REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
APRIL 27-28, 2009, MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- **None.**

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) Data Collection and Penalty Update.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance reviewed a summary of the most-recent NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data and noted the substantial increase in average APR overall, which can be partially attributed to the change in the retention calculation for 2007-08 (i.e., adjustment of retention point for transferring when specific criteria are met). The committee also noted improvement in APR eligibility rates and a sharp decrease in the overall number of student-athletes who left institutions academically ineligible and did not return in the subsequent term (i.e., "0/2").

2. **Head Coaches' APR Portfolio Development Continues.** The committee continues to focus on development and implementation of a publicly available database for reporting APR for all Division I head coaches, as directed by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. Data collection for the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio will begin for five sports this fall.

3. **Concepts to Reduce Institutional Burden Related to APP.** In consideration of the administrative burden associated with recent legislative and committee policy changes, the committee directed the NCAA staff to implement several initiatives designed to reduce burden on institutional representatives responsible for submitting APP data. The most significant measure is the automation of APR adjustments for student-athletes who leave school to pursue professional sports after meeting academic eligibility requirements. Beginning this fall, institutions will simply report these departures during the data submission phase, rather than filing adjustment requests with the NCAA national office.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Head Coaches' APR Portfolio.** The NCAA Division I Board of Directors approved a publicly available database for reporting APR for all Division I head coaches and has charged the NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance with development

and implementation of the database. To that end, the committee approved the following policies for the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio:

a. Only coaches officially employed by a Division I institution as a head coach will be included in the database. A head coach designated as an "interim," will not be included in the portfolio for the "interim" period.

b. The terms "dates employed as head coach," "start date" and "end date" will be used to collect and verify employment dates.

c. Institutions will submit information regarding head coaches for baseball, men's and women's basketball, football and women's indoor and outdoor track and field during the fall 2009 Academic Performance Census (APC) data collection phase. This will include names and employment dates of head coaches from 2003 to the present. Submission of information for head coaches from all other sports will occur during the fall 2010 APC data collection phase.

d. Head coaches will have the opportunity to review their employment history and single-year APR data during a designated time period, as specified by the staff. This review period is expected to occur in the fall of each year.

The committee also discussed the possible addition of the institution's president/chancellor and director of athletics to the portfolio. The committee does not support the concept at this time, but agreed to consider it further at a future meeting. Lastly, the committee supported the planned educational initiatives related to the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio, including presentations at the NCAA Regional Rules Seminars, electronic communications to APP users and the Collegiate Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators (CCACA), materials posted on the committee's Web page on NCAA.org, outreach to coaches' associations and webinars conducted by the staff in July and August.

2. **Procedures for Reviewing Waiver Requests When a Team is Subject to a Postseason Competition Penalty.** The committee granted authority to the NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Appeals to act on behalf of the committee regarding waivers for a student-athlete who wants to be contacted by other institutions or who wishes to transfer from an institution when his or her team is ineligible for postseason competition as a result of APP penalties for the remainder of the student-athlete's eligibility. Further, the committee charged the staff with developing additional concepts regarding Bylaws 13.1.1.3.4 and 14.8.2-(e) to be considered at its July 2009 meeting. Specifically, the committee noted an interest in balancing the championships opportunities for individual student-athletes who have not contributed to

poor team academic performance with the impact that departures will have on the team and institution from which the student-athlete departs.

3. **Policies for Review of Conditionally Approved Penalty Waivers.** The committee amended its policies and procedures related to the review of conditionally approved APP penalty waivers to specify that the committee and waiver case staff may consider mitigating circumstances when a team's single-year APR is below the established condition. Such reviews shall occur on a case-by-case basis, and shall include consideration of any mitigation for the team's failure to reach the target APR, as well as the totality of the team's circumstances with regard to the imposed conditions. Currently, the committee and staff have the authority to evaluate conditionally approved APP penalty waivers to determine whether the condition(s) was satisfied. The staff and subcommittee have reviewed some situations when a team achieved a single-year APR above 925, but failed to meet the single-year APR target established in the team's conditionally approved penalty waiver. Allowing the staff to conduct a case-by-case review permits appropriate flexibility and consideration of each team's unique situation regarding its APR and its failure to meet the specified condition. In such cases, the staff will review factors including improvement in the single-year and multiyear APR, how close the team came to meeting the target, and mitigating circumstances. This action does not change an institution's opportunity to explain why it failed to meet the condition(s) or to appeal a decision by the staff to the committee. This policy is effective for waivers to be reviewed during the 2009-10 academic year.

4. **APR Adjustment Requests for Student-Athletes Who Depart an Institution to Pursue Professional Athletics as a Vocation.** The committee approved an amendment to its policies and procedures to permit automated processing of adjustments for student-athletes who depart an institution to pursue professional athletics as a vocation. These automated adjustments will be reported during the data submission phase. In order for the retention point to be adjusted, the student-athlete must earn the eligibility point in his or her last term of enrollment prior to departure and the institution still must obtain supporting documentation of the student-athlete's departure to pursue professional athletics as a vocation. However, these requests with supporting documentation no longer will be submitted to the national office for review. Over the past four data collection cycles, 2,776 requests were received for this specific adjustment and over 93 percent (i.e., 2,592) were approved. The requests that were denied were rejected due to lack of supporting documentation or the student-athlete's failure to earn the eligibility point in the term of departure. Additionally, over 50 percent of all adjustment requests submitted by institutions each year are for student-athletes who depart an institution to pursue professional athletics as a vocation. This change will improve the efficiency of the data collection process and will reduce administrative burden for member institutions.

Further, programming and validation checks within the APP data collection portal will ensure the criteria for the adjustment have been satisfied by the student-athlete. In addition, verification of documentation will occur through the APP data review process. This policy change is effective beginning with adjustment requests submitted fall 2009.

5. **Corrections to APR Data from Prior Academic Years not Included in the Current Multiyear APR Calculation.** The committee amended its policies and procedures to permit institutions to request corrections to APR data for any academic year, including academic years not included in the current multiyear APR calculation. This policy change is effective with the fall 2009 data collection. With the development of the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio that will include APRs dating back to 2003, there is a need to ensure that data from all years are accurate and complete. The committee maintained its current policies to accept only institutional (not individual) requests for corrections and to limit institutional requests for adjustments and delayed-graduation points to the four most recent years which are included in the current multiyear cohort.

6. **APR Adjustments for Student-Athletes Who Participate in Olympic or International Training, Tryouts and Competition.** The committee amended the APR adjustment directive to stipulate that Olympic or international training, tryouts, and competition must occur within one year of the student-athlete's departure from the member institution in order for lost eligibility and/or retention points to be adjusted. The current APR adjustment directive permits institutions to request adjustments to lost eligibility and retention points for student-athletes who are participating in the following Olympic or international competition:

   a. Official Pan American, World Championships, World Cup, World University Games and Olympic training, tryouts and competition;

   b. Officially recognized training and competition, qualifying for final Olympic tryouts; or

   c. Official tryouts and competition involving national teams sponsored by the appropriate national governing bodies of the U.S. Olympic Committee or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization of that nation.

   However, the current directive does not indicate when the Olympic or international training, tryout, or competition must occur in order to have the lost point(s) adjusted. Specifying a time period for the Olympic or international training, tryout or competition to occur is consistent with other adjustment requests and will directly connect the

student-athlete's lost APR points with his or her participation in Olympic or international competition. This policy change is effective beginning with adjustment requests submitted fall 2009.

7. 2009-10 APR and Penalty Reporting Forms. The committee elected to add the most recent single-year APR to the public APR reports to be used in the 2009-10 academic year. The reports are intended to communicate team APR and summaries of contemporaneous and/or historical penalties. Adding the single-year APR is consistent with recent decisions regarding the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio.

8. Academic Data Sharing Initiative. The committee was informed that the national office will begin a data-sharing initiative designed to release portions of the NCAA academic databases to research scholars at member institutions. The first two data sets scheduled for release in this initiative are the graduation rates and APR team-level databases, which will require some data elements to be added to the databases that currently are not publicly reported. In support of this initiative, the committee supported including the following specific data in these research databases:

a. Year-by-year data for all squads in the APR data set.

b. Annual APR squad-level eligibility and retention rate data.

c. Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data on a cohort-by-cohort basis for each Division I sports team.

The NCAA research staff indicated that the data will be used only for scholarly inquiry and all current policies related to the protection of confidentiality of individual students will be adhered to in the release of these data. Additionally, all data will be reviewed by an NCAA disclosure review committee before any public release. This committee will ensure that the data are released in a manner that cannot violate ethical and legal strictures related to the protection of all subjects in the database.

9. APP Data Collection and Penalty Update. The Committee on Academic Performance reviewed a summary of the most-recent APR data and noted the substantial increase in average APR overall, which can be partially attributed to the change in the retention calculation for 2007-08 (i.e., adjustment of retention point for transferring when specific criteria are met). The committee also noted improvement in APR eligibility rates, particularly in baseball and men's basketball. Football had a smaller overall increase and still lags behind the other two sports in eligibility. Women's basketball eligibility rates

have declined. The data also indicated a sharp decrease in the overall number of student-athletes who left institutions academically ineligible and did not return in the subsequent term (i.e., "0/2"). Substantial decreases in the number of "0/2s" can be seen in baseball and men's basketball; however, there has been an increase of "0/2s" in women's basketball. In addition, the committee reviewed a summary outlining the number of student-athlete transfers into Division I institutions, noting that the number of transfers into Division I has decreased slightly over the past five years, mostly in the number of two-four transfers. The exception has been women's basketball, which has shown an increase in two-four transfers. Additionally, the committee received a summary of aggregate numbers of APR adjustment requests, delayed-graduation points, penalized teams and contemporaneous- and historical-penalty waivers submitted by institutions.

10. Public Announcement of Penalties and Rewards. In mid-March, the NCAA staff communicated the public release dates for public-recognition awards, team APRs and penalty reports via electronic mail to all presidents/chancellors, conference commissioners, directors of athletics and the CCACA. The public recognition list, which identifies the top 10 percent of teams in each sport, was posted on the NCAA Web site April 22. The APR and penalty reports were announced May 6 and available on the NCAA Web site.

11. APP Data Reviews. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting received a progress report on the 25 institutions selected for APP data reviews for the 2008-09 academic year. The subcommittee also was reminded that the staff is completing the data reviews for three institutions whose 2007-08 review was suspended. It is anticipated that the subcommittee will complete all reviews and final reports later this spring**.**

12. Concepts to Reduce Institutional Burden Related to APP. Beginning with this fall's APP data collection, the committee will require Division I institutions to submit data for two-year college transfers within the multiyear cohort for four sports and for head coaches of five sports for the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio. In consideration of the administrative burden associated with these endeavors, the committee directed the staff to implement the following initiatives to assist institutions:

a. The staff will generate a list of institutions with a large number of two-year college transfers and provide monthly reminders to these institutions.

b. Each summer, the staff will provide each member institution with a list of two-year college transfers for which it is required to provide data.

c. The staff will send out additional reminders and provide more timely information at the NCAA Regional Rules Seminars.

d. For the 2009-10 academic year, an institution will not be chosen for APP data review if it has a large number of two-year college transfers for which it is required to provide data or if the institution also is simultaneously undergoing athletics certification or regional accreditation.

e. The staff will consider the additional required data collection elements when considering APP deadline extension requests from member institutions.

The staff will begin to implement several of these concepts this summer. The committee also noted the change to automatic adjustments for professional departures will reduce administrative burden (see Item No. 4). Lastly, the Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting is receptive to suggestions and ideas from the membership related to this topic.

13. APR Improvement Plan Deadline Submission Dates. The following dates have been established for the submission of APR Improvement Plans for the 2009-10 academic year:

Team/Institution Reporting Requirements	Submission Deadline
Teams that received a conditional waiver of penalties in 2008-09	September 30
Teams with a multiyear APR below 900	January 31
Institutions requesting SSF	January 31
Teams requesting a waiver of penalty	With waiver request

14. Update on APP Penalty Waivers That Were Conditionally Approved During the 2007-08 Academic Year. The Subcommittee on Appeals received a report of those APP penalty waivers that were conditionally approved during the 2007-08 academic year, noting that most of the teams receiving conditionally approved waivers met or exceeded the prescribed conditions. Specifically, of the 74 teams that received conditional waivers, 62 teams (84 percent) met or exceeded the conditioned single-year APR, while 54 of those teams exceeded the single-year target rate by 10 APR points or more.

15. Application of Contemporaneous Penalties When a Student-Athlete's Athletics Aid is Revoked Due to an Invalidated Test Score. The committee reviewed a request from a member institution for the institution to be permitted to apply a contemporaneous penalty for its men's basketball team in the current academic year. The institution awarded 13 total scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year. However, in late November 2008 it was notified of an invalidated ACT test score for an incoming

freshman, who subsequently was certified as a nonqualifier. Per committee policy, student-athletes who receive athletics aid that subsequently is revoked due to an invalidated test score are not included within the APR cohort. The institution asserted that since the student-athlete was not included in the APR cohort, it should not be required to include or count this student-athlete's athletics scholarship in its application of the contemporaneous penalty. In addition, the institution asserted that since it received the value of 12 athletics scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year, it should be allowed to apply its 2007-08 contemporaneous penalty to the 2008-09 academic year. The committee noted that an official interpretation issued June 18, 1991, requires this student-athlete to count against team financial aid limits for the remainder of the academic year. Further, current APP policy requires an institution subject to contemporaneous penalties to apply the penalty in a current year when the institution has not reached its financial aid limitation in that sport. The committee did not support the institution's request and noted that the institution was at its scholarship limit for men's basketball as defined by NCAA financial aid legislation. The committee also noted that the approval of this request would compromise the purpose of a contemporaneous penalty, as well as Division I legislation regarding financial aid counters.

16. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Supplemental Support Fund (SSF). The committee received a report regarding the SSF, which is available for new or enhanced programs developed to support student-athlete academic performance and for professional development opportunities for individuals providing academic support services to student-athletes. Thirty-three limited-resource institutions are currently eligible for funding support and applications are being reviewed. It is anticipated that funds will be awarded to institutions during the summer. Funds also will be distributed to institutions that received multiyear awards in a previous year. Institutions that receive funds are required to report on the use of funds; however, it is premature to measure to effects of the funds at this time. Finally, the committee was informed that national office administration of this program is moving from academic and membership affairs to educational affairs over the next month.

17. NCAA Division I Leadership Council's Review of Division I Membership Standards. The committee reviewed an excerpt from the report of the March 24, 2009, Leadership Council meeting related to the Council's examination and discussion of Division I membership standards. Specifically, the committee noted the Council's comment that some objective measures of institutional academic performance should be a part of the assessment of potential Division I members. In general, the committee agrees that the expectation that institutions are committed to ensuring the academic success of its student-athletes should be made clear to prospective members and the group will give further consideration to specific recommendations at its July meeting.

18. Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide and Data Collection Guide. The committee approved updated Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide and Data Collection Guide. The guides will assist institutions in the 2009-10 data collection process and penalty applications and will be posted on the committee's page on the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org. This posting also will satisfy annual reporting requirements specified in Bylaw 23.

19. Occasion-Three Historical Penalty Hearing. The committee conducted a hearing for one institution subject to Occasion-Three Historical Penalties.

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