

**Question:** We've been approached by an orthopedic specialist to have two of our pitchers participate in a research study on kinematics of baseball pitchers. 1) Can student-athletes with eligibility still participate in this study without harming eligibility? 2) Can these students receive an honorarium for participating in the study? This is similar to other academic studies that compensate participants.

**Answer:** 1. The study would be permissible assuming the following was followed: Institution does not require student-athletes to participate, institutional staff does not witness SA performing, and staff members do not receive a report back on how the SA performed. 2. Compensation would not be permissible under 12.1.1 (a) as the SA would be receiving payment for their athletics ability in their sport.

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**Question:** Insurance: 1) Do we still need to get a copy of their insurance card to have on file? 2) Do we need to have the student athlete's and/or parent's actual signatures to serve as acknowledgement that they have been informed about the NCAA insurance coverage requirements? 3) Are the questions about coverage effective dates, limits of insurance, and deductibles/co-insurance necessary?

**Answer:** From NCAA perspective, we do not mandate how this information is collected and/or stored. The information we put out was really more suggestions than anything else, intended to offer guidance for institutions who may not have known where to start. So as long as your institutions and their risk manager or legal counsel are comfortable that they have the information they need, how they collect it and store it are up to them. As to the questions on coverage effective dates, limits of insurance, and deductibles/co-insurance, the bylaw requires the student-athletes be covered up to the deductible of the catastrophic program. If the institution is not providing insurance coverage, I'm not sure how else they would know they are meeting the requirement without asking those questions. From our view, when an institution requires the student-athlete to provide their own insurance coverage, the institution should know what dates that insurance is effective, how much coverage they have, and what deductibles are included. Otherwise, if a student-athlete is injured and has no insurance coverage, the institution would be in violation of the bylaw and subject to penalties.

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**Question:** Would it be permissible for a collegiate coach to transport a student-athlete who was injured for the season (received hardship waiver) to a high school meet?

**Answer:** Generally, no. The only possibility would be if the institution were comfortable with the situation falling under 16.9.1.7, which would depend on how local the meet was.

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**Question:** We have a student-athlete transfer who earned 22 credits for 2 ten week trimesters. She did not return for the spring trimester. At her previous school (Briar Cliff U. – I believe NAIA) 8 credits or more is considered full-time. She was eligible upon leaving Briar Cliff U. Would she be eligible for a fall sport at an MIAC institution even though she does not have 24 credits? If she passed 12 credits at the MIAC institution, would she be eligible for a spring sport with a total of 34 credits (22 from trimesters and 12 from 1 semester)?

**Answer:** It ultimately is up to you as a conference to determine whether she is eligible or not - since the 24 credit requirement is not an NCAA requirement, but a conference requirement. However, knowing that is not the answer you are looking for, let me tell you what we would say about a DI or DII kid in this same situation (DI and DII do have the 12-credit per term requirement in one form or another). We say that 24-semester hours is the same as 36-quarter hours. The problem is that a 'trimester' is a different animal completely and not exactly the same as a quarter. The thing that throws me for a loop is the idea that 8 hours is full-time. With quarters, full-time is still usually 12-hours. Schools with trimesters have to go through a waiver process in Division I and Division II and each one is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. So, where does that leave you? In my opinion (and it is purely that - nothing more), since 8 hours is considered full-time, then I would think 16 hours should be the standard you look for coming with 2 trimesters (8 per term). My logic is that if 12 hours is full-time for a semester and we hold kids accountable for 12 per semester, then 8 makes sense for the trimester. Another option or approach would be to ask Briar Cliff how many credits are needed to graduate most programs, and then calculate from there. For semesters, our rules have the goal of graduation in 5 years. That's 10 total semesters at 12 hours each reaching a standard 120 hour degree program. You could do the same thing here, dividing the total number of credits by 15 (5 years at 3 trimesters per year).

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**Question:** College men's head hockey coach has been asked to be a paid scout for a professional hockey team. Is this permissible for him to do while also serving as a head college coach?

**Answer:** There are no bylaws preventing this type of setup. The only word of caution to the institution would be to ensure the duties/roles are kept separate and distinct. There could be issues if the coach is recruiting for the institution while out on a scouting trip for the professional team and vice versa.

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**Question:** A high school team would like to come to our university at their own expense to watch one of our teams practice. I am assuming that this is fine as long as they don't compete, our coaches do not instruct them, and we don't violate the tryout rule. In essence they would just watch practice and any conversation they have would be of a general recruiting nature.

**Answer:** There is nothing in the NCAA bylaws that would prevent the situation you describe from occurring on your campus

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**Question:** One of our assistant football coaches has a former athlete of his from when he coached in HS who will be attending our institution and will play football this fall. He has just returned from duty in Iraq and needs a place to stay for two weeks until his new apartment lease begins. Can he stay with the assistant coach and his family provided he pays a normal/usual rent fee for the two weeks?

**Answer:** While this situation is not per se a violation it sets the stage for a host of problems. As stated in the e-mail, the student-athlete would have to pay the going rate for rent. The institution should document how the rent amount was determined and be able to justify that amount. Utilities would also have to be accounted in any payments. The institution should document the payment. There are other expenses/benefits involved with this type of living arrangement that if provided to the student-athlete could constitute an extra benefit. A meal, a snack from the cabinet, the use of a washing machine or a ride to work are just a couple of examples of potential pitfalls that would constitute extra benefits. While I can't say this situation is strictly prohibited I wanted to highlight some of the potential problems.

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**Question:** What is the definition of a prospect?

**Answer:** Any individual who has started classes for the ninth grade and is not enrolled in the institution.

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**Question:** We have a transfer student-athlete who previously participated in intercollegiate athletics, he left his first institution not being academically eligible if he had remained. Would he be eligible to compete this season?

**Answer:** The student-athlete must serve a full year of residence before being eligible to compete. He could practice while serving the residency year, but he would be charged a season of participation and would not be eligible to compete.