

## Analysis of Yearly National Collegiate Athletic Association Team Eligibility Meetings

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The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) core purpose is "...to govern competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner, and to integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount (National Collegiate Athletic Association, 2010a). Consistent with the association's belief in the collegiate sport model, NCAA bylaws are intended to maintain "...a clear line of demarcation between college athletics and professional sports" (National Collegiate Athletic Association, 2009, p. 61). Through its governance and administrative structure the NCAA "[m]aintain[s] a compliance services program that assists members in conducting institutional self-studies through a central resource clearinghouse and counseling agency to answer questions about intercollegiate athletics and athletics administration (National Collegiate Athletic Association, 2010b). In addition, each NCAA division has a manual containing its own set of rules (bylaws) that govern intercollegiate athletic competition.

Each NCAA member institution has a compliance staff whose job it is to insure institutional compliance with NCAA bylaws. One important area of responsibility is insuring athletes' eligibility. For Division-I members the principle governing eligibility is delineated in the Division-I NCAA Manual: "Eligibility requirements shall be designed to assure proper emphasis on educational objectives, to promote competitive equity among institutions and to prevent exploitation of student-athletes" (National Collegiate Athletic Association, 2010, p. 5). NCAA Bylaw Article 12: Amateurism documents the general principles, regulations, and definitions and applications related to athletes' eligibility as college athletes.

This research project's purpose is to gather data regarding the process of insuring individual athletes' eligibility through conducting yearly team eligibility meetings. The sample will consist of a purposeful sample of NCAA Division I, II, and III institutions from various conferences and geographic regions of the United States. Based upon collected data this study hopes to evaluate individual NCAA athletic-department compliance staffs "best practices" regarding presentation of NCAA eligibility bylaws and associated NCAA documents. Through comparison of forms, procedures, and policy implementations, as well as interviews with NCAA compliance directors, the study is intended to provide background context for the development of a reasonable prudent professional (RPP) standard associated with such meetings. It is hoped this study's results may be compared to National Association of Athletics Compliance (NAAC) suggested "best practices" and provide a useful tool for NAAC and NCAA members' professional development.

### References

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