

## **Permissible Academic Support Services Expenses**

Please be advised that NCAA Bylaw 16.3 details mandatory, permissible and nonpermissible academic and other support services for student-athletes.

Additionally, Division I institutions should note that during its February 16, 2000, telephone conference, the NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Legislative Review/Interpretations determined that it is permissible for an institution to pay a student-athlete's Internet access charges and long-distance charges incurred during official team travel that are necessary to enable the student-athlete to complete academic course work, provided the academic course work is required to be completed while the student-athlete is away from campus on official team travel or within a reasonable period of time thereafter. The subcommittee noted, however, that if an institution elects to provide such expenses, the institution remains responsible for ensuring that the student-athlete's use of the Internet is not for personal reasons.

This interpretation is important for us now that we have new laptop computers available to our student-athletes during road trips. The laptops will soon be set-up with dial-up access to the PUC system with internet and e-mail capabilities. Prior to each road trip, coaches will be provided the password to allow the PUC system access. As stated above, it will be the responsibility of the coaches to monitor the internet and e-mail access of their student-athletes. Remember that we can only provide the access if it is required, academically related course work due during the trip or due within a reasonable time thereafter.

Please help the academic support services staff relay the message that the laptops are to be returned within 24 hours after the teams return to campus. This is necessary so that the computers are available for the next teams that are traveling. Recurring delays in returning the computers will lead to student-athletes forfeiting their rights to check-out the laptops in the future.