Operating Principle - 3.3 Student-Athlete Well-Being

Conducting the intercollegiate athletics program in a manner designed to protect and enhance the physical and educational well-being of student-athletes is a basic principle of the Association.

Consistent with this fundamental principle, the institution shall:

a. Provide evidence that the well-being of student-athletes and the fairness of their treatment is monitored, evaluated and addressed on a continuing basis.
b. Have established grievance or appeal procedures available to student-athletes in appropriate areas.
c. Provide evidence that the institution has in place programs that protect the health of and provide a safe and inclusive environment for each of its student-athletes.

Measurable Standard No. 1

If the institution developed a plan for improvement for Operating Principle 3.3 during Cycle 2, the institution must demonstrate that it has implemented its Cycle 2 plan or provide an explanation for partial completion of the plan.

a. The committee will not accept the following explanations for partial completion or noncompletion:
   1. The institution did not possess sufficient funds to implement the plan.
   2. The institution has had personnel changes since the original development of the plan.
   3. The institution does not have documentation of actions taken to implement the plan.
b. The committee will accept the following explanation for partial completion or noncompletion:
   1. The institution has implemented a different plan(s) or taken a different action(s) to achieve or maintain progress toward the same goal outlined in its Cycle 2 plan.

Measurable Standard No. 2

The institution’s instrument used to conduct student-athlete exit interviews must contain questions related to the following: (Note: Institutions should note the list of examples below is not an exhaustive list and institutions are not limited to addressing only those provided.)

a. The institution’s commitment to the academic success of its student-athletes (e.g., academic support services available, priority registration for classes, coaches’ support).
b. The institution’s commitment to opportunities for student-athletes to integrate into campus life.
c. The institution’s efforts to measure the extent of time demands encountered by student-athletes.
d. The institution’s efforts to measure the effectiveness of the institution’s
mechanisms to monitor time demands of its student-athletes (e.g., travel commitments, missed class time, final exam schedules, and summer vacation periods).

e. The institution’s efforts to measure the effectiveness of the institution’s NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

f. The institution’s commitment to informing student-athletes about the NCAA Special Assistance Fund and NCAA Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund.

g. The institution’s efforts to measure the effectiveness of the institution’s mechanisms (e.g., annual surveys, exit-interview process) to monitor the well-being of its student-athletes.

h. The institution’s commitment to the physical, psychological and emotional health (e.g., athletic training, nutrition, counseling) of student-athletes.

i. The institution’s commitment to the safety (e.g., travel policies, emergency medical plans) of student-athletes.

j. The institution’s commitment to a safe and inclusive environment for all student-athletes.

k. The institution’s commitment to diversity.

l. The value of student-athletes’ athletics experience.

m. The opportunity for student-athletes to suggest proposed changes in intercollegiate athletics.

n. The opportunity for student-athletes to express concerns related to the administration of the sport(s) in which student-athletes participate.

Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 3**

The institution must demonstrate that it conducts exit interviews via in-person meetings and/or conference calls in each sport with a sample of student-athletes (as determined by the institution) whose eligibility has expired in accordance with NCAA Constitution 6.3.2. Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 4**

The institution must have established written grievance and/or appeals procedures for areas mandated by NCAA legislation (i.e., financial aid [in accordance with NCAA Division I Bylaw 15.3.2.4] and transfers [in accordance with Bylaws 13.02.1, 13.1.1.3, 14.0.2.2, 14.5.5.2.10 and 14.5.5.2.10.1]). Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 5**

The institution must demonstrate that grievance and/or appeals procedures for
areas mandated by NCAA legislation (i.e., financial aid [in accordance with NCAA Division I Bylaw 15.3.2.4] and transfers [in accordance with Bylaws 13.02.1, 13.1.1.3, 13.1.1.3.1, 14.02.2, 14.5.5.2.10 and 14.5.5.2.10.1]) are directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to department of athletics staff members, coaches and student-athletes. Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 6**

The institution must have established written grievance and/or appeals procedures for other areas not mandated by NCAA legislation (e.g., harassment, problems with coaches, hazing, abusive behavior). Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 7**

The institution must demonstrate that all grievance and/or appeals procedures for other areas not mandated by NCAA legislation (e.g., harassment, problems with coaches, hazing, abusive behavior) are directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to department of athletics staff members, coaches and student-athletes. Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 8**

The institution must demonstrate that it has an active SAAC pursuant to Constitution 6.1.4. Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 9**

The institution must demonstrate that it has an active CHAMPS/Life Skills program (or an equivalent program) pursuant to NCAA legislation with programming to address nonacademic areas (e.g., career counseling, personal counseling, nutrition, diversity, gambling, alcohol and drug guidelines, sexual orientation, personal development, leadership). Please note, if an institution develops a plan for improvement in this area, the plan must be implemented prior to the completion of the certification process.

**Measurable Standard No. 10**

The institution must have written travel policies that are annually evaluated for
their effectiveness in protecting the health and providing a safe environment for student-athletes. Further, the administrator(s) responsible for annually evaluating travel policies must be identified and travel policies must be directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to athletics department staff members, including coaches, and student-athletes.

**Measurable Standard No. 11**

The institution must have a written emergency medical plan for practices, contests, strength training and skills sessions. Further, the administrator(s) responsible for annually evaluating this emergency medical plan must be identified and the emergency medical plan must be directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to athletics department staff members, including coaches, and student-athletes.

**Measurable Standard No. 12**

The institution must have a written emergency medical plan for out-of-season workouts. Further, the administrator(s) responsible for annually evaluating this emergency medical plan must be identified and the emergency medical plan must be directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to athletics department staff members, including coaches, and student-athletes.

**Measurable Standard No. 13**

The institution must have written athletic training and sports medicine policies that are reviewed annually. Further, the administrator(s) responsible for annually evaluating athletic training and sports medicine policies must be identified and the athletic training and sports medicine policies must be directly communicated in writing (e.g., provide hard copy of document, provide Web link via e-mail) to athletics department staff members, including coaches, and student-athletes.