

# Application of the NCAA Division I Interpretations Philosophy

- Circumstances involving health or safety of a SA or PSA.
- Medical expenses for a SA.
- Academic and other support services.
- Assisting SAs with a family emergency.
- Expenses arising due to participation in athletics.
- Team entertainment provided by the institution.
- Nominal benefits from an institution to a SA on an occasional basis.
- Institutionally arranged benefits for SAs at the going rate in the locale (e.g., employment, housing).

- Application of rules requiring evaluation of familial relationships.
- Benefits to SAs (or family members) from teammates (or family members of teammates).
- Determination of countable athletically related activities.
- Limited participation in organized competition with minimal competitive benefit.
- Institutional fundraising activities involving SAs.
- Nominal benefits to PSA-age children of an alumnus who is receiving benefits consistent with institutional practice.

- Academic integrity and eligibility requirements.
- Sports wagering.
- Extra benefits from a representative of athletics interests.
- Involvement with agents and advisors.
- Maximum financial aid limits.
- Application of recruiting legislation absent extraordinary circumstances.
- Application of coaching limits and Individual Associated with a Prospective Student-Athlete (IAWP) legislation.
- Playing season limits (e.g., length of season, number of contests).

More ← Degree of Interpretive Flexibility → Less

- The degree of interpretive flexibility is not intended to suggest that a particular activity or action is either permissible or impermissible. Flexibility is a description of the interpretive approach to an issue, not an indication of outcome.
- Institutions should exercise the utmost flexibility in circumstances involving the immediate health and safety of a student-athlete.
- Categories in the left-hand column are those areas that are outside the intended scope of the legislation or areas where the legislation has been deregulated. Institutions have discretion to take action that a reasonable person would consider appropriate in light of the applicable rule(s) and the relevant circumstances.
- Categories in the middle column are those areas that are not clearly within the intended scope of the legislation (or a previous interpretation) but may provide more than a minimal benefit or advantage. Flexibility is appropriate where a proposed action does not conflict with another rule (or a previous interpretation).
- Categories in the right-hand column are areas where interpretive flexibility is not likely to be appropriate absent extraordinary circumstances.

The following questions may be helpful in determining whether institutional discretion is appropriate. These questions do not represent an exhaustive list and the order is not intended to suggest a hierarchy of importance.

1. Do the circumstances at issue impact the immediate health or safety of a student-athlete?
2. Do the circumstances at issue impact student-athlete success generally (e.g., personal or academic well-being)?
3. Was the legislation intended to address the circumstances at issue?
4. Do the circumstances require a consistent national standard (e.g., recruiting, eligibility, financial aid)?
5. Is the proposed action associated with a recruiting initiative?
6. To what extent does the proposed action provide a recruiting, competitive or other advantage or benefit?
7. Is the proposed action an isolated or limited occurrence?
8. Is there another way to accomplish the intended objective?