SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS CERTIFICATION

Colgate University

During its July 19-21, 1998, meeting, the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification reviewed written materials related to the self-study of athletics completed by Colgate University and the campus evaluation visit conducted by peer-review team members February 22-25, 1998.

Certification Status

Based upon the information submitted, the committee determined that the institution should be certified.

This classification means that the institution is considered to be operating its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the Association’s Division I membership and that any problems identified during the course of the self-study and the peer-review team’s evaluation were considered to be not serious enough to affect the institution’s certification status.

Strategies for Improvement

As a normal part of their evaluations, institutions and peer-review teams recommend strategies designed to improve the quality of athletics programs. The Committee on Athletics Certification then determines whether each recommendation should be included in the committee’s certification decision.

In this instance, the committee noted the series of recommended plans for improvement identified in the institution’s self-study report and in materials submitted by the institution following the peer-review team’s visit. The committee received the self-study report and additional materials with the understanding that any plans for improvement outlined by the institution will be implemented according to the deadlines the institution has established but not later than the time of the institution’s next certification self-study or interim report, whichever is earlier. In any event, the plans must be carried out sufficiently in advance of the institution’s next self-study or interim report to permit a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of those actions.

In addition, the committee considered recommendations of the institution and the peer-review team and determined that the institution shall be required to:

1. Modify the mission statement of the institution’s athletics program to ensure that it contains all elements of NCAA Bylaw 23.2.1.1 (Institutional Mission); specifically, ensure that it addresses the support of equitable opportunities for all students and staff, including women and minorities.

2. Submit the university’s revised rules-compliance policies and procedures manual, which includes rules-compliance education, eligibility, recruiting, handling of possible rules violations, and other areas, noted in the institution's June 11, 1998, letter.

3. Modify the institution’s gender-equity plan to identify the method for determining the interests and abilities of female student-athletes.

4. Revise the current minority-opportunities plan to provide specific details to explain how the institution intends to increase the percentage of enrolled minority student-athletes.
In regard to Item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 above, the university will be expected to submit to the Committee on Athletics Certification as soon as practicable but not later than March 1, 1999, evidence that these required actions have been taken by the institution. Should the institution fail to submit the information requested in the time specified, the committee will consider whether the institution's certification status shall be modified.

As noted in the "Certification Status" section of this document, the committee felt that these concerns were not serious enough to affect the institution's certification status. Action taken by the institution in response to the strategies for improvement noted above will be examined at the time of the institution's next self-study or interim report, whichever is earlier, without interim campus visits or additional communication with the committee, unless specifically noted above as part of the committee's action.

The committee also appreciated receiving information submitted by the institution following the peer-review team's visit regarding the academic support program and the Colgate Athletic Council Fund. The committee concluded that any issues in these areas had been addressed satisfactorily.

Suggestions

The committee recognizes that the peer-review team made a good faith effort in offering various recommendations to improve the institution's athletics program. The institution is obligated to take specific actions, however, only for those items noted in the "Strategies for Improvement" section of this document, which include those improvement plans developed by the institution. The committee has elected not to include other recommendations that appeared in the peer-review team's report. The institution should feel free, however, to review those recommendations to consider the extent to which they are consistent with the operating principles and would improve the quality of the athletics program.

In addition, the committee has included in this document the following suggestion, which is gleaned from the revised summary of plans for improvement, and the committee wishes to call it to the institution's attention for its consideration:

In developing a specific method for determining interests and abilities of female student-athletes, consider that measuring only the interests and abilities of the current female student body is not effective inasmuch as prospective students who are interested in a sport that is not offered by the university most likely would not matriculate at the institution.
ATTACHED IS INFORMATION CONCERNING ACTION TAKEN BY THE NCAA COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS CERTIFICATION REGARDING YOUR INSTITUTION’S SELF-STUDY OF ITS ATHLETICS PROGRAM.

A copy of this material has been forwarded to your director of athletics.

Public announcement of the committee’s actions is scheduled for Thursday, August 20. The attached materials contain information about that announcement.

Additional copies are included in this packet for distribution to your institution’s athletics certification self-study steering committee chair, faculty athletics representative, senior woman administrator of athletics programs and campus communications liaison.

A copy also has been forwarded to the conference commissioner.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

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Director of Membership Services

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