Male Students Practicing with Women's Teams:

Interpretation:

NCAA member institutions should note that in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 14.1.6.1 (Bylaw 14.1.7.1 in Division III), a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate or equivalent degree to be eligible to participate in organized practice sessions.

The former NCAA Interpretations Committee determined that male students who practice with an institution's women's teams on an occasional basis must be verified as eligible for practice and have eligibility remaining. Further, the former Interpretations Committee determined that if male students practice on a regular basis with the institution's women's teams (and vice versa), those male students must be certified in accordance with all applicable NCAA eligibility regulations (e.g., the individual must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies, have eligibility remaining under the five-year/10-semester rule, must sign a drug-testing consent form and must be included on the institution's squad list).

In addition, the former Interpretations Committee also determined the following issues related to male student-athletes practicing with women's teams:

a. It is permissible for an institution to provide apparel to male students for the purpose of practicing with the institution's women's team.

b. It is not permissible for an institution to provide male students financial assistance (i.e., room and board, tuition and fees, and books) in return for practicing with the women's team.

c. It is not permissible for an institution to provide male students with room and board to remain on campus during vacation periods to participate in practice sessions with the women's team.

d. It is not permissible for an institution to allow male students who are nonqualifiers to participate in practice sessions with the women's team.

Division I institutions should note that during its October 17, 2001, meeting, the NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Legislative Review/Interpretations confirmed that a male student-athlete who is serving his academic year of residence as a partial qualifier may participate in practice sessions against a women's team on campus or at the institution's regular practice facilities, provided all the
other applicable legislation and interpretations established for male student-athletes practicing with a women's team are satisfied.

Furthermore, during its February 18, 1999, meeting, the Subcommittee on Legislative Review/Interpretations confirmed that a male student-athlete who is a counter in a men's sport may not engage in practice sessions with an institution's women's team in any sport. Division II institutions should note that during its July 27, 1999, meeting, the NCAA Division II Management Council agreed that an institution is not permitted to allow a male student-athlete who is receiving athletically related financial aid in any sport to practice with the women's basketball, volleyball or field hockey team on a regular basis.

Division I and II institutions should note that in sports other than football, participation by student-athletes in individual skill-related instruction is permitted outside the institution’s declared playing season, provided no more than four student-athletes from the same team are involved in skill-related instruction with their coach(es) at any one time in any facility and the student-athletes request the instruction. Thus, if male students are involved in skill-related instruction with a women’s team, they must be included in the permissible number of student-athletes involved in such instruction at any one time in any facility (i.e., no more than four).

Additionally, institutions should note that it is permissible to provide actual and necessary travel expenses (i.e., transportation, lodging, meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for collegiate competition in the applicable sport. Thus, it is not permissible to provide a male student (who is practicing with a women's team) with travel expenses to an away-from-home competition, inasmuch as such students will not be representing the women's team in the competition. Finally, although it is permissible for a male student to serve as a team manager for a women's team, the individual's duties should be limited to those traditionally performed as managers. It is not permissible to place a male student in the position of a manager for the purpose of receiving expenses to practice with the women's team on away-from-home competitions.

In addition, Bylaw 16.2.1.1 does provide four complimentary admissions for an intercollegiate athletics event to a student-athlete in the sport in which the individual participates (either practices or competes), regardless of whether the student-athlete competes in the contest.