

## Interpretation - 1 Interpretation

**Title:**

Use of Sports Psychologist (I)

**Date Published:** December 12, 2014

**Type:** Staff Interpretation

**Item Ref:** b

**Interpretation:**

The academic and membership affairs staff confirmed that a sports psychologist may attend practice sessions without being included in the institution's coaching limitations in a particular sport, provided the individual does not provide any technical or tactical instruction related to the sport or make or assist in making tactical decisions related to the sport during on-court or on-field practice or competition. A sports psychologist may evaluate a student-athlete during a practice session only for the purposes of assisting the student-athlete in off-court or off-field noncoaching activities (e.g., mental imagery) directly related to the sport; however, if a student-athlete is required to meet with the sports psychologist, such a meeting is considered a countable athletically related activity.

Further, an institution may require a student-athlete to meet with a sports psychologist as a permissible out-of-season conditioning activity, provided the time engaged in the sessions are included in the maximum limit of eight hours per week for countable athletically related activities outside the playing season. In bowl subdivision football, the sports psychologist does not have to count as one of the five strength and conditioning coaches permitted to work with the football program in any capacity.

[References: NCAA Bylaws 11.7.1.1 (countable coach); 17.02.1 (countable athletically related activities); 17.1.7.2 (weekly hour limitations -- outside the playing season); official interpretations (01/08/03, Item No. 1), which has been archived; and staff interpretations, 07/02/03, item No. 1a) and (05/15/14, Item No. a), which have been archived]

**References**

Legislative References			Other
Div.	Number	Title	References Interpretations: 3
I	17.02.1	Countable Athletically Related Activities.	Interpretations: 3
I	17.1.7.2	Weekly Hour Limitations -- Outside the Playing Season.	
I	11.7.1.1	Countable Coach.	