



**Proposal Number:** RWG-16-5

**Title:** AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES -- PERMISSIBLE BENEFITS -- STUDENT-ATHLETE'S FAMILY MEMBERS

**Intent:** To revise particular references to a student-athlete's "spouse," "parents" or "children" in Bylaw 16 to "family members"; further, to permit a student-athlete's family members to receive benefits, as specified.

**A. Bylaws:** Amend 12.1.2.4.10, as follows:

12.1.2.4.10 Exception for ~~Family Travel to Olympic Games~~ **Benefits to Family Members -- National Team Competition**. A commercial company (other than a professional sports organization) or members of the local community may provide actual and necessary expenses for an individual's ~~spouse, parents, legal guardians or other relatives~~ **family members** to attend ~~the Olympic Games~~ **national team competition** in which the student-athlete will participate. **In addition, an individual's family members may receive nonmonetary benefits provided to the family members of all national team members in conjunction with participation in national team competition.**

**B. Bylaws:** Amend 16.02.3, as follows:

16.02 Definitions and Applications.

[16.02.1 through 16.02.2 unchanged.]

16.02.3 Extra Benefit. An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's ~~relative~~ **family member** or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students or their ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

**16.02.4 Family Member. A family member is an individual with any of the following relationships to a student-athlete: spouse, parent or legal guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, domestic partner or any individual whose close association with the student-athlete is the practical equivalent of a family relationship.**

[16.02.4 renumbered as 16.02.5, unchanged.]

**C. Bylaws:** Amend 16.1.7, as follows:

16.1.7 Expenses to Receive Noninstitutional Awards.

[16.1.7.1 unchanged.]

16.1.7.2 Established Regional, National or International Awards. It is permissible for an outside organization (other than a professional sports organization) to provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to travel to a banquet designed to recognize the individual's accomplishments as an athlete in order for the student-athlete to receive an established regional, national or international award (permitted by NCAA legislation). The outside organization also may provide actual and necessary expenses for the student-athlete's ~~spouse, parents or other relatives~~ **family members** to attend the recognition event. [R]

[16.1.7.3 unchanged.]



16.1.7.4 Conference Awards. A conference or its member institutions may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to travel to the conference office or other site to receive a conference award. In addition, the conference may provide actual and necessary expenses for the student-athlete's ~~parents (or legal guardians) and spouse~~ **family members** to attend the presentation of the conference's male or female "athlete of the year" award to the student-athlete, provided not more than one male and one female student-athlete receive such an award per academic year. The conference also may provide actual and necessary expenses for the student-athlete's ~~parents (or legal guardians) and spouse~~ **family members** to attend the presentation of conference academic awards to the student-athlete, provided the academic awards are presented on a regular basis in recognition of outstanding academic achievement. [R]

**D. Bylaws:** Amend 16.2.1.3, as follows:

16.2.1.3 Institution's Home Events in Other Sports.

[16.2.1.3.1 unchanged.]

16.2.1.3.2 Complimentary Admissions to an Institution's Home Contest Honoring a Student-Athlete. An institution may provide a maximum of four complimentary admissions to a student-athlete for an institution's game or event during which a student-athlete is being honored but not participating, provided such complimentary admissions are used by the student-athlete's ~~parents (or legal guardians) and/or spouse~~ **family members**. [R]

**E. Bylaws:** Amend 16.6, as follows:

16.6 Expenses for Student-Athlete's Friends and ~~Relatives~~ **Family Members**.

16.6.1 Permissible. An institution may not provide any expenses to a student-athlete's ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends, except as permitted in Bylaws 16.6.1 and 16.11. [R]

[16.6.1.1 unchanged.]

16.6.1.2 Family Lodging at Postseason Events. An institution may reserve or secure lodging at any postseason event (other than a conference event) at a reduced or special rate for the ~~parents (or legal guardians) and immediate~~ family **members** of a student-athlete who is a participant. It is not permissible for an institution to cover any portion of the cost of lodging, including any cost associated with reserving or securing lodging. [R]

16.6.1.3 ~~Life-Threatening~~ Injury or Illness. The institution may pay transportation, housing and meal expenses for a student-athlete's ~~parents (or legal guardians) and spouse~~ **family members** and any other student-athlete to be present in situations in which a student-athlete suffers a ~~an life-threatening~~ injury or illness, or in the event of a student-athlete's death, to provide such expenses in conjunction with funeral arrangements. [R]

16.6.1.3.1 Family Member of Student-Athlete. An institution may pay transportation, housing and meal expenses for a student-athlete's ~~spouse and children~~ **family members** and any other student-athlete to be present in situations in which a family member ~~or legal guardian~~ of the student-athlete suffers a ~~an life-threatening~~ injury or illness, or in the event of a ~~family member's or legal guardian's~~ **such an individual's** death, to provide the student-athlete's ~~spouse and children~~ **family members** and any other student-athlete with such expenses in conjunction with funeral arrangements. [R]

16.6.1.4 ~~Olympic Games~~ **National Team Competition** -- Family Benefits. A commercial company (other than a professional sports organization) or members of the local community may provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete's ~~spouse, parents, legal guardians or other relatives~~ **family members** to attend ~~the Olympic Games~~ **national team competition** in which the student-athlete will participate. In addition, family members of student-athletes may receive nonmonetary benefits provided to the family members of all ~~Olympic~~



national team members in conjunction with participation in ~~the Olympic Games~~ national team competition. [R]

16.6.1.5 Reasonable ~~Refreshments~~ **Food and Drinks**. An institution may provide the family **members** (~~e.g., parents or legal guardians, relatives~~) of a student-athlete with reasonable ~~refreshments (e.g., soft drinks, snacks)~~ **food and drinks** in conjunction with educational meetings or celebratory events (e.g., senior night) and on an occasional basis for other reasons. [R]

16.6.1.6 Complimentary Admissions to Institutional Awards Banquets. An institution may provide complimentary admissions to an institutional awards banquet for the ~~spouse and children~~ **family members** of any student-athlete being honored at the banquet. [R]

~~16.6.1.6.1 One-Time Exception—Parents or Legal Guardians. On one occasion during the final academic year of a student-athlete's athletics eligibility, an institution may provide complimentary admissions for the student-athlete's parents or legal guardians to attend an institutional awards banquet at which the student-athlete is being honored.~~

**F. Bylaws:** Amend 16.11.1, as follows:

16.11.1 Permissible.

16.11.1.1 General Rule. Receipt of a benefit (including otherwise prohibited extra benefits per Bylaw 16.11.2) by student-athletes, their ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends is not a violation of NCAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students and their ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends.

[16.11.1.2 through 16.11.1.11 unchanged.]

16.11.1.12 Miscellaneous Benefits. An institution may provide or arrange for the following benefits for a student-athlete: [R]

[16.11.1.12-(a) through 16.11.1.12-(c) unchanged.]

(d) Occasional meals to team members provided by ~~the parent of a student-athlete~~ **student-athlete's family member** at any location;

[16.11.1.12-(e) unchanged.]

(f) Reasonable tokens of support and transportation, housing and meal expenses in the event of serious injury, serious illness, or death of a family member or teammate;

(g) Fundraisers for student-athletes (or their ~~immediate~~ family members ) under the following extreme circumstances:

[Remainder of 16.11.1 unchanged.]

**G. Bylaws:** Amend 16.11.2, as follows:

16.11.2 Nonpermissible.

16.11.2.1 General Rule. The student-athlete shall not receive any extra benefit. The term "extra benefit" refers to any special arrangement by an institutional employee or representative of the institution's athletics interests to provide the student-athlete or his or her ~~relatives~~ **family members** or friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. [R]

[Remainder of 16.11.2 unchanged.]



**Source:** NCAA Division I Board of Directors (Working Group on Collegiate Model -- Rules)

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2013

**Category:** Amendment

**Topical Area:** Awards, Benefits and Expenses

**Rationale:** As a result of the Presidential Retreat in August 2011, the Collegiate Model ? Rules Working Group was formed and charged with reviewing current Division I rules with a view toward reducing the volume of unenforceable and inconsequential rules that fail to support the NCAA's enduring values, and emphasizing the most strategically important matters. This proposal is part of a package recommended by the Rules Working Group designed to accomplish those objectives. This proposal replaces the current and varying legislative references to various relatives with a broader definition for individuals who would be permitted to receive identified benefits in conjunction with the student-athlete experience. This concept includes nontraditional families, yet maintains a regulatory level that encourages a shared responsibility between student-athletes and institutions. An institution is in the best position to determine who in a student-athlete's life is a family member. Because this proposal maintains a level of legislative definition, it will continue to minimize undue pressures from third parties. Further, the modifications to the particular benefits enhance the student-athlete experience by providing greater opportunities for members of a student-athlete's family to share in the student-athlete's success and to be present during injury or illness.

**Budget Impact:** Will vary.

**Impact on Student-Athlete's Time (Academic and/or Athletics):** None.

**Position Statement(s)**

none

**History**

*Aug 15, 2012:* Submit; Submitted for consideration.

*Jan 19, 2013:* Board of Directors, Sponsored

*Jan 19, 2013:* Board Review, Adopted

*Jan 20, 2013:* Adopted, Override Period; Start of Override Period

*Mar 20, 2013:* Adopted, Override Period; End of Override Period