

# LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## POLICY FOR

### STATE FUND USAGE IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

#### I. GENERAL

The Board of Regents recognizes the benefits derived by various institutional constituencies from a well managed and competitive intercollegiate athletic program. Maintaining such a program can enhance student educational experiences and contribute to a broader education environment.

While recognizing these benefits, the Board also affirms the primacy of quality and competitive academic programs.

Therefore, the Board of Regents has adopted the following policy to provide reasonable levels of state fund support for intercollegiate athletic programs and to establish limits on the amount of state funds that can be expended to support them.

Dates will be set by the Board of Regents for the submission of each budget for all budget units for public higher education.

#### II. MAXIMUM STATE SUPPORT FOR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

##### A. State Support

The maximum state support allowed for an institutions' athletic program in any given fiscal year is the sum of the Athletic Scholarship Support and the Athletic Base Support for that year. The reporting of athletic program expenditures is required to be uniform and in accordance with guidelines contained with the reporting forms when they are transmitted to institutions by the Board of Regents each year.

##### B. Cost Differentiating

Any personnel position that has shared responsibilities between the athletic department and other campus departments should have actual costs of such activities allocated to the appropriate department. Only those expenses associated with athletic department activities shall be considered athletic expenditures for purposes of this policy. (For example, if an athletic coach teaches a course for academic credit, the operating budget will reflect that portion of the salary and related expenses as an academic expenditure with the remainder of the salary and related expenses charged to the athletic budget and subject to the established

limits). Full documentation must be available to support any cost differentiating.

### C. Athletic Scholarship Support

1. The number of scholarships allowed for each intercollegiate athletic program will be established using NCAA, NJCAA or NAIA limits and rules pertaining to the program and its particular level of competition. The number of scholarships allowed under this policy will be adjusted as required by official action of the affiliated governing body.
2. The statewide average cost of an athletic scholarship to include tuition and fees, room and board, and books and supplies will be calculated for the year. An institution may opt to use the actual campus costs for these items if these costs exceed the amount allowed for “Athletic Scholarship Support” under this policy, provided supporting documentation of such costs is made available and provided that these costs do not exceed the published average of such costs at categorical peer institutions within the SREB.
3. One-hundred percent of the product of the number of scholarships allowed (A) and the average cost of an athletic scholarship (B) will be allowed as expenditures from state funds for “Athletic Scholarship Support” during the year.
4. These costs will be reviewed on an annual basis. If the costs for tuition and fees, room and board, and books and supplies changes, the amount of state funds allowed for Athletic Scholarship Support will be adjusted accordingly.

### D. Athletic Base Support

Effective July 19, 2007, the state fund support base for an institution’s intercollegiate athletic program is to be calculated as follows with implementation to be phased in over two years. This policy applies to institutions in all affiliation classifications.

The base support is to be calculated and limited to an amount equal to 3% of an institution’s Operating Budget of the previous year. This allows for the base support to increase (or decrease) simultaneously with the rate of change of the institutions’ Operating Budgets.

### III. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Institutional Control

1. The Board of Regents expects an institution to maintain supervision of its intercollegiate athletic program and affirms the direction provided by the NCAA Constitution in that regard. “The Control and responsibility for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics shall be exercised by the institution itself and by the conference(s), if any, of which it is a member. Administrative control or faculty control, or a combination of the two, shall constitute institutional control (Article 6.01.01).

2. It is expected that an institution’s chief executive officer will have final authority and ultimate responsibility for the intercollegiate athletic program and the actions of any board in control of that program (Article 6.1.1).

3. To help exercise this responsibility, the Athletic Compliance Officer(s) shall report directly to the campus chief executive officer. Because the activities of the Athletic Compliance Officer(s) are a responsibility of the campus chief executive officer, associated costs are not subject to the maximum state support for athletic program limits.

#### B. Academic Integrity

To be eligible for the provisions of this policy, an institution must maintain appropriate regional (SACS) accreditation. Additionally, each institution must comply with the provisions of the Board of Regents’ Academic Affairs Policy 2.13, pertaining to programmatic accreditation/certification.

#### C. NCAA Athletics Certification

1. To be eligible for the provisions of this policy, each athletic program must meet the requirements for Athletic Certification as required by the NCAA or other appropriate governing body.

2. NCAA Bylaw, Article 22, outlines the requirements for Athletics Certification. The central purpose of the certification program is to validate the fundamental integrity of member institutions’ athletic programs through a verified and evaluated institutional self-study. The involvement of peer reviewers external to the institution will provide the verification and evaluation of the methodology and results of the self-study. The four basic areas of the self-study are:

- (a). Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance - Maintaining

intercollegiate athletics as an intergral part of the institution's educational program.

- (b). Academic Integrity - Intercollegiate athletic programs shall be designed and maintained as a vital component of the institution's educational system, and student-athletes shall be fully integrated into the student body.
- (c). Fiscal Integrity - The institution's chief executive officer must approve the athletic budget and provide for an audit of all athletic expenditures.
- (d). Equity, Welfare and Sportmanship - It is the responsibility of each institution to implement the NCAA's principle of gender equity.

#### D. Gender Equity

1. This policy provides for the appropriate number of scholarships and base support to provide for the proper number of men's and women's sports under each NCAA classification. Because there are costs associated with meeting the expectations and requirements of gender equity that are not provided for in the scholarship or base support components of this policy, an annual amount of \$500,000 for NCAA Classification 1-A institutions, \$250,000 for NCAA Classification 1-AA institutions, and \$125,000 for the remaining institutions, specifically for women's athletics, is allowed for the following: (1) purchase of equipment and supplies; (2) hiring of additional coaches as permitted by NCAA or conferences; (3) providing locker rooms; (4) maintenance and preparation of practice and competitive facilities; (5) recruitment of student athletes; and (6) and other areas enumerated in NCAA, Equity, Welfare and Sportmanship Attachment No. 2. These gender equity investments will be allowed over and above the maximum state support allowance.

2. Non-recurring expenses for capital improvements to meet gender equity requirements or to comply with specific athletic conference rules and/or regulations exceeding policy limits may be considered by the Board of Regents on a case by case basis.

#### E. Athletic Affiliation

Each institution may elect to have its athletic program affiliated with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) or not to be affiliated with any governing body. If an institution elects affiliation, the Board of Regents expects that institution to remain in good standing with that Association. Each institution is responsible for notifying the Board of Regents of any change in their status, affiliation or classification.

### IV. OTHER EXPECTATIONS

- 1. The Board of Regents strongly encourages each management board to urge

each of its institutions with an athletic program to provide guidance and academic assistance to student-athletes who have completed their athletic eligibility but have not completed the requirements for graduation. Further, institutions are expected to meet the student satisfactory progress and degree completion expectations as outlined in NCAA Bylaw, Article 14 or the requirements of its affiliated association, if other than NCAA. If an institution is not affiliated with an athletic governing association, the institution is expected to meet the student satisfactory progress and degree completion expectations of the athletic governing association of comparable institutions.

2. The Board of Regents strongly encourages each management board to urge each of its institutions with an athletic program, within the limits allowed by conference regulations and financial necessity, to schedule athletic events at the same level of competition with other in-state institutions.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this policy is July 19, 2007.