

Educational Column - 1 Educational Column

Title:

Leadership Training and Teambuilding Activities with Physical Components (I)

Item Ref: 1

Date Published: March 7, 2014

Educational Column:

The following questions and answers are intended to assist NCAA Division I member institutions in applying the March 6, 2014, staff interpretation.

Question No. 1: May coaching staff members observe and/or participate in bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities, including those with physical components, at any time?

Answer No. 1: Yes. Bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities conducted as part of life skills programming that include physical components incidental to the activity may occur at any time. Such activities are not countable athletically related activities as long as they are separate and distinguishable from normal practice or strength and conditioning activities, occur only on an infrequent basis and neither tactical or technical instruction related to the student-athlete's sport is provided.

Question No. 2: May coaching staff members provide instruction or facilitate bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities, including those with physical components, at any time?

Answer No. 2: Yes. Bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities conducted as part of life skills programming that include physical components incidental to the activity may occur at any time. Such activities are not countable athletically related activities as long as they are separate and distinguishable from normal practice or strength and conditioning activities, occur only on an infrequent basis and neither tactical or technical instruction related to the student-athlete's sport is provided.

Question No. 3: Must an outside instructor or facilitator of bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities that include physical components be counted against the limit on the number of countable coaches for the sport?

Answer No. 3: No, provided any physical component is incidental to the activity and the instructor does not provide any tactical or technical instruction related to the student-athlete's sport.

Question No. 4: In bowl subdivision football, must an outside instructor or facilitator of bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities that include physical components be counted against the limit of five strength and conditioning coaches?

Answer No. 4: No, provided any physical component is incidental to the activity and is not done for the purpose of performing strength, flexibility, or conditioning activities.

Question No. 5: May the NCAA Student Assistance Fund (SAF) be used to fund bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities conducted as part of life skills programming that include physical components incidental to the activity?

Answer No. 5: Yes, subject to any applicable conference or institutional policies regarding the use of SAF.

Question No. 6: What is meant by "infrequent" in the context of bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding exercises that include physical components?

Answer No. 6: There is no set number of occasions associated with the term; however, "infrequent" was intentionally used instead of "occasional" which is commonly found in permissive legislation. The purpose of using "infrequent" rather than "occasional" is to affirm that such activities should not occur very often.

Question No. 7: May bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities that include physical components occur during the summer?

Answer No. 7: Yes. Bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities conducted as part of life skills programming that include physical components incidental to the activity may occur at any time. Such activities are not countable athletically related activities as long as they are separate and distinguishable from normal practice or strength and conditioning activities, occur only on an infrequent basis and neither tactical or technical instruction related to the student-athlete's sport is provided.

Question No. 8: Is there a geographical limitation on where bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities with physical components may occur?

Answer No. 8: No.

Question No. 9: May an institution require student-athletes to participate in bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding building activities that include physical components at any time?

Answer No. 9: Yes. Bona fide leadership training and/or teambuilding activities conducted as part of life skills programming that include physical components incidental to the activity are not considered countable athletically related activities as long as they are separate and distinguishable from normal practice or strength and conditioning activities, occur only on an infrequent basis and neither tactical or technical instruction related to the student-athlete's sport is provided.

[References: NCAA Bylaws 11.7.1.1.1 (countable coach), 11.7.2.1.1 (weight or strength coach), 16.3.1.2 (life skills programs), 16.11.1.9 (student assistance fund), 17.02.1 countable athletically related activities, 17.1.6.1 (daily and weekly hour limitations -- playing season), 17.1.6.2 (weekly hour limitations -- outside the playing season), 17.1.6.2.1 (institutional vacation period and summer) and staff interpretations (5/4/2012, Item No. a) and (5/31/2012, Item No. a) which has been archived]

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References

Legislative References			Other
Div.	Number	Title	References Educational Columns: <u>2</u>
I	11.7.1.1.1	Countable Coach.	Educational Columns: 0
I	17.1.6.1	Daily and Weekly Hour Limitations -- Playing Season.	Proposals: 0
I	16.11.1.9	Student Assistance Fund.	
I	16.3.1.2	Life Skills Programs.	
I	17.02.1	Countable Athletically Related Activities.	
I	17.1.6.2.1	Institutional Vacation Period and Summer.	
I	17.1.6.2	Weekly Hour Limitations -- Outside the Playing Season.	
I	11.7.2.1.1	Weight or Strength Coach.	