(a) Establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational mission and goals of the institution; and

(b) Educate, on a continuing basis, all constituencies about the policies in Constitution 2.4-(a).

2.5 The Principle of Sound Academic Standards. [*]

Intercollegiate athletics programs shall be maintained as a vital component of the educational program, and student-athletes shall be an integral part of the student body. The admission, academic standing and academic progress of student-athletes shall be consistent with the policies and standards adopted by the institution for the student body in general.

2.6 The Principle of Nondiscrimination. [*]

The Association shall promote an atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person. It is the policy of the Association to refrain from discrimination with respect to its governance policies, educational programs, activities and employment policies, including on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, creed or sexual orientation. It is the responsibility of each member institution to determine independently its own policy regarding nondiscrimination. (Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 1/16/00)

2.7 The Principle of Diversity Within Governance Structures. [*]

The Association shall promote diversity of representation within its various divisional governance structures and substructures. Each divisional governing body must assure gender and ethnic diversity among the membership of the bodies in the division's administrative structure. (Adopted: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/97)

2.8 The Principle of Rules Compliance. [*]

2.8.1 Responsibility of Institution. [*] Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Association in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the Association and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable Association rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance.

2.8.2 Responsibility of Association.[*] The Association shall assist the institution in its efforts to achieve full compliance with all rules and regulations and shall afford the institution, its staff and student-athletes fair procedures in the consideration of an identified or alleged failure in compliance.

2.8.3 Penalty for Noncompliance. [*] An institution found to have violated the Association's rules shall be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as may be determined by the Association.

2.9 The Principle of Amateurism. [*]

Student-athletes shall be amateurs in an intercollegiate sport, and their participation should be motivated primarily by education and by the physical, mental and social benefits to be derived. Student participation in intercollegiate athletics is an avocation, and student-athletes should be protected from exploitation by professional and commercial enterprises.

2.10 The Principle of Competitive Equity. [*]

The structure and programs of the Association and the activities of its members shall promote opportunity for equity in competition to assure that individual student-athletes and institutions will not be prevented unfairly from achieving the benefits inherent in participation in intercollegiate athletics.

2.11 The Principle Governing Recruiting. [*]

The recruiting process involves a balancing of the interests of prospective student-athletes, their educational institutions and the Association's member institutions. Recruiting regulations shall be designed to promote equity among member institutions in their recruiting of prospective student-athletes and to shield them from undue pressures that may interfere with the scholastic or athletics interests of the prospective student-athletes or their educational institutions.

2.12 The Principle Governing Eligibility. [*]

Eligibility requirements shall be designed to assure proper emphasis on educational objectives, to promote competitive equity among institutions and to prevent exploitation of student-athletes.
12.02.15 Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. Volleyball and beach volleyball are considered the same sport for the purposes of Bylaws 12.1, 12.2 and 12.8.3.2. (Adopted: 8/26/10, Revised: 7/31/14, 7/31/15)

12.1 General Regulations.

An individual must comply with the following to retain amateur status. (See Bylaw 12.12 regarding the eligibility restoration process.)

12.1.1 Validity of Amateur Status. As a condition and obligation of membership, it is the responsibility of an institution to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (including two-year and four-year college transfers initially enrolling at an NCAA Division I institution) and student-athlete is based. (See Bylaw 14.01.3.) (Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06, for all final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 1/8/07, 4/30/07)

12.1.1.1 Amateurism Certification Process. An institution shall use an initial eligibility center approved by the Board of Governors to determine the validity of the information on which the amateur status of a student-athlete is based. (Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06, for final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 4/30/07, 10/30/14)

12.1.1.1.1 Scope. The certification of amateur status issued by the NCAA Eligibility Center is limited to activities that occur prior to a prospective student-athlete’s request for final amateurism certification or his or her initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution, whichever occurs earlier. (Adopted: 4/30/07)

12.1.1.1.2 Institutional Responsibilities.

12.1.1.1.2.1 Amateur Status After Certification. An institution is responsible for certifying the amateur status of a prospective student-athlete (including two-year and four-year college transfers initially enrolling at an NCAA Division I institution) from the time he or she requests that a final certification be issued by the NCAA Eligibility Center or from the time he or she initially enrolls as a full-time student at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier). (Adopted: 4/30/07)

12.1.1.1.2.2 Sharing Information and Reporting Discrepancies. If an institution receives additional information or otherwise has cause to believe that a prospective student-athlete’s amateur status has been jeopardized, the institution is responsible for promptly notifying the NCAA Eligibility Center of such information. Further, an institution is responsible for promptly reporting to the NCAA Eligibility Center all discrepancies in information related to a student-athlete’s amateurism certification. (Adopted: 4/30/07)

12.1.1.1.3 Eligibility for Practice or Competition. Prior to engaging in practice or competition, a student-athlete shall receive a final certification of amateur status based on activities that occur prior to his or her request for final certification or initial full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II institution (whichever occurs earlier). (Adopted: 4/30/07)

12.1.1.1.3.1 Temporary Certification. If a prospective student-athlete reports for athletics participation before the student’s amateur status has been certified, the student may practice, but not compete, for a maximum period of 45 days. After this period, the student shall have his or her amateur status certified to continue to practice or to compete. (Adopted: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06, for all final certifications for student-athletes initially enrolling at a Division I or Division II institution on or after 8/1/07, Revised: 11/29/09)

12.1.1.1.3.2 Effect of Violations. A violation of Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3 or Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3.1 in which the student-athlete is subsequently certified without conditions shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1 but shall not affect the student-athlete’s eligibility. (Adopted: 10/29/15)

12.1.1.1.4 Eligibility for Practice After a Final Not-Certified Certification. After a final not-certified certification is rendered, a student-athlete may continue to engage in practice activities, provided the institution has submitted a notice of appeal. At the point in which all appeal opportunities have been exhausted and no eligibility has been granted, the student-athlete may no longer participate in practice activities. (Adopted: 3/21/07)

12.1.2 Amateur Status. An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual: (Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03, 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10)

(a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;

(b) Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;

(c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.5.1;

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(d) Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based on athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;

(e) Competes on any professional athletics team per Bylaw 12.02.11, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.3.2.1;

(f) After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft (see Bylaw 12.2.4); or

(g) Enters into an agreement with an agent.

12.1.2.1 Prohibited Forms of Pay. “Pay,” as used in Bylaw 12.1.2 above, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

12.1.2.1.1 Salary, Gratuity or Compensation. Any direct or indirect salary, gratuity or comparable compensation.

12.1.2.1.2 Division or Split of Surplus. Any division or split of surplus (bonuses, game receipts, etc.).

12.1.2.1.3 Educational Expenses. Educational expenses not permitted by the governing legislation of this Association (see Bylaw 15 regarding permissible financial aid to enrolled student-athletes).

12.1.2.1.4 Expenses, Awards and Benefits. Excessive or improper expenses, awards and benefits.

12.1.2.1.4.1 Cash or Equivalent Award. Cash, or the equivalent thereof (e.g., trust fund), as an award for participation in competition at any time, even if such an award is permitted under the rules governing an amateur, noncollegiate event in which the individual is participating. An award or a cash prize that an individual could not receive under NCAA legislation may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different individual or agency. (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/14/08)

12.1.2.1.4.1.1 Exception—Prospective Student-Athlete's Educational Institution. A financial award may be provided to a prospective student-athlete's educational institution in conjunction with the prospective student-athlete being recognized as part of an awards program in which athletics participation, interests or ability is a criterion, but not the sole criterion, in the selection process. Such an award must also include nonathletics criteria, such as the prospective student-athlete's academic record and nonathletics extracurricular activities and may not be based on the prospective student-athlete's place finish or performance in a particular athletics event. In addition, it is permissible for an outside organization (other than a professional sports organization) to provide actual and necessary expenses for the prospective student-athlete (and the prospective student-athlete's parents or other relatives) to travel to a recognition event designed to recognize the prospective student-athlete's accomplishments in conjunction with his or her selection as the recipient of a regional, national or international award. (Adopted: 10/28/99)

12.1.2.1.4.1.2 Operation Gold Grant. An individual (prospective student-athlete or student-athlete) may accept funds that are administered by the U.S. Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold program. (Adopted: 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01)

12.1.2.1.4.2.1 Educational Expenses—Prior to Collegiate Enrollment. A prospective student-athlete may receive educational expenses or services (e.g., tuition, fees, room and board, books, tutoring, standardized test preparatory classes) prior to collegiate enrollment from any individual or entity other than an agent, professional sports team/organization, member institution or a representative of an institution's athletics interests, provided the payment for such expenses or services is disbursed directly to the individual, organization or educational institution (e.g., high school, preparatory school) providing the educational expense or service. (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/14/08)

12.1.2.1.4.2.2 Educational Expenses From Outside Sports Team or Organization—After Collegiate Enrollment. Educational expenses provided to an individual after initial collegiate enrollment by an outside sports team or organization that are based on any degree on the recipient's athletics ability [except for financial aid that is received from a team or organization that conducts a competitive sports program by an individual who is not a member of that team or organization (see Bylaw 15.2.6.3)], even if the funds are given to the institution to administer to the recipient. (Revised: 1/10/95, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/15/11 effective 8/1/11, 8/18/11)

12.1.2.1.4.2.3 Educational Expenses—Division or Split of Surplus. Any division or split of surplus (bonuses, game receipts, etc.).

12.1.2.1.4.4 Educational Expenses—Excessive or Improper Expenses, Awards and Benefits. Excessive or improper expenses, awards and benefits.

12.1.2.1.4.4.1 Cash or Equivalent Award. Cash, or the equivalent thereof (e.g., trust fund), as an award for participation in competition at any time, even if such an award is permitted under the rules governing an amateur, noncollegiate event in which the individual is participating. An award or a cash prize that an individual could not receive under NCAA legislation may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different individual or agency. (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/14/08)

12.1.2.1.4.4.1.1 Exception—Prospective Student-Athlete's Educational Institution. A financial award may be provided to a prospective student-athlete's educational institution in conjunction with the prospective student-athlete being recognized as part of an awards program in which athletics participation, interests or ability is a criterion, but not the sole criterion, in the selection process. Such an award must also include nonathletics criteria, such as the prospective student-athlete's academic record and nonathletics extracurricular activities and may not be based on the prospective student-athlete's place finish or performance in a particular athletics event. In addition, it is permissible for an outside organization (other than a professional sports organization) to provide actual and necessary expenses for the prospective student-athlete (and the prospective student-athlete's parents or other relatives) to travel to a recognition event designed to recognize the prospective student-athlete's accomplishments in conjunction with his or her selection as the recipient of a regional, national or international award. (Adopted: 10/28/99)

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