



# Idaho State University

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Athletics Financial Aid

#### ISUPP 8030

#### *POLICY INFORMATION*

**Policy Section:** *Athletics*

**Policy Title:** *Athletics Financial Aid*

**Responsible Executive (RE):** *Director of Athletics*

**Sponsoring Organization (SO):** *Department of Athletics*

**Dates: Effective Date:** *March 19, 2013*

**Revised:** *May 23, 2016*

**Review Date:** *May 2021*

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

An athletic grant-in-aid is a privilege earned by academic and athletic promise and by continued performance in both areas. The Department of Athletics (Department) provides equal educational opportunities, services, and benefits to Student-Athletes without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status. All National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Big Sky Conference, Idaho State University (ISU), and *National Letter of Intent* regulations and guidelines will be followed. An athletic grant-in-aid is offered for one year only, and ISU has the option to renew a grant-in-aid at the end of the award period.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Student-Athlete:** student whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the Department staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student's ultimate participation in the intercollegiate athletics program. Any other student becomes a Student-Athlete only when the student reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the Department. A student is not deemed a Student-Athlete solely on the basis of prior high school athletics participation (see NCAA Bylaw 12.02.12)

- B. **Financial Aid:** funds provided to Student-Athletes from various sources to pay or assist in paying their cost of education at the institution (see NCAA Bylaw 15.02.4).
- C. **Full Grant-in-Aid:** Financial Aid that consists of tuition and fees, room and board, and course required books (see NCAA Bylaw 15.02.5).
- D. **Renewal:** of Financial Aid based in any degree on athletics ability shall be made on or before July 1 prior to the academic year in which it is to be effective. ISU shall promptly notify in writing each Student-Athlete who received an award the previous academic year and who has eligibility remaining in the sport in which Financial Aid was awarded the previous academic year whether the grant has been renewed or not renewed for the ensuing academic year. Notification of Financial Aid Renewals and non-renewals must come from ISU's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships and not from the Department (see NCAA Bylaw 15.3.5).

### III. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Department award Financial Aid to Student-Athletes through the Financial Aid Office at ISU.
- B. An athletic grant-in-aid can be reduced or canceled upon the recommendation of the head coach and approved by the AD during the period award (see NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4).
- C. A newly issued athletic grant-in-aid can be canceled if the Student-Athlete does not meet Department academic standards for participation as established by the Department following guidelines set by the NCAA and ISU admission requirements
- D. An athletic grant-in-aid may be reduced or canceled if the Student-Athlete (see NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4):
  - 1. Becomes ineligible for intercollegiate competition,
  - 2. Provide false information on any Department form,
  - 3. Engage in serious misconduct that brings disciplinary action,
  - 4. Voluntarily withdraws for personal reasons,
  - 5. Becomes academically ineligible at the conclusion of any two semesters
- E. An athletic grant-in-aid must be reduced or canceled if the Student-Athlete:
  - 1. Signs a professional sports contract in the sport he or she competes,
  - 2. Agrees to be represented by an agent,
  - 3. Receives aid that exceeds personal limits,

4. Is not enrolled at least 12 credits per semester unless an exception is granted for the final semester as allowed by NCAA Bylaw 14.1.

#### **IV. PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT**

- A. Head coaches and their staff identify prospective Student-Athletes and transfer Student-Athletes that will be offered athletic Financial Aid.
  1. For incoming freshmen, an issued *National Letter of Intent (NLI)* must be issued with a *Tender of Financial Aid*.
  2. For transfer Student-Athletes who are transferring from a two-year institution (also known as a 2-4 or 4-2-4 transfer) that have not graduated or who are transferring from a four-year institution (also known as 4-4 transfer) will be offered a *Tender of Financial Aid* only.
  3. For transfer Student-Athletes who have graduated from a two-year institution and have not signed an *NLI* can be issued an *NLI* and a *Tender of Financial Aid*.
- B. Head coaches and their staff identify current Student-Athletes without athletic Financial Aid (walk-ons) that will be offered athletic Financial Aid and issue a *Tender of Financial Aid*.
- C. Athletic Financial Aid Renewal Process (see NCAA Bylaw 15.3)
  1. Each Student-Athlete who received an award the previous academic year and who has eligibility remaining in the sport in which Financial Aid was awarded the previous academic year must have the athletic Financial Aid renewed, non-renewed, increased, or reduced by July 1 of each year.
    - a. Reduction/Nonrenewal
      - i. The head coach determines if there is just cause for reduction or nonrenewal of athletic Financial Aid.
      - ii. All canceled or reduced athletic Financial Aid correspondence must be issued by the ISU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
    - b. Increase
      - i. Athletic Financial Aid may be increased for any reason at any time as defined in NCAA Bylaw 15.
      - ii. The head coach in consultation with the assistant athletic director/university business officer determines if there is just cause for an increase of athletic Financial Aid.

2. All renewed, non-renewed, increased, or reduced athletic Financial Aid correspondence must be issued by the ISU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
  3. Coaches should discuss with their Student-Athletes the athletic Financial Aid Renewal, nonrenewal, increase or reduction before leaving campus or going home for the summer.
- D. Change in Financial Aid Status During Period of Award (see NCAA Bylaw 15.3)
1. Reduction/Cancellation
    - a. The director of athletics, after consultation with the head coach, the assistant athletic director/university business officer, and the assistant athletic director for compliance, determines if there is just cause for reduction or cancelation of athletic Financial Aid.
    - b. All canceled or reduced athletic Financial Aid correspondence must be issued by the ISU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
  2. Increase
    - a. Athletic Financial Aid may be increased for any reason at any time as defined in NCAA Bylaw 15.
    - b. After consultation with the head coach, the assistant athletic director/university business officer, and the assistant athletic director for compliance, the director of athletics approves the increase, and the recommendation will be sent to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for a final decision and issuance of the recommended increase.
- E. Appeal
1. A Student-Athlete has the right to appeal a change in Financial Aid status to the Financial Aid Committee. The notification letter from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will outline the terms the Student-Athlete should follow regarding the appeal. For a more detailed explanation, see the Student-Athlete grievance procedure in the *Student-Athlete Handbook*.
  2. Student-Athlete must put their appeal in writing within ten (10) days of the date of notification. It must be given to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
- F. Summer School Aid (see NCAA Bylaw 15.2.8)
1. Returning Student-Athletes on Financial Aid can receive summer school aid up to the proportion of their annual athletic Financial Aid equivalency.
  2. The following conditions apply to the awarding of athletically related Financial Aid to a prospective Student-Athlete (including a prospective Student-Athlete not certified by

the NCAA Eligibility Center as a qualifier) to attend ISU in the summer prior to the prospective student's initial, full-time enrollment at ISU.

- a. The recipient is admitted to ISU in accordance with regular, published entrance requirements.
- b. The recipient is enrolled in a minimum of six hours of academic course work (other than physical education activity courses) that is acceptable degree credit toward any of ISU's degree programs.
- c. The recipient, if recruited, is subject to NCAA transfer provisions pursuant to NCAA regulations, unless admission to ISU as a full-time student is denied.
- d. During the summer term or orientation period, the recipient shall not engage in any countable athletically related activities except for those activities specifically permitted in bylaws 13 and 17 of the NCAA.
- e. Summer coursework is not used for the purpose of completing initial-eligibility or continuing-eligibility (transfer eligibility, progress toward degree) requirements. However, the hours earned during the summer prior to full-time enrollment at ISU may be used to satisfy the applicable progress-toward-degree requirements in following year.

#### G. Post-Eligibility Aid (Fifth-Year Aid)

1. Student-Athletes on athletic aid who have exhausted eligibility can apply for Financial Aid.
2. The Student-Athlete must be within five years of initial enrollment and must be within 24 credits of graduation with a minimum GPA of 2.0.
3. All completed applications are reviewed by the 5th -Year Aid Review Committee and awards based on available funds.

#### H. Athletic Financial Aid after Career-Ending Injury

1. Student-Athletes on athletic aid that are unable to compete athletically in any further events or games due to an injury sustained during practice, competition, or ISU sponsored travel will have their athletic Financial Aid continued for the award period evaluated at the end of each semester.
2. To continue to receive athletic Financial Aid, the Student-Athlete
  - a. will adhere to Department academic standards
  - b. provide service to the Department for not more than 20 hours per week
  - c. sign a medical/noncounter Financial Aid contract each semester

- d. sign and agree to the terms of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct
  - e. submit a graduation plan to the Student Support Center with any changes made to the plan approved by the Student Support Center.
3. If an injured Student-Athlete has recovered sufficiently to compete according to ISU's medical staff and chooses not to participate, ISU's obligation to provide athletic Financial Aid may be terminated.