



## MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2020

### VIA EMAIL

TO: Senior Compliance Administrators and Women's Basketball Head Coaches.

FROM: NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs and Enforcement Staffs.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding Agents, Tryouts and the 2020  
Women's National Basketball Association Draft.

The purpose of this document is to provide an educational resource you can share with your women's basketball student-athletes as it relates to their pursuit of a potential professional basketball career. You are encouraged to discuss this document with women's basketball student-athletes who are gauging their readiness for competition at the next level through a variety of methods. These student-athletes will undoubtedly rely on a number of individuals to assist in the decision-making process.<sup>1</sup>

At the end of this process, your women's basketball student-athlete may reach the conclusion that it is not in her best interest to pursue a professional career at this time, but rather to continue athletics participation at the intercollegiate level while pursuing her academic degree. Involvement in activities during this process can affect her intercollegiate eligibility. The following information is designed to help her maintain her NCAA eligibility while "testing the waters."

### **Six Points to Remember:**

The key points below highlight important NCAA rules related to maintaining NCAA eligibility while "testing the waters." More detail on each rule is contained within this document.

A women's basketball student-athlete will lose her eligibility IF:

1. She agrees orally or in writing to be represented by an agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).
2. She accepts any benefits from an agent, a prospective agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that NCAA bylaws are subject to change. This document is intended for educational purposes only and does not usurp or supersede the current rules of the NCAA. All student-athletes with specific questions relating to their NCAA eligibility should contact the NCAA compliance officer at their respective institution to ensure an accurate and correct interpretation of NCAA bylaws. Any questions related to WNBA rules, which are also subject to change, should be directed to the WBNA.

3. She enters the draft AND does not take the appropriate steps to withdraw and declare her intention to resume intercollegiate participation.
4. She enters the draft AND is drafted by a professional team.

**Key Date(s):**

WNBA draft: April 17, 2020.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. Who is eligible for the WNBA draft?

Per WNBA eligibility requirements the following individuals are eligible:

- a. An individual who will be at least 22 years old during the calendar year in which such draft is held and either has no remaining intercollegiate eligibility or renounces her remaining intercollegiate eligibility by written notice to the WNBA at least 10 days prior to such draft;
  - b. An individual who has graduated from a four-year college or university prior to such draft, or "is to graduate" from such college or university within the three-month period following such draft and either has no remaining intercollegiate eligibility or renounces her remaining intercollegiate eligibility by written notice to the WNBA at least 10 days prior to such draft; or [Note: "Is to graduate" shall mean that such player would graduate from the college or university she is currently enrolled in if she were to successfully complete the coursework she is enrolled in at the time of such draft and such course load is commensurate with the previous course loads she has successfully completed.]
  - c. An individual who has attended a four-year college or university, her original class in such college or university has already been graduated or "is to graduate" within the three-month period following such draft, and she either has no remaining intercollegiate eligibility or renounces her remaining intercollegiate eligibility by written notice to the WNBA at least 10 days prior to such draft. [Note: "Is to graduate" shall mean that the majority of the students in such class would graduate from such college or university upon successful completion of the coursework the members of such class are enrolled in at the time of such draft.]
2. What is an "agent" according to NCAA rules?

An agent is any individual who, directly or indirectly:

- a. Represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain; or
- b. Seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-

c. athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

3. Is a women's basketball student-athlete allowed to have any type of agreement with an agent?

**NO!** A women's basketball student-athlete is not permitted to have a written or oral agreement with an agent or anyone who is employed by or acting on behalf of an agent or sports agency (i.e., "runner") while enrolled at a collegiate institution. Once she has exhausted her collegiate eligibility, she is permitted to have an agreement with an agent.

4. Can a women's basketball student-athlete's family members or other individuals who are associated with her as a result of playing basketball (e.g., high school coach, summer basketball coach, etc.) have an agreement with an agent to perform services on her behalf?

**NO!** Family members and other individuals are not permitted to enter into any agreements with an agent on her behalf.

5. Am I allowed to have an agreement with an agent if it is for future representation?

**NO!** A women's basketball student-athlete is not permitted to agree to a future representation agreement with an agent.

6. Is an agent allowed to provide a women's basketball student-athlete with any benefits?

**NO!** A women's basketball student-athlete, her family and her friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent. Examples of material benefits include money, transportation, dinner, clothes, cell phones, jewelry, etc. However, benefits may also include, but are not limited to, activities such as tryout arrangements with a professional team and coordinating tryout schedules.

7. Is a women's basketball student-athlete permitted to have an advisor during this process?

**YES!** A women's basketball student-athlete is permitted to have an advisor provided the advisor does not market her to WNBA or professional teams. However, it is not permissible for the advisor to contact teams on her behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts. [Note: If A women's basketball student-athlete receives assistance from an advisor, she must compensate the advisor in an amount equal to the value of the services he or she provides you; furthermore, she may not receive such services at a free or reduced rate without jeopardizing her eligibility, regardless of whether the advisor does not typically charge clients for such services.]

8. Can an institution cancel a women's basketball student-athlete's athletics scholarship if she has an agreement with an agent?

**YES!** An institution is permitted to rescind a women's basketball student-athlete's athletics scholarship if she has an agreement with an agent.

9. Is a women's basketball student-athlete allowed to enter the WNBA draft prior to exhausting her NCAA eligibility?

**YES!** A women's basketball student-athlete may enter a professional basketball league's draft one time during her collegiate career without jeopardizing her eligibility, provided she is not drafted by any team in that league and she declares her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft. The student-athlete's declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution's director of athletics. [Note: WNBA guidelines only permit an individual to enter the WNBA draft if the eligibility requirements in No. 1 above are met.

**Helpful Tips:**

- The student-athlete should keep her head coach and compliance coordinator informed of all activities during this process.
- A women's basketball student-athlete should be careful who she associates with during this process. She should do it all herself or work through her head coach. She may receive the assistance of her family members, provided they are not working with any individual who is marketing her athletics ability (e.g., contacting professional teams, setting up tryouts with professional teams).
- If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the following individuals:

Jeremy McCool, director of enforcement at [jmccool@ncaa.org](mailto:jmccool@ncaa.org).

Binh T. Nguyen, director of academic and membership affairs at [bnguyen@ncaa.org](mailto:bnguyen@ncaa.org).

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