



# Regional Rules

# **BYLAW 15: FINANCIAL AID**



# Agenda

- Assessing compliance with Bylaw 15 on campus.
  - Financial Aid Reporting Program.
  - Self-Assessment.
- Closer look at Bylaw 15.
  - Aid from outside sources.
  - Athletics staff involvement.
  - Graduate assistantships and other student-athlete employment.

# **STAYING COMPLIANT WITH NCAA DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID REQUIREMENTS**

# Assessment

- Two ways to assess compliance:
  - Division III Financial Aid Reporting Program.
  - Self-Assessment.
- Two primary resources:
  - [“Staying Compliant with NCAA Division III Financial Aid Requirements.”](#)
  - Policies and Procedures Worksheet.

# FINANCIAL AID REPORTING PROGRAM

# Annual Reporting and Reviews

Division III Financial Aid Committee is the oversight group.

- Level I Review.
  - Sport-level outliers are present.
  - Difference in proportion of financial need met by institutional gift aid is a statistical outlier.
  - Proportionality Difference is a statistical outlier.
- Level II Review.
  - Institution's opportunity to explain their financial aid report.
  - The Committee's opportunity to review the policies and procedures for administering student financial aid.



# Enforcement Referral

- The Financial Aid Committee will forward cases with recommendations for appropriate penalties to enforcement.
- Enforcement staff may process the referral as a secondary violation or conduct an additional investigation, as necessary.



# 16 Years of Reviews

- The Financial Aid Committee has completed a Level I review of 276 schools (63% of the Division III membership).
- 239 schools (54% of the Division III membership) have been forwarded to the Level II review. The Financial Aid Committee has assessed the policies and procedures for administering student financial aid of 239 schools.

# Violations and Enforcement Referrals

- The consideration of athletics participation and/or leadership was the most frequently found violation – more than half of the cases.
- 113 schools have been referred to NCAA enforcement.
  - 85 have resulted in secondary violations.
  - 20 have resulted in major violations.



# SELF-ASSESSMENT

# Campus Constituencies

## Athletics

Director of  
Athletics

Compliance  
Officer

## Enrollment

Financial Aid  
Director

Admissions  
Director

VP for  
Enrollment

## Other

Development

Foundation

Other Campus  
Department



# Resources

## FADMS

School Profile Report

Summary Report

FADMS Users Manual

Policies and Procedures  
Worksheet

## Financial Aid Office

FA Policies and  
Procedures

Award Descriptions and  
Applications

## Athletics Department

Division III Manual

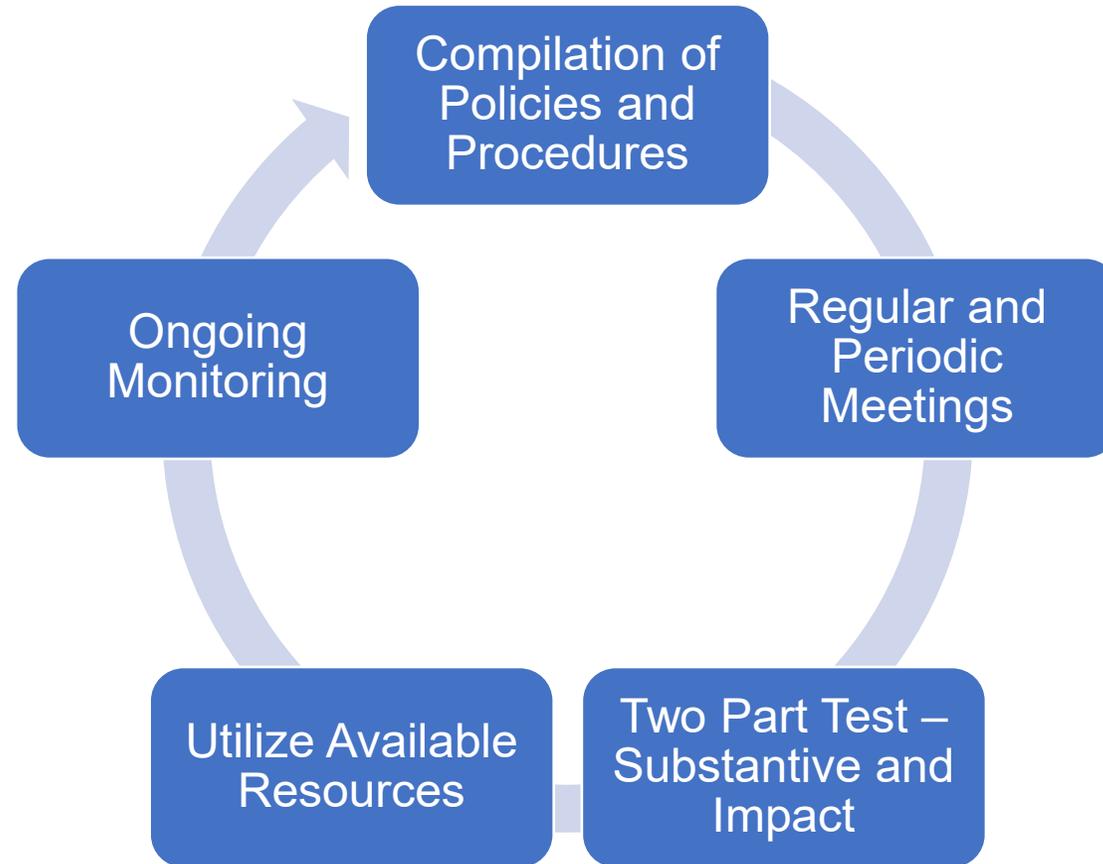
Legislative Services  
Database (LSDBi)

Conference Office

NCAA Staff



# Assessment Cycle



# Wrap-Up

- Ensure key stakeholders are involved.
- Compile all policies and procedures for determining student financial aid.
- Use available resources.
- Conduct the two-part test.
  - Substantive
  - Impact
- Regular and periodic monitoring.



# Bylaw 15: A Closer Look

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- Bylaw 15.2.3 – Aid from Outside Sources.
- Bylaw 15.4.5 – Athletics Staff Involvement.
- Graduate assistantships and other forms of student-athlete employment.



# Aid from Outside Sources

Bylaw 15.2.3.1 – All financial assistance received from outside of the institution must be reported.

- Institution's aid package must be adjusted to ensure aid from all sources does not exceed cost of attendance.
- Exceptions: Bylaw 15.2.3.5, 15.2.3.6, and 16.1.4.3.1

Bylaw 15.2.3.3 – SA may receive aid from anyone on whom they are naturally or legally dependent.

Bylaw 15.2.3.4 – SA may receive financial aid awarded solely on bases having no relationship to athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance.

# Aid from Outside Sources (cont.)

Bylaw 15.2.3.5 – Student-athletes are permitted to receive financial aid from outside sources that consider athletics, provided:

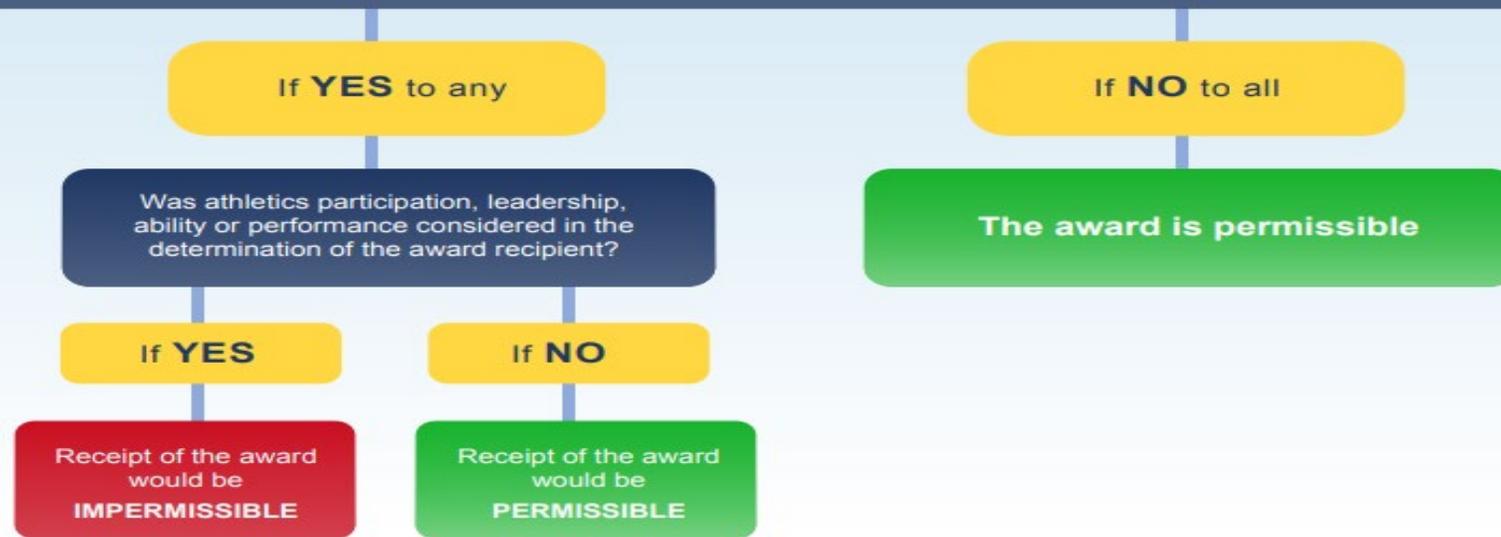
- The award is made on only one occasion (but may be disbursed over multiple years);
- The donor of the aid shall not limit the recipient's choice of institutions to a specific institution; and
- The donor of award is not connected to the recipient's institution.



# Division III Compliance

Start here and work your way down the page to determine if the outside aid you are examining meets the requirements of Bylaw 15.2.3.5.

- Does the award limit the recipient to attend your institution only?
- Does the donor of the award have a direct connection with your institution?
- Can the award be made on more than one occasion?



<https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/DIIIFinancialAidOutsideSource20170901.pdf>

# Athletics Staff Involvement

- Athletics staff members are prohibited from:
  - Arranging or modifying a student-athlete's financial aid package
  - Serving as members of institutions' financial aid committees
  - Being involved in any manner in the review of the institutional financial assistance to be awarded to a SA.
- March 7, 2019, official interpretation.

*Bylaw 15.4.5*

# March 7, 2019, Interpretation

Results for "15.4.5" 40 item(s) found

Sort by: Relevancy ★ Save DI DII  DIII

- Legislation** 1
  - Bylaw 15.4.5
  - [Go to Legislation](#)
- Proposals** 1
  - NC-1999-8
  - [Go to Proposals](#)
- Interpretations** 4
  - March 07, 2019
  - April 18, 1988
  - October 16, 1989
  - April 23, 1990
  - [Go to Interpretations](#)
- Educational Columns** 3
  - April 02, 2021
  - April 26, 2019
  - July 09, 2019
  - [Go to Educational Columns](#)
- Major Infractions** 12
  - February 04, 2014 - Baldwin Wallace University
  - October 17, 2013 - Maine Maritime Academy
  - April 11, 2011 - Fontbonne University

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**Bylaw 15.4.5**  
Athletics Staff Involvement.

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**Proposal NC-1999-8**  
DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID -- AID FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES

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**Interpretation - September 26, 1990** Archived  
Chemistry professor who chairs the Faculty Athletics Committee and is a member of the Financial Aid Committee

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**Interpretation - March 07, 2019**  
**Athletics Department Staff Involvement with Financial Aid Office (III)**  
to be awarded to a student-athlete per NCAA Division III Bylaw 15.4.5 (athletics staff involvement) and Bylaw 15.4.6 (matrix-rating of aid), 15.4.5 (athletics staff involvement) and 15.4.6 (matrix-rating system); and official interpretations

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**Interpretation - April 23, 1990** Archived  
Communication with financial aid office by institution's coach

# RSRO Question

The admissions staff at our institution is looking for staff members to serve as interviewers for our annual "Scholars' Day." Those interviews will be conducted with student-athletes and non-student-athletes. The interviews could play a part in the awarding of additional merit money through our admissions office. Is it permissible for athletic staff to be involved?



# RSRO Answer

- Not permissible.
- As an interviewer, the coach would play a role in determining which prospective students, including PSAs, receive merit awards based on the information provided during Scholar Day.

# RSRO Question

Could a coach, who works in admissions, call a PSA to tell them their financial aid package? They would not have anything to do with putting the package together. They would just call the PSA once the package was awarded by the financial aid department.



# RSRO Answer

- Permissible, provided:
  - Consistent with institutional policies for notifying all students of their financial aid package;
  - Notifying prospective students of their aid package is part of the coach's normal duties within admissions; and
  - Coach has no direct or indirect involvement in the arrangement, modification, or administration of financial aid packages.

# RSRO Question

A student-athlete asked an athletics department member to write a letter of support/statement on her appealing her registration and it is tied to her financial aid. Is this permissible?

# RSRO Answer

- Not permissible.
- Would involve an athletics staff member directly or indirectly influencing a SA's financial aid package.
- See July 9, 2019, educational. column.

# Graduate Assistantships



# April 2, 2021, Ed. Column

Results for "Eligibility of Student-Athletes Working in or Outside the Athletics Department (III)"

9009 item(s) found

## Legislation

2667

Sort by: Relevancy ▾

★ Save

DI DII  DIII

- Bylaw 15.11
- Bylaw 17.29.15
- Bylaw 17.31.15
- Bylaw 12.15.1
- Bylaw 12.15.1
- [Go to Legislation](#)

### Educational Column - April 02, 2021

#### Eligibility of Student-Athletes Working in or Outside the Athletics Department (III)

for intercollegiate athletics. Question No. 1: Can a graduate *student* receive financial aid (e.g. tuition remission, tuition stipend) for *working in the athletics* -athletes to be employed by the athletics department provided any compensation received by a *student-athlete* is for work

## Proposals

1559

- 1999-30
- 2001-66
- 2009-10
- 2003-49
- 2020-6
- [Go to Proposals](#)

### Proposal 1999-30

#### DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID -- EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

and state (including *work-study* program assistance) in *the athletics department* and on-campus employment *outside the athletics department* for which the athletics interests of the institution intercede on behalf of the *student-athlete*

### Educational Column - June 15, 1988 Archived

#### Division III financial aid

talent in awarding financial aid. 10. *Student-athletes* admitted to Division III member institutions prior not participate in varsity *athletics* at a member institution. 7. If a staff member at a Division III institution serves

## Interpretations

1513

- April 18, 1988
- March 07, 2019
- April 22, 2016

# Graduate Assistant Within Athletics

**Question No. 1:** Can a graduate student, receive financial aid (e.g., tuition remission, tuition stipend) for working in the athletics department (e.g., graduate assistant) and be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics?

**Answer:** No, if athletics staff is involved in choosing the individual for the position.



# Graduate Assistant Outside Athletics

**Question No. 2:** Can a graduate student, receive financial aid (e.g., tuition remission, tuition stipend) for working in a department outside of athletics (e.g., graduate assistant) and be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics?

**Answer:** Yes, provided athletics leadership, ability, participation, or performance were not considered during the process.

# Paid Coach & Player

**Question No. 3:** Can an individual be paid for coaching one sport and be eligible to compete in another sport?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the pay is not in the form of financial aid. However, the student would be ineligible at that institution for the sport in which they are coaching.

# Noncoaching Position & Player

**Question No. 4:** Can an individual be paid for working in a noncoaching capacity within athletics and be eligible to compete in intercollegiate athletics?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the pay is not in the form of financial aid and the institution follows its normal hiring processes.

# QUESTIONS?



# 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.