



MANUAL

2010-11 UNITED STATES SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING COLLEGIATE PROGRAM

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USSS COLLEGIATE PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Colleges and Universities in Collegiate USSS place highest priority on the overall quality of each members experience and on the successful completion of all students' academic programs. They seek to establish and maintain an environment in which student-athlete's activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience, and in which coaches play a significant role as educators. They also seek to establish and maintain an environment that values cultural diversity among their student-athletes and athletics staff. To achieve this end, USSS Collegiate institutions:

- (a) Place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators and place greater emphasis on the internal constituency (e.g., students, alumni, institutional personnel) than on the general public and its entertainment needs;
- (b) Shall not award financial aid to any student on the basis of athletic leadership, ability, participation or performance, unless a registered Division I, II or NAIA Varsity program;
- (c) Encourage the development of sportsmanship and positive societal attitudes in all constituents, including student-athletes, coaches, administrative personnel and spectators;
- (d) Encourage participation by maximizing the number of program opportunities for their students;
- (e) Assure that the actions of coaches and administrators exhibit fairness, openness and honesty in their relationships with student-athletes;
- (f) Assures that athletics recruitment complies with established institutional policies and procedures applicable to the admission process;
- (g) Assure that academic performance of student-athletes is, at a minimum, consistent with that of the general student body;
- (h) Support ethnics and gender diversity for all constituents;
- (i) Support student-athletes in their efforts to reach high levels of athletics performance, which may include opportunities for participation in national championships and with national teams, by providing all teams with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities; and
- (j) Place special importance on the growth and retention throughout all levels of United States Synchronized Swimming.

The purpose of the USSS Collegiate Committee is to assist its members in developing the basis for consistent, equitable competition while minimizing infringement on the freedom of individual institutions to determine their own special objectives and programs. The above statement articulates principles that represent a commitment to the USSS Collegiate membership and shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation for the program and for planning and implementation of programs by institutions and conferences.

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NAME

The name of this program shall be “United States Synchronized Swimming Collegiate Program.”

PURPOSE

The purposes of this program are:

- (a) To initiate, stimulate, and improve intercollegiate athletics programs for student-athletes and to promote and develop educational leadership, physical fitness, athletics excellence and athletics participation as a recreational pursuit;
- (b) To uphold the principles set forth by United States Synchronized Swimming, Inc. (the “Corporation”)
- (c) To encourage its members to adopt eligibility rules to comply with satisfactory standards of scholarship, sportsmanship and amateurism;
- (d) To formulate, and publish rules of play governing intercollegiate athletics;
- (e) To supervise the contact of, and to establish eligibility standards for, regional and national athletics events under the auspices of this program;
- (f) To cooperate with the USSS corporation and conferences in promoting and conducting national and international athletic events;
- (g) To legislate, through bylaws or by resolutions of the committee, upon any subject of general concern to the members related to the program of Collegiate USSS;
- (h) To study in general all phases of competitive intercollegiate teams and establish standards whereby the colleges and universities of the United States can maintain their athletics programs on a high level.

FUNDAMENTAL POLICY

Basic Purpose. The competitive Synchronized Swimming programs of member institutions are designed to be a vital part of the educational system. A basic purpose of this program is to maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the educational program and the athlete as an integral part of the student body and, by so doing, retain a clear line of demarcation between intercollegiate athletics and professional sports.

Obligations of Member Institutions. Legislation governing the conduct of intercollegiate synchronized swimming programs of member institutions shall apply to basic athletic issues such as admissions, financial aid, eligibility and recruiting. Member institutions shall be obligated to apply and enforce this legislation, and the enforcement procedures of the Program shall be applied to an institution when it fails to fulfill this obligation.

Recruiting

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Eligibility Effects of Recruiting Violation. The recruitment of a prospecting student-athlete by a member institution or any representative of its athletics interests in violation of the USSS Collegiate legislation, as acknowledged by the institution or established through the Collegiate group, shall result in the student –athlete’s becoming ineligible to represent that institution in intercollegiate athletics. The USSS Collegiate Compliance Committee may restore the eligibility of a student involved in such a violation only when circumstances clearly warrant restoration. A student is responsible for his or her involvement in a violation of USSS Collegiate regulations during the student’s recruitment and involvement in a major violation may cause the student to become permanently ineligible for intercollegiate athletics competition at that institution.

Entertainment. A member institution may provide entertainment, at a scale comparable to that of normal student life and not excessive in nature.

Program Responsibility In Recruitment. A member of an institution’s athletics staff or a representative of its athletics interests shall not recruit a prospective student-athlete except as permitted by the USSS Collegiate Committee.

Recruiting by Representatives of Athletics Interests. Representatives of an institution’s athletics interest may make in-person, on- or off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete; however, such off-campus contacts may not occur until the conclusion of the prospective student-athlete’s junior year in high school.

Note: This rule is exempt if an athlete seeks out a coach at a collegiate booth during that coaches allotted time at either Jr. Nationals or Age-Group Nationals.

DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Recruiting. Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospective student-athlete or a prospective student-athlete’s relatives [or guardian(s)] by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution’s athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospective student-athlete’s enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program.

Contact. A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete’s relatives or legal guardians and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged (e.g., positions himself/herself in a location where contact is possible) or that takes place on the grounds of the prospective student-athletes educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospective athlete or the athletes national team shall be considered a contact, regardless of the conversation that occurs.

Coaches Approached by Student-Athletes. An institutional staff member or athletics representative who is approached by a prospective student-athlete at any location shall not use a contact, provided the encounter was not prearranged and the staff member or athletics representative does not engage in any dialogue in excess of a greeting and takes appropriate steps to immediately terminate the encounter.

CONTACTS

High School Prospective Student Athletes. In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall not be made with a prospective student-athlete until the prospective student-athlete has completed the junior year in high school.

Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes. An athletics staff member or other representative of the institution's athletics interests shall not make contact with the student-athlete of an NCAA or NAIA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining the written permission of the first institution's athletics director (or an athletic administrator designated by the athletics director) to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact.

- a. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer and shall not provide athletically related financial assistance to the student-athlete until the student-athlete has attended the second institution for one academic year.

Telephone Calls. All electronically transmitted human voice exchange (including videoconferencing and videophones) shall be considered telephone calls.

Timing of Telephone Calls. Telephone calls shall not be made with a prospective student-athlete or a parent before July 1 immediately preceding the prospective student-athlete's Junior year in high school.

Number of Telephone Calls. Phone calls cannot be made more than once per week.

Coaches Receiving Telephone Calls from Student-Athletes. Institutional staff members may receive telephone calls placed by a prospective student-athlete at the prospective student-athlete's own expense at any time.

Electronic Transmissions. Electronically transmitted correspondence (including e-mail and fax) may not provide athletically related recruiting materials to a prospective student-athlete until *September 1* at the beginning of the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school.

Contact Restrictions at Specified Sites.

Practice or Competition Site. Recruiting contact may not be made with a prospective student-athlete before any athletics competition in which the prospective student-athlete is a participant during the day or days of competition, even if the prospective student-athlete is on an official or unofficial visit. Such contact shall be governed by the following:

- a. Contact shall not be made with the prospective student-athlete at any site before the contest on the day or days of competition.
- b. Contact shall not be made with the prospective student-athlete from the time the prospective student-athlete reports on call and becomes involved in competition-related activity to the end of the competition even if such competition-related activities are initiated before the day or days of competition.

- c. Contact shall not be made after the competition until the prospective student-athlete is released by the appropriate institutional authority and departs the dressing and meeting facility; and
- d. Contact shall not be made with the prospective student-athlete involved in competition that requires more than one day of participation until after the prospective student-athlete's final contest is completed and she is released by the appropriate institutional authority and leaves the dressing and meeting facility. Basically, collegiate coaches MAY NOT speak to prospective student athletes at any competition until awards are over and their club coach has released them from anything else.

Exemption for Collegiate Growth. A program representative is allowed to sign up for an allotted time, during the US Age-group and US Jr. National competitions, to stand as a representative at the collegiate booth. It is encouraged that collegiate coaches attend these meets to help with the growth and retention within USSS.

Note: If a program representative is approached by a prospective student-athlete, (unless it's during the allotted booth time) the coach is allowed to introduce herself to them and make it clear that she is not able to speak with them until after the entire competition is over. No more than a greeting.

RECRUITING MATERIALS

General Regulations. Institutions are permitted to provide to prospective student-athletes, relative's [or guardian(s)], and to coaches of prospective student-athletes any official academic, admissions, athletics and student-services publications or electronic media published or produced by the institution.

- a. However, an institution may provide, institutional camp brochures (not synchro specific), questionnaires, and non-athletically related recruiting materials (ex., institutional admissions publications, academic publications, student services publications) to a prospective student-athlete at any time.

Note: At Age Group Nationals, US Opens and US Juniors, you may provide your school's information for display at the collegiate booth.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Official Visits. An official visit is a visit from a prospective student-athlete to an institution to evaluate the athletics program as well as the academic programs. It is a visit financed in whole or in part or in part by the member institution including airfare, meals, transportation and some entertainment.

Number of Expense Paid Visits. A prospective student-athlete may take a maximum of five (5) expense-paid visits, with no more than one permitted to any single institution.

- a. This restriction applies regardless of the number of sports in which the prospective student-athlete is involved and only for expense-paid visits to D-1 and D-2 institutions.

First Opportunity to Visit. A prospective student-athlete may not be provided an official visit earlier than the opening day of classes of the prospective student-athlete's senior year in high school.

- a. In order to provide an expense paid visit, the prospective student-athlete must present a score from a PSAT, SAT, PLAN or an ACT test taken on a national testing date under a national testing conditions, or an ACT test taken on a state testing date under state testing conditions.

- b. The score must be presented in writing through a testing-agency document or on a high school academic transcript or through the use of the applicable testing agency's automated-voice system. They must also be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center and is placed on the institution's institutional request list (IRL) with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Transfer Student-Athlete Visits. If a student-athlete attending a four-year institution desires to transfer and that institution provide the permission required (release from the current institution), it is permissible for a second institution to provide the student-athlete one official visit to that institution's campus.

Length of Official Visit. An official visit to an institution shall not exceed 48 hours. A prospective student-athlete may remain in the locale in which the institution is located after the permissible 48-hour period for reasons unrelated to the official visit, provided that at the completion of the 48-hour visit, the individual departs the campus, and the institution does not pay any further expenses, including the cost of the return transportation to the prospective student-athlete's home.

The 48-Hour Period Defined. The 48-hour period of the official visit begins at the time the prospective student-athlete arrives on the institution's campus, rather than with the initiation of the prospective student-athlete's transportation by a coach of the time of the arrival at the airport or elsewhere.

UNOFFICIAL VISITS

Unofficial Visits. An unofficial visit is at the expense of the prospective student-athlete. A prospective student-athlete may visit an institution's campus at his or her own expense an unlimited number of times and may take them prior to his or her senior year in high school.

Meals. An institution may provide a prospective student-athlete with a meal in the institution's on-campus facility during an unofficial visit.

Housing. An institution may provide a prospective student-athlete with housing during an unofficial visit, providing such housing is generally available to all visiting prospective student-athletes.

Lodging in Dormitories. A prospective student-athlete on an unofficial visit may stay in an enrolled student-athlete's dormitory room only if the prospective student-athlete pays the regular institutional rate for such lodging.

Transportation During an Unofficial Visit. During any unofficial recruiting visit, the institution may provide the prospective student-athlete with transportation to view practice and competition sites in the prospective student-athletes sport and other institutional facilities. In institutional staff member must accompany the prospective athlete during such a trip.

Entertainment/Tickets. During an unofficial visit, the institution may not pay any expenses or provide any entertainment except a maximum of 3 complimentary admissions to a campus athletics event in which the institution's intercollegiate team practices or competes.

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Program Responsibility. A program shall not permit a student-athlete to represent it in intercollegiate athletics competition unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements and USSS has certified the student-athlete’s eligibility. Violations of this bylaw in which the program fails to certify the student-athlete’s eligibility prior to allowing the student-athlete to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition shall be considered a program violation; however, such violations shall not affect the student-athlete’s eligibility, provided all necessary information to certify the student-athletes eligibility was available to the program and the student athlete would have been otherwise eligible for competition.

Academic Status. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies at that particular institution, be in good academic standing and maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree. A waiver of the minimum full-time enrollment requirement may be granted for a student enrolled in the final term of the baccalaureate program.

Good Academic Standing. A student-athlete must pass their classes in order to be eligible to compete the next season. If a student-athlete takes more than the minimum, they must pass at least the minimum to stay eligible. (ex., for semester schools, if an athlete takes 16 hours a semester, they would only need to pass 12 of those 16 hours to remain eligible).

Compliance with other NCAA and Conference Legislation. To be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate competition, a student-athlete shall be in compliance with all applicable provisions of the constitution and bylaws of Collegiate USSS and all rules and regulations of the institution.

Amateurism. A student-athlete shall not be eligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport, if the individual takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay in any form, for participation in that sport.

Ethical Conduct. A prospective or enrolled student-athlete who is found to have engaged in unethical conduct shall be ineligible for intercollegiate competition.

Unethical conduct consists, but is not limited to:

- (a) Fraudulence in connection with entrance or placement examinations;
- (b) Engaging in any athletics competition under an assumed name or with intent otherwise to deceive;
- (c) Dishonesty in evading or violating the Collegiate USSS Regulations; or

- (d) Knowingly furnishing Collegiate USSS or the individual's institution false or misleading information concerning the student's involvement in or knowledge of matters relevant to a possible violation of Collegiate USSS regulations.

DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

National Team. A national team is one selected, organized and sponsored by the appropriate national governing bodies of the U.S. Olympic Committee (or, for student-athletes representing another nation, the equivalent organization). The selection for such a team shall be made on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process or by actual tryouts, publicly announced in advance.

Residence. Residence is enrollment in a full-time academic program (as defined by the institution) at a collegiate institution during a regular term of an academic year. A summer term may not be used to satisfy a term of residence.

Waiver. A waiver is an action exempting an individual or institution from the application of a specific regulation. A waiver requires formal approval (Collegiate Compliance Committee, and VP of Operations as specified in the USSS Rule book) based on evidence of compliance with the specified conditions or criteria under which the waiver is authorized.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Postseason and Regular-Season Competition. To be eligible for regular-season competition and Collegiate USSS Championships, the student-athlete shall meet all applicable Collegiate USSS and Institutional eligibility requirements.

Student-Athlete Statement.

Content and Purpose. Before participation in intercollegiate competition each academic year, a student-athlete shall sign a statement in a form prescribed by USSS in which the student-athlete submits information related to eligibility, recruitment, financial aid, amateur status, previous positive drug tests administered by any other athletics organization and involvement in organized gambling activities related to intercollegiate and professional athletics competition in the Collegiate USSS governing legislation. Failure to complete and sign the statement shall result in the student-athletes' ineligibility for participation in all intercollegiate competition.

This statement can be found on page 18 of this manual. Please send the signed statements to the USSS National Office and maintain a copy for your records.

International Student-Athlete Form.

Eligibility Form. The eligibility of an international student-athlete shall be certified on a form approved by the Collegiate USSS Committee and must be completed prior to practice or competition. The completed form shall be sent to the USSS National office and maintained on file at the institution with other eligibility documents and shall be available for examination upon request by the Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee.

This statement can be found on page 18 of this manual. Please send the signed statements to the USSS National Office and maintain a copy for your records.

Admission and Enrollment.

Admission. A student-athlete shall not represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition unless the student has been admitted as a regularly enrolled, degree-seeking student in accordance with the regular, published entrance or admissions policies of that institution.

Full Time Enrollment.

Requirement for Practice. To be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions, a student-athlete shall be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree as defined by the regulations of the certifying institution. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered program violations; however, the violation shall not affect the student-athletes eligibility.

Note: Student-athletes must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies at the institution for which they represent.

Exception – Final Semester/Quarter. A student-athlete with athletics eligibility remaining may participate in organized practice sessions while enrolled in less than a minimum full-time program of studies, provided the student is enrolled in the final semester or quarter of the baccalaureate program and the institution certifies that the student is carrying (for credit) the courses necessary to complete the degree requirements, as determined by the faculty of the institution.

Exception – Practice during the First Week of Class. A student-athlete may practice, but not compete, during the institution’s first five days of classes if the student-athlete is enrolled in less than a minimum full –time program of studies, provided the student is otherwise eligible under all institutional, conference, and USSS requirements.

Graduate Program. A student may compete while enrolled in a full-time graduate program if the student-athlete has another year of eligibility.

Ineligibility. A student-athlete becomes ineligible for intercollegiate competition in his or her sport if, after enrollment in college and during any year in which the student-athlete is a member of an intercollegiate squad or team, he or she competes or has competed as a member of any outside team in any non-collegiate, amateur competition during the institution’s intercollegiate season in the sport.

Note: you cannot be on an age-group club team and represent your collegiate team at the same time or attend any non-collegiate meet like zones or association.

A member of the institution’s team. A student-athlete is considered to be a member of the institution’s team and bound by this regulation, if the student athlete:

- a) does not practice or compete but is receiving athletically related financial aid for the sport,
- b) is ineligible to compete but practiced with a squad or team in the sport,
- c) is eligible to compete but was not permitted to do so, other than taking part in practice sessions with the squad or team in the sport.

- It is permissible for a student-athlete to participate in outside competition as an individual during the academic year in the student-athlete’s sport, as long as the student-athlete represents only herself in the competition and does not engage in such competition as a member of or receive expenses from an outside team. (ei. If your school does not attend US nationals but you have an athlete that would like to go, they can go as long as they pay their own way and do not represent the school.) Once school has ended, the student-athlete may change clubs affiliation with the National Office and swim at the US Open or any other competitions in the summer.

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

The NCCA Clearinghouse rule only applies to Division I and Division II Varsity programs.

Registration with the NCAA Clearinghouse. A student-athlete needs to register with the NCAA clearinghouse for eligibility clearance. They may do that as early as the end of their junior year of high school. They can access it through the website at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Certification. They must be certified in order to compete. Student-athletes must also fill out the Amateurism statement.

- a. Prior to competing, they must receive a certification of amateur status.
- b. If they begin school and they have not yet be certified, they may practice but not compete up to 45 days.

Exemptions for Division III/NAIA/Club Team. Participation on a Institutional Division III or Club team is exempt form the application of this legislation, provided the institutions stance with the program does not change.

Playing and Practice Seasons

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GENERAL PLAYING-SEASON REGULATIONS

Playing Season. The playing season is the period of time between the date of an institution's first officially recognized practice session and the date of the institution's last practice session or date of competition, whichever occurs later.

Preseason Practice. Outside the playing season (prior to the 132 days) during the academic year, only a student-athlete's participation in weight-training, conditioning, individual skill instruction shall be permitted. A student-athlete's participation in such activities shall be limited to a maximum of eight hours per week, of which no more than two hours per week may be spent on individual skill instruction.

Coaching during Preseason. Participation by student-athletes in individual skill-related instruction is permitted outside the institution's declared playing season, provided no more than four (4) athletes from the same team are involved in skill-related instruction with their coaches at any one time in any facility.

Before you begin your 20 hours per week, you can only train 8 hours a week but only two of them can be with skill instruction or synchro specific with no more than 4 in the facility, so no writing of routines prior to your official season!!!

Length of Playing Season. The length of a programs playing season in synchronized swimming shall be limited to a 132- day season, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required days off and official vacation, holiday and final examination periods during which NO practice or competition shall occur.

First Practice Date. A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in synchronized swimming before September 7 or the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

Hours per Week. A student-athlete's participation in countable athletically related activities shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) hours per day and twenty (20) hours per week. Any team activity you make mandatory counts.

Including but not limited to:

- (a) Land drilling
- (b) Video watching
- (c) Strength and conditioning in the weight room.

Academic meetings or compliance meetings do not apply.

Number of Dates of Competition.

Minimum Competitions – Varsity Programs. A member institution shall compete in no less than 6 outside competitions prior to USSS Collegiate Nationals. The total number includes Regional and dual competitions.

Minimum Competitions – Club Programs. A member institution shall compete in no less than 3 outside competitions prior to the USSS Collegiate Nationals. The total number includes Regional and dual competitions.

Financial Aid- D III and Club Programs

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Definition and Application.....16

Rule Applies ONLY to Division III and Club Programs.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Institutional Financial Aid. A student-athlete may receive scholarships or grants administered by an educational institution that do not conflict with the governing legislation of the Collegiate USSS Program.

Institutional Financial Aid. A member institution shall not award financial aid to any student on the basis of athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance.

Contributions by Donor. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to finance a scholarship or gift aid for student-athletes.

DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Financial Aid. “Financial Aid” is funds provided to student-athletes from various sources to pay or assist in paying their cost of education at the institution. Financial Aid includes all institutional financial aid and other permissible financial aid as set forth below.

Institutional Financial Aid. The following sources of financial aid are considered to be institutional financial aid:

(a) All funds administered by the institution, which include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Scholarships;
- (2) Grants;
- (3) Tuition waivers;
- (4) Employee dependent tuition benefits;
- (5) Loans;
- (6) employment earnings from federal and state work-study program assistance; and

(b) Aid from government or private sources for which the institution is responsible for selecting the recipient or determining the amount of aid, or providing matching or supplementary funds for a previously determined recipient.

Financial Aid- DI, DII, and NAIA Programs

General Principle.....17

Rule Applies ONLY to Division I, II and NAIA Programs.

Division I, II and NAIA Programs will follow financial aid rules set forth by their institution as listed in their divisional manual.

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Mission of the USSS Collegiate Compliance Committee. It shall be the mission of the Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee to eliminate violations of Collegiate USSS rules and impose appropriate penalties should violations occur. The committee is committed to fairness of procedures and the timely equitable resolution of infractions cases. The achievement of these objectives is essential to the conduct of a viable and effective enforcement committee. Further, an important consideration in imposing penalties is to provide fairness to uninvolved student-athletes, coaches, administrators, competitors and other institutions.

Violations by institutional Staff Members. Institutional staff members found in violation of Collegiate USSS regulations shall be subject to disciplinary or corrective action as set forth in the provisions of the Collegiate USSS enforcement procedures, whether such violations occurred at the certifying institution or during the individual's previous employment at another member institution.

Nature of Penalty. As a guiding principle, a penalty imposed under Collegiate USSS enforcement policies and procedures should be broad and severe if the violation or violations reflect a general disregard for the governing rules; in those instances in which the violation or violations are isolated and of relative insignificance, the USSS Collegiate penalty shall be specific and limited. Previous violations of Collegiate USSS legislation shall be a contributing factor in determining the degree of penalty.

NOTICE OF CHARGES AND OPPURTUNITY TO RESPOND

For Major or Secondary Violations. A member under investigation for major violations shall be given the following;

- (a) Notice of any specific charges against it and the facts upon which such charges are based; and
- (b) An opportunity to provide a written response to the Collegiate Chair to answer such charges.

PENALTIES

Penalties for Secondary Violations. The Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee may determine that no penalty is warranted in a secondary case, that an institutional- or conference- determined penalty is satisfactory or, if appropriate, impose a penalty.

Among the disciplinary measures are:

- (a) Termination of the recruitment of a prospective student-athlete by the institution, or permanent ineligibility to represent the institution in intercollegiate competition;
- (b) Forfeit/vacate competitions in which an ineligible student-athlete participated;

- (c) Prohibition of the head coach or other staff members in the involved sport from participating in any off campus recruiting activities for up to one year;
- (d) A program fine for each violation, with the monetary penalty ranging in total from \$500 to \$5000
- (e) Institutional recertification that its current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of USSS Collegiate regulations;
- (f) Suspension of the head coach or other staff members for one or more competitions;
- (g) Public reprimand; and
- (h) Requirement that a member institution that has been found in violation or that has an athletics department staff member who has been found in violation of the provisions of Collegiate USSS legislation while representing another institution, show cause why a penalty or an additional penalty should be imposed if it does not take appropriate disciplinary or corrective action against the athletics department personnel involved, any other institutional employee, if the circumstances warrant, or representatives of the institution's athletics interests.

Penalties for Major Violations.

Presumptive Penalty. The presumptive penalty for a major violation, subject to exceptions authorized by the Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee on the basis of specifically stated reasons, shall include all of the following:

- (a) A two year probationary period (including a periodic in-person monitoring system and written program reports;
- (b) The reduction in number of expense-paid recruiting visits to the institution in the involved sport for one recruiting year;
- (c) A requirement that all coaching staff members in the sport be prohibited from engaging in any off-campus recruiting activities for up to one recruiting year;
- (d) Sanctions precluding postseason competition in the sport, particularly in those cases in which:
 - 1. Involved individuals remain active in the program;
 - 2. A significant competitive advantage results from the violation(s); or
 - 3. The violation(s) reflect a lack of program control.
- (e) Institutional recertification that the current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of Collegiate USSS regulations.

Disciplinary Measures. In addition to those penalties prescribed for secondary violations, among the disciplinary measures, singly or in combination, that may be adopted by the committee and imposed against an institution for major violations are:

- (a) Public Reprimand and censure;
- (b) Probation for at least one year;
- (c) Prohibition against the recruitment of prospective student-athletes for a sport or sports for a specified period;
- (d) Individual or team awards shall be returned to the region or championship;
- (e) Financial penalty;
- (f) Ineligibility for one or more USSS Collegiate Championship event
- (g) Ineligibility for invitational and postseason meets; and
- (h) Ineligibility for the member to vote or its personnel to serve on committees;

Repeat Violators.

Time Period. A program shall be considered a “repeat” violator if the Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee finds that a major violation has occurred within five years of the starting date of a major penalty.

Repeat-Violators Penalties. In addition to the penalties identified for a major violation, the minimum penalty for a repeat violator, subject to exceptions authorized by the Collegiate USSS Compliance Committee on the basis of specifically stated reasons, may include any or all the following:

- (a) The prohibition of some or all outside competition in the sport involved in the latest major violation for one or two seasons and the prohibition of all coaching staff members;
- (b) The elimination of all initial grants-in-aid and all recruiting activities in the sport involved in the latest major violation in question for a two-year period;
- (c) The requirement that the program relinquish its voting privilege in USSS for a four-year period.

USSS COLLEGIATE STUDENT-ATHLETE STATEMENT

Student-Athlete Statement – USSS Collegiate Program

For: Student-athletes.
Action: Sign and return to the Education Director in the USSS National Office.
Due date: Before your first competition each year.
Required by: USSS Collegiate Programs

Purpose: To assist in certifying eligibility.
Effective Date: This USSS Collegiate Student-Athlete Statement shall be in effect from the date this document is signed and shall remain in effect until a subsequent Student-Athlete Statement is executed.

Student-Athlete: _____
(Please print name)

Name of your institution: _____

- This form has three parts:
1. A statement concerning eligibility;
 2. An affirmation of status as an amateur athlete
 3. Technical Event Affidavit
-

Part I: Statement Concerning Eligibility.

By signing this part of the form, you affirm that, to the best of your knowledge, you are eligible to compete in intercollegiate competition.

You affirm that your Coach has provided you a copy of the USSS Collegiate Manual, or another outline or summary of the collegiate legislation, or the relevant sections of the Manual and that your Coach (or his or her designee) gave you the opportunity to ask questions about them.

You affirm that you meet the USSS Collegiate regulations for student-athletes regarding eligibility, recruitment, financial aid, amateur status and involvement in gambling activities.

You affirm that all information provided to the Collegiate Program, the USSS National Office and the institution’s admissions office is accurate and valid, including ACT or SAT scores, high school attendance, completion of coursework and high school grades, as well as your amateur status.

You affirm that you have reported to the Collegiate Chair or her designee of your institution any violations of collegiate regulations involving you and your institution.

You affirm that you understand that if you sign this statement falsely or erroneously, you violate USSS Collegiate legislation on ethical conduct and you will further jeopardize your eligibility.

Name (please print)	Date of birth	Age
Signature of student-athlete	Home address (street or P.O. Box)	
Date	Home city, state, and zip code	

Part II: Affirmation of Status as an Amateur Athlete.

You affirm that you have read and understand the USSS Collegiate amateurism rules. By signing this part of the form, you affirm that, to the best of your knowledge, you have not violated any amateurism rules since the last time you signed a student-athlete statement. You affirm that you have not provided false or misleading information concerning your amateur status to the National Office, the Collegiate Program and the institution's athletics department, including administrative personnel and the coaching staff.

Name (please print)	Date
Signature of student-athlete	

Part III: Technical Event Affidavit.

Most Recent Season Competition Scores

	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Score</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
			Total Average

Circle the Category you will be entered in for the 2010-2011 season:

A-Elements

71.000 or higher

or National Team Competitor

B-Figures

64.000 to 70.999.

C-Figures

59.000 to 63.999

D-Figures

58.999 or lower

You affirm that you have read and understand the USSS Collegiate Technical category criteria.

By filling out and signing this part of the form, you affirm that, to the best of your knowledge, you are not violating any part of the technical category rule since the last time you signed a student-athlete statement.

You affirm that you have not provided false or misleading information concerning your eligibility in the given category to the National Office, the collegiate program and the institution's athletics department, including administrative personnel and the coaching staff.

Name (please print)

Date

Signature of student-athlete

Note: International student-athletes are required to submit a letter from their federation stating if they have or have not competed on a National Team. This letter must be submitted with this affidavit prior to competition.

What to do with this form: Sign and return it to the current USSS Education Director or his or her designee before your first competition.

Any questions regarding this form should be referred the Collegiate Chair or the USSS Collegiate Compliance Committee, or you may contact the Education Director at 317/237-5700.