

# Student Athlete Financial Aid Policies

## Summary

CSU Athletics Policy on various forms of student athlete financial aid providence, oversight, and removal.

## Purpose

To provide guidance on managing student athlete financial aid.

## Policy

### STUDENT ATHLETE FINANCIAL AID

#### ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID

It is the role of the Financial Aid Office to coordinate athletics aid with any other financial assistance for which a student-athlete is eligible. This coordination is to ensure that CSU is in compliance with all NCAA, Peach Belt Conference and institutional policies regarding the awarding of financial assistance to student-athletes. **Official Athletic Offer form (See appendix)**

#### INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID

Institutional aid consists of scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, employee dependent tuition benefits, loans, certain types of employment arrangements and government and private grants for which the institution determines the recipient and the amount of aid received. Refer to the NCAA manual or consult the Compliance Coordinator or the Financial Aid Director to determine whether such aid is countable toward team equivalencies.

#### RENEWAL AND NON RENEWAL POLICY

In accordance with NCAA regulations, student-athletes must be notified by June 15 regarding the renewal, non-renewal or reduction of their athletic grants-in-aid. If the student-athlete believes the reduction or cancellation to be unjustified, he or she is entitled to a prompt hearing before the institution's regular Financial Aid committee. **The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to the Director of Financial Aid within two weeks of receipt of the award notification.** The notification of renewals, non-renewals and reductions must come from the institution's financial aid authority and not from the athletics department.

## GRADUATION OR CANCELLATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

During the period of the award, the institution shall not increase a student-athletes grant-in-aid if such an increase is based on an athletics reason. It is permissible to increase the grant-in-aid, provided the institution can demonstrate that the increase is unrelated to an athletics reason (e.g. a special circumstance). In addition, athletic grants-in-aid may be increased before the period of award begins. Under NCAA regulations, the period of award begins with the first day of practice or the first day of class, whichever is earlier.

### **NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.1 Reduction or Cancellation Permitted**

The institution may reduce or cancel a student-athlete grant-in-aid during the period of the award for the following reasons:

- (a) Renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition
- (b) Fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement
- (c) Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty
- (d) The student-athlete voluntarily withdraws from the team 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. **Voluntary Withdrawal Form (see appendix)**

The grant-in-aid cannot be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award based on an injury or illness, athletics performance or for any other athletics reason.

## PROCEDURE FOR REMOVING STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM SCHOLARSHIP

If a coach desires to recommend that a student-athlete's athletics grant-in-aid be terminated, either during the period of the award, subject to applicable to NCAA regulations, or for the ensuing academic year, he or she must notify the Athletics Director. The Athletics Director will notify by mail the Director of Financial Aid that the coach is recommending termination of the student-athlete's athletics grant-in-aid.

**Financial Aid Non-Renewal letter (see appendix)**

## APPEAL PROCEDURE

If a student-athlete believes the decision to terminate the athletics grant-in-aid is unjustified, he or she may request a hearing before the institution's Financial Aid Appeals Committee. If the student-athlete requests a hearing, the Financial Aid Director will make the necessary arrangements with the appeals committee. The decision of the committee will be final.

## PELL GRANT POLICY

NCAA regulations now permit student-athletes to receive full grants-in-aid in addition to a full Pell Grant without consideration to the institution's cost of attendance. It is incumbent upon coaching staff members to ensure that prospective student-athletes are fully aware of the amount of athletics aid they will be receiving, excluding the PELL Grant. If a coach expects the student-athlete to use part or all of the PELL Grant to defray educational expenses, he or she should make certain the prospect and/or parents understand the terms of the agreement.

A full grant-in-aid as described by NCAA regulations consists of room, board, tuition, fees and course related textbooks. Notice that Pell Grants are not considered part of the full grant-in-aid.

### **Related USG Policy**

N/A

### **Last Update**

6/2016

### **Responsible Authority**

Julio Llanos Jr