

July 28, 2017

ATTN: President Mark Emmert  
The National Collegiate Athletic Association  
700 West Washington Street  
PO Box 6222  
Indianapolis, Indiana 48206-6222

Dear President Emmert:

The National Collegiate Athletic Association, a nonprofit organization, is made up of about 500,000 athletes making up 19,500 teams that compete in 90 championships yearly in 24 sports throughout 3 divisions, per their website. I am aware that you meet with your Leadership Team, including the Senior Management team, along with other Vice Presidents monthly to discuss issues within the Association. This month should discuss an ongoing, controversial issue having to do with nationwide student athletes. The research argument proposed will argue if student athletes of the NCAA should be compensated.

Scholarships allow college athletes to continue their passion for a sport, while demonstrating outstanding academic achievements. Having college tuition paid for seems like it should be enough to compensate college athletes. They are getting to attend college and live for free, on or off campus, while having a chance to possibly continue a career at the professional level. But scholarships do not include the necessities to live. Being a student athlete gives you no extra time to get a part time job. Student athletes have nowhere near as much freedom as a regular student obtains as soon as he or she enrolls in a university. Scholarships do not include money for groceries or an extra pair of sheets. Then raises the question, "why not just ask their parents for some money?". Some students do not have the luxury to ask their parents or guardians for a little extra cash weekly. Certain student athletes targeted in inner city areas with phenomenal talents in athletics along with maintaining an extensive GPA throughout high school are offered these "full rides" to college. Primarily, outsiders may agree that a scholarship to attend a university in the United States and obtain a four-year degree is a privilege but truthfully these student-athletes are taken advantage of.

The document attached provides a solution for student athletes. Being compensated shows that these athletes are valued. Having money to splurge on a dinner or buying themselves a nice pair of shoes allows these student athletes to take pride in themselves and all the dedication they put into their sport, university, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Please consider this proposed solution. Thank you for taking the time to read.

Kindly,

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Enclosures: 1

Documented by USAToday, the NCAA topped \$1 billion in revenue in 2014 alone. Per the documents, \$541.1 million was distributed to Division I schools stating that these were for athletes “scholarship funds”. It is said that scholarships range, on average, between \$10,000 and \$42,000 yearly. Out of state tuition is clearly higher than in state tuition. Student athletes do not have a barrier on where they can attend university, if they are awarded the scholarship.

Student athletes of the NCAA have come to realize that their name, jersey and devotion to playing a college level sport brings nearly a billion dollars to the Association yearly and only half of it is used towards school tuition. Student athletes should be compensated for their jersey sales and coming to watch the game. Without the key players, tickets and jerseys would not be sold. With that being said, the payout would not be equal to every athlete. Players should get paid based on their contribution to the team. For example, as said by talk show host Michael Wilbon, “The most distinguished professor at the University of Alabama won't make \$5.9 million in his entire tenure in Tuscaloosa; Nick Saban will make that this year”. Nick Saban is the head football coach for University of Alabama. As stated in the article published on ESPN, America looks for equality but ultimately this is just a sad excuse for laziness and if every student-athlete gets the same amount of money there is no logistics. Wilbon argues funds should be opened for student athletes’ day to day needs rather than funding other unnecessary projects for athletic programs.

It is important for student athletes to get the recognition they deserve. Being a student athletes involves little time off to rest or recover with no extra spending money and can cause severe damage to the body that only begins to show long after college athletics. The NCAA must follow a 20 Hour Rule agreement, published by the Association. Agreeably, if a university goes over this 20-hour limit, weekly, shouldn’t players be compensated for the extra time spent?

Would exceeding the 20-hour limit be considered overtime? Or does this happen to be a full violation of NCAA rules. In an article, written by Keith Kaufman, published by the NCAA, he stresses that students are pressured by parents and coaches to continuously “get better” year round, involving no breaks, even when their particular sport is not in season. Kaufman believes that eventually this leads to mental and physical exhaustion. If student athletes were, per say, rewarded for their time and effort they may have a change in their drive.

#### EXHIBIT A:

Student-athletes not having enough money for meals seems to not be an issue, as they have access to the school cafeterias. But do these school cafeterias run twenty-four hours a day? Or what about 7 days a week. A recent interview of a basketball player from Florida International University brought up some questions and concerns for the athletes attending school during the summer term. The student-athlete volunteered information about his coach making the team peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every day for after workouts. This coach spent his own money and used his own time, uncompensated time, to make his team sandwiches because he knew the cafeteria was not open after the student-athletes had finished their workout. This seems to be a red flag. Student-athletes should not have to go hungry because they are not compensated some money for a meal before or after campus hours.

#### EXHIBIT B:

A recent story made headlines in Miami, Florida. Macgarret Kings, a punt returner and wide receiver, recently graduated from Michigan State University. Kings was not drafted during the 2017 NFL Draft nor was he signed as a free agent. For the past two weeks, Kings has been standing outside of the Miami Dolphins Practice Facility. He stands across the street, as the facility is private property, and holds a handwritten sign on a cardboard box that states and I

quote “READY TO WORK WILL WORK FOR FREE”. Dedicated as he is, maybe if Kings received some sort of compensation for his time at Michigan State University, he would value himself more. Kings may feel more motivated to go inside the facility and speak with a coach instead of just standing across the street. He may have recognized that his talents did not go unnoticed if he was compensated during his 4 years at MSU. Kings has used social media to get the word out about going undrafted. His initial post has over 2,000 likes and about 450 comments, and counting.

Furthermore, a career after college is not guaranteed, as seen during EXHIBIT B. This is an arguable reason that students are fortunate to get a four-year degree for free. Although this information is true and valuable, it is also known that if student athletes get a pay out like a job, for working towards their sport while maintaining a certain Grade Point Average, they shall be rewarded. The criteria are as follows:

*In order to motivate student-athletes to excel in the classroom and work towards getting a diploma at the end of the four years they have attended a university, and played a sport while there, there must be criteria pushing students to receive a “reward”. When students excel in the classroom, their Grade Point Average rises. The higher the students Grade Point Average is, allows them to increase practice time. Reason being, some students have great athletic ability but they only meet the bare minimum on the academic side. So, having a high GPA and getting noticed during practice gives the student-athlete a better opportunity to play during games. Playing during games gives the student athlete more exposure to the public, meaning more jersey sales and endorsements. Obviously, a percentage of the endorsements will go to the NCAA and the university as they are supporting the association and university but the player deserves a portion as*

*well. Even if the percentage of jersey sales was only 5% to the player, it is still something. Along with this, student athletes deserve an allowance payed at the end of each month. Minimum wage is a fair enough range to start. Student-athletes will be compensated during ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES ONLY. There will be a sign in/sign out sheet before each activity and numbers will be calculated at the end of each month. Again, this all reflects on grades and performance. If students are not showing up to class or do not maintain a 3.0 GPA or better, they will not receive compensation for that particular month.*

Having a paycheck can motivate more college student athletes to learn about saving their money and balancing out their finances. The NCAA has unaccounted moneys and is more than capable of paying students only a portion of what they deserve. With this economy, it has become difficult to live without money. It is time to change the rules and put money from this Association in the right hands. Student athletes work well over 40 hour weeks, which is considered a full-time job. Having money to save or spend seems to be the correct way to motivate players and show them the appreciation the Association has towards their hard work and dedication to perfect their craft. Basically, without the athletes there would be no NCAA and many people would be out of jobs.

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