

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND GUIDELINES

Guidelines

The Division I Board of Directors has allocated \$75,572,000 will be sent to Division I conference offices in late August 2014 for the former Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund and Special Assistance Fund. The distribution will be allocated based on the “broad-based” formula, encompassing sports sponsorship, Pell grants, and grants-in-aid.

The Student Assistance Fund is intended to provide direct benefits to student-athletes or their families as determined by conference offices. As a guiding principle, the fund shall be used to assist student-athletes in meeting financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in intercollegiate athletics, enrollment in an academic curriculum or that recognize academic achievement. Accordingly, receipt of Student Assistance Fund monies shall not be included in determining the permissible amount of financial aid that a member institution may award to a student-athlete. It is encouraged that preference for the Student Assistance Fund continue to be given to those student-athletes who display a financial need for assistance. Further, inasmuch as the fund is designed to provide direct benefits to student-athletes, the fund is not intended to be used to replace existing budget items.

All student-athletes, including international, are eligible to receive Student Assistance Fund benefits, regardless of whether they are grant-in-aid recipients, have demonstrated need or have either exhausted eligibility or no longer participate due to medical reasons. Participants on non-NCAA sponsored sport teams are not eligible to receive SAF funds.

Except for prospective student-athletes receiving summer financial aid prior to full-time enrollment pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.2.8.1.2, 15.2.8.1.3, 15.2.8.1.4, no prospective student-athlete shall be eligible to receive SAF funds.

The following are restrictions on the use of the funds:

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.01.6.1, member institutions and conferences shall not use monies received from the fund for the following:

- Salaries and Benefits.
- Grants-in-aid (other than summer school) for student-athletes with remaining eligibility.
- Capital improvements.
- Stipends.
- Athletic development opportunities.
 - Fees and other expenses associated with a student-athlete’s participation in a sports camp or clinic;
 - Fees and other expenses associated with private sports-related instruction provided to a student-athlete;
 - Fees for other athletic development experiences (e.g., greens fees, batting cage rental); and
 - Expenses associated with a student-athlete’s participation in a foreign tour.

Instructions

Conference offices will continue to serve as fund administrators for their member institutions. The responsibility for oversight and administration of the fund, including interpretations, rests solely with the conferences. A conference may accumulate not more than the total allocation received over the previous two years. The succeeding allocation will be forfeited if that amount is exceeded. Independent institution's funds have been assigned to a conference office for administration based on the same assignment made for administration of the National Letter of Intent in coordination with the conference confirmations received by the NCAA regarding conference alignment for the upcoming academic year.

Conferences will be required to report annually to the NCAA the number of fund recipients by sport and gender, as well as the amount and purpose funds were used in each category. A student-athlete should only be recorded once in the count of overall reported uses. Included in the report of uses, conferences will report the institution Pell grant information to be used in the calculation of the Special Assistance Fund distribution.

Due to the expanded uses of what was formerly the Special Assistance Fund to mirror those of the SAOF, the report of uses has been combined for these funds. The detailed reporting form to document uses of the 2013-14 funds is available for institutions to complete. The form can be found at <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/finances>, then click the revenue distribution login for the forms. Upon completion, the form is reviewed and submitted by the conference office. Conferences will be able to view their institution's detail and aggregate conference information. An overall conference report is presented to the Division I Management Council each year. Please indicate via the on-line form the actual expenditures approved by your conference or institution by sport and usage category. A full list of the category descriptions can be found by clicking on any of the letters in the column headings.

Please note that the Pell grant information to be included in the reporting forms refers to ALL student-athletes at your institution, not only those student-athletes affected by the Student Assistance Fund. If the form is being completed by the conference office, click on a sport and then complete Pell information for each institution listed. The Pell grant tab will be available at the institution level of reporting.

Once you have completed the report of uses form, please save your information by hitting the save icon at the bottom of the form. Institutions filling out the form will hit the submit icon at the bottom of the form, to submit their information to their conference office. Conference offices will submit to the NCAA upon completion and review of information. The form should be submitted no later than July 11, 2014. We anticipate funds being sent August 22, 2014 for use during the 2014-15 academic year.

For questions please contact Sarah Wuestefeld, swuestefeld@ncaa.org or 317/917-6256.