NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2018-76 Financial Aid –
Maximum Institutional Grant-in-Aid Limitations By Sport –
Equivalency Sports – Equivalency Computations (I)

Editors Note: This educational column reflects the most recent question and answer document associated with the proposal.

Question No. 1: Would an institution be required to change how they currently calculate equivalencies?
Answer: No. The proposal would create permissive legislation that allows institutions flexibility when calculating equivalencies. Institutions may continue to use current methodologies.

Question No. 2: Would an institution be able to exceed the individual financial aid limitation? For example, if a student-athlete elects a higher cost meal plan than used in the institution’s average cost of attendance calculation, can the institution use the flexibility permitted in the equivalency calculation to award the student-athlete more than cost of attendance?
Answer: No. Institutions must ensure that the amount of financial aid provided to student-athletes does not exceed their individual financial aid limit (i.e., cost of attendance).

Question No. 3: How would the proposal impact equivalency calculations?
Answer: The proposal would permit two additional calculation methods (i.e., “average over actual” and “actual over average”), per element of financial aid, for an institution to use at its discretion. The additional calculation methods, if an institution uses them, may result in a higher or lower equivalency for each student-athlete.

Question No. 4: Would the proposal impact an equivalency calculation for a part-time student?
Answer: No. The denominator of an equivalency calculation for a student-athlete enrolled part time is based on the actual or average cost of a full grant-in-aid for all students enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies at the institution.

Question No. 5: Would the proposal impact how the provision of books factors into an equivalency calculation?
Answer: No. The proposal would not change the application of NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.2.3-(c), which requires that institutions account for the provision of a book allowance using $800 in the denominator and numerator of the equivalency calculation.