



# Regional Rules

# Division I Financial Aid – Legislative Update

Sarah Hebbard, Karen Metzger and Alex Smith



Regional Rules

# Agenda

- Implementation of NCAA I Division Proposal No. 2019-119.
- COVID-19 financial aid exemptions.
- Midyear replacement legislation.
- Questions from the membership.



# Basics: Proposal No. 2019-119

- OLD RULE:
  - Institutional need-based aid is countable against team financial aid limits.
- NEW RULE:
  - Exempt need-based aid from team financial aid limits.
  - Remains countable against individual limits.
  - Basketball and football legislation remains in place.



# Basics: Proposal No. 2019-119

- OLD RULE:
  - Institutional academic awards may be exempted if a student-athlete meets certain criteria (e.g., 3.0+ GPA, top 10% high school class).
- NEW RULE:
  - Academic honor award legislation for incoming freshmen, transfers and continuing students **remains in place**.
  - **NEW** exception for nondiscretionary merit-based awards.
  - Basketball and football legislation remains in place.

**A recruited basketball or football student-athlete who receives nonathletics aid will trigger counter status by competing.**

\*Unless the award is academic and the recipient has a 3.0+ GPA over 1+ year at the institution.



# Nondiscretionary Merit-Based Awards

- Nondiscretionary merit-based awards must be:
  - Classified by the institution as merit-based (an academic award); **and**
  - Awarded using documented, objective criteria that apply to all students.
- All students meeting the criteria must receive the award for the award to be considered nondiscretionary.



# Nondiscretionary

- Nondiscretionary awards are based on **objective** criteria.
- Examples of nondiscretionary criteria:
  - GPA and test score.
  - Residency.
  - Application deadlines and uniformly applied “first-come first-served policies”.
- Examples of discretionary criteria:
  - Interviews.
  - Essays.
  - Leadership.



# Impact

- Some student-athletes may be able to receive additional aid.
- Institutions who provide need-based awards or nondiscretionary merit-based awards to recipients who do not meet the criteria for academic honor award legislation may have newly noncountable aid.
- Some institutions may see **decreased** team equivalencies.
  - For purposes of Division I Membership requirements, **all** institutional aid shall be used to meet the appropriate minimum. This includes exempt aid.  
**FBS:** Refer to NCAA Division I Bylaws 20.9.9.4, 20.9.9.4.1 (which do not apply to national service academies).

# Impact

- May institutions continue to reduce or cancel athletic aid based on the SA's eligibility for aid exempted by Proposal No. 2019-119?

Contrary to the intent of the legislation.

**BUT...**

Yes, if the athletics aid agreement includes **nonathletically related terms** that permit the institution to reduce athletics aid following an increase in exempted institutional aid. However, if the agreement does not include such a condition, the institution may only reduce athletics aid if the total amount of financial aid would result in the student-athlete exceeding the individual financial aid limit.

**If athletics aid is reduced or not renewed for the following academic year(s), the student-athlete must be notified in writing of the opportunity for a hearing.**



# Compliance Assistant Enhancements

# CA Enhancements

- Screen/Field Affected: Setup- Financial Aid Sources – Aid Types.
- The following aid types were added or modified:
  - Division I Academic Honor Award – High School Record;
  - Division I Academic Honor Award – Transfer Student;
  - Division I Academic Honor Award – Renewals;
  - Division I Institutional Academic Scholarship; and
  - Division I Institutional Need-Based Aid.
- Added to assist CA users with tracking the legislation that exempts institutional need-based aid and nondiscretionary institutional merit-based aid.



SELECTION

YEAR: 2020-21 ▾

- ACCOUNT LINKS
- [Main](#)
  - + [Administration](#)
  - [Setup](#)
    - [Member Information](#)
    - [Financial Aid Sources](#)
    - [Sports Sponsorship](#)
    - [COA/GIA](#)
    - [User Defined Fields](#)
    - [Other Sports Setup](#)

Financial Aid Sources

← 2675.0 - NCAA University

List Detail Setup Questions

New Fund Source

Total Aid: 5

<a href="#">Fund Code</a>	<a href="#">Fund Name</a>	<a href="#">Aid Description</a>
<a href="#">ABEFA</a>	September Meeting Scholarship	DI Institutional Financial Aid
<a href="#">ACAHONHS</a>	test DI Academic Honor Award-HS	DI Academic Honor Award - High School Record
<a href="#">ATHL</a>	Athletics Grant	Athletics Grant-in-Aid
<a href="#">CRUSADER</a>	Crusader Scholarship	Athletics Grant-in-Aid
<a href="#">DIV</a>	Diversity Scholarship	DI Institutional Financial Aid



# Compliance Assistant

**SELECTION**

YEAR: 2020-21 ▾

**ACCOUNT LINKS**

- Main
- + Administration
- Setup
- Member Information
- Financial Aid Sources

Financial Aid Sources

← 2675.0 - NCAA University

List Detail Setup Questions

New Fund Source

Academic Year 2020-21

Fund Code

Fund Name

Aid Type DI Institutional Need-Based Aid ▾

Fund Comments

Default Amount

Default Date

Default Period FY ▾

Save




**SELECTION**

YEAR: 2020-21 ▾

---

**ACCOUNT LINKS**

- Main
- + Administration
- Setup
  - Member Information
  - Financial Aid Sources
  - Sports Sponsorship
  - COA/GIA
  - User Defined Fields

Financial Aid Sources 

← 2675.0 - NCAA University

**Fund Code: INST N-B**

[List](#) [Detail](#) [Setup Questions](#)

[New Fund Source](#) [Delete Fund Source](#)

1. Is the award related to athletics ability?  Yes  No

2. Is the award based solely on demonstrated financial need, as determined for all students by the institution's financial aid office using methodologies that conform to federal, state and institutional guidelines?  Yes  No

[Save](#)

# **Institutional Academic Award vs. Academic Honor Awards**



SELECTION  
YEAR: 2020-21

- ACCOUNT LINKS
- Main
  - + Administration
  - Setup
    - Member Information
    - Financial Aid Sources
    - Sports Sponsorship
    - COA/GIA
    - User Defined Fields
    - Other Sports Setup
    - Educational Institutions
    - Admin. Duties/Roles
    - Academic Calendar
    - Forms Setup



← 2675.0 - NCAA University

Fund Code: ACAHONHS

List Detail Setup Questions

New Fund Source Delete Fund Source

Academic Year 2020-21  
Fund Code ACAHONHS  
Fund Name test DI Academic Honor Award-HS  
Aid Type DI Academic Honor Award - High School Record

Fund Comments

Default Amount \$.00  
Default Date  
Default Period FY

Save



# Compliance Assistant

**SELECTION**

YEAR: 2020-21 ▾

**ACCOUNT LINKS**

- Main
- + Administration
- Setup
  - Member Information
  - Financial Aid Sources
  - Sports Sponsorship

← 2675.0 - NCAA University

Fund Code: ACAHONHS

[List](#) [Detail](#) [Setup Questions](#)

[New Fund Source](#) [Delete Fund Source](#)

- 1. Is the award related to athletics ability?  Yes  No
- 2. Does the institution's Financial Aid Office classify this as an academic award?  Yes  No
- 3. Is the award considered a nondiscretionary merit-based award and meets criteria (e.g. awarded using documented, objective criteria that applies to all students)?  Yes  No

[Save](#)

## Elig Checklist

986745349

Sports: MSO

[List](#) [Detail](#) [Guardian](#) [Sports](#) [Financial Aid](#) [Initial](#) [Transfer](#) [General](#) [Deg. Progress](#) [Waivers](#) [Forms](#) [Academic Portal](#)

[New Student](#)

[Delete Student](#)

5. Was the recipient ranked in the upper 10 percent of the high school graduating class or did the recipient achieve a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.500 (based on a maximum of 4.000) or a minimum ACT sum score of 105 or a minimum SAT score of 1200 or the equivalent concordance established by the College Board?

Yes  No

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)



**SELECTION**

YEAR: 2020-21 ▾

- ACCOUNT LINKS**
- Main
  - + Administration
  - Setup
    - Member Information
    - Financial Aid Sources
    - Sports Sponsorship
    - COA/GIA
    - User Defined Fields
    - Other Sports Setup
    - Educational Institutions
    - Admin. Duties/Roles
    - Academic Calendar

← 2675.0 - NCAA University

[List](#) [Detail](#) [Setup Questions](#)

New Fund Source

**Academic Year** 2020-21


**Fund Code** INST ACAD

**Fund Name** Institutional Academic Scholarship

**Aid Type** DI Institutional Academic Scholarship ▾

Fund Comments

Default Amount 1,000

Default Date 8/1/2021 

Default Period FY ▾

Save

SELECTION

YEAR: 2020-21

ACCOUNT LINKS

- Main
- + Administration
- Setup
  - Member Information
  - Financial Aid Sources
  - Sports Sponsorship
  - COA/GIA

Financial Aid Sources

2675.0 - NCAA University

Fund Code: INST ACAD

List Detail Setup Questions

New Fund Source Delete Fund Source

1. Is the award related to athletics ability?  Yes  No
2. Does the institution's Financial Aid Office classify this as an academic award?  Yes  No
3. Is the award considered a nondiscretionary merit-based award and meets criteria (e.g. awarded using documented, objective criteria that applies to all students)?  Yes  No
4. Is the award based solely on the student-athlete's record at the certifying institution?  Yes  No

Save

# COVID-19 Financial Aid Exemptions

	Blanket Waiver
Season-of-Competition Waivers and Extensions of Eligibility and Financial Aid.	<p>Approved a blanket waiver permitting (<u>but not requiring</u>) institutions to:</p> <p>Exempt aid awarded to any fall and winter sport student-athlete who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Would have exhausted eligibility during 2020-21;</li><li>2. Who returns to the same institution during 2021-22;</li><li>3. To exhaust unexpected eligibility gained through a COVID-19 waiver.</li></ol> <p>Applies up to the amount equivalent to the aid counted toward team financial aid limits during 2020-21.</p> <p>An institution may reduce or not renew such aid for the eligible student-athletes without being required to provide an opportunity to appeal the decision.</p>



# COVID-19 Response: Common Questions

- What about student-athletes with an approved medical hardship waiver?
  - Council action applies to unexpected eligibility due to COVID-19.
  - Institutions cannot rescind eligibility.
- What about future classes of incoming students?
  - To date, Division I Council has not extended financial aid exemptions beyond 2021-22.
- Can we use the Student-Athlete Assistance Fund?
  - Yes, subject to conference policies and procedures.
- Can we make up for lost institutional aid?
  - Institutions may exempt up to the amount counted in 2020-21.



# COVID-19 Response: Common Questions

- What about multi-sport student-athletes?

Fact Pattern.	Exemption?
Aid counted and eligibility exhausted in spring sport. Plays <u>fall/winter</u> sport only in 2021-22.	Yes.
Aid counted in fall/winter sport. Self-applying COVID-19 waiver.	Yes.
<b>NOTE:</b> Exemptions apply only to fall/winter sports during the 2021-22 academic year.	

- How does this apply to a returning student-athletes in cross country and/or indoor track with eligibility remaining in outdoor track?
  - Apply exemption if student-athlete would have exhausted eligibility in indoor track and/or cross country during 2020-21 and the remaining eligibility in outdoor track and field is also due to the application of COVID-19 season-of-competition relief.

# Midyear Replacement Legislation

## Head Count Sport Legislation:

Basketball, football, women's gymnastics, women's tennis and women's volleyball.

## Basic Midyear Replacement:

A counter who graduates at midyear or the previous academic year (including summer) may be “replaced” by having their counter spot provided to another recipient without making the second student-athlete a counter for the remainder of that academic year. **Key is that the institution isn't getting the “benefit” of both counters at the same time.**

## Notes:

- Basketball has similar legislation addressing voluntary withdrawals and ineligibility.
- Football legislation is written differently to capture initial counters.
- Women's gymnastics and women's tennis specify that the original counter cannot return to the institution for the following academic term.



# Midyear Replacement Legislation

## New Legislation: Bylaw 15.5.3.1.4

Cross country, field hockey, soccer, track and field, and men's water polo.

The financial aid of a counter who **graduates** at midyear or who graduates during the previous academic year (including summer) **and has exhausted eligibility** but remains enrolled at the institution may be provided to another student-athlete *without making the second student-athlete a counter*. The financial aid provided to the second student-athlete does not count toward the team's maximum equivalency limits for the remainder of the academic year.



# Midyear Replacement Legislation

- Counter status is an academic-year analysis.
- If a student-athlete exhausts eligibility in the fall but remains in school, the aid remains countable through the end of the academic year.
- Institutions may award for less than a one-year period if an exception is met.



# Midyear Replacement Legislation

## Intent:

- Promote the provision of athletics aid by not penalizing institutions that continuing to provide aid to graduates who have exhausted eligibility.

## Practical Application:

- Allows an institution to exempt spring aid of another student-athlete up to the amount received by the graduating counter.
- Functions much the same as exempting the graduated student's aid, just with a one-for-one replacement.



# Questions from the Membership

# Reminders

- Complete the session survey.
  - In Agenda tab, select this session.
  - Click the survey link and answer the three questions.
  - Click Submit at the bottom of the survey.
  - Done!
- Join the conversation on social media using the #ComplianceCamp hashtag.