

## Maintaining NCAA Eligibility

Our understanding is you wish to maintain NCAA eligibility. It is important to note the following key information regarding NCAA Division I Competition Related Expenses\*. USA Swimming athletes are often eligible to have competition related expenses covered by USA Swimming as part of the Pro Swim Series and the ConocoPhillips National Championships and Open Water Nationals. In addition, athletes may receive competition related expenses from their LSC for a variety of competitions. NCAA Division I bylaw 12.1.2.1.4.3 allows for an LSC to provide competition related expense assistance to athletes without jeopardizing NCAA eligibility.

However, for those athletes looking to participate at the Division I level, it is critical that the athletes keep detailed receipts documenting their expenses throughout the calendar year and are aware of all sources that can cover competition related expenses (USA Swimming, LSC, prize money, USA Swimming team). While NCAA Division I rules allow athletes to keep prize money from the sponsor of an event to cover competition related expenses for the entire calendar year, not just the competition for which they received the prize money, athletes must be certain that their competition expenses not covered by other means match (or exceed) the amount of prize money they received. If this is not the case, their eligibility is put in jeopardy. Further, the combined assistance from all permissible sources (other than prize money) for a particular event should not exceed actual and necessary expenses for that event.

Athletes currently affiliated with an NCAA institution who wish to maintain NCAA eligibility are encouraged to discuss NCAA rules related to reimbursement and prize money with the athletics compliance office at their college or university prior to any disbursement request on their behalf. Those athletes who are not affiliated with an NCAA university must check with their High School federation to make sure the High School federation does not have rules against accepting reimbursements from USA Swimming or the LSC. The compliance officer or high school federation official should review the receipts prior to the athletes receiving the reimbursement.

Should an athlete need to refer to the NCAA rules the rules below show permitted expenses;

### **12.1.2.1.4.3 Expenses from an Outside Sponsor.**

An individual who participates in a sport as a member of a team may receive actual and necessary expenses for competition and practice held in preparation for such competition (directly related to the competition and conducted during a continuous time period preceding the competition) from an outside sponsor (e.g., team, neighbor, business) other than an agent or a representative of an institution's athletics interests (and, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, other than a professional sports organization). An individual who participates in a sport as an individual (not a member of a team) may receive actual and necessary expenses associated with an athletics event and practice immediately preceding the event, from an outside sponsor (e.g., neighbor, business) other than an agent or a representative of an institution's athletics interests (and, after initial full-time collegiate enrollment, other than a professional sports organization). (Revised: 8/26/10, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13, 11/7/13)

### **12.1.2.4.1 Exception for Prize Money Based on Performance—Sports Other Than Tennis.**

*In sports other than tennis, an individual may accept prize money based on his or her place finish or performance in an athletics event. Such prize money may not exceed actual and necessary expenses and may be provided only by the sponsor of the event. The calculation of actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual (e.g., coach's fees or expenses, parent's expenses). (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 12/12/06 applicable to any expenses received by a prospective student athlete on or after 8/23/06, 4/26/12, 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

### **12.02.3 Calculation of Actual and Necessary Expenses – Individual Sports**

*In individual sports, the calculation of an individual's actual and necessary expenses shall be based on expenses incurred during each calendar year (January – December), rather than on an event-by-event basis. (Adopted 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13).*

### **12.02.2 Actual and Necessary Expenses.**

*Actual and necessary expenses are limited to: (Adopted 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

- (a) Meals;*
- (b) Lodging;*
- (c) Apparel, equipment and supplies;*
- (d) Coaching and instruction;*
- (e) Health/medical insurance;*
- (f) Transportation (expenses to and from practice and competition, cost of transportation from home to training/practice site at the beginning of the season/preparation for an event and from training/practice/event site to home at the end of season/event);*
- (g) Medical treatment and physical therapy;*
- (h) Facility usage;*
- (i) Entry fees; and*
- (j) Other reasonable expenses.*

#### **12.02.2.1 Application.**

*Unless otherwise permitted by the NCAA constitution or bylaws, actual and necessary expenses may be provided only if such expenses are for competition on a team or in a specific event or for practice that is directly related to such competition. The value of such expenses must be commensurate with the fair market value of similar goods and services in the locality in which the expenses are provided and must not be excessive in nature. Actual and necessary expenses shall not include the expenses or fees of anyone other than the individual who participates as a member of the team or in a specific event. (Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13)*

\*The views presented in this memorandum are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the NCAA. USA Swimming accepts no liability for the content of this memorandum or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided. Questions, concerns or requests for additional information should be directed to the NCAA.

We strongly suggest you maintain a running spreadsheet for all competitions you attend this year (all of 2017 and a separate receipt for all of 2018) and document all of the receipts you have (you must keep receipts!). For example:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mesa Pro Swim	Food	\$14.25
Mesa Pro Swim	Food	\$23.30
Mesa Pro Swim	Hotel	\$495 (my share)
Indianapolis Pro Swim	Airfare	\$263
Indianapolis Pro Swim	Entry Fee	\$75
American Short Course	Entry Fee	\$45
American Short Course	Food	\$25.50
American Short Course	Rental Car	\$75 (my share)
Training Fees		\$100