


# NCAA BYLAW 16: AWARDS, BENEFITS, EXPENSES

2015 NCAA Regional Seminars  
Steve Clar and Binh T. Nguyen, NCAA



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## AGENDA

- Overview.
- Review NCAA Bylaw 16 by Topical Area.
- Related Legislation and Interpretations.
- Case Studies.
- Questions.



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# AWARDS

Bylaw 16.1

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### AWARDS

- **Any item given in recognition of athletics participation or performance.**
- **Must be eligible for competition in order to receive award.**
- **Cannot contribute to the purchase of an award.**
- **May receive expenses to receive noninstitutional award.**
  - Conference, institution, United States Olympic Committee, national governing body (or international equivalent) or awarding agency.




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### AWARDS

- **Prior to enrollment:**
  - Governed by amateur sport organizations.
  - May not include cash beyond actual and necessary expenses.
- **Post-enrollment:**
  - Institution, conference or NCAA may provide at any time after initial full-time enrollment.
  - Subject to limitations in figures at end of Bylaw 16.
  - No cash. No gift certificates or gift cards redeemable for cash.




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### CASE STUDY – PRE-ENROLLMENT

**Q: May a prospective student-athlete keep a volleyball bag worth \$150 based on the team's 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish at a showcase event?**

**A:** Yes, so long as USA Volleyball does not preclude it.

**Q: What if the prospective student-athlete received \$350 to cover hotel and meal expenses as a result of placing 2<sup>nd</sup>?**

**A:** Permissible so long as the cash does not exceed actual and necessary expenses.

Bylaw 16.1.1.1




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### CASE STUDY – POST-ENROLLMENT

**Q: May a student-athlete keep a conference tournament MVP award (glass trophy) for the student-athlete's play during the institution's conference tournament?**

**A:** Yes, so long as it meets the maximum value of the award (\$325).

Figure 16-3



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### CASE STUDY – AWARDS

**Q: There was an additional tooling charge from the award manufacturer for making conference trophy. The trophy cost \$315 dollars and the additional charges were an extra \$15. Can the student-athlete keep the award?**

**A:** Yes. Administrative fees (e.g., tooling charges) that are separate from the value of the award are not included when calculating value of the award.

February 6, 2009 Interpretation



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### CASE STUDY – AWARDS

**Q: May a student-athlete keep a beach chair worth \$200 based on the team's 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in a local tournament during the summer?**

**A:** Yes, so long as USA Volleyball does not preclude it.

**Q: If the student-athlete had received a \$200 Visa gift card instead, could the student-athlete keep it?**

**A:** Yes, so long as the gift card is not redeemable for cash.

Bylaw 16.1.1.1



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### CASE STUDY – AWARDS

**Q:** May a student-athlete keep a plaque from a national governing body to recognize a student-athlete for athletic achievements?

**A:** Yes, as long as the requirements in Figure 16-3 are met.

**Q:** May the institution or the national governing body pay for an student-athlete to attend an in-person awards ceremony?

**A:** Yes. Expenses may be provided for the student-athlete and student-athlete's parents or legal guardians, spouse or other relatives to attend the event.

Bylaw 16.1.7



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### COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS AND TICKET BENEFITS

Bylaw 16.2

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### COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS/TICKET BENEFITS

- **No hard tickets.**
  - Must use gate or pass list.
- **No sale or exchange of tickets for an item of value.**
- **No special arrangement to buy tickets.**
- **Professional tickets as entertainment.**



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**COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS/TICKET BENEFITS**

- **In student-athlete's sport:**
  - Four complimentary admissions to regular season home or away events.
  - Six complimentary admissions to postseason events.
- **In other sports:**
  - Free admission to all regular season home events.




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**CASE STUDY – COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS /TICKET BENEFITS**

**Q: May an institution seat a student-athlete's relatives in a special section for any contests?**

**A:** No, as this would be an extra benefit.

**Q: May an institution provide complimentary tickets to a student-athlete's parents at a neutral site?**

**A:** Yes, it may be treated as a home game.

Bylaw 16.2.1.1




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**CASE STUDY – COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS /TICKET BENEFITS**

**Q: May a professional athletics team provide complimentary tickets to an entire team to a professional contest?**

**A:** It is not permissible for an individual other than the institution (or a booster through the institution) to provide student-athletes with professional team tickets as entertainment in conjunction with practice or competition. Therefore, this individual may not provide the tickets directly to the student-athletes.

Bylaw 16.2.2.5




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## ACADEMIC AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Bylaw 16.3

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### ACADEMIC AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

- **General academic counseling and tutoring services available to all student-athletes.**
  - Provided through athletics or through student support services.
- **Institution, conference or the NCAA may finance other academic support, career counseling or personal development services that support the success of student-athletes.**




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### ACADEMIC AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES – CASE STUDY

**Q: May an institution provide parking to a student-athlete when the student-athlete is on campus for academic tutoring sessions?**

**A:** Yes, the parking expenses should be limited to the time in which the student-athlete is participating in the academic session (e.g., tutoring session) as opposed to allowing free campus parking for the entire day.


**Q: May an institution pay for transportation to and from a required internship throughout the summer for an student-athlete?**

**A:** Yes, as this would support the academic success of the student-athlete.

**Q: May an institution pay for test preparatory courses for graduate school entrance exams?**

**A:** Yes, as this would support the academic success of the student-athlete.

Bylaw 16.3




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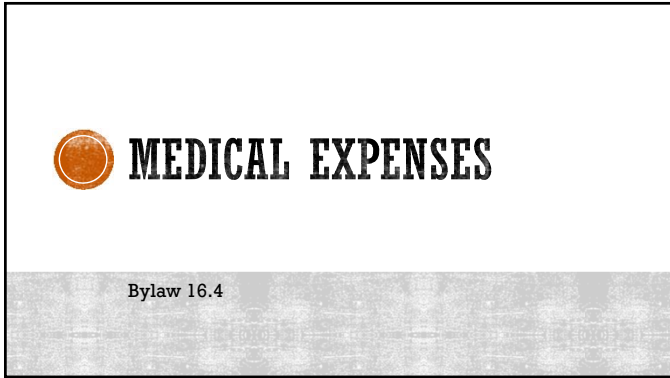
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 **MEDICAL EXPENSES**

Bylaw 16.4

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**MEDICAL EXPENSES**

- **Institution, conference or the NCAA may provide medical and related expenses and services to a student-athlete.**




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**MEDICAL EXPENSES – CASE STUDY**

**Q: May an institution provide food and lodging to a student-athlete who is recovering from surgery during the summer?**  
**A: Yes.**

**Q: May an institution pay medical expenses if a student-athlete decides to seek treatment outside the locale of the institution?**  
**A: Yes.**

**Q: May an institution pay expenses for a surgery for a former student-athlete for an injury that occurred when the student-athlete competed for the institution?**  
**A: Yes.**

Bylaw 16.4




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# HOUSING AND MEALS

Bylaw 16.5

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## HOUSING AND MEALS

- **Athletic dormitories/blocks not permitted:**
  - 50% or more are student-athletes.
- **Meals and snacks incidental to participation:**
  - Snacks permitted at any time.
  - Nutritional supplements.




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## HOUSING AND MEALS

**Nutritional supplements (I)**  
 Date Issued: October 2, 2014  
 Date Published: October 8, 2014  
 Item Ref: a  
 Interpretation:  
 The academic and membership affairs staff confirmed it is not permissible to provide a nutritional supplement that is not otherwise permissible by characterizing it as a snack or a meal incidental to participation.  
 [References: Bylaw 16.5.2 (permissible); and an official interpretation (7/26/00, Item No. a)]




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### HOUSING AND MEALS – CASE STUDY

**Q:** Does the 50% rule apply to an off-campus, privately owned apartment building, where a student-athlete plans to live?

**A:** Yes, only if the institution was involved in the arrangement.

**Q:** May an institution provide meals to a student-athlete when the student-athlete is engaged in voluntary activities during the summer?

**A:** Yes, provided the meals are incidental to participation and not intended to replace the student-athlete's board allowance.

**Q:** May a student-athlete eat at training table if the student-athlete is living off campus and receiving a stipend?

**A:** No, unless it is deducted from the student-athlete's stipend.



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### EXPENSES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE FRIENDS AND FAMILY



Bylaw 16.6

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### EXPENSES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE FRIENDS AND FAMILY

**Family member defined:**

- o 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.

**Postseason events:**

- o Football championship and Final Four pilot program.

**Injury or illness of family members.**



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### CASE STUDY – EXPENSES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE FRIENDS AND FAMILY

**Q: Is there a limit on the number of family members that may attend an institutional awards banquet with a student-athlete?**

**A:** No.

**Q: May an institution provide per diem to the spouse of a student-athlete for a bowl game?**

**A:** No, but the institution may pay for actual and necessary expenses.

Bylaw 16.6.1



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### ENTERTAINMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

Bylaw 16.7



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### ENTERTAINMENT

- May provide reasonable entertainment in conjunction with practice or competition.
- Must be within the playing season.
  - Cannot be provided in conjunction with skill instruction.
  - Cannot be provided in conjunction with required summer athletics activities.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

### April 3, 2014 Educational Column.

- May be provided on a required day off during the season.
- May be provided to an individual or group of individuals and not an entire team.
- Cannot provide cash for entertainment purposes.
- Student-athletes may not miss class in order to attend an entertainment activity.




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## EXPENSES PROVIDED BY INSTITUTION FOR PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

Bylaw 16.8

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## PRACTICE AND COMPETITION EXPENSES

- Bylaw 16.8.1 - In order to receive competition-related expenses, student-athletes must be eligible for competition.
- Bylaw 16.8.1.2 – Expenses for other competition.
  - Established national championship events.
  - Qualifiers for international competitions.
    - E.g., Olympics, World Championships, World University Games.
  - National team tryout competition events.




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**CASE STUDY – EXPENSES FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS**

**Q:** Can an institution provide expenses for a student-athlete to engage in the Olympic trials?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Can an institution provide the expenses if the event leads to another tier of qualifying for the Olympic team?

**A:** Yes, provided the event is one from which participants are selected for another tier of national team tryouts.



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**OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION**



Bylaw 16.9

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**OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION**

- May provide expenses for student-athletes to represent the institution in noncompetitive events.
- Does not include an outside team or goodwill tour which includes competition.



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### CASE STUDY – OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION

**Q:** Is it permissible for an institution to provide expenses for a student-athlete to travel to a fundraising event hosted by an alumni group?

**Q:** What if the alumni group's event is in a different city from the institution?

**Q:** Can the institution also provide appropriate apparel for the event?

**A:** Yes, these expenses are permissible pursuant to Bylaw 16.9.



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### OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION

- May also provide reasonable local transportation on an occasional basis.
- Each institution defines “reasonable” and “local.”
- Examples of reasonable local transportation:
  - Rides to and from the airport.
  - Travel to personal development opportunities located in the same city as the institution.



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### EXPENSES BY INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN INSTITUTION

Bylaw 16.10



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**EXPENSES FROM NONINSTITUTIONAL SOURCES**

- 16.10.1 – Expenses for nationally recognized religious encampments.
- 16.10.2 – Expenses from a high school for student teaching.
- 16.10.3 – Expenses to participate in a local civic luncheon.
  - Cannot come from a local business owner.




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**EXPENSES FROM NONINSTITUTIONAL SOURCES**

- 16.10.4 – Complimentary admission to a pro sports contest during which the student-athlete or team is being recognized.
- Examples of recognition:
  - National championship.
  - Conference championship.
  - Earned bid into NCAA championship field.
  - All-America honors.




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**BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES**

Bylaw 16.11

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## BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES

### Permissible benefits.

- 16.11.1.4 – Disabling injury insurance.
  - NCAA Proposal 2014-12 permits an individual to borrow against future earnings potential to purchase loss-of-value insurance.
  - Already permitted for insurance against disabling injury.
- 16.11.1.5 – Occasional meals.
  - Consider if a meal incidental to participation is not permissible.
- 16.11.1.8 – Student Assistance Fund.




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## BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES

### Nonpermissible (“extra”) benefits.

- Any arrangement by an institutional employee or booster;
- For a student-athlete, student-athlete’s family member or friend; and
- To provide a benefit not otherwise permissible.




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## CASE STUDY – BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES

**Q: An institution provides unique apparel items to season ticket holders. Is it permissible to provide this “swag” to individuals on a student-athlete pass list for the conference tournament?**

**A:** No. These items would constitute impermissible extra benefits as they are only available to season ticket holders.




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## BENEFITS, GIFTS OR SERVICES

Other examples of impermissible extra benefits.

- Individual with no pre-existing relationship to student-athlete serving as guarantor for a lease.
  
- Reduced cost services provided by a physical therapist.




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## EXPENSE WAIVERS

Bylaw 16.12

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## EXPENSE WAIVERS

- Can be processed by an institution or conference.
  
- Listed in January 5, 2015 Educational Column.
  
- Previously approved waivers are grouped under:
  - Transportation expenses.
  - Celebratory events.
  - Misfortune expenses.
  - Miscellaneous.




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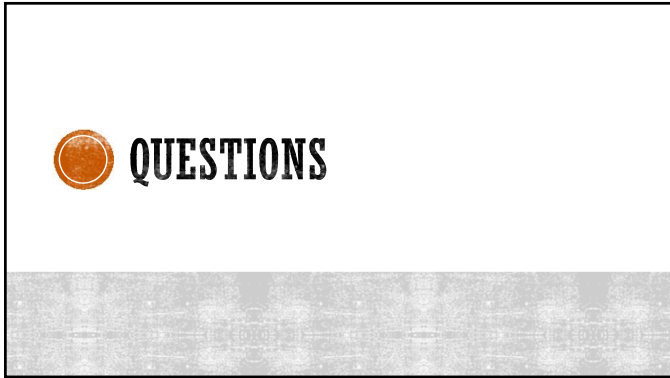
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 **QUESTIONS**

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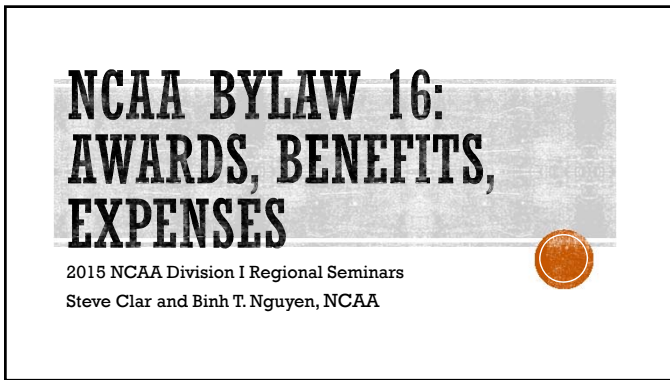
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**NCAA BYLAW 16:  
AWARDS, BENEFITS,  
EXPENSES**

2015 NCAA Division I Regional Seminars  
Steve Clar and Binh T. Nguyen, NCAA



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