



To: Kevin Anderson, NCAA Director of Athletics

CC: Edward Ray, President of Oregon State University & Chair of the NCAA Executive Committee

RE: Concern about NCAA Proposal #2009-100

The Association of College and University Housing Officers—International (ACUHO-I) joins the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) in asking for more serious consideration before enacting NCAA Division I Proposal 2009-100, *Recruiting-Tryouts-Nonscholastic Practice, Contest or Event-Men's Basketball*. If instituted, this rule will have detrimental consequences that go far beyond discouraging inappropriate varsity basketball recruitment practices.

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ACUHO-I is the premier association for professionals in college and university housing. ACUHO-I provides educational and networking opportunities for more than 900 institutions worldwide. Along with managing student housing, most ACUHO-I members also provide camp and conference housing during university vacation periods.

If adopted the rule would result in millions of dollars of lost revenue for campuses nationwide at a time when they can ill-afford such a hardship. While the proposed rule is limited to basketball, our members—and apparently some camp organizers—foresee it being expanded to cover all NCAA-governed sports. Housing departments alone net hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on athletic camps and are able to keep both student and full time staff employed during the summer months. Dining and other auxiliary services profit from these events as well. This rule's "budget impact" is not, as stated in the legislative proposal, a "potential for lost revenue." It is a *certainty* for lost revenue.

While the NCAA might not feel direct effects of lost revenue as will its constituent campuses, ACUHO-I would like to note the indirect, but no less costly, results of the approval of proposal 2009-100:

- Sports camps are an excellent way for NCAA member institutions to reach out to the communities that support them throughout the academic year. This goodwill would be lost if the camps are cancelled.
- Some communities don't have sports facilities and overnight lodging that can handle a large number of student athletes, except for those at the local



institution of higher education. For these communities, a sports camp would be out of the question.

- This rule would result in fewer camps for any sport being held, on campus or off, and would depress student-athlete recruitment in general.
- Sports camps are a friendly introduction to college and campus life, particularly for youth who might be first-generation college enrollees. Seeing a campus from the inside-out can be inspirational for a student who might not have thought about college before.

Sport camps allow some NCAA member institutions from laying off University staff in the areas of housekeeping, Residence Life, security, food service and facilities maintenance thus keeping the work force in place for the entire year. Our members report that the overwhelming majority of their sports camp participants are not NCAA Division-I-caliber athletes, nor do they aspire to be. For them, basketball camp is a fun way to improve their skills, meet friends, and a thrilling chance to play on the same court on which their heroes compete during the regular season. Our members receive applications from some of these students when they are applying to college, in part because of the fond memories they created during their camp experience. This proposal would hurt these students more than it would benefit NCAA Division-I athletes.

NCAA proposal 2009-100 is an ineffective solution to a complex problem. This sweeping rule is not an effective way to curb inappropriate recruiting practices, but it will have a massive detrimental effect on institutions and their communities. ACUHO-I urges the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Issues Committee to reconsider this harmful regulation. We are willing and able to work with the committee to suggest alternative solutions to the ones proposed.

We can be reached at the ACUHO-I Central Office, 612-292-9090 should you want to discuss and of the issues we brought up personally. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Handwritten signature of Michael Schultz in black ink.

Michael Schultz  
President – ACUHO-I

Handwritten signature of Sallie Traxler in black ink.

Sallie Traxler  
Executive Director – ACUHO-I

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