



FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES



History of Faculty Involvement in the NCAA

- Since the very beginning of time
- National, Conference, Campus



FARs and NCAA Organization, Legislative Authority and Legislative Process

The NCAA Manuals indicate the following:

- **Each member institution is required to appoint a faculty athletics representative.**
- **Qualifications are specific.**
- **The FAR is the representative of the institution and its faculty in the relationship between the NCAA and the local campus.**
- **The FAR is one of five individuals authorized to make contact with the NCAA membership services staff in normal interaction between the NCAA and local campuses.**



FARs and the NCAA Committee Structure

FARs routinely serve on NCAA councils, cabinets and committees.

- Certain NCAA governance units are required to include FARs in their membership, and the eligibility of FARs for other committees is explicitly mentioned in the NCAA Manuals.

- The NCAA Manuals indicate:
 - Those who are “on the staff” are eligible for membership on NCAA committees.

 - The NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification is required to include a faculty athletics representative on its committee.



Division I Governance: FARs are eligible for membership on the Division I Management Council. NCAA bylaws mandate the inclusion of FARs on the Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet, the Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet, the Division I Strategic Planning Cabinet, and the Division I Business/Finance Cabinet.

Division II Governance: FARs are eligible for membership on the Division II Management Council. As members of the Division II Management Council, FARs may be eligible to serve on the Division II Administrative Committee and the Division II Budget and Finance Committee.

Division III Governance: FARs are eligible for membership on the Division III Management Council. As members of the Division III Management Council, FARs may be eligible to serve on the Division III Administrative Committee.



Position Description

- Essential
- Acceptance and approval from CEO
- FARA examples
- Duties, Expectations, and Funding



FARs and NCAA Waivers/Appeals Process

FARs are identified in the NCAA Manuals as being among those who are routinely empowered to prepare, on behalf of their institutions, requests for waivers or appeals from NCAA legislation or process.

- **Initial eligibility waiver requests**
- **Appeals to restore the eligibility of a student-athlete**
- **Institutional appeals to the NCAA Administrative Review Panel.**
- **Waiver requests of divisional membership requirements.**



FARs and the NCAA Enforcement Process

- FARs are to be included in official notifications from the NCAA that an official inquiry is being initiated to determine if rules violations have occurred.
- The FAR (along with the AD) is to receive a copy of the letter from the NCAA enforcement staff to the CEO informing the CEO that the enforcement staff has determined that an official inquiry is justified in the investigation of an alleged violation.



FARs and Athletics Certification

- FARs should be an important resource person both in preparing an institution's self-study report and in assisting the NCAA external peer-review team during its on-site evaluation visit.
- The FAR must hold the basic qualifications to be included in the pool of peer reviewers in the athletics certification process.



FAR Credentials and Duties

- Individuals who may hold the position of faculty athletics representative are described in Article 6.1.3 of the NCAA Constitution as “a member of the institution’s faculty or an administrator who holds faculty rank and shall not hold an administrative or coaching position in the athletics department.”
- FARs provide oversight and advice in the administration of an institutional athletics program.
- The working relationship between the CEO and the FAR is a critically important determinant of the effectiveness of the FAR in contributing to the local control of the intercollegiate athletics program.
- The FAR’s relationship with the AD and SWA is also critical.
- It is recommended that FARs have tenure.



The Short Answer

Local duties of FARs vary from institution, but in every case the FAR is or should be involved in the assurance of the academic integrity of the athletics program and in the maintenance of the well-being of the student-athlete.



FAR as Member of Institutional Athletics Committees

- It is customary for FARs to be members of institutional committees that influence the policies and procedures of local athletic programs.
- FARs can provide information about NCAA or conference processes pending legislation, and other important issues.
- FARs often serve as chairpersons for these groups.



FARs are Involved with Exit Interviews

- FARs should either take part in the mandated exit interviews at Division I institutions or review the results of the interviews with student-athletes as they depart the athletics program.
- Exit interviews can provide a useful assessment of student perceptions of the health of the athletics program.



FARs Monitor Academic Performance of Student-Athletes

- **FARs will be called upon to review information that relates to the academic well-being of the student-athlete to ensure that the athletes who attend can and do thrive academically.**
- **Academic credentials of entering student-athletes, academic attainment of continuing students, rates at which student-athletes graduate from the institution.**
- **Clustering of academic majors**
- **Coordination of nominations for NCAA and other academic awards**



FARs May Be Involved in Delivery of Academic Services to Student-Athletes

- FARs ensure that academic services are available to student-athletes, within NCAA by-laws.
- They bring experience as educators and their understanding of faculty values to this endeavor and influence the delivery of services, such as tutorials, study table, academic advising and other services designed for the academic enhancement of student-athletes.



FARs Monitor Student-Athlete Experience

- FARs should be involved in the monitoring and maintenance of the personal welfare of student-athletes.
- FARs should offer themselves as independent sources of support to student-athletes.
- FARs should be closely involved with SAAC.



FARs Meet Regularly with the Director of Athletics

- Regular interaction between the FAR and the AD is necessary, and wide-ranging discussion of all aspects of the athletics program is encouraged.
- This helps the FAR to develop the knowledge base needed to make effective contributions.



FAR Makes Regular Reports to the Faculty

- An efficient link between the FAR and the faculty senate or other body is useful in assuring the faculty of accurate and timely information regarding the athletics program.
- It is common for the FAR to report periodically to the faculty senate regarding the operation of the athletics program.



FAR as a Delegate to the NCAA Convention

- The FAR should represent the institution as a delegate to the annual NCAA Convention and attend any special meetings of the NCAA.
- In many cases, the FAR is designated as the voting delegate in the absence of the CEO.
- FAR should be involved in discussions with CEO and the AD in which the institution's voting position on NCAA legislation is established.



FAR Involvement on Conference Level

- Regular attendance
- Operations and management of the conference
- SAAC
- FAR meetings



FARs are typically involved in the following conference activities:

- Discussions that promote better understanding of NCAA regulations and how they affect conference members.
- Discussions regarding NCAA violations that involve conference members.
- Discussions regarding conference schedules to assess the impact of the academic welfare of student-athletes.
- Conference decisions that relate to waivers of conference eligibility requirements.
- Discussions that determine the voting position of the conference at NCAA Conventions.
- Determining recipients of conference academic honors.



FAR and Financial Support

- Financial support for the activities of the FAR (travel, communications, supplies, etc.) should come from sources outside the athletics department.
- FAR should exercise caution in accepting what might be considered to be “perks” in conjunction with their positions.



FARs and Compliance Contacts with the NCAA

- FARs are encouraged to attend annual regional rules seminars sponsored by the NCAA and to avail themselves of written sources of information regarding compliance matters, such as
 - NCAA Guide to Rules Compliance
 - NCAA Guide to Financial Aid
 - NCAA Guide to Eligibility



FARs and Student-Athlete Eligibility

- FARs may or may not be involved directly in certifying student-athletes as eligible for practice, financial aid or intercollegiate competition. In all cases, however, they should be knowledgeable in the procedures utilized and should ensure that the individuals who are performing such certifications are fully aware of all relevant NCAA legislation and interpretations related to such matters.
- At a minimum, the FAR should inspect periodically such records for accuracy and to ensure appropriate and complete documentation.



FARs and Rules Violations

- FARs should play a central role in any major institutional inquiries into alleged or suspected rules violations.
- FARs should be involved in the preparation of written reports of infractions that are made to the conference or to the NCAA.



Essential Faculty Athletics Representative Responsibilities and Support Services



Support Services

The FAR should be provided support services commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the office, including all or some of the following:

- Release time from teaching or service responsibilities
- Summer support, including the possibility of a fiscal-year contract.
- Full- or part-time secretarial assistance.
- A microcomputer with connections to the institution's mainframe computer system for access to the admissions, academic and financial aid records of student-athletes.
- A travel budget.



Responsibilities

- The FAR should ensure, either directly or indirectly, that student-athletes meet all NCAA, conference and institutional requirements for eligibility for practice, financial aid and intercollegiate competition.
- The FAR should develop, or arrange to have developed, periodic statistical reports on the academic preparation and performance of student-athletes for each sports team.
- The FAR should be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for institutional compliance activities or responsibilities which involved campus entities outside the athletics department.



- The FAR should be knowledgeable about the NCAA and conference rules related to academic eligibility, transfer requirements, and restrictions and enforcement procedures.
- The FAR should have direct contact with student-athletes on a systematic and periodic basis.
- The FARA should be a senior advisor outside of the athletics department to the CEO on matters related to intercollegiate athletics.
- The FAR should represent the institution to the NCAA and to the athletics conferences.
- The FAR should be an active member of the campus intercollegiate athletics board or committee.



Must Do

- Develop a written job description.
- Obtain approval of the job description from the CEO.
- Identify the resources needed to successfully meet the responsibilities and arrange for these resources to be made available.
- Learn the rules, especially those contained in NCAA Bylaws 14, 13, and 15, in that order.
- Establish control or oversight of academic eligibility decisions.
- Together with the CEO and AD, develop a comprehensive plan for the institutional control of intercollegiate athletics.
- Be visible to the student-athletes.
- Report all secondary and major violations to the NCAA.



Must Also Do

- Establish solid working relationships with the AD, the compliance coordinator, the director of admissions, the registrar and the director of student financial aid.
- Be active in working with the institution's athletics board or committee and report regularly to the institution's faculty governance structure.
- Be positive about the good things in intercollegiate athletics, but do not attempt to be an apologist for those things that are problematic and require change.
- Participate on search committees for senior athletics department administrators and head coaches.
- Be cautious when accepting perks.



FARs and the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA)



FARA Programs and Activities

- Each fall, the Legislative Review Committee (LRC) conducts a review of proposed legislation to be voted on at the subsequent NCAA Convention pertaining to academic standards or that which may otherwise impact the student-athlete, and circulates its written report to the membership.
- FARA conducts an annual meeting (the FARA Fall Forum) as well as meetings at the NCAA Convention and the regional rules seminars.
- Training and orientation sessions for newly appointed FARs are available at both the FARA Fall Forum and the NCAA Convention.



History of FARA

- FARA began in the mid-1980s.
- Conducted forums in conjunction with the NCAA Convention to provide means of discussion of issues that were of concern to the NCAA membership.
- FARA Bylaws ratified in 1989.
- FARA was designed to promote greater cohesion among FARs and to enhance their usefulness within the NCAA and at their respective institutions.



Organization of FARA

- Membership of FARA includes all persons who hold appointments at their institutions as FARs.
- Seven elected officers – President, President-Elect, Past-President, Division I Vice-President, Division II Vice-President, and Division III Vice-President (one-year, non-renewable terms) and a secretary-treasurer (two-year, renewable term).
- Executive Committee – Elected officers, two Division I-A members, one member each from Division I-AA, Division I-AAA and two members each from Divisions II and III.
- Legislative Review Committee – Separate LRC for each division, appointed by Executive Committee.



Purposes of FARA

- To promote academic integrity in intercollegiate athletics, to facilitate the integration of the athletics and academic components of the collegiate community, and to promote institutional control of athletics on campuses.
- To provide a collective voice for FARs and is an active participant in the national dialogue on the importance of academic values in the conduct of athletics programs.
- To serve as a resource for various NCAA committees and constituent organizations for a faculty perspective on a variety of topics.



QUESTIONS?



Division Discussion

- Who's in charge?
- Three most important messages for new FAR
- What works well
- What works not so well
- Wants and regrets