



America East Conference

Student Athlete Advisory Committee Newsletter

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Fall SAAC Meeting November 2-3, 2007 in Boston, MA.

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New National SAAC Representative Elected

Greetings to Everyone of the America East!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new National Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative of the America East Conference. I couldn't be more proud or excited to be representing our fine student athletes and our excellent group of schools.

My name is Alexandra Morley and I am a senior athlete from Buffalo, New York attending the University of Hartford where I am a member of the women's softball program. I major in Business Management while achieving a minor in Communications. I am currently a Co-president of my campus S.A.A.C. and I have been a part of the committee since my freshmen year.



After attending last fall's Regional Leadership Conference in New Jersey, I knew I wanted to become a part of National S.A.A.C.. I have had a strong desire for athletic administration since high school when I participated in a year long internship with the Athletic Director of my hometown district schools. My future goal is to work in the area of college athletics with the dream of someday being an Athletic Director at the college level.

Recently in July I attended my first National S.A.A.C. meeting in Washington, D.C. where I was honored to meet the fellow members and to watch them in action. It was quite a humbling experience to be in the presence of so many intelligent and out-going Division-I student athletes. We had several discussions about best practices at many of the represented conferences as well as areas in some conference S.A.A.C. programs that needed attention. We conversed on many topics that will be further developed on in our future teleconferences and meetings, some of which were in the areas of the NCAA governance structure, negative recruiting, current text-messaging policies, male practice players, GOALS/SCORE studies, as well as the use of student-athletes' names and likenesses.

After attending a very interesting community service event located at the local shelter in downtown Washington, D.C., Division-I S.A.A.C. along with Divisions II and III walked to the mall between the Capitol Building and the Washington Monument. This is where we played the annual kick ball tournament. I am sad to announce that Division-I came in third place after suffering back-to-back losses to D-III and D-II. We are ready for a re-match!

In the upcoming teleconferences I will be given the selected proposals for Division-I National S.A.A.C. members to discuss with our home conferences. It is my duty to get the student-athlete opinion on each proposal from each school in the America East Conference. With this information in mind I will be taking the America East student-athlete opinions to the next D-I National S.A.A.C. meeting on November 15-18 located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The America East conference S.A.A.C. meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on the projected weekend of October 26 and 27. At this meeting we will be getting deeper into the proposal discussions so that I can gain better knowledge of the feelings of our conference. More information about the proposals and the dates of the conference S.A.A.C. meeting will be given in the near future.

I want to conclude with saying once more that I feel privileged to represent the America East. We have outstanding student-athletes and I promise to do my very best to represent all of them the best I can. I wish everyone good-luck in their upcoming athletic seasons.

~Alexandra Morley

Campus Feature: Boston U. SAAC

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Raises \$5,203.95

Boston, MA— At Boston University, they are striving to develop their community based on a shared emotional connection. By doing so, they are able to develop activities that facilitate the most meaningful interactions between its members. They believe that an increased importance of a shared event facilitates a group bond; similar to the anticipation for a championship game can bring together a basketball team. By implementing service activities with strong emotional attachment, BU's SAAC hopes to instill a sense investment in their fellow student-athletes for their collegial and geographical community.

One such illustration of their development occurred last spring when BU unfortunately had a Terrier seriously injured in an apartment fire. Upon hearing of the news, SAAC collectively felt it was their duty to help their fellow athlete and stepped forward to devise a fundraiser to aid the young man. Planning involved sending each sports team to a different BU dorm to collect loose change and highlight the importance of fire safety. It was through the collective comradely of Boston University Athletics that BU's SAAC was able to collect \$3,300 for the athlete. Upon explaining the fundraiser at America the East Conference SAAC Meeting, it was unanimously agreed upon that the member schools in the conference would collect for the fundraiser as well. As a result, BU along with the funds donated from the conference and its member schools, was able to donate a collective \$5,203.95 to date!

Boston University's drive for investment in their developing community by its members is crucial for its success--the community itself becomes more important to someone who has given more time and energy to it. In today's society, building a sense of community may be easy, but it is maintaining this sense of unity that is difficult, hence Boston University continues to utilize community service activities to help build shared emotional connections for its athletes. This fall BU will be working with the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk", Camp Sunshine's Pumpkin Festival, as well as the Boston Medical Center's Halloweentown.

*By: Staci Hannebrink, Solon, Ohio
Boston U. Senior, Women's Golf*



Fall SAAC Meeting



America East Conference SAAC Boston, MA. November 2-3, 2007

This year's Fall America East Conference SAAC meeting will take place on November 2-3, 2007. The meeting will take place at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Boston located across from the Cambridge Side Galleria (links for the hotel and Galleria can be found below).

America East Conference schools have the opportunity to send two student-athlete participants to the meeting along with the institutional SAAC Advisor.

Over the course of the weekend, the group will be taking part in a community service activity on Friday afternoon with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston followed by a social dinner in the evening. A formal business session will be held on Saturday where proposed NCAA Legislation for 2007-08 will be reviewed. Additionally, work to further develop the structure of the America East Conference SAAC will be done including approval of an America East Conference SAAC Handbook.

More information about the meeting will be provided to each advisor with the agenda and materials in the coming weeks.



(<http://www.royalsonestaboston.com/>)
(<http://www.cambridgesidegalleria.com/>)



NCAA National Issues

Cabinet Proposal Protects Athlete Aid

The Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet is sponsoring emergency legislation to amend the bylaws regarding financial aid for student-athletes diagnosed with a medical condition, illness or injury. The cabinet met September 10-12 in Indianapolis.

The emergency legislation would prohibit institutions from reducing or canceling aid to student-athletes during the scholarship term because of any injury, illness or medical condition, regardless of whether it affects the student-athlete's ability to participate with the team during that academic year. The provision applies to pregnant student-athletes and to those with other conditions such as mental illness or eating disorders.

The proposal will go before the Division I Management Council and, possibly, the Division I Board of Directors for adoption this fall. The legislation grew from a Committee on Women's Athletics discussion. NCAA President Myles Brand had charged the CWA with examining the issue of pregnant student-athletes after the media aired stories this spring about student-athletes who signed agreements with their coaches that could affect their athletics aid should they become pregnant.

CWA members determined the issue was not confined to student-athletes who become pregnant, but protections should also exist for student-athletes who suffer from an illness (like mononucleosis or depression) or other medical condition (including eating disorders and addictions) during the term of their scholarships.

Because CWA is not a legislating body, its members referred the issue to the AEC Cabinet's financial aid subcommittee, which developed the emergency legislation. Subcommittee members believe the change will protect student-athletes who experience circumstances outside the scope of a typical sports-related injury and also will promote student-athlete well-being. The CWA plans to develop a toolkit for institutions to use as a guide should a student-athlete become pregnant, and financial aid subcommittee members offered some suggestions for the toolkit and a best-practices document.

In other business, the cabinet reviewed dozens of legislative proposals submitted by the membership. Members agreed to support proposals in the regular legislative cycle that would allow text-messaging with prospective student-athletes who have signed a National Letter of Intent or other written commitment with the institution. Division II will consider similar legislation at the 2008 NCAA Convention in Nashville.

However, the cabinet took a general position in most cases that it would not support any legislation that modified proposals adopted within the last year, preferring instead to monitor how the new rule changes develop. Included in that category are a measure that would add instant-messaging to the list of permitted contact methods with recruits, one that would permit a baseball student-athlete who has never received athletics aid to be eligible for the one-time transfer exception and another that would allow prospective student-athletes to complete two core courses after high school graduation instead of one. The cabinet opposed all three proposals.

Cabinet members also opposed a proposal that would have allowed prospective tennis student-athletes to receive \$10,000 in prize money per calendar year, plus additional money for "actual and necessary expenses" once the recruit reaches the \$10,000 limit. A modification suggesting a "hard cap" at \$10,000 — eliminating the receipt of any additional "actual and necessary expenses" — also received mixed reviews, though a sizable minority did support the alternative. Some members indicated they were concerned about blurring the line between amateurism and professionalism, and others believed it wasn't fair to allow only student-athletes in some sports to receive prize money.

All legislative proposals reviewed by the cabinet will be forwarded to the Management Council for further consideration. The Council will take an initial vote on all legislation the Convention.

Learn more at (<http://www.ncaa.org>)

Or voice your opinion on the **NCAA blog** ! (<http://www.doubleazone.com/>)



Double-A Zone

at

Roundtable Discussion

Roundtable Discussion is a section that contains topics/issues that can be used as conversation starters for campus SAAC meetings

Facebook,

- ◆ Is it being used on your campus?
- ◆ If so is it being used properly and are student athletes acting responsibly?
- ◆ Should policies about facebook be established or issues addressed?



Helpful Links:

- ◆ http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/internetprivacy/2006-03-08-athletes-websites_x.htm
- ◆ http://www.doublezone.com/2006/07/studentathletes_use_facebook_a.html
- ◆ <http://media.www.dailyorange.com/media/storage/paper522/news/2007/09/05/Sports/Berman.Athletes.Finding.Facebook.Has.Its.Consequences-2949993.shtml>

Upcoming Events

October 2-3: Athletic Director's Council Fall Meeting, Boston, MA

October 27: Cross Country Championships, Stony Brook, NY

November 1, 4, 10/11: Women's Soccer Championships, highest seeds in each round

November 2-3: SAAC Fall Meeting, Boston, MA

November 2-4: Field Hockey Championships, highest seed with artificial turf

Nov 10, 14, 17/18: Men's Soccer Championships, highest seeds in each round

Nov 16-17 or 17/18: Volleyball Championships, highest seed

