

JANUARY ISSUE CONTENTS

- **Important Recruiting Dates**
- **Additions to CPOA**
- **NCAA News**
- **CPOA PA Topic of the Month**
- **Contact Sheets**
- **Internet Updates**
- **Referral Program**
- **Season End Updates**
- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Seminars**

IMPORTANT JANUARY RECRUITING DATES

January 4 - SAT late registration postmark for January 28 test.

January 6 – ACT registration postmark date for February 11th test.

January 15 – Football (mid year) JC transfer final signing date for National Letter of Intent.

January 20 – ACT late registration postmark date for February 11th test.

January 28 – SAT test. (SAT I and II).

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Tony Destefano – Greater Latrobe - Baseball

NCAA News

NCAA Graduation Success Rates Point to Increased Academic Success for Most Division I Student-Athletes, Teams

First-year data from the NCAA's new Graduation Success Rate show that about three-fourths of Division I student-athletes are succeeding in the classroom and earning their college degrees.

The GSR is a new NCAA measurement that improves the federally mandated graduation-rate by including transfer data in the calculation. It was developed in response to college and university presidents who wanted graduation data that more accurately reflect the mobility among students in today's higher education climate.

Research indicates that complex patterns of college attendance are becoming the norm for U.S. college students — it is estimated that about 60 percent of all new bachelor's degree recipients are attending more than one undergraduate institution during their collegiate careers.

Overall first-year GSR results indicate that after removing students who leave institutions while academically eligible, about three-fourths of all Division I scholarship student-athletes graduate either from the institution they started at or where they transferred.

"This is an important finding, one that I believe reflects that fact that by and large, athletics departments are successful at keeping student-athletes on track to graduate, either at their institution or another one," said NCAA President Myles Brand. The actual success rate is 76 percent for all of Division I. Broken down by subdivision, the GSR in Division I-A is also 76 percent, Division I-AA is 73 percent and Division I-AAA is 79 percent.

Those figures are higher than the graduation rates in the federal calculation (about 62 percent for all Division I student-athletes) because the federally mandated methodology counts all students who leave as nongraduates from their initial institution. At the same time, transfers who enter an institution are not included in the federal calculation.

Todd Petr, NCAA managing director of research, said the total number of students included in GSR compared with the total in the federal cohort is evidence that the GSR is a more comprehensive rate.

For the four-year span that encompasses the current data (entering classes from 1995-98), there were 67,277 students tracked within the federal cohort. Within the GSR, however, the initial cohort for those years is 91,051 students — an increase of about 35 percent.

"Clearly, the federal methodology has been missing a significant number of scholarship student-athletes who are competing on NCAA teams," Petr said. "By the old standards, some 24,000 students who contributed on the field of play were not included in the calculation of the rate. Additionally, more than 16,000 students who left institutions in good academic standing were universally viewed as academic failures."

The first release of GSR data includes team rates only, and not an aggregate rate for each institution. The Division I Board of Directors deliberately chose that approach to focus initially on teams as the unit of analysis. Institution GSRs will be released in late January, along with the overall federal graduation rates. By not accounting for transfers in or transfers out, most college and university presidents believe the federal graduation rate fails to adequately assess the academic success of those students who are participating in Division I athletics.

"Under the federal methodology, a student-athlete who transfers from one Division I college to another is treated as a nongraduate at the first and is ignored in the calculation at the second even if he or she graduates," Petr said. "Similarly, a 2-year transfer into a Division I institution is never included in that school's federal graduation rate calculation. Given the mobility of today's students, the GSR is simply a more defensible methodology."

Although the GSR is higher for many or even most teams compared to the federal rate, Petr noted that team GSRs will be lower if teams rely heavily on transfers and do not pay attention to their academic progress.

"The way incoming transfers affect a team's GSR is an important distinction," Petr said. "The new metric holds institutions accountable for the academic success of all student-athletes enrolled at a given time. It is a mistake to assume that the GSR for every team will increase over the federal rate."

Brand said the GSR responds to a presidential need. “The GSR complements the federal rate and responds to a request from college presidents to more accurately depict transfer trends in higher education,” he said. “The NCAA is not going to stop releasing rates based on the federal methodology; however, we are continuing our appeals to the Department of Education to adopt what we believe is a better approach.”

Brand said the federal methodology maintains some value because it is the only rate by which to compare student-athlete success with student body success.

“While the GSR is a more accurate rate for student-athletes, there is no comparable measure to date for the student body that tracks transfers the way the GSR does,” he said.

Both the federal rate and the GSR track the four most recent cohort, the entering classes of 1995-96 to 1998-99. Preliminary data from the federal methodology show student-athletes graduating at a rate of 62 percent.

Federal rates for football and men’s basketball student-athletes in the four-class cohort remain steady — about 54 percent and 44 percent, respectively. The latter continues to be the lowest for any sport in the federal rate. The GSRs for both sports indicate that more student-athletes are actually graduating than reflected by the federal rate — 64 percent in Division I football (65 percent in Division I-A, 63 percent in Division I-AA) and 58 percent in men’s basketball. Those two sports, however, still show the lowest rates by sport in the GSR calculation. Baseball and wrestling are next at 65 and 66 percent, respectively.

The top three sports in the Division I GSR are women’s lacrosse (94 percent), and women’s gymnastics, field hockey and women’s fencing (93 percent). Women’s swimming and diving also eclipsed the 90-percent mark (91 percent).

CPOA PA Topic of the Month

FINANCIAL AID

When you are reviewing financial aid data on colleges through various websites and publications it’s important to be aware of a few key facts.

- While many publications will say that certain schools provided aid to 100% of students that needed aid or 95% of students that needed aid, that information alone doesn’t tell you that much. If the school gave \$1 to a student in the form of aid, they would go into the percentage pool of students who received aid.
- Many publications publish the average aid package and many private schools will say that the average aid package is for example \$18,320 dollars. This may sound great, but doesn’t tell the whole story. Some of this aid may be work-study or low-interest loans from the school. While technically aid, it’s aid you either have to work for or pay off later. Colleges will provide you a breakdown of where your aid

is coming from and if you have additional questions, it's important that you work with them. Most aid offices have people who are friendly and understand your needs, and while they may not be able to meet all your need, they will try to help you in any way they can. In a sense they work for you if you are paying to go to school.

CPOA News

Division I Soccer Signing Streak Continues

For the 5th consecutive year College Prospects of Pennsylvania has had a female Soccer client sign at a Division I school. This year has already produced two Division I signees:

Megan Hill of Penn Hills HS – Kent State
Lindsay Stefanini – Hopewell HS – Morehead State

CPOAPA to produce Showcase Camps in 2006

CPOAPA has partnered with **NEHSS/Top College Prospects Recruiting Showcase (TCP)** and will be running Showcase camps in Western PA this spring, summer and fall. Camps will include Softball, Baseball, Lacrosse and Soccer. These showcase camps will be open to all Western PA athletes.

Each TCP showcase includes 3 different parts - Speed Timing, Fundamental Skill Evaluation, and a Simulated Game Experience. Obviously, each showcase is customized for a specific sport. As an example, the Softball Showcase begins with baserunning drills and timing, has a combination batting practice/fielding practice, includes a pitching evaluation (including radar gun evaluation) and ends with a simulated game. Every player is guaranteed playing time!

Additional Features of an event:

Talent Evaluation:

Staff and Invited College Coaches evaluate participants during drills and game situations. Drills are developed and selected based on input from College Coaches -- giving them the opportunity to assess specific areas of fundamental ability Game situations enable our Staff and College Coaches to assess a student's talent in the flow of actual competition.

Example of Drills: Softball - Baserunning (Home to 1st, 2nd to Home) INF/OF Drills, Batting Practice

Example of Game Situations: Students are guaranteed at least 3 at bats and pitchers are guaranteed the opportunity to pitch to at least 6 batters.

Evaluation Report:

Information collected from the showcase, as well as academic, athletic and contact information provided by each student is combined to create a basic report. Students can forward the report to schools (by the student) to help start each student's visibility with college coaches! This report includes evaluation of fundamental areas (example - a Softball Pitcher is evaluated on 19 different fundamental areas!) that a student may use

to understand what areas require refinement and development.

Recruiting Seminar:

Recruiting Tips - Each parent is offered the opportunity to hear a 60 minute seminar on the Recruiting Process. This seminar will provide parents with important insights into the the recruiting process. Armed with this information, parents will be able to start the recruiting process!

CPOAPA partners with Icebox Athletics

CPOAPA and Icebox Athletics will be producing a specialized clinic this spring in the areas of cutting-edge Mental Skills & Toughness Training; Athletic Speed, Agility, and Quickness. These specialized clinics will be open to all Western PA athletes.

The clinics will be led by Spencer Wood an internationally renowned speaker and dynamic trainer of athletes and coaches. As an author, teacher and speaker, Spencer has spoken at events such as Peru's 2003 international conference on Athletic Excellence, the Nike Coach of the Year Awards in Michigan, the 2005 NCAA Final Four, and the 2005 National Soccer Coaches Association's National Conference. His articles have appeared in publications such as The WBCA journal and World Class Coaching.

CONTACT SHEETS

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at martin.rock@cpoapa.com if you need additional copies!

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

Every CPOA PA Student-Athlete has received a NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete as part of the STUDENT PACKET you received when you joined the program. In this guide, you find instructions on how to apply for your NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse Number. Eligibility is based on what core courses have been completed, SAT scores and overall GPA in core courses. NCAA approved core courses, by high school, can be found at <http://actrs7.act.org/ahs>.

STUDENTS APPLY FOR THEIR NCAA ECN AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW ELIGIBILITY AS EARLY AS THE SOPHOMORE YEAR TO ENSURE THE CORRECT COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED! For more information about the process, email martin.rock@cpoapa.com for a NCAA Guide or call 888-ASK-CPOA (CPOA Program Members Only).

INTERNET UPDATES

If you have update information for your Internet profile, please forward to martin.rock@cpoapa.com. Remember that you automatically receive (2) two free updates per year. If you've upgraded your program to receive unlimited updates you can send updates every day/week if you'd like. Updates take approximately 72 hours to be made online.

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at martin.rock@cpoapa.com and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$50 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention fall sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are **now overdue**. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

RECRUITING SEMINARS

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).