

Interpretations

Spring 1993, Executive Committee determined that all existing staff interpretations be eliminated and that the interpretations issued by the Executive Committee, Administrative Committee and special committee to date be reaffirmed, incorporated into the guidelines for permissible uses of the funds and considered binding. Further, that the responsibility for oversight and administration of the fund, including interpretations, rest solely with the conferences. The following are Executive Committee, Administrative Committee, Ad Hoc Committee and CCACA interpretations.

Medical Expenses

1. Moneys may not be used to pay the premiums for a student-athlete's individual health insurance coverage (beyond that provided by the institution) (5/92 Executive Committee).
2. Payment of medical expenses for a student-athlete's son or daughter is not permissible (5/92 Executive Committee).
3. Payment for noncosmetic dental expenses is permissible (5/92 Executive Committee).
4. A student-athlete who is injured in a pick-up game during the summer is eligible for the funds, provided the student-athlete was enrolled in summer school (7/92 Administrative Committee).
5. Payment for drug or alcohol counseling is permissible (5/92 Executive Committee).
6. ~~Payment of emergency dental surgery (e.g., wisdom tooth removal) is permissible (2/93 Staff). Deleted due to spring 1993 Executive Committee action.~~
7. ~~Payment for an abortion is not permissible unless the mother's life was in danger (5/92 Staff). Deleted due to spring 1993 Executive Committee action.~~
8. Purchase of disability insurance to protect against the loss of potential future professional sports earnings is not permissible (3/93 Advisory Committee).
9. Payment of medical expenses for a student-athlete who is forced to withdraw during the academic year due to medical reasons (athletic or nonathletics) is permissible (12/93 CCA).
10. The fund may be used to purchase health insurance (10/13/99, 10/13/97, 10/14/96 CCACA).
11. The fund may be used to purchase primary insurance for a student-athlete who is not covered by his/her parent's insurance (11/10/97 CCACA).
12. Fund may be utilized to cover prenatal expenses associated with a student-athlete's pregnancy, provided the student-athlete's health insurance does not cover such expenses (10/13/97 CCACA).
13. The fund may be used to rent a golf cart for an injured student-athlete only if any injured student has the opportunity to rent a golf cart through the institution (2/19/96 CCACA).

Student-Athlete/Family Emergency Expenses

1. Payment for car repairs to enable a student-athlete's spouse to drive to job interviews is not permissible (5/92 Executive Committee).
2. In reference to a Chronicle of Higher Education Article, agreed the fund could not be used for baby-sitting expenses for a student-athlete's child (3/21/95 CCACA).

Expendable/Nonexpendable Academic Course Supplies

1. Payment for required course-related books is not permissible, as the fund should

not be used as a source of awarding permissible institutional aid (1991-92 revenue distribution plan).

2. ~~Purchase of a judo outfit required for physical education class is not permissible. Only permissible if the judo outfit was rented for the duration of the class (1/93 Staff).~~ Deleted due to spring 1993 Executive Committee action.
3. ~~Purchase of engineering instruments that are required for an engineering major is not permissible (1/93 Staff).~~ Deleted due to spring 1993 Executive Committee action.
4. The fund cannot be used to purchase a computer for another department on-campus that would then be rented by a student-athlete using the fund (11/8/95 CCACA).
5. Agreed the fund could be used to purchase recommended, as opposed to required, books (9/12/95 CCACA).
6. It was agreed that supplies were not part of a grant-in-aid and, like other Bylaw 16 items, may be provided using the Special Assistance Fund for Student-Athletes at an institution's discretion.

It was noted that institutions are still encouraged to pay for benefits that NCAA rules permit without using the SAFSA. The SAFSA is not meant to supplement an institution's budget to pay for items it could otherwise pay for under NCAA rules. One suggestion: If an institution doesn't otherwise pay for supplies for its student-athletes, the SAFSA may be used. If an institution does pay for supplies for its student-athletes, it should not use the SAFSA. (Would you like ice skates with that?) (9/4/02, CCACA)

Clothing and Essential Expenses

1. Permissible for student-athletes to use the fund to purchase clothing for their children (12/6/96 CCACA).

Eligibility

1. ~~Fifth-year student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility are not eligible for the fund (5/92 Executive Committee).~~
2. Fifth-year student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility and student-athletes no longer able to participate in athletics due to medical reasons may receive assistance from the fund (3/16/94 Administrative Committee).
3. Nonqualifiers and partial qualifiers are not eligible for the fund during their first academic year of residence (5/92 Executive Committee).
4. ~~Student-athletes that attend Division I institutions that play Division III football are eligible for the fund (9/91 NCAA Ad Hoc Committee).~~ Irrelevant as Division I institutions can no longer sponsor Division III football.
5. A Division I institution that is in its first full year of membership is eligible for the funds at the discretion of the conference office, noting that the institution would not have been included in the calculation for the fund allocation (9/91 NCAA Ad Hoc Committee).
6. Student-athletes are eligible for the fund during summer school enrolled as either a full- or part-time student (7/92 Administrative Committee).

General

1. The monies may not be used for administrative purposes (1991-92 revenue distribution plan).
2. An institution is not obligated to award its entire fund each year; if funds remain at

the end of the year, a conference could choose to pool these moneys and use them for any of its member institutions. ~~An institution or conference may accumulate no more than three times the average amount of its allocation over the previous three-year rolling period.~~(1991-92 revenue distribution plan). A conference may accumulate no more than the total allocation received over the previous two years. The conference will not receive any additional dollars if it has exceeded the two-year cap amount. (1995-96 revenue distribution plan).

3. May not use the moneys to pay for room and board expenses for a student-athlete who does not go home during a vacation period, regardless of whether the student-athlete is required to remain on campus for practice or competition (5/92 Executive Committee).
4. All funds received by a student-athlete must be reported as income to the IRS for tax purposes, except supplies (9/91 NCAA Ad Hoc Committee).
5. Administration of the funds with regard to actual payment and accountability will be at the discretion of the conference office (Executive Committee).
6. Permissible for an institution to transfer funds from one conference to another if the institution is changing conference affiliation. However, this action is at the discretion of the conference office (7/92 Administrative Committee).
7. Institution cannot use general operating expenses if it depletes its fund, but can borrow against next year's allotment (4/14/97 CCACA).
8. Fund should not be used to provide diagnostic testing for student-athlete inasmuch as it is permissible for an institution to provide diagnostic testing under NCAA legislation (12/9/98 CCACA).
9. Agreed it would not be permissible to purchase sports equipment through the fund if institutions otherwise pay for such items (4/7/98 CCACA).
10. Permissible for a student-athlete to use the special assistance fund during the summer months provided the student-athlete was eligible for funds during the previous academic year (6/9/97 CCACA).
11. The fund may be used for expenses incidental to participation. However, an institution should request an incidental expense waiver prior to using the fund for these purposes (10/14/96 CCACA).
12. Agreed that a student-athlete who had medical expenses spring 1995 but was not eligible for the fund at the time could use the fund fall 1995 to pay those expenses provided the student-athlete is now eligible for the fund (10/24/95 CCACA).
13. Agreed it is not permissible to use the fund to pay for a foreign student-athlete's tax liability (6/13/95 CCACA).
14. It was the sense of the group that failure to retain the receipts would not be an NCAA violation, but it would make it difficult for an institution to verify that the SAFSA was spent properly. (3/3/04, CCACA)