15.4 FINANCIAL AID

15.4.1 Consistent Financial Aid Package. The composition of the financial aid package offered to a student-athlete shall be consistent with the established policy of the institution’s financial aid office, regular institutional agency, office or committee for all students and shall meet all of the following criteria: (Revised: 5/7/07)

(a) A member institution shall not consider athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance as a criterion in the formulation of the financial aid package; (Revised: 8/22/06, 4/30/09)

(b) The financial aid procedures used for a student-athlete are the same as the existing official financial aid policies of the institution;

(c) The financial aid package for a particular student-athlete cannot be clearly distinguishable from the general pattern of all financial aid for all recipients at the institution; and

(d) The percentage of the total dollar value of institutionally administered grants and scholarships (or gift aid) awarded to student-athletes shall be closely equivalent to the percentage of student-athletes within the student body. A differential is defensible if it can be demonstrated that the average need of the student-athletes at the institution is equivalently greater than the average need of other students. (Revised: 4/30/09)

15.4.1.1 Financial Aid Reporting Process. An institution shall submit an annual report that includes data regarding the financial aid packages awarded by the institution to freshmen and incoming transfer student-athletes and to other incoming students. The policies and procedures of the financial aid reporting process shall be established by the Financial Aid Committee and subject to approval by the Management Council. (Adopted: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/05, Revised: 1/9/06, 4/14/08)
The Basics of NCAA Financial Aid Reporting Process

- NCAA initiates financial aid reporting process (2005)

- DIII member institutions are required to participate in the reporting process each academic year

- Allows NCAA to compare financial aid packages (Institutional Gift Aid or IGA) of new freshmen and transfer student-athletes with the aid packages of other freshmen and transfer students with similar need

- Campuses submit report in September of each year

- NCAA notifies campuses of findings in Fall: depending on statistics – process could stretch into March
SUNY and the NCAA Financial Aid Reporting Process

- Over the past four years – four SUNY D-III institutions have been found in violation of NCAA bylaws regarding FA

- In 2012-13 another D-III campus was fully engaged with the NCAA – secondary infraction

- In 2013 – four additional D-III institutions have been engaged with the NCAA on this topic at some level

- In 2014, two institutions have been nipped for having sports or athletics as a criterion for scholarships

- NCAA Compliance – especially in the financial aid area is an institutional responsibility
We need more out of state students!

Cabinet
Out of State tuition is going up!
We need more aid.
Let's increase Aid Packages for out of state students. Criteria: residency, GPA...
This isn't a good idea. Other campuses have tried it and got themselves in trouble.
Don’t worry, this isn’t about athletics.
What Trips the NCAA Wire in DIII?

- 25 major cases in 10 years–18 involved FA (7 M Hockey)
- Athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance shall not be considered for FA packaging
- The FA package for an individual student-athletes shall not be clearly distinguishable from the general pattern of aid for all recipients
- Proportionality – the % of gift aid awarded to student-athletes shall be closely equivalent to the % of all students in the student body
Risks Within the State University

- A coach will tell you s/he can’t attract top recruits because campus X is offering more aid. For NCAA purposes – the FA comparison is between student-athletes and non-athletes at the same campus – not between institutions.

- Some SUNY campuses have recently enhanced or created aid packages that are awarded automatically to all students who meet certain criteria. While these awards are permitted by the NCAA—if not monitored/tracked they become a significant risk. Making awards available to all, even without athletics consideration, is not an acceptable excuse for the NCAA.

- Like many campuses – functional silos exist within admissions, athletics and financial aid. Information is not shared – few campuses are monitoring/tracking aid.
Recommendations for Campuses

- Establish a cross-functional team involving FA, ADM, and athletics

- Ensure policies and procedures are in place to award aid to all students. These policies and procedures should be documented and shared appropriately

- Establish a process to track and monitor financial aid awards and share results from the annual NCAA Financial Aid Report

- Assess the financial aid program vis-a-vis NCAA bylaws

- Make recommendations to adjust the awards process so that overall financial aid packages for student-athletes are consistent and comply with NCAA bylaws.
Special thanks to Dan Tramuta who jumped in to save the day!