Case 17
NJCAA College that Cancels Remainder of Season After Games have been Played

SITUATION:

Community College A begins their basketball season during the fall term. At the end of the fall term, Community College A determines that an insufficient number of players remain on the team due to academic and discipline issues and is unable to complete the season. Community College A makes the decision to cancel the remainder of the season. The college will field a basketball team the following year. Can student-athletes who participated as members of the Community College A team transfer to Community College B and join their team during the following term?

ANSWER:

No. Community College A has only cancelled the remainder of the season and has not dropped the program. The NJCAA institution may apply for a hardship for the student-athletes to regain that year of eligibility provided they meet the hardship parameters.

Eligibility – Penalties

Case 1
Using an Ineligible Player during the Regular Season

SITUATION:

After the basketball season, Community College A learned that Student-Athlete R who had participated in all of the regular season games was ineligible. An investigation revealed that Community College A had no knowledge until after the season that Student-Athlete R was ineligible and in reality had used due diligence in checking the eligibility of each player prior to the start of the season. Must Community College A forfeit all of the games in which Student-Athlete R participated?

ANSWER:

Yes. The penalty for using an ineligible player is forfeiture of all of the games in which such player participated even though it was not done knowingly by the school and/or the student-athlete. If it was done knowingly by the school and/or the student-athlete, additional sanctions could be levied.

Case 2
Reporting Forfeitures

If your college is required to forfeit a game(s) there are two things that the National Office is requesting of your college:

1. Send forfeiture letters to those teams/colleges for the games/events that are being forfeited. Copies of these forfeiture letters should be sent to the National Office and to your regional director and/or conference office.

2. The NJCAA National Office will update the win/loss record on that sport's schedule posted on the NJCAA website. Game and individual statistics will remain the same, however any records broken during that game(s) will not count.

Case 3
FYI's about Forfeitures

1. Only games that have been *won* are required to be forfeited. Losses are not to be forfeited.

2. When a forfeit of a game is required, the college must send a letter of forfeiture regardless if that team is at a non-member or a member college. There have been false assumptions that if a game was played against a non-member college/team then the forfeit does not count or that college/team does not need to be notified which is not true.

3. Forfeiture letters can contain any information that the college feels are pertinent. Some colleges give detailed descriptions as to the reason of the forfeiture, the name of the student, etc. The National Office would like to see at least the name of the sport and the dates of those games that have been forfeited.

4. Forfeiture letters need to be written on college letterhead and have the athletic director's signature for verification of the forfeited game(s).

5. The National Office would like to see faxed, mailed or scanned copies of the signed forfeiture letters for office files. Emails without scanned letters will not be accepted as a substitute for a forfeiture letter.

6. Individual sport forfeitures – if a student-athlete in an individual sport (bowling, cross country, golf, half marathon, swimming/diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling) is found ineligible, *what* is to be forfeited? The student-athlete's individual scores and place/rank are to be forfeited; essentially as if the student-athlete never participated in that competition. If the student-athlete participated as part of a team (doubles in tennis, a golf tournament, or relay, for example) then that team's rank/place and scores will be forfeited.