

## NCAA rules questions and interpretations

May 2006

**Question:** Is it permissible for a team to play a non-conference game after our conference tournament is completed and after the announcement of who will be going to the NCAA Championships (1. if they are in the NCAA Championship...2. if they are not in the NCAA Championships).

**Answer:** 17.1.7 (c) NCAA, NCCAA or NAIA Championships Participation in Team Sports. Neither practice for nor participation in any NCAA, NCCAA or NAIA championship event is considered part of the institution's declared playing season. A member institution that has reason to believe it is under consideration for selection to participate in an NCAA championship event may continue to practice (but may not compete against outside competition) beyond its last regular-season contest, including the conference championship (if any), without counting such practice against the institution's declared playing-season limitation until it is determined by the appropriate committee whether the institution will be selected to participate in the NCAA championship competition. An institution that is not selected to participate in the NCAA championship may continue to practice or compete until the end of that championship only if it has time remaining in its declared playing season.

**Question:** May a current student-athlete attend a camp as a participant in which their current college coach is running?

**Answer:** No they can not. The relevant legislation would be 17.1.1.1 and 13.12.2.1.2.

**Question:** May an institutions football team play two preseason football games if the student-athletes are split and they play no more than one preseason scrimmage? I think the answer would be NO given the rule and interpretation below. What if a program has one varsity scrimmage and one jv scrimmage in the preseason. Would that be permissible?

**Answer:** Institution's may only conduct one exempt pre-season scrimmage. However, please note that jv and varsity teams can maintain separate schedules (see interp: Contest limitations apply separately to varsity and junior varsity teams). This relates to contests, not the designated season, which must be the same. Therefore the JV schedule could include one pre-season scrimmage and the varsity schedule another. A student-athlete could only play in one, but not both, of these scrimmages.

**Question:** Is there a problem with our Men's Golf coach working at the MSHSL Golf Meet as an Rules Official and getting paid.

**Answer:** Pursuant to the bylaw 13.11.3.6, coaches are permitted to officiate contests involving prospects. Further, they would be permitted to be paid the going-rate for such activities.

**Question:** We have a parent who would like to donate about \$2,000-\$3,000 for international students to help defray the cost of their health insurance. Their main focus is tied to a specific sport.

**Answer:** In order for the foreign student-athletes to receive a benefit related to health insurance costs, that same benefit would have to be made available to foreign students generally. Two relevant bylaws are 16.01.2 and 16.01.3.

**Question:** Team is planning a trip overseas and will be doing some fundraising for the event to help cover the expenses for the players who work the fundraisers. One players dad is concerned that a couple of players may not be able to afford the total cost of the tour (roughly \$2,000). He wants to make a matching gift of up to \$2,000 to help them afford the trip. He proposes that the players must be responsible for 50% of the trip costs and his gift (plus the matching funds) be used to cover the other 50%.

**Answer:** This promotional activity must meet the requirements included in 12.5.1.1. As such all monies derived from this fund-raising activity must go directly to the institution. Monies raised cannot be "earmarked" for any particular student-athlete based on the extent of their efforts in the fund-raiser. If the parent wishes to donate money, he may donate that money to the institution, who may then in turn use the money to help pay for the trip. See ed. Column 2003 Column No. 14 and interpretation - Parents receiving deduction in monthly dues contingent upon fundraising activities.

**Question:** In moving in the day prior to the administrative day we typically move in our First Year's which has been clarified as legal. We also have set up to have our returning players/transfers move in the day prior and get settled to this so their function on First-year move in day is to help our first-years and parents get around campus, move boxes and welcome. Is this okay? Or is only the one day to be designated.

**Answer:** An evening meal and lodging can be provided on the evening prior to the administrative day. Therefore, the earliest SAs could arrive on campus would be the day prior to the administrative day. In the example above, it appears the upperclassmen would be arriving too early. See ed column: Administrative Activities Prior to the First Permissible Date of Preseason Practice for Fall Sports.

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**Question:** A graduation requirement for our institution is PE100 which is a 7 week course meeting 3 days per week for 1 hour. The course is a wellness course. It is taken for no credit and therefore does not cost the student. Because it is a graduation requirement though, the question has come up whether a student could participate in football if all they had left to take for graduation was PE100?

**Answer:** The applicable bylaw in this case is 14.1.8.2.1.3. Due to the fact that the bylaw specifically requires that the course in question be for credit, this wellness course does not qualify for the exception. Furthermore, even if the student-athlete enrolls part-time (in a one-credit hour class, for example) he could still not take advantage of the bylaw because the class he enrolls in would not be necessary for graduation as required by the bylaw because he has already fulfilled his academic requirements. For these reasons, the institution will have to file an ARS waiver. If that waiver is not approved, the student-athlete would have to be enrolled full-time in order to compete.

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**Question:** Is it permissible for an institution to purchase television advertising during the broadcast of a state high school tournament game? Is your answer consistent throughout all three levels of the NCAA divisions too?

**Answer:** Institutions are not allowed to purchase advertising during high school events, which is consistent throughout all divisions. See interpretation: Institutional Advertisement During a Program Related to High-School participation.

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**Question:** I would like to attend a club tournament for recruiting purposes. Can I be there even though my players would be playing in the tourney?

**Answer:** see subpart (k) of 17.02.1.1. The coach would not be permitted to watch his current student-athletes during the academic year in outside competition.