to participate in any postseason championship or other contest occurring after their last regularly-scheduled in-season contest, including conference tournament, conference football championship game, football bowl game, NCAA championship, foreign tour or any other contest that meets a legislated exemption to the maximum number of contests.<sup>16</sup> The panel deviates from postseason bans for the other sport programs in which the violations occurred due to the relatively smaller numbers of student-athletes from those sports involved in the violations.
3. Financial penalty: AAMU shall pay a \$5,000 fine (self-imposed) plus one percent of the budgets for the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf programs.<sup>17</sup> The panel deviates from a fine of the budget for the other sport programs in which the violations occurred due to the relatively smaller numbers of student-athletes from those sports involved in the violations.

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<sup>15</sup> The membership recently adjusted and expanded the ranges in the penalty guidelines related to Level I-Aggravated violations. The adjusted guidelines became effective on August 8, 2018. Because the panel considered this case before the effective date of the adjusted guidelines, the panel did not use the adjusted guidelines to prescribe penalties.

<sup>16</sup> In its February 12, 2018, correspondence proposing additional penalties, the panel noted that if it did not release its decision before the regular season concluded in baseball, men's basketball and men's golf during the 2017-18 academic year, the postseason ban should apply following the last regularly-scheduled in-season contest in these programs during the 2018-19 academic year.

<sup>17</sup> The fine must be calculated in accordance with COI IOPs 5-15-2 and 5-15-2-1.

4. Scholarship reductions: During the 2018-19 academic year, AAMU shall reduce by 10 percent the amount of grants-in-aid awarded in the baseball, men's basketball, football and men's golf programs. The reductions shall be based on the average amount of aid awarded in each sport program over the past four academic years. Pursuant to COI IOP 5-15-3-4, considering the nature of the violations and that prospects may have accepted written offers of aid for the 2018-19 academic year prior to the release of the decision, AAMU may aggregate the reductions in the baseball, men's basketball and men's golf programs over the five-year period of probation. In addition, because of the requirements related to minimum scholarships in the football program in the football game contract, AAMU may aggregate the reduction in the football program through the 2024-25 academic year with the reductions stayed during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years. The panel deviates from scholarship reductions in the other sport programs in which the violations occurred due to the relatively smaller numbers of student-athletes from those sports involved in the violations. AAMU shall submit a written report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) by December 1 of each year after the probationary period concludes to update the COI on the progress made on the football scholarship reduction. AAMU then shall submit written confirmation of full compliance with the football scholarship reduction no later than June 1, 2025.
  
5. Recruiting restrictions:
  - a. During the 2018-19 academic year, AAMU shall restrict recruiting as follows:<sup>18</sup>
    - (1) A 13-week ban on unofficial visits, including no scheduled unofficial visits and no complimentary tickets, in all the sport programs in which the violations occurred.<sup>19</sup>
    - (2) A 25 percent reduction in official paid visits in all the sport programs in which the violations occurred. This amounts to reductions of seven official paid visits in the baseball program, three official paid visits in the men's and women's basketball programs and 14 official paid visits in the football program. For the other sport programs in which the violations occurred, the reductions shall be based on the average number of official paid visits provided during the previous four academic years.
    - (3) A 13-week ban on recruiting communications with all prospects in all the sport programs in which the violations occurred.

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<sup>18</sup> For purposes of these penalties, and consistent with the recruiting legislation, the recruiting restrictions shall apply to women's cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field as an aggregate instead of to each program separately. Likewise, the recruiting restrictions shall apply to men's indoor and outdoor track and field as an aggregate instead of to each program separately.

<sup>19</sup> Under the penalty guidelines, a 25 percent reduction in unofficial visits, recruiting communications, and off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations corresponds with a 14-week ban in these areas for a Level I-Aggravated case and a 13-week ban for a Level I-Standard case. Although the panel did not modify the proposed 25 percent reduction in these areas when it changed classification of the case, the panel prescribes a 13-week ban on unofficial visits, recruiting communications, and off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations instead of a 14-week ban as identified in the February 12, 2018, correspondence proposing additional penalties because the 13-week ban corresponds with a 25 percent reduction for Level I-Standard cases.

- (4) A 13-week ban on all off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations in all the sport programs in which the violations occurred except for the men's and women's basketball, football, men's golf and women's volleyball sport programs, which have limits on recruiting-person days or evaluation days.<sup>20</sup>
- (5) A 25 percent reduction in recruiting-person or evaluation days for the men's and women's basketball, football, men's golf and women's volleyball sport programs. This amounts to reductions of 33 recruiting-person days in men's basketball, 25 recruiting-person days in women's basketball, 11 evaluation days in fall 2018 for football, 42 evaluation days in spring 2019 for football, 12 evaluation days in men's golf and 20 evaluation days in women's volleyball.<sup>21</sup>

- b. AAMU shall not recruit two-year college transfers who would enroll at AAMU during the 2019-20 academic year. (Self-imposed.)

#### **Additional Penalties for Level I-Standard Violations (Bylaw 19.9.7)**

6. Public reprimand and censure.
7. Vacation of team and individual records: Vacation of records is appropriate when ineligible student-athletes compete. Over five academic years, AAMU improperly certified 101 student-athletes on 188 instances in 14 sports. Because of the improper certifications, the student-athletes competed while ineligible. AAMU also failed to withhold 60 student-athletes from competition during subsequent academic years before securing their reinstatement. These violations demonstrated that AAMU failed to exercise institutional control and monitor the conduct and administration of its athletics program. Therefore, pursuant to Bylaws 19.9.7-(g) and 31.2.2.3, AAMU shall vacate all contests in which student-athletes competed while ineligible.<sup>22</sup> The vacation shall apply to all regular season

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<sup>20</sup> At the time of the February 12, 2018, correspondence proposing additional penalties, NCAA legislation did not limit evaluation days in men's golf. The legislation, however, was modified effective August 1, 2018, to limit institutions to 45 evaluation days per year in men's golf. To be consistent with the change in legislation and the penalty guidelines for off-campus recruiting restrictions, the panel prescribes a 25 percent reduction in evaluation days in men's golf instead of a 13-week ban on all off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations pursuant to the February 12, 2018 correspondence. This does not detrimentally impact the institution because the percentage reduction in off-campus recruiting remains 25 percent.

<sup>21</sup> At the time of the February 12, 2018, correspondence proposing additional penalties, under the penalty guidelines, a 25 percent reduction in off-campus recruiting corresponded with 26 recruiting-person days in women's basketball for Level I-Aggravated cases and 25 recruiting-person days in women's basketball for Level I-Standard cases. Although the panel did not modify the 25 percent reduction in off-campus recruiting when it changed classification of the case, the panel prescribes a 25 recruiting-person day reduction in women's basketball instead of a 26 recruiting-person day reduction as identified in the correspondence because the reduction corresponded with a 25 percent reduction for Level I-Standard cases at the time of the correspondence. In addition, the panel prescribes a reduction of 12 evaluation days in men's golf because the reduction corresponds with a 25 percent reduction in the permissible number of evaluation days.

<sup>22</sup> Among other examples, a vacation penalty is particularly appropriate when cases involve academic violations, a large number of violations and lack of institutional control. See COI IOP 5-15-4. In addition, the COI has regularly applied vacation penalties in cases in which student-athletes failed to meet academic eligibility requirements. See *Morgan State*; *Grambling State*; *Mississippi Valley State*; *Alcorn State*; *Southern*; *Campbell*; *Arkansas at Pine Bluff*; and *University of North Carolina at Greensboro* (2015).

and conference tournament wins in which ineligible student-athletes competed from the time they became ineligible through the time they were reinstated as eligible for competition through the student-athlete reinstatement process. Further, if any of the student-athletes competed in NCAA Championships at any time they were ineligible, the institution's participation in the championships shall be vacated. The individual records of the ineligible student-athletes shall also be vacated. However, the individual records for all eligible student-athletes shall be retained. Further, AAMU's permanent records as well as the record of the head coaches shall reflect the vacated records and shall be recorded in all publications in which athletics 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 any of the head coaches shall similarly reflect the vacated wins in his or her 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 to attain specific honors or victory "milestones" such as 100th, 200th or 500th career victories. Any public reference to these vacated contests shall be removed from athletics department stationery, banners displayed in public areas and any other forum in which they may appear. Any trophies or other team awards attributable to the vacated contests shall be returned to the NCAA.

To ensure that all institutional and student-athlete vacations, statistics and records are accurately reflected in official NCAA publication and archives, the sports information director (or other designee as assigned by the director of athletics) must contact the NCAA media coordination and statistics staff and appropriate conference officials to identify the specific student-athletes and contests impacted by the penalties. In addition, AAMU must provide the NCAA media coordination and statistics staff a written report detailing those discussions. This document will be maintained in the permanent files of the NCAA media coordination and statistics department. This written report must be delivered to the NCAA media coordination and statistics staff no later than 45 days following the initial infractions decision release. A copy of the written report shall also be delivered to the OCOI at the same time.

8. During the period of probation, AAMU shall:
  - a. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive compliance and educational program on NCAA legislation to instruct coaches, the faculty athletics representative, all athletics department personnel and all institutional staff members with responsibility for ensuring compliance with NCAA legislation related to the academic certification of student-athletes and awards and benefits;
  - b. Submit a preliminary report to the OCOI by October 26, 2018, setting forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educational program;
  - c. File with the OCOI annual compliance reports indicating the progress made with this program by September 1 during each year of probation. Particular emphasis shall be

- placed on establishing a viable and comprehensive rules compliance system and adhering to all NCAA legislation related to academic eligibility requirements;
- d. Inform prospects in writing that AAMU is on probation for five years and detail the violations committed. If a prospect 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 prospect signs an NLI; and
  - e. Publicize specific and understandable information concerning the nature of the violations 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 webpage "landing page" and in the media guides for the involved sports. AAMU's statement must: (1) clearly describe the violations; (2) include the length of the probationary period associated with the case; and (3) give members of the general public a clear indication of what happened in the case to allow the public (particularly prospects and their families) to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. A statement that refers only to the probationary period with nothing more is not sufficient.
9. Additionally, during each year of the period of probation, all individuals involved in the eligibility certification process and their immediate supervisors shall attend an NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.<sup>23</sup>
10. Following the receipt of the final compliance report and prior to the conclusion of probation, AAMU's president shall provide a letter to the COI affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

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The COI advises AAMU that it should take every precaution to ensure the terms of the penalties are observed. The COI will monitor the penalties during their effective periods. Any action by AAMU contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations may be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties or may result in additional allegations and violations.

NCAA COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS PANEL

Carol Cartwright, Chief Hearing Officer

Jody Conradt

Jason Leonard

Stephen A. Madva

Joel Maturi

Joyce McConnell

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<sup>23</sup> AAMU self-imposed a requirement that all individuals involved in the eligibility certification process and their immediate supervisors attend a 2018 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar.

**APPENDIX ONE**

**AAMU'S CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE  
JANUARY 2, 2018, SUMMARY DISPOSITION REPORT AND DURING THE  
JULY 11, 2018, EXPEDITED PENALTY HEARING**

1. AAMU established an eligibility certification committee, consisting of individuals from the compliance, academic enhancement and registrar's offices, that meets twice per year to determine eligibility pursuant to detailed new procedures.
2. AAMU developed a written certification procedure that provided a step-by-step process for certification, identified the staff members responsible for certification and described these individuals' duties.
3. AAMU implemented an academic improvement plan during the 2016-17 academic year. The plan identified areas related to certification and academic performance of student-athletes with goals, action plans, individuals responsible for implementation and a timeline.
4. AAMU hired personnel in key areas related to eligibility certification (i.e., compliance staff) who had experience in their respective roles.
5. AAMU continued to make resources available for individuals involved in the eligibility certification process to receive training needed to perform their duties by attending NCAA Regional Rules Seminars and other professional development opportunities related to their positions.

## **APPENDIX TWO**

### **Constitution and Bylaw Citations**

#### **Division I 2011-12 Manual**

**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.

**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 14.4.3.4 for postseason certification).

**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.

**14.4.3.1.7 Designation of Degree Program.** A student-athlete shall designate a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution prior to

participating in competition that occurs during or immediately before the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter) and thereafter shall make progress toward that specific degree. This provision shall be applicable to the eligibility not only of a continuing student, but also of a transfer student from a four-year or two-year collegiate institution who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment, even if the student has not yet completed an academic year in residence or used a season of eligibility in a sport at the certifying institution. Designation of a specific baccalaureate degree program may be accomplished by:

- (a) Formal enrollment by the student-athlete in a specific baccalaureate degree program; or
- (b) Approval by an appropriate academic official (who must not be an academic advisor/counselor employed by the athletics department) of the program leading to the specific baccalaureate degree that the student-athlete is pursuing.

**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).

**14.5.4.2 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 semester 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).

**14.5.6 4-2-4 College Transfers.** A student who transfers from a four-year college to a two-year college and then to the certifying institution shall complete one academic year of residence at the certifying institution prior to engaging in intercollegiate competition, unless:

- (a) The student has completed an average of at least 12-semester or -quarter hours of transferable-degree credit, with a cumulative minimum grade-point average of 2.000, acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year college following transfer from the four-year college most recently attended;
- (b) One calendar year has elapsed since the student's departure from the previous four-year college (one year since the date that the student-athlete takes formal action with the appropriate institutional authorities required for all students to indicate that the student-athlete is leaving the previous four-year institution and no longer will be attending classes); and
- (c) The student has graduated from the two-year college (see Bylaws 14.5.4.5.1 and 14.5.4.5.3.2).

**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. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and national governing body championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A postseason football game (see Bylaw 18.7);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition;
- (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**

**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.

**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.

**14.1.7.2 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 Seasons of Competition: Five-Year Rule.** A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 14.02.7 and 14.3.3). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all of his or her seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below:

**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.

**14.4.3.1 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 14.4.3.4 for postseason certification).

**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.

**14.4.3.1.7 Designation of Degree Program.** A student-athlete shall designate a program of studies leading toward a specific baccalaureate degree at the certifying institution prior to participating in competition that occurs during or immediately before the third year of enrollment (fifth semester or seventh quarter) and thereafter shall make progress toward that specific degree. This provision shall be applicable to the eligibility not only of a continuing student, but also of a transfer student from a four-year or two-year collegiate institution who is entering his or her third year of collegiate enrollment, even if the student has not yet completed an academic year in residence or used a season of eligibility in a sport at the certifying institution. Designation of a specific baccalaureate degree program may be accomplished by:

- (a) Formal enrollment by the student-athlete in a specific baccalaureate degree program; or
- (b) Approval by an appropriate academic official (who must not be an academic advisor/counselor employed by the athletics department) of the program leading to the specific baccalaureate degree that the student-athlete is pursuing.

**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:
- (4) The change in programs is documented appropriately by the institution's academic authorities;
  - (5) The credits earned prior to the change are acceptable toward the degree previously sought; and
  - (6) 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.

**14.10.1 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.

**14.11.1 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 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. Such competition includes:

- (a) Regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletics events;
- (b) NCAA championship events and national governing body championship events in an emerging sport;
- (c) A postseason football game (see Bylaw 18.7);
- (d) Nonintercollegiate open, amateur competition;
- (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**

**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.

**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.

**14.1.7.2 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 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.

**14.4.3.1 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 14.4.3.4 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:

- (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;

**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).

**14.5.4.2 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 semester 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).

**14.5.4.2.1 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 semester or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semester 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).

**14.5.6 4-2-4 College Transfers.** A student who transfers from a four-year college to a two-year college and then to the certifying institution shall complete one academic year of residence at the certifying institution prior to engaging in intercollegiate competition, unless:

- (a) The student has completed an average of at least 12-semester or -quarter hours of transferable-degree credit, with a cumulative minimum grade-point average of 2.000, acceptable toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each term of full-time attendance at the two-year college following transfer from the four-year college most recently attended;
- (b) One calendar year has elapsed since the student's departure from the previous four-year college (one year since the date that the student-athlete takes formal action with the appropriate institutional authorities required for all students to indicate that the student-athlete is leaving the previous four-year institution and no longer will be attending classes); and
- (c) The student has graduated from the two-year college (see Bylaws 14.5.4.5.1 and 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.

**16.8.1 Permissible.** An institution, conference or the NCAA 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**

**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.

**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.

**14.2.1 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.

**14.2.2 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.

**14.4.3.1 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 14.4.3.4 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:

- (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;

**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: (Revised: 1/10/90 effective 8/1/90, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03, 6/1/06, 4/24/08 effective 8/1/09 for student-athletes initially enrolling full time in a collegiate institution on or after 8/1/09)

- (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-semester 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).

**14.5.4.2.1 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 semester or four quarter hours of transferable math credit and three semester 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).

**14.5.5.1 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.

**16.8.1 Permissible.** An institution, conference or the NCAA 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 2015-16 Manual**

**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.

**12.8 Seasons of Competition: Five-Year Rule.** A student-athlete shall not engage in more than four seasons of intercollegiate competition in any one sport (see Bylaws 17.02.8 and 14.3.3). An institution shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate competition unless the individual completes all of his or her seasons of participation in all sports within the time periods specified below:

**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.

**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 14.4.3.4 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.

**14.4.3.2 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.

**16.8.1 Permissible.** An institution, conference or the NCAA 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.