

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ISSUES COMMITTEE

The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee submits the following report from its September 24–25, 2008, meeting:

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Division I Women's Basketball Legislation and Review of Additional Selected Proposals. The committee received an update on the Division I 2008-09 legislative cycle proposals relating to and of interest to the women's basketball community. In addition, the committee reviewed one additional proposal and offers the following comment:

- NCAA Proposal No. 2008-31 - Recruiting - Use of Recruiting Funds - Recruiting Services - Video Services. The committee opposes Proposal No. 2008-31, which would eliminate the requirement that off-campus observation of a prospective student-athlete, on a video that is made available by a scouting service, be considered an evaluation activity subject to the applicable evaluation regulations. The committee expressed concern that not counting evaluations of videos off campus could lead to the proliferation of video recruiting events (e.g., hotel nights) and increase the demands on coaching staffs to attend such events. The committee also expressed concern that there would be a direct impact on prospective student-athletes and increased expectations that a prospective student-athlete use a recruiting or scouting service that offers the video type services.

2. Academic and Athletic Access Summer Model. The committee continued its discussion related to an academic preparation, enhancement and summer access model involving both summer school attendance and access for women's basketball student-athletes who initially enroll at the certifying institution. An academic-access model will contribute to the long-term well-being and development of student-athletes, increase the potential of improved academic performance and academic culture, enhance the coach and student-athlete relationship, assist with the acclimation of incoming student-athletes into the collegiate environment and

acknowledge the role basketball plays in allowing student-athlete's to achieve a sense of balance. The academic-access concept is summarized below.

a. Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Division I Women's Basketball Student-Athletes.

- (1) Summer School Attendance Requirement. All incoming freshman and transfer Division I women's basketball student-athletes, who have signed financial aid agreements to receive athletically related financial aid for the ensuing regular academic year, shall be required to attend the institution's summer term prior to initial full-time enrollment. Such student-athletes shall satisfactorily complete a minimum of three hours of acceptable academic degree credit as a prerequisite for eligibility in the fall term, in addition to participating in study skills/life skills education.
 - (a) Consistent with the provisions of Bylaw 14.4.3.4.4, such hours may include remedial courses, provided the courses are prerequisites for specific courses acceptable toward any degree program. Institutions that offer athletically related financial aid would be required to provide financial aid to these women's basketball student-athletes to attend a summer session.
 - (b) The other provisions of Bylaw 15.2.8.1.4 would continue to apply to incoming student-athletes during the summer prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, except that such student-athletes would be permitted to engage in athletics activities as defined below.
- (2) Study Skills/Life Skills Requirement. Institutions must provide such student-athletes study skills/life skills education during the summer session.
- (3) Athletics Activities. Such student-athletes would be permitted to engage in a total of 10 hours of athletics skill-related instruction during the time the student-athletes are enrolled in the summer term.
 - Consistent with the provisions of Bylaw 13.11.3.9, such student-athletes may engage in voluntary summer workouts conducted by the institution's strength and conditioning coach with department-wide duties and may receive workout apparel (on an issuance and retrieval basis).

(4) Exceptions and Waivers.

- (a) An exception would be provided to those institutions that do not offer summer courses to the general student body. However, such institutions would not be provided the summer access component of this model. Further, institutions that offer summer courses, but do not offer athletically related financial aid (e.g., award only need-based aid), would have two options:
 - i. To use the previously noted exception applicable to institutions that do not offer summer courses to the general student body. Institutions electing to use this option would not be required to award summer financial aid, but also would be prohibited from participation in summer access.
 - ii. Institutions electing to participate in the access model would be subject to the mandatory summer aid requirement for those student-athletes who qualify for nonathletically related financial aid to attend the summer session. The summer access provisions of this model would be applicable to those student-athletes enrolled in the requisite minimum number of hours of acceptable degree credit who are receiving nonathletically related financial assistance covering their own cost of summer school.
- (b) A waiver from the application of the mandatory attendance requirements for incoming student-athletes would be available when unique circumstances preclude an incoming student-athlete from attending summer school. A student-athlete receiving a waiver of the mandatory attendance requirement would not be permitted to engage in athletics access during the summer.

b. Continuing Division I Women's Basketball Student-Athletes.

- Summer School Attendance and Athletics Activities. The current legislation relating to summer school attendance for continuing student-athletes would remain the same; however, there would be a provision for athletics activities for those student-athletes enrolled in summer school. Such student-athletes would be permitted to engage in a total of 10 hours of athletics skill-related instruction during the time the student-athlete is enrolled.

- Consistent with the provisions of Bylaw 17.1.6.2.1.1, such student-athletes may engage in voluntary summer workouts conducted by the institution's strength and conditioning coach with department-wide duties and may receive workout apparel (on an issuance and retrieval basis).

(Note: While the committee is supportive of the concepts referenced above, the committee's discussion is still preliminary in nature and it plans to continue to work to further define the terms of the summer academic-access model.)

3. **Discussion and Review of the Mission/Goals/Objectives of the Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee.** The committee discussed several topics related to its mission and goals.
 - a. **Marketing/Growth-of-the-Game Initiatives.** The committee reviewed the various marketing/growth-of-the-game initiatives implemented during the past several years. The committee noted that the marketing and promotion initiatives continue to be a key component in growing the game and a primary focus of the committee.
 - b. **Opportunities to Enhance Regular-Season Media Exposure.** The committee was informed that a representative from ESPN will attend its spring meeting to discuss additional television opportunities for women's basketball. ESPN currently produces an annual one-hour television special entitled "Pride, Passion and Power," which takes an inside look at the past, present and future of women's basketball. The committee was encouraged to forward information on compelling stories for possible inclusion in the television special.
 - c. **Officiating Initiatives.** The committee received an update regarding initiatives relative to the national officiating improvement program, including information on the annual officiating clinics, the Association's investment in additional technology, the championship selection, evaluation and advancement model, expansion of the background check program and the role of the regional advisory committees.
 - d. **Role of the Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee/Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA).** The committee reviewed its history with regard to interaction with the WBCA. The WBCA representative reviewed their organization's process for introducing legislation into the NCAA governance structure and its efforts to play a leadership role within that process. The committee noted its satisfaction with its relationship with the WBCA and how it has evolved over the past several years.

- e. **Identification of Key Women's Basketball Issues/Opportunities and the Committee's Future Strategies.** The committee discussed the various issues/opportunities in women's basketball and strategically discussed future initiatives to be considered by the committee:
 - (1) Financial issues such as resource allocation, revenue and allocation/distribution model, impact of increased travel costs (e.g., institutional, championship) and game guarantees.
 - (2) Marketing and promotional issues (i.e., identification of "what is our best product?"), messaging, positioning, identification of target audiences, opportunities with the WNBA and championship opportunities.
 - (3) Coach well-being and development issues such as retention, career transition of coaches into athletics administration, leadership opportunities to mold/change the culture and opportunities to communicate the positive attributes of the game, development of the next generation of women's basketball leaders and coaches and development and maintenance of individual integrity and core values.
 - (4) On court game development issues such as coaching, officiating, sideline and game behavior.
 - (5) Student-athlete well-being and development issues such as injury prevention, career professional development opportunities in coaching and athletics administration, teaching student-athletes to be role models and team players.
 - (6) Recruiting model/culture issues.
 - f. **Interaction and Collaboration Opportunities with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee.** The committee discussed the difference in its role and that of the Division I Women's Basketball Committee, noting that while their roles differ, the two committees should continue to engage in meaningful communication.
4. **Division I Governance Structure Update.** The committee was updated on its role and responsibilities within the new Division I governance structure, noting that it reports to the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet. Information was provided related to the various cabinets and the NCAA Division I Legislative Council and NCAA Division I Leadership Council and their functions. In reviewing the Leadership Council's August meeting report, the committee noted that there are four primary issues identified by

the NCAA Division I Board of Directors for the Leadership Council to examine over the course of the next year. In addition, the Leadership Council's report also noted other issues that its members plan to examine further. The committee noted that its goals and objectives should support and contribute to the broader division's initiatives. The issues of early recruitment and commitments and professional development for coaches were identified by the Leadership Council as issues for examination and are items that the committee will discuss at a future meetings.

5. **NCAA Sportsmanship Initiatives.** The committee was updated on the Association's sportsmanship initiatives. The staff noted that two surveys had been conducted, one of the public and one of the membership, and both demonstrated several common themes:
 - a. Fans are the most significant contributors to poor sportsmanship;
 - b. Coaches and administrators are responsible for demonstrating good sportsmanship; and
 - c. Administrators believe their role is to develop and enforce expectations for good sportsmanship. The staff also noted that the next steps for conference and institutional leadership are to react to the message/positioning statement and to request the Collegiate Commissioners Association's (CCA) active partnership in the initiative.
6. **NCAA Women's Basketball Event Certification.** The committee was updated on the basketball event certification program and issues associated with the summer and nonscholastic evaluation opportunities. Issues of concern included the continued cost escalation of coaches' packets at evaluation events. The committee agreed to continue to discuss the women's basketball recruiting model and the influences and role of nonscholastic coaches and event operators in the recruiting process. Further, the committee will discuss the timing of the academic year nonscholastic evaluation periods as they relate to the timing of the SAT and ACT and determine if any changes in the legislation are appropriate or necessary.
7. **Youth Basketball Initiative.** The committee was updated on the most recent developments of the youth basketball initiative. Information was shared regarding the identified target groups, the goals and noting the leverage points.
8. **NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Issues Committee Update.** The committee received an overview of the recent meeting of the Men's Basketball Issues Committee.

9. **Future Meetings/Teleconferences.** The committee's next in-person meeting will occur in spring 2009, with teleconferences to be scheduled throughout the year to discuss timely issues.

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