

**"Fining" Student-Athletes
Information Related to Reducing Athletically Related Financial Aid
or Other Awards, Benefits and Expenses Provided by the Institution**

This information is intended to assist with analyzing situations asserting that NCAA Division I institutions have instituted programs permitting them to "fine" student-athletes for not complying with team or athletics department policies by reducing their athletically related financial aid or other benefits provided by the institution.

An institution is prohibited from setting forth an athletically related condition that would permit the institution to reduce or cancel the student-athlete's athletically related financial aid during the period of the award. The rules protecting a student-athlete's athletically related financial aid apply regardless of whether the aid is provided for tuition/fees, room, board, books or other expenses related to attendance at the institution.

Please note there are limited circumstances in which an institution is permitted, but not required, to reduce or cancel athletically related financial aid (e.g., student-athlete renders himself or herself ineligible for competition). In those circumstances, the institution's regular financial aid authority is required to notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for a hearing and provide a copy of the institution's established policies and procedures for conducting the required hearing, including the deadline by which the student-athlete must request such a hearing. The student-athlete must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before any reduction or cancellation of the aid may occur.

Additionally, an institution is permitted to include nonathletically related conditions (e.g., compliance with academics policies or standards, compliance with athletics department rules or policies) in a financial aid agreement. As with the other circumstances, the opportunity for a hearing must be provided before athletically related financial aid may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award.

Finally, programs that attempt to reduce a student-athlete's athletically related financial aid are not the only "fine" programs that have been mentioned. Other programs appear to operate by reducing the awards, benefits or expenses the student-athlete receives from the institution. Institutions are permitted to provide a variety of awards, benefits and expenses, including academic and other support services, medical expenses, expenses for practice and competition, awards, complimentary admissions/tickets and meals and other benefits incidental to the student's participation in intercollegiate athletics. While institutions have discretion related to providing many of these awards, benefits and expenses, the intent is that once an institution decides to provide them, they are provided consistently (as opposed to being reduced based on a student's adherence to team or athletics department policies).