



FEBRUARY
2012
EDITION



NCAA NEW RULES FOR ATHLETE'S ACADEMIC WELFARE OR WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY: JOHN DICKONS, COLLEGE PLANNING

NCAA New Rules for Athlete's Academic Welfare- or-
What you need to know!

If you are an athlete who is considering using your athletic ability to earn a college diploma, this article will be important to you! As of October, 2011, NCAA changes will benefit student / athletes and their families through three significant initiatives. Representatives of the NCAA and Collegiate Athletics will continue to meet to modify and tweak these new rules, respectively, but this is what you need to know as you begin to consider recruitment and participation at Division I and II colleges. The new NCAA Rules are most significant to athletes playing 'Head Count' sports versus the 'Equivalency' sports. For men, Head Count sports include basketball and football while for women, they include basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and field hockey. For Division III athletics, athletic directors, financial aid officers and most importantly, coaches will consider your welfare as a student-athlete. Carefully explore each university's graduation rate, rate of persistence in playing all four years, and rates of transfer from that college. Do your homework and you will prepare yourself to make good decisions!

For D I & DII, The National Collegiate Athletic Association has developed three, serious, new approaches to improving graduation rates for Division I and II participating athletes. Many of these changes will be gradually applied to allow colleges to make the adjustments to comply.

- **Multi-Year Scholarships** with a "prescribed minimum award value". Previously, athletes would accept a scholarship to participate in an athletic program, but each July, 1, the athlete's scholarship would be considered for renewal based upon vague standards without the NCAA being involved in any manner. Multi-Year scholarships will provide each D-1 & D-II athlete additional certainty to pursue their degree to graduation.

Importantly, student / athletes will be considered for up-to \$2,000 / year to cover additional costs related strictly to meeting the costs of attending such as books.

New Reality: Scholarships continuance will not be based solely on athletic performance!

- **Academic Progress** for each athletic team increases from 900 to 930. Previously, fewer than one-half of participating athletes would be required to graduate. The new, enforced 930 standard will mean that each athletic program must track and graduate a minimum of one-half of athletics participating. If you think this is not a big increase consider this for 2011: UCONN, who won the NCAA Men's Basketball Tourney, would NOT have been allowed to participate. 6 other tournament teams and 8 football, post season participants would NOT have been allowed 'postseason play'!

New Reality: College must replace 4 hours of weekly practice with 4 hours of academic study concentration when they fall behind the new 930 standard.
Hello Study Halls!

- **Eligibility Standards** within the NCAA Eligibility Center to become a Prospective Student Athlete will be raised from a 2.0 to a 2.3. Community college transfers must attain a minimum 2.5 . The 'sliding scales' for D-I & D-2 will reflect these increases. Importantly, the NCAA has moved to remove the 'summer miracle' concept for coaches and students to conspire to fill all academic requirements during a single summer! You must now pre-complete 10 of 16 required courses with 7 in English, Science and mathematics.

New Reality: You must be better prepared for college, but you will go on to graduate!

More information to succeed as both a student and an athlete in our next article!

2012, All rights reserved. John W. Dickson. Email me at

www.collegeplanningassistance.com

