Notes from Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules, and Best Practices draft

The faculty bears primary responsibility for maintaining the academic standards of institutions. COIA guidelines are to help faculty fulfill that responsibility regarding the impact of athletics on academic standards and integrity.

Admissions
- Policies setting criteria for special admission of scholarship athletes.
- Policies setting a maximum annual number of special admissions for athletes including transfer students
- Certification of compliance with these policies
- The NCAA should study the success rate of junior college transfers

Scholarships
- Athletics scholarships shall be awarded for a term of up to five years, subject to good academic & social standing. *
- Scholarships may be charged to the athletics department if a student withdraws from athletics because misconduct is found by members of that department
- Scholarship support should be based solely on need or academic merit. The Coalition urges that the NCAA organize, and all schools support, a commission to devise a process to convert athletics scholarship to a need basis. *

Curricular Integrity
- Collect data on athlete enrollments and grades by course & instructor, including course GPAs for each sport, and convey that information to the Faculty Senate *
- Number of credit hours applied to “progress towards degree” in a single term shall not exceed seventeen
- The Faculty Senate create a committee on academic integrity, to review and interpret data concerning athlete enrollment and grade point patterns to determine if a failure of academic integrity exists
- No athlete can get credit for a course instructed by any varsity coach or assistant coach, unless an exception developed by the Faculty Senate *
- No coach can assign grades in an academic course for an athlete participating in a sport for which he or she serves as a coach. *
- No academic credit shall be awarded for participation in varsity sports, and no course shall be open only to varsity athletes. *
Total time commitment
There is widespread belief that the twenty-hour rule is in many programs routinely violated

- Coaches must share accountability for the academic achievement of the athletes they select for admissions.
- The campus administration and athletics department, establishes clear policies regarding how the academic success of athletes affects coaches’ job descriptions, and personnel decisions.
- Exit interviews with athletes held, including a focus on issues pertaining to compliance with the twenty-hour rule.

Season length and scheduling

- The NCAA review the present NCAA limits on regular season length.
- The NCAA, conferences should avoid any further extension of post-season competitions unless corresponding reductions are made in regular season schedules.
- NCAA should amend bylaw to specify that divided seasons does not apply to intercollegiate competitions
- All competitions scheduled for weekend or Friday night dates (exceptions) *
- NCAA rules should not permit cancellation of campus classes for an athletics event.
- During regular academic year classes, team travel to & from competitions should be reduced (total travel to the event not to exceed 36 hours; total return travel time not to exceed 30 hours).
- No institution shall be permitted to schedule athletics competitions during final exam periods on that school’s campus.

Calendar approval procedures

Missed class days are a matter of academic integrity. It is essential that faculty recognize and respect the fact that classes missed because of competition are beyond the control of athletes, and make accommodations to allow athletes to complete course requirements without prejudice.

- Each campus and each conference develop limits for missed class time to guide annual scheduling decisions in each sport.
- Conference competition schedules should accord with principles on missed class time and be adopted only with approval by conference FARs.
- Non-conference competition schedules should meet individual campus principles on missed class time and be adopted only with approval by the Campus Athletics Board.
Office of Academic Advising for Athletes (OAAA)
- Successful athlete advising is critical to academic integrity.
- Key issue is to maintain focus on academics rather than eligibility.
- Focus on academic integrity
- Emphasize campus integration
- Provide support but scrutinize efforts
- Assess effectiveness
- Programs & services should focus also on personal adjustment
- Campus comparability

Guidelines for the OAAA
- The OAAA reports directly to the campus office of academic affairs. Campuses may have a secondary line to the Director of Athletics.*
- No advisor should report directly to a coach
- Advisors communicate closely with advisors in athletes’ major departments to ensure consistent and accurate counseling for athletes.

* Areas of debate within the COIA Steering Committee

All areas of this document are open for comment by COIA member institutions and their faculty members.

Please refer all comments to Linda Moore.