



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIRSA Opposes NCAA's Overreaching D-I Men's Basketball Proposal

Corvallis, Oregon (August 16, 2010)- The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) has been advocating on behalf of our members—approximately 77% of all NCAA Division I campuses are NIRSA member institutions—against a proposal that has been working its way through the NCAA D-I Men's Basketball Legislative Process. [Proposal No. 2009-100](#) would prohibit all nonscholastic basketball practices, clinics, tournaments, and summer camps for prospective student-athletes on D-I college campuses; if implemented, the ban would sever an important revenue stream used to supplement a number of valued, year-round student services.

Reacting to the predictable harmful impact of the proposal on the good work done by collegiate recreational sports and other campus groups, NIRSA President Michael Waldron said: “As the leading resource for professional and student development, education and research in collegiate recreational sports, NIRSA understands that many institutions have come to count on campus-based events to supplement tuition and fee-based support for recreational sports programs and facilities, student affairs, residential life, auxiliary services, conferences, and other educational opportunities.”

NIRSA Executive Director Dr. Kent J. Blumenthal added, “Our research suggests that such a ban would be intrusive, overreaching, and will not have the desired effect of curbing unfair recruiting practices. Instead, nonscholastic basketball events will simply move off-campus to the private sector and non-NCAA D-I schools, while legitimate on-campus summer camps and other activities—consistent with achieving an institution's mission and goals—are penalized.” In effect, Proposal 2009-100 will remove a level of scrutiny by campus compliance officials and restrict the NCAA's oversight of illicit recruiting.

More important for recreational sports professionals is the effect the ban would have on current and future students. At a time when almost all colleges and universities are losing money on varsity athletics, requiring “allocations from general university funds, fees imposed on the entire student body, and state appropriations to meet funding gaps” ([Knight Commission](#) 6), this ban would certainly reduce the capacity of collegiate recreational sports centers to serve their campus community and eliminate important campus recruitment tools for non-varsity athletes.

Director of Campus Recreation at the University of Illinois, Robyn Deterding clarifies the ban's harmful impact her campus' ability to serve students: “Our students are our top priority. We purposely built a facility for our community to utilize through special events, tournaments, and camps.” She added, “Financially, as budgets are cut and further limited, entrepreneurial efforts and alternative methods are required to supplement Campus Recreation income and provide quality programs and services for students.”

On Monday, August 16, 2010, NIRSA sent a letter to all NCAA D-I University Presidents of NIRSA Member Institutions, urging them to contact the NCAA and actively reject Proposal 2009-100. The letter cites 13 reasons for opposing Proposal 2009-100.

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