NCAA Athletic Scholarships

Common Questions:

Q: What are athletic scholarships?

A: **An athletic scholarship is financial aid from a university or college based in any degree on the athletic ability of the student-athlete. Athletic scholarships are formalized by entering into agreements called "National Letters of Intent," which is a written agreement between the institution and the student-athlete.**

Q: What is a "National Letter of Intent"?

A: The National Letter of Intent (NLI) is the name of the document that formalizes an athletic scholarship. It is a binding agreement between a student-athlete and a university in which the university agrees to provide athletic aid in exchange for the student-athlete's agreement to attend the university.

Q: What is a verbal commitment?

A: A verbal commitment is a non-binding agreement between a prospect and a coach to attend that coach's institution.

Q: What is covered by an athletic scholarship?

A: **Funds for tuition and fees, books, room and board, and certain other expenses. The only required expense that a full athletic scholarship cannot cover is transportation to and from campus.**

Not all hockey scholarships are full scholarships - some may cover half or some other portion of expenses.

Q: Are scholarships guaranteed for four years?

A: Thanks to a change in NCAA rules in 2011, scholarship agreements may be made for anywhere from one to five years.

Signing a National Letter of Intent, even for a scholarship promised for four years, commits a student-athlete to that school for one year.

Even those scholarship agreements made for one season are almost always renewed annually; they are very rarely cancelled and never for on-ice performance.

Q: Can athletic scholarships be cancelled if I play badly or the coach doesn't like me?

A: Athletic scholarships may not be reduced or cancelled year-to-year based on your ability or performance, because an injury prevents you from participating or for any other athletic reason.

If you are receiving an athletic scholarship, the scholarship may be reduced or cancelled only if you:

- **render yourself ineligible for NCAA competition;**
- **misrepresented any information on your application, letter of intent or financial aid agreement;**
- **commit serious misconduct which warrants a substantial disciplinary penalty; or**
- **voluntarily quit the team for personal reasons.**

Q: Who decides if I get an athletic scholarship?

A**: Coaches. Although admissions offices can refuse the admission of any student, thereby effectively refusing an athletic scholarship, coaches and athletic departments typically have a good sense of what to expect from their admissions office. This allows coaches to scout and recruit players who they can reasonably expect to earn admission.**

Q: Does every student-athlete receive a 100% or "full" scholarship?

A: Universities are permitted to grant 18 "full" scholarships and typically carry around 26 – 28 players, so not all are on full scholarships. In other words, most NCAA teams have some players who receive only a portion of their expenses in athletic scholarship (i.e. partial scholarship) and some players who receive all of their expenses in scholarship (i.e. full scholarship).

For More Information Contact:

Tom McEvay
Educational Consultant
Home: 250-724-0577
Cell: 250-720-7624
Email: tmcevay@shaw.ca