

**February 2007
COMPLIANCE NEWSLETTER**

SAOF/SAF

Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF) is a fund available for the use of all student-athletes. The amount of money received from this fund is determined by the amount of scholarship the student-athlete currently receives. Monies from this fund may be used to pay:

- Clothing/Shoes
- Graduate School Exam Fees
- Dental/Vision Expenses
- Emergency Expenses
- Professional Program Testing
- Travel Home
- Medical Expenses
- Educational Supplies/Expenses
- Other educational expenses or additional SAF funding for academic course supplies

Student-athlete Assistance Fund (SAF) is available to student-athletes based on need as established by the receipt of a Pell Grant. (www.fafsa.ed.gov) This fund is meant to help need-based student-athletes pay for some of the costs associated with attending college. Money from this fund may be used to purchase "essential" items, e.g. clothing, school supplies, travel home, etc.

Your student-athletes may access these funds by requesting reimbursements for their purchase using a detailed receipt.

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IN THE NEWS...

A university must report all violations to the NCAA. The major violations are more commonly known as they list the name of the university and often the key players in the violation. However, there are a number of secondary violations that do not include the name of the university but are just as useful at demonstrating how the NCAA rule works in a real world situation. Take a look at a few that pertain to Bylaw 15, which covers financial aid, the theme of this month's Newsletter.

January 9, 2007: A university reported that a 6th year student-athlete received impermissible aid. Having completed his degree in five years and remaining to complete a second major, the student-athlete was not eligible for a PELL grant. However, he completed his forms in the manner he had done the five years previously. The business office did not catch that he had completed his degree, and thus his eligibility for PELL funds, and processed his request. The business office was required to enhance their system so that this situation could not happen in the future and the student-athlete was reinstated after the received funds were re-paid.

January 26, 2007: A university reported a violation on behalf of one of its student-athletes. This student-athlete had allowed the bookstore to give him books which were not for his classes. He stated that he knew the books were not his, but that he was late for practice and would take care of it later. It is his "take care of it later" attitude which caused the university a violation. Had he taken the time to resolve the matter when he noticed books beyond those required for his classes had been charged under his name to the scholarship account, this would have been a non-issue. The student-athlete was reinstated after paying for the books wrongfully charged to the scholarship account.

For more information regarding ethical conduct, academics, and transferring please do not hesitate to contact the Compliance Office.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EQUIVALENCY AND HEAD-COUNT SPORTS

The NCAA has divided all teams into two groups when it comes to awarding scholarships. A team is either a head-count sport, or an equivalency sport.

A head-count sport is allowed a certain number of individuals who may be on scholarship. The student-athlete does not have to receive a full-scholarship to be included. Head-count sports don't look to the amount of money distributed but the number of individuals who benefit.

An equivalency sport approaches financial aid differently. Each equivalency team is allowed a certain number of scholarships, which can be divided up and distributed among the team as the coach sees fit. Equivalency sports look only to the dollar amount awarded, not the number of individuals who benefit from that amount.

For example, basketball is a head-count sport. If basketball gives a student-athlete a scholarship, the student-athlete still counts toward the number of total scholarships, even if the student-athlete is not given the dollar amount equal to a full grant-in-aid. (A basketball student-athlete given only a book award is counted the same as a basketball student-athlete given tuition and fees, room and board and required course books; each have used one scholarship spot for the team.)

On the other hand, baseball is an equivalency sport. Baseball may give partial scholarships to as many individuals as it can. The limitation is by the dollar amount given out, not the number of student-athletes awarded. Another factor that equivalency sport coaches must consider is how the same dollar amount will be a different percent of a full-in-state grant-in-aid than it will be for a full-out-of-state grant-in-aid.

WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application and more comprehensive information can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Please encourage your student-athletes to submit FAFSA paperwork as early as possible as the funds are dispersed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please start to remind your student-athletes about filling out FAFSA paperwork at the beginning of the Spring semester for the upcoming academic year.

The FAFSA uses your financial information to ascertain your financial need when paying for college. Based on your financial need the government will award you money to use towards school. Your ability to receive SAF money each semester correlates to the need-based amount allotted to you by the federal government (e.g. Pell grants).

WHAT IS THE FAR?

Each NCAA member institution is required to have a Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). This individual is charged with acting as a liaison for the student-athletes. The FAR at NC State is Dr. Donn Ward.

Dr. Ward is the head of the Department of Food Science. The FAR is purposely not otherwise associated with the Athletic Department. The job of the FAR is to be an independent voice in athletic-related matters.

For example, when a student-athlete is denied a request (e.g. permission to contact another school), it is the FAR who listens to both sides of the argument and either makes a decision based on the information himself, or forms an outside committee to help him decide how to respond to the appeal.