



Implementation Committee Status Report – Feb 2025

The ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC (Defendant conferences) and the national office provide the following update on the preparation activities for potential final approval of the House Settlement:

Following the Northern District Court of California's preliminary approval of the settlement in October 2024, significant progress has been made toward creating a new model for college sports that will be put in place in the event the settlement receives final approval. The proposed settlement allows Defendant conference members and Division I institutions that opt-in to provide enhanced student-athlete benefits. The national office and conference defendants created an Implementation Committee, and within the Committee, working groups, with representatives from the national office and each of the Defendant conferences, have been established and meet regularly to advance implementation plans across all key areas. Below is a summary of that implementation progress.

Cap Management and Reporting: If approved by the Court, the new model permits each school to make direct payments to student-athletes of up to 22% of the average Autonomy Five athletic revenue (including media, ticket, and sponsorship) starting in the 2025-26 academic year. A Cap Management and Reporting platform is being developed to facilitate the tracking, reporting and enforcement of rules related to these direct payments, and is advancing on schedule through a partnership with LBI Software. LBI Software has experience building and maintaining similar systems for Major League Baseball, the National Women's Soccer League, the National Basketball Association, among others. Key milestones have been met in system architecture, user interface design, and compliance framework development. The group has completed initial testing phases and is moving forward with enhanced features for roster management and financial tracking. Rules development is progressing in parallel with system capabilities, with particular focus on implementation timelines and compliance protocols. Training for use of the platform will be scheduled after final approval for all Defendant conference institutions and non-Defendant conference institutions that opt-in.

NIL Clearinghouse: The proposed settlement permits student-athletes to continue to enter into NIL agreements with third parties. If the settlement is approved by the Court, all Division I student-athletes must submit third-party agreements totaling \$600 or more to the NIL Clearinghouse for review to ensure they are legitimate, fair market NIL agreements and not being used as pay-for-play. The NIL Clearinghouse development has met several important benchmarks in partnership with Deloitte. The evaluation framework is taking shape, with substantial progress on both technical infrastructure and operational protocols. Student-athlete feedback has been incorporated into the design process through focus groups and stakeholder meetings. Initial testing has yielded valuable insights for system refinement, particularly regarding user experience and deal submission processes. Instructions for reporting third-party NIL agreements will be provided before the Clearinghouse requirements take effect.

Enforcement: The proposed settlement, if approved, permits the designation of an enforcement entity to enforce rules prohibiting third-party pay-for-play, eliminate circumvention of the 22% cap, and to ensure the new NIL model achieves its objectives. Framework development for the new enforcement structure is well underway, with emphasis on creating efficient investigative procedures, timely decision-making and appropriate penalties. Key protocols have been established for case management and decision-making processes, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders continues to strengthen the oversight model. An executive search firm has been engaged to assist in filling the top positions in the new entity. More details will be provided before the new enforcement entity begins its work.

Rules & Roster Management: For all Defendant conference institutions and all non-Defendant conference institutions that opt into the proposed settlement, compliance with the framework established by the settlement will be required (e.g., scholarship limits will be eliminated in all sports and replaced with roster limits). Substantial progress has been made in developing the regulatory framework around these new roster limits, and roster management guidelines are nearing completion. Additionally, rules regarding the use and operation of other aspects of the settlement (i.e., NIL Clearinghouse, Cap Management and Reporting, and enforcement) are under development. Initial drafts of essential rules are completed and are advancing through an internal review process. Collaborative efforts with the national office on bylaw modifications are proceeding productively through regular working group meetings.

Additional cross-functional teams are coordinating implementation timelines across all areas to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure should the settlement be approved. Regular updates are being provided to key stakeholders, and feedback mechanisms have been established to address questions and concerns throughout the implementation process.