

October 21, 2013

TO: Dr. Nathan Hatch & the NCAA DI Board of Directors

FROM: National Soccer Coaches Association of America (530 DI Teams)
American Hockey Coaches Association (92 DI Teams)
National Fastpitch Coaches Association (285 DI Teams)
National Wrestling Coaches Association (77 DI Teams)
American Volleyball Coaches Association (383 DI Teams)
College Swimming Coaches Association of America (327 DI Teams)
Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (56 DI Teams)
Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (91 Teams)
College Gymnastics Association (16 DI Teams)
Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association (67 DI Teams)
Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (56 DI Teams)
National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches/Women (62 DI Teams)

SUBJ: PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SPORTS SPONSORSHIP MINIMUMS FROM 16 TO 24 SHOULD A NEW SEGMENT BE CREATED IN DIVISION I.

As representatives of fifty percent of the non-football and basketball coaches working in Division I, we, as a collective group, believe the opportunity to compete in intercollegiate athletics at well-resourced institutions should be extended to more student-athletes.

RECOMMENDATION: If a super division is created within Division I to accommodate the needs of well-resourced schools, raise the minimum sports sponsorship required for membership in that segment from 16 sports to 24 sports, including 10 men's sports, with each sport funded at a minimum of 60% of the NCAA DI financial aid limit.

RATIONALE:

1. Sports sponsorship requirements are already tied to the different segments in DI with BCS schools required to sponsor 16 sports and FCS schools and non-football schools required to sponsor 14 sports. This recommendation extends the principle that those with more resources must sponsor more sports to the new segment.
2. The group of institutions in the super division is under increasing scrutiny in relation to their nonprofit status, with the concern focused largely on compensation for personnel in the net profit sports. Mandating an increase in opportunity for and support of student-athletes in other sports financially links intercollegiate athletics at these institutions with their nonprofit mission while also leveling the funding disparities across Division I.
3. The increase of 50% from 16 to 24 sports is approximately proportional to the median amount the budgets of the super division institutions are larger than the rest of DI. Sixty percent of the financial aid maximum allows for institutional autonomy in choosing

priority sports while still offering quality competitive experiences to significantly more student-athletes.

4. Requiring schools with proportionately more resources to expend those resources on more student-athletes has the best chance of protecting the men's basketball championship as an iconic, 'David-can-beat-Goliath' event.

5. Making sponsorship of 24 sports compulsory will provide presidents and athletics directors with the legislation needed to support broad-based programming, a principle they believe in philosophically, but cannot implement or protect unilaterally.

While it might seem counterintuitive to attempt to control expenditures by mandating growth, in this case it is one of few legal ways to achieve cost control. Prudent decision-making is built into the structure by funding requirements.

Please note that we endorse the concept of an increase in sport sponsorship minimums but are not wedded to the specifics of this proposal. We chose 24 sports based on the median differences between budgets at well-resourced and less-resourced schools, but, for a variety of reasons, 24 may not be the right number. Similarly, we selected 60% of maximum scholarships based on our experience that 60% of aid is the minimum needed to have a chance to compete with fully-funded programs, but, again, we realize that number may need recalibration.

The nonnegotiable principle for those of us representing 50% of DI coaches is that broad-based sports sponsorship is foundational to successful DI intercollegiate athletics.

If you have questions or want clarification on an issue, please contact Kathy DeBoer, Kathy.deboer@avca.org or 859.219.3554. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

cc. Mr. Mark Emmert, President, NCAA
Mr. David Berst, Division I Vice-President
Ms. Jean Frankel, Ideas for Action, LLC