



Big 12 Principles and Guidelines for the Student Assistance Fund (SAF)

The SAF is distributed to conference offices in late August and is segregated into two funds: the Special Assistance Fund and the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund. Pursuant to guidelines set forth by the NCAA and the Conference, the SAF is intended to provide direct benefits to student-athletes. As a guiding principle, the Fund shall be used to assist student-athletes in meeting financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in intercollegiate athletics, enrollment in an academic curriculum or to recognize academic achievement. Accordingly, direct receipt of SAF funds shall not be included in determining the permissible amount of financial aid that a member institution may award to a student-athlete.

Special Assistance Fund

The Special Assistance Fund has three components to the calculation, as follows with the percentage of the fund allocated to each component noted in parentheses:

1. Current year information for Pell grants (70%)
2. Current year submission for grants-in-aid (15%)
3. Current year submission for sports sponsorship (15%)

As an example, the August 2015 Special Assistance Fund distribution is based on the 2014-15 Pell Grant information and 2013-14 grants-in-aid and sports sponsorship information.

Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund

The SAOF amount is calculated using the proportion of “broad-based” distributions. Two thirds of the fund is allocated based on the current year submission for grants-in-aid while the remaining one-third is allocated based on the current year submission for sports sponsorship. Beginning with the 2014-15 fiscal year distribution, Division I Committee on Infractions imposed fines collected in the previous fiscal year will be added to the total funds available for SAOF distribution.

Eligibility for the Fund.

All student-athletes are eligible to receive SAF benefits directly or indirectly, including international student-athletes, regardless of whether they are grant-in-aid recipients, have demonstrated need or have either exhausted eligibility or no longer participate due to medical reasons. However, no prospects shall be eligible to receive SAF funds.

Further, student-athletes are eligible to receive SAF benefits up to five years after exhausting eligibility. The Dr. Prentice Gautt Student-Athlete Welfare Committee has the authority to review, on a case by case basis, special requests from institutions to utilize the SAF for a student-athlete who is more than five years past his/her eligibility.

Prohibited Uses for the Fund.

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.01.6.1 and 16.11.1.8 member institutions and conferences shall not use monies received from the Fund for the following:

- Salaries and benefits.
- Grants-in-aid for tuition and fees, room and board, and books during the academic year for student-athletes with remaining eligibility. [NOTE: Training table meals are considered part of grant-in-aid and, thus, impermissible to provide through the SAF.]
- Summer school tuition and fees, room and board for incoming student-athletes' coursework used for initial eligibility, transfer, or progress-toward-degree requirements.
- Competition-related travel expenses for student-athletes who are not eligible for competition.
- Capital improvements.
- Stipends.
- Athletic development opportunities for student-athletes with remaining eligibility.
 - Fees and other expenses associated with a student-athlete's participation in a sports camp or clinic;
 - Fees and other expenses associated with private sports-related instruction provided to a student-athlete;
 - Fees for other athletic development experiences (e.g., greens fees, batting cage rental); and
 - Expenses associated with a student-athlete's participation in a foreign tour.

With the exceptions of the prohibited uses noted, institutions shall be allowed flexibility for distribution of the SAF. The Fund should be allocated for the direct benefit of individual student-athletes and not general team benefits, particularly for team items that can be interpreted as providing competitive advantage. According to NCAA guidelines, the Fund is not intended to be used for expenses that only indirectly benefit student-athletes or to replace existing budget items that already provide direct benefits to student-athletes. An expense that could be a budget item, but is not, may be covered by the Fund. It is the responsibility of the institution to ensure that the Fund is not being utilized in an attempt to create a recruiting advantage.

Administration of the Fund.

Upon receipt of the Fund, the Conference office will allocate the money to member institutions within two weeks. Distribution amounts are determined by grant-in-aid data obtained from the annual NCAA Grant-in-Aid Distribution report. The specific Conference distribution formula is based on percentages of the total equivalency of grants-in-aid reported by each member institution.

Distribution Formula: $\frac{\text{Institutional Total Grants-in-Aid}}{\text{Conference Total Grants-in-Aid}} \times \text{NCAA Conference Distribution}$
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Institutions may not accumulate more than the total allocation received over the previous two years. The succeeding allocation will be forfeited or reduced if that amount is exceeded. However, institutions may escrow portions of the Fund for future earmarked expenditures (e.g. recognition of academic achievement). The responsibility for oversight and administration of

the Fund, including interpretations, rests solely with the Conference and member institutions. The Division I Council establishes the guiding principles of the Fund.

The FARs identified, in general, federal rules which may impact the use of this Fund for student-athletes receiving Pell Grants. **Each institution is responsible for identifying financial aid and tax implications, including the cost of attendance restrictions, affecting distribution of the SAF to all student-athletes.**

Institutions are required to involve their respective Student-Athlete Advisory Committees in an annual review and modification of their SAF guidelines.

Permissible Uses of the Fund.

Permissible uses of the SAF include, but are not limited to, the items listed in Figure B.

Reporting Process.

Institutions are required to submit an annual report of expenditures to the NCAA. Institutions must login (www.ncaa.org) and complete its expenses in detail by sport and gender, as well as the amount and purpose. A student-athlete should only be recorded once in the count of overall reported uses. Included in the report of uses, institutions shall report its Pell Grant information to be used in the calculation of the Special Assistance Fund distribution.

Conference Contacts.

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Figure B: Permissible Uses of the Fund

The following is a list of permissible uses of the SAF. This list is based on the initial guidelines for permissible uses of the Fund, in addition to the FARs' and Conference staff's on-going review of SAF expenditures. Many of the items listed are taken directly from institutions' annual SAF reporting forms. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but is simply a guideline for permissible uses of the Fund.

Educational Expenses and Fees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer school except for incoming student-athletes' coursework that is used for initial eligibility, transfer, or progress-toward-degree requirements. • Fifth or sixth year aid. • Tutoring. • International student fees and taxes. • Graduate or professional school or program exam fees, application fees, and test preparation courses. • Expendable supplies (e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, highlighters). • Educational supplies (e.g. computers, cameras, calculators, USB drives, headsets for specialized learning program). • Placement exams. • Intellectual disabilities testing. • Orientation fees for enrolled student-athletes. Only permissible if the fees are not considered part of an institutional grant-in-aid: tuition, room and board, books and fees. • CPR course. • Internet service fees.
Health and Safety Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance premiums. • Supplemental insurance. • Medical, dental and vision expenses (not covered by another insurance program for student-athletes). • Medical expenses for student-athletes' spouses/dependents. • Medical insurance for international student-athletes. • Accidental death and dismemberment insurance for student-athletes during team travel. • Surgery expenses. • Medical testing. • Nutrition shakes. • Multi-vitamins. • Psychological therapy sessions. • Psychological screening.
Personal or Family Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per diem expenses to student-athletes who remain in the locale of the institution for reasons other than practice and competition, as long as the per diem is provided consistent with institutional policy for providing per diem to institutional staff members, and it is provided consistent with the process for providing per diem when NCAA rules permit such arrangements (e.g., required to remain on campus for practice and/or competition during an official vacation period). • Clothing.

- Additional student-athlete travel home.
- Emergency travel for student-athletes, spouses and/or dependents (e.g., attend funeral, visit ailing family member)
- Emergency expenses for student-athletes, spouses and/or dependents.
- Travel expenses for family members to be present when a student-athlete is honored.
- Travel expenses for team members being honored by governmental body.
- Travel expenses for birth of child.
- Team travel for funeral of a teammate's family member.
- Replacement of lost items (e.g., books, supplies) in a natural disaster (e.g., fire, flood).
- Gas.
- Parking passes.
- Vacation period expenses (e.g. lodging, meals).
- Formal/semi-formal attire for awards ceremony.
- Suite for Conference media day.
- Passport and student visa.

Institutional Academic or Programming Enhancements

- Academic achievement or graduation awards (e.g., iPad)
- Academic support services.
- Supplies for staff and tutors working with specialized learning students.
- Chairs for computer center.
- Mall glass for tutoring center.
- Expenses associated with recruiting guideline and host training.
- Health and wellness and social awareness education (e.g., substance abuse, gambling, domestic violence).
- Career counseling sessions.
- Spring fling event.
- Enhancement of tutoring budget.
- Career employment service resume posting fees.
- Recording assistance for student support services.
- Other academic or programming expenses.