

### 11.2.1 General Policies Regarding Scholar-Athlete Awards

The University's current academic standards for admission and the determination of initial and continuing eligibility will not be altered by the offering of Scholar-Athlete Awards (SAA). Only student-athletes who have been admitted or have been reviewed by the Admissions Office and are of an admissible level may be offered a SAA.

SAA's are awarded for a one-year period per NCAA rules. Student-athletes are limited to 5 years of eligibility, and are not eligible to continue receiving the SAA thereafter.

NCAA Division II rules cap the amount of aid at the value of a full grant-in-aid. A full grant-in-aid is based on the following elements: registration fees, tuition, room (based on average), meals based on the highest meal plan the university offers and book (\$800 per NCAA rules). NCAA Bylaw 15.02.5.

SAA's are for use during the regular academic year; not as summer school aid. Any potential awarding of aid for summer will be a separate awards process.

Administration of SAA's will meet the rules and regulations of UC San Diego, the NCAA and all applicable conference affiliates.

Student-athletes who receive a SAA must maintain full-time status (12 units), unless an exception applies. A student-athlete who is enrolled in less than 12 units must be in his/her final quarter and graduating at the end of that term. He/she must have certification on file with the Athletics Department that he/she is enrolled in the final units necessary for his/her degree in order to receive the SAA.

A SAA requires maintaining a cumulative UC-GPA of 2.6 or greater, which is checked annually prior to the start of the fall quarter.

### 11.2.2 Changes to Scholar-Athlete Awards During the Period of the Award, including Cancellations, Increases or Reductions

Policy:

*Cancellation/Reduction:* A Head Coach recommending the Scholar-Athlete Award of a student-athlete be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award is responsible for discussing the reasons with the student-athlete. The Head Coach will need to document the meeting with the student-athlete and include in the documentation, the reasons for the reduction or cancellation of grant-in-aid. If a student-athlete has been dismissed from a team, the Head Coach has the responsibility to still inform the student-athlete of the reduction or cancellation of aid. This may occur in conjunction with the dismissal from the team. If the student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from the team, the Coach is still responsible to inform the student-athlete of a

reduction/cancellation of aid. The Sport Supervisor is responsible for contacting the student to request he/she sign a voluntary withdrawal form.

*Increase:* If a Head Coach is recommending a student-athlete's Scholar-Athlete Award be increased during the period of the award, it must be for non-athletically related reasons per NCAA Division II Bylaw 15.3.4.2.

Below are excerpts of the NCAA rules that govern when cancellations, increases, reductions, and initial awards of the Scholar-Athlete Award during the period of the award are permissible/impermissible:

#### *15.02.6 Period of Award.*

The period of award begins when the student-athlete receives any benefits as part of the student-athletes grant-in-aid on the first day of classes for a particular academic term, or the first day of practice, whichever is earlier, until the conclusion of the period set forth in the financial aid agreement. An athletics grant-in-aid shall not be awarded in excess of one academic year.

#### *15.3.4.1 Reduction or Cancellation Permitted.*

Institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may be reduced or canceled during the period of the award, if the recipient:

- a) Renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition;
- b) Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement (see Bylaw 15.3.4.1.2);
- c) Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty (see Bylaw 15.3.4.1.3); or
- d) Voluntarily withdraws from a sport at any time for personal reasons; however, the recipient's financial aid may not be awarded to another student-athlete in the term in which the aid was reduced or canceled. Further, if the financial aid is canceled before a regular academic term (e.g., preseason practice period), the aid may not be provided to another student-athlete during the ensuing academic term.

#### *Bylaw 15.3.4.1.1 Nonathletically Related Conditions.*

An institutional financial aid agreement may include nonathletically related conditions (e.g., compliance with academic policies or standards, compliance with team rule or policies) by which the aid may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award.

*NOTE: The 2.6 cumulative UC-GPA requirement is an annual requirement and is not a condition for cancellation or reduction during the period of the award. However, if a student's cumulative UC-GPA falls below 2.0, he/she has rendered himself/herself ineligible under UCSD and potentially CCAA and NCAA rules.*

*This is grounds for a potential reduction or cancellation of aid during the period of the award under NCAA rules.*

*NOTE: Adherence to the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and team rule are non-athletically related conditions and grounds for reduction or cancellations of athletics aid.*

#### *15.3.4.1.2 Fraudulent Misrepresentation.*

If a student-athlete is awarded institutional financial aid on the basis of declaring intention to participate in a particular sport by signing a letter of intent, application or tender, action on the part of the grantee not to participate (either by not reporting for practice or after making only token appearances as determined by the institution) would constitute fraudulent misrepresentation of information on the grantee's application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement and would permit the institution to cancel or reduce the financial aid.

#### *15.3.4.1.3 Misconduct.*

An institution may cancel or reduce the financial aid of a student-athlete who is found to have engaged in misconduct by the university's regular student disciplinary authority, even if the loss-of-aid requirement does not apply to the student body in general.

#### *15.3.4.2 Increase Permitted.*

Institutional financial aid may be increased for any reason prior to the commencement of the period of the award. Once the period of the award begins, institutional financial aid may only be increased if the institution can demonstrate that such an increase is unrelated in any manner to an athletics reason (see Bylaw 15.3.4.3). (Adopted: 1/11/94, Revised: 1/12/04)

#### *15.3.4.2.1 Initial Award of Athletically Related Institutional Financial Aid.*

A student-athlete who is receiving only institutional nonathletically related financial aid may receive an initial award of athletically related institutional financial aid at any point during the academic year. The initial award of athletically related financial aid may not be retroactive to a previous academic year.

#### *15.3.4.3 Increase, Reduction or Cancellation Not Permitted.*

Institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability may not be increased, decreased or canceled during the period of its award:

- a) On the basis of a student's athletics ability, performance or contribution to a team's success;

- b) Because of an injury, illness or physical or mental medical condition (except as permitted pursuant to Bylaw 15.3.4.1); or
- c) For any other athletics reason.

*15.3.4.3.3 Decrease Not Permitted.*

An institution may not decrease a prospective student-athlete's financial aid or a student-athlete's financial aid from the time the prospective student-athlete or student-athlete signs the financial aid award letter until the conclusion of the period set forth in the financial aid agreement, except under the conditions set forth in Bylaw 15.3.4.1.

11.2.7 Academic Requirements & Academic Appeals for Scholar-Athlete Awards:

Policy:

In order to maintain institutional aid, including a SAA, student-athletes must meet all Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards as outlined in the UC San Diego Financial Aid Office Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards for Financial Aid Eligibility which includes a higher cumulative GPA requirement than other institutional financial aid.

Per the SAP Standards, a SAA requires a minimum cumulative UC-GPA of 2.6. Although a student-athlete's UC-GPA may have met the SAP standards of 2.6 at the end of the academic year, if his/her cumulative UC-GPA falls below 2.6 at the end of summer session, his/her financial aid eligibility status for the following year will be affected.

Any student-athlete on a SAA who fails to meet SAP, including the 2.6 cumulative UC-GPA requirement at the end of the academic year, may submit an appeal to the Financial Aid Office. All SAP appeals are handled by the Financial Aid Office.

Any student-athlete on a SAA whose cumulative UC-GPA falls below 2.6 during the academic year, will be required by the Athletics Department to meet with the Academic Advisor in his/her College who is the Athletics Liaison until his/her GPA returns to 2.6 or above.