STATE OF CONNECTICUT ACT REQUIRING FULL DISCLOSURE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES BEING RECRUITED TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In accordance with legislation passed by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut (PA 11-92- SHB 5415), all institutions of Higher Education sponsoring an athletics program must disclose relevant information to prospective student-athletes.

The printable document in PDF form can be located at the following web address:

SUMMARY:
This bill requires Connecticut colleges and universities with intercollegiate athletic programs to disclose certain information to recruited student athletes. Beginning January 1, 2012, any institution with an intercollegiate athletic program that recruits student athletes by soliciting them to apply to, enroll in, or attend the institution for the purpose of participating in intercollegiate athletics must (1) provide a hyperlink entitled "Student Athletes' Right to Know" on the front page of its official athletics website and (2) include a direct link to its web page in any written materials regarding the athletic program that are provided to student athletes. The hyperlink must link to a web page that contains information regarding (1) athletic scholarships, (2) the renewal of and release from scholarships, and (3) sports-related medical expenses.

The bill defines student athletes as individuals who attend a primary or secondary school program of education or an institution of higher education and participate in any interscholastic athletic program in Connecticut, regardless of whether or not they receive a scholarship for doing so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

(1) Athletic scholarship information, including, but not limited to:

(A) The most recent cost of attendance expenses as published by the institution of higher education's financial aid office for the academic year and for the summer school session.

Fairfield University Financial breakdown (Cost of Attendance) is provided through the link below. Summer session costs are based on per credit basis. The sum of these expenses is calculated by the Office of Financial Aid, as set by the Board of Regents.

This information is always available on the Fairfield University website:
http://www.fairfield.edu/admission/fa_overview.html

(B) The sum of expenses identified in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision that are prohibited from inclusion in a full grant-in-aid athletic scholarship pursuant to the NCAA's rules and regulations.
**NCAA Bylaw 15.02.5- Full Grant-in-Aid.-** A full grant-in-aid is financial aid that consists of tuition and fees, room and board, and required course-related books. It does not include other items that the institution typically uses to calculate the cost of attendance, such as transportation and personal expenses.

Those costs associated with the Cost of Attendance such as transportation to and from school, required sickness insurance, health services prescriptions and other personal miscellaneous expenses are NOT INCLUDED in a full grant in aid. Additionally, student-athletes are reminded that costs such as lost library books, parking tickets, bills for dorm damage, lost or stolen ID cards are also NOT INCLUDED in a full grant in aid.

**C) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding whether student athletes will receive athletic scholarships for summer school sessions, and, if so, whether such scholarships are proportional to athletic scholarships received during the regular academic year.**

Summer school athletics grant-in-aid is handled on an individual basis as needed. This aid cannot be used to attend summer school at another institution, nor can this aid exceed the percentage awarded during the regular school term.

All summer school aid must have prior approval from the head coach, Coordinator of Student Programs, Faculty Athletics Representative, and the Director of Athletics.

**(C) The full grant-in-aid athletic scholarship payment received by all student athletes who live on campus during the academic year and off campus during summer school session.**

The full grant-in-aid athletic scholarship payment received by all student-athletes who live on campus during the academic year is comprised of tuition/fees, standard room, standard board and loan of required books. This award is posted to their account through the Office of Financial Aid and paid by the Bursar’s office accordingly.

A full grant-in-aid student-athlete who resides off campus during the summer session may receive an athletics award that is comprised of tuition/fees and loan of required books only.

**(D) The following information relating to NCAA scholarship rules: (i) A verbal commitment is not binding on either the student athlete or the institution; (ii) the National Letter of Intent is a binding agreement between a prospective student athlete and an institution of higher education in which the institution agrees to provide a prospective student athlete, who is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules, athletics aid for one academic year in exchange for the prospective student athlete's agreement to attend the institution for one academic year; (iii) the National Letter of Intent must be accompanied by an institutional financial aid agreement; and (iv) if the prospective student athlete signs the National Letter of Intent but does not enroll at that institution for a full academic year, such student athlete may be subject to specific penalties, including loss of a season of eligibility and a mandatory residence requirement.**
The provisions associated with the National Letter of Intent document that would be signed can be found by following the link below:


If the link does not redirect you correctly, please visit www.nationletter.org and click the “Provisions” tab.

### Athletic Financial Aid Agreement

**2011-2012 Academic Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>ID:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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City, State, Zip | Sport

**Amount of Award:** Award Amount

**Period of Award:** □ academic year □ semester/quarter

**Type:** □ Initial award □ Renewal □ Reduction

_________________________  ____________

(Director of Financial Aid)  (Date)

**Conditions of Financial Aid**

I understand that to qualify for this financial aid, I must

- fulfill the admission requirements of Fairfield University, and
- meet and maintain the eligibility requirements for athletics participation and financial aid established by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), and Fairfield University.

My financial aid will cover the following:

- □ Tuition
- □ Fees
- □ Room & Board
- □ Required course-related books
- □ Percent or fraction of above
NCAA Bylaw 15 restricts the total amount of financial aid a student-athlete can receive. If I receive a federal grant, or additional outside scholarship, I will notify Fairfield University's Department of Financial Aid.

My financial aid will not be increased, reduced, or cancelled during the one-year period of its award on the basis of my athletic ability, performance, or contribution to my team’s success, because of an injury or illness that prevents me from participating in athletics, or for any other athletic reason.

I am aware that the amount of this aid may be immediately reduced or cancelled during the term of this award if:

- I become ineligible for intercollegiate competition (e.g., by carrying less than 12 units);
- I give false or erroneous information on my application, national letter of intent, or financial aid agreement;
- I engage in serious misconduct that results in disciplinary action from this institution; or
- I voluntarily withdraw from the sport for personal reasons.

I am also aware that this aid must be reduced or cancelled if:

- I fail to meet the satisfactory academic progress standards as set by Fairfield University to receive institutional financial aid;
- I sign a professional sports contract for this sport;
- I agree to be represented by an agent:
- I accept monies which cause me to lose my athletic amateur status;
- I receive other aid that causes me to exceed my individual limit; or
- I participate in a Fairfield University study-abroad program for a semester.

International students will have a percentage of their institutional financial aid taxed and withheld per United States tax laws.

My total financial aid may not exceed the limits set by the NCAA and/or affiliated athletics conference.

Please indicate your acceptance of this financial aid by signing this agreement and returning it to:

Joseph Klauder
Associate Athletic Director
Fairfield University
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

___________________________________________
Student-Athlete’s name – please print

___________________________________________  ________________
Student-Athlete’s signature  Date

___________________________________________  ________________
Parent’s signature (if student is a minor)  Date

(F) The policy of the institution of higher education regarding whether or not such institution may choose to sign more recruited student athletes than it has available athletic scholarships and the consequences to the athletic scholarship opportunities of recruited and current student athletes in such situations.

The policy of Fairfield University is to not sign more recruited student-athletes than there are available scholarships.

(2) Athletic scholarship renewal information, including, but not limited to:
(A) The NCAA’s policy regarding scholarship duration.

**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.3.1.1 – One Year Period** - If a student’s athletics ability is considered in any degree in awarding financial aid, such aid shall neither be awarded for a period in excess of one academic year nor for a period less than one academic year.

An athletics grant-in-aid shall not be awarded in excess of one academic year (NCAA By-law 15.02.7).*

**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4 Reduction or Cancellation During Period of Award**

**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.1 Increase Permitted** - Institutional financial aid may be increased for any reason prior to the commencement of the period of the award. Once the period of the award begins, institutional aid may only be increased if the institution can demonstrate that such an increase is unrelated in any manner to an athletics reason.
**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.2.4- Hearing Opportunity**

The institution's regular financial aid authority shall notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for a hearing when institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability is to be reduced or canceled during the period of the award, or is reduced or not renewed for the following academic year. The institution shall have established reasonable procedures for promptly hearing such a request and shall not delegate the responsibility for conducting the hearing to the university's athletics department or its faculty athletics committee. The written notification of the opportunity for a hearing shall include a copy of the institution's established policies and procedures for conducting the required hearing, including the deadline by which a student-athlete must request such a hearing.

**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.2 Reduction or Cancellation Permitted**

Institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may be reduced or canceled during the period of the award if the recipient:

(a) Renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition;

(b) Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement

(c) Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty or

(d) Voluntarily (on his or her own initiative) withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons; however, the recipient's financial aid may not be awarded to another student-athlete in the academic term in which the aid was reduced or canceled. A student-athlete's request for written permission to contact another four-year collegiate institution regarding a possible transfer does not constitute a voluntary withdrawal.

Any reduction or cancellation of aid during the period of the award may occur only after the student-athlete has been provided an opportunity for a hearing.

**NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.3 Reduction or Cancellation Not Permitted**

Institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may not be reduced or canceled during the period of its award:

(a) On the basis of a student-athlete's athletics ability, performance or contribution to a team's success;

(b) Because of an injury, illness, or physical or mental medical condition
(c) For any other athletics reason.

The renewal of any athletic grant in aid is not automatic and it is based on the recommendation from athletics to financial aid that the aid be renewed in any given year. (NCAA Bylaw 15.3.3.1.2)

All athletes will be notified not later than July 1 prior to the upcoming academic year whether the grant has been renewed or not renewed for the ensuing academic year (NCAA Bylaw 15.3.5.1)

(B) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program concerning the renewal or nonrenewal of an athletic scholarship, including circumstances in which a student athlete in good standing suffers a temporary or permanent sports-related injury, there is a change in coaching, or a student athlete's athletic performance is deemed to be below expectations. Any student-athlete who is considered to be in good standing (i.e., eligible under all Fairfield University, MAAC Conference and NCAA rules and in compliance with the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, Fairfield University Code of Conduct as well as any written or agreed upon team rules as set forth by the Coaching staff and Director of Athletics) shall be considered for renewal on an annual basis.

The Student-Athlete Handbook is reviewed and updated on an annual basis and is provided to all student-athletes at the beginning of each academic year at the first team meeting. Please follow the link below to the full 2011-12 Student-Athlete Handbook:


(3) Athletically-related medical expenses information, including, but not limited to:

(A) The NCAA's policy regarding whether athletic programs are mandated to pay for athletically-related medical expenses.

NCAA Institutions must certify insurance coverage for medical expenses resulting from athletically related injuries sustained by student-athletes while participating in a university sponsored and/or sanctioned game or practice (conditioning, weight training, team travel, etc).

(B) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding whether such program will pay for a student athlete's athletically-related medical expenses, including deductibles, copayments and coinsurance, or any such medical expenses that exceed any maximum insurance coverage limits.

(D) The duration of time the institution of higher education's athletic program will continue to pay for athletically-related medical expenses after a student athlete's athletic eligibility expires.

(E) Whether or not an athletic program's medical policy covers expenses associated with attaining a second medical opinion for an athletically-related injury from a physician who is not
associated with the athletic program, and whether the athletic program provides coverage for services provided by such a physician.

All Fairfield University student-athletes must provide evidence of primary insurance coverage that includes coverage for athletically-related injuries. Each student must provide coverage upon entrance to Fairfield as part of their registration each semester.

Below, you will find links providing an explanation of the insurance for the Student-Athlete. It outlines the coverage for Fairfield University Student-Athletes who are involved in athletically related injuries while participating in a university sponsored and/or sanctioned game or practice.


(C) The policy of the institution of higher education's athletic program regarding who is required to pay for any required athletically-related insurance premiums for student athletes who do not have insurance coverage.

Fairfield University requires all registered students to either purchase the University Insurance or provide proof of insurance through their parent or self.

(4) Athletic release information, including, but not limited to:
(A) The NCAA's policy regarding whether an athletic program may refuse to grant an athletic release to a student athlete who wishes to transfer to another institution of higher education.

An athletics program may refuse to grant a release to a student-athlete, if they do they must adhere to the following policy as dictated by NCAA rules:

If the student’s request is denied his or her written request for the release, the institution shall inform the student-athlete in writing that he or she, upon written request, shall be provided a hearing conducted by an institutional entity or committee outside of the athletics department (e.g., the office of student affairs; office of the dean of students; or a committee composed of the faculty athletics representative, student-athletes and non-athletics faculty/staff members).

The institution shall conduct the hearing and provide written results of the hearing to the student-athlete within 15 business days (see NCAA Bylaw 14.02.2) of receipt the student-athlete’s written request for a hearing. The student-athlete shall be provided the opportunity to actively participate (e.g., in-person, via telephone) in the hearing. If the institution fails to conduct the hearing or provide the written results to the student-athlete within 15 business days, the release shall be granted by default and the institution shall provide a written release to the student-athlete (Effective August 1, 2010)

(B) The policy of the postsecondary educational institution's athletic program regarding whether it may refuse to grant an athletic release for a student athlete who wishes to transfer to another
institution of higher education.

The policy at Fairfield University regarding a decision to refuse to grant an athletic release for a student athlete who wishes to transfer to another institution is such that the University will consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to the following: the timeliness of the request, the manner in which the request was received, whether a student-athlete is on scholarship or not on scholarship, the selection of school to transfer to (example: is it in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference?), and any Conference policies that may exist.

All athletes are encouraged to seek consultation with the Office of Compliance regarding transfer should they have specific questions.

(c) Commencing January 1, 2012, an institution of higher education that provides, by any delivery method, written material regarding its athletic program to a student athlete shall include in such materials a direct link to such institution's Internet web page, where the student athlete shall have access to the "Student Athletes' Right to Know" hyperlink and all of the information regarding the institution's athletic scholarship program as provided in subsection (b) of this section.