

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. Agenda Item Title: Academic Progress Rate (APR)
Meeting Date: June 2nd meeting of the *ad hoc* Committee on Athletics

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The recent approval of two head athletic coach contracts brought to the forefront issues and concerns related to the Academic Progress Rate (APR). The APR is used by the NCAA as a tool to measure academic success and eligibility of post-season events and championships. Attached is information describing how APR is measured and determined. The *ad hoc* Committee on Athletics will review the attached information, discuss the APR (including how it is calculated and used) and may provide direction to the institutions regarding the use and utility of APR calculations. The committee's actions may include direction to System and institution staff concerning any policy changes the committee believes may be necessary related to the use of APR calculations.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

That the *ad hoc* Committee on athletics review the attached information describing how the APR is calculated and used - and provide further direction to System and institution staff, including any policy changes the committee believes may be necessary related to the use of APR calculations.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The recent approval of two head athletic contract contracts brought to the forefront various issues and concerns related APR – including how APR it calculated and the ways in which the information is used.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

No discussion by the *ad hoc* Committee on Athletics is needed at this time since the APR is a calculation used primarily by the NCAA.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #____ Section #____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No____
Explain: _____

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Academic Progress Rate Explained

What is the APR and how is it calculated?

While the idea of a more contemporary and accurate measure of a team's academic success sprouted in the early 2000s as part of a comprehensive reform effort, it wasn't until the 2004 NCAA Convention that what is now one of the most recognizable acronyms in the NCAA was officially adopted.

The APR, or Academic Progress Rate, holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term.

The APR is calculated as follows:

- Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one point for staying in school and one point for being academically eligible.
- A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by 1,000 to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate.
- In addition to a team's current-year APR, its rolling four-year APR is also used to determine accountability.

Currently, teams must earn a 930 four-year average APR or a 940 average over the most recent two years to participate in NCAA championships. In 2015-16 and beyond, teams must earn a four-year APR of 930 to compete in championships.

While the APR is intended as an incentive-based approach, it does come with a progression of penalties for teams that under-perform academically over time.

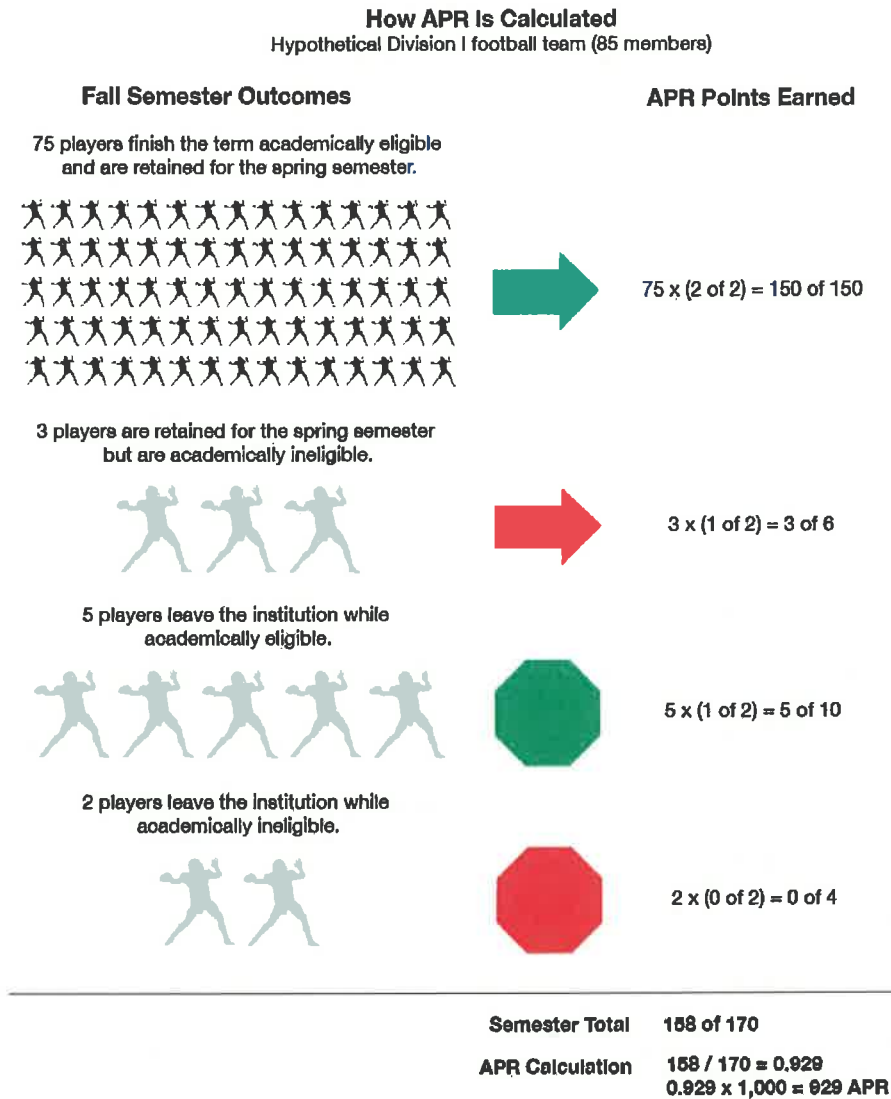
The first penalty level limits teams to 16 hours of practice per week over five days (as opposed to 20 over six days), with the lost four hours to be replaced with academic activities.

A second level adds additional practice and competition reductions, either in the traditional or non-championship season, to the first-level penalties. The third level, where teams could remain until their rate improves, includes a menu of possible penalties, including coaching suspensions, financial aid reductions and restricted NCAA membership. The Division I Committee on Academics, which oversees Division I's academic infrastructure, has the discretion to apply appropriate penalties once teams have fallen below the benchmark for three consecutive years.

While postseason bans are commonly applied as a penalty in the NCAA enforcement process, they are not considered as a penalty for poor academic performance. Instead, the requirement that teams achieve a minimum APR is simply a benchmark for participation in championships. Just as teams must win in competition to be eligible for championships, they must also achieve in the classroom.

As part of the APR, the NCAA established a public recognition program for the top-performing teams in each sport based on their most recent multiyear APR. These awards are given each year to teams with APRs in the top 10 percent, plus ties, in each sport.

In 2015, 1124 teams (696 women’s teams and 428 men’s or mixed squads) were recognized for academic achievement.



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Frequently Asked Questions about Academic Progress Rate (APR)

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the APR calculated?

While eligibility requirements make the individual student-athlete accountable, the Academic Progress Rate creates a level of institutional responsibility. The Academic Progress Rate is a Division I metric developed to track the academic achievement of teams each academic term.

Each student-athlete receiving athletically related financial aid earns one retention point for staying in school and one eligibility point for being academically eligible. A team's total points are divided by points possible and then multiplied by one thousand to equal the team's Academic Progress Rate score.

What are the APR penalties?

The APR penalty structure was significantly revamped in 2011, effective with the 2012-13 academic year. The first level of the new structure limits teams to 16 hours of practice a week over five days, with the lost four hours to be replaced with academic activities. This represents a reduction of four hours and one day per week of practice time.

The second level adds competition reductions, either in the traditional or nontraditional season, to the first-level penalties.

The third level, where teams could remain until their rate improves, provides for a menu of penalty options, including coaching suspensions, financial aid reductions and restricted NCAA membership. The Committee on Academic Performance has the discretion to apply appropriate penalties once teams have fallen below the benchmark for three consecutive years.

Why doesn't the NCAA include the postseason ban in the penalty structure?

The postseason ban is not considered a penalty for poor academic performance. Instead, the requirement that teams achieve a minimum APR, increasing steadily to 930 by 2014-15, is simply a benchmark for participation in championships. Just as teams must win in competition to be eligible for championships, they now must also achieve in the classroom.

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What is the APR:

The Academic Progress Rate (APR) is a multi-year measurement of academic progress and an institution's retention of student-athletes. The APR is designed to track student-athletes who receive athletics financial aid. The report is based on two factors: eligibility/progress toward graduation and retention.

How it works:

During each regular academic term (a semester) of full time enrollment a student-athlete can earn a two points towards his/her team's APR score. Each of the two factors (eligibility and retention) is worth 1 point. A student athlete will receive 1 point if, at the end of the semester, he/she is academically eligible to compete in the following regular academic term or has graduated. Additionally, a student-athlete can earn 1 point if he/she returns to the institution (retained) as a full-time student in the next regular academic term or graduates. The same point system is applied every semester thereafter. So potentially, in one academic year (fall semester and spring semester) a student-athlete can receive 4 total points.

At the end of each academic year, the score of each student-athlete is added with the scores of his/her teammates. That number is divided by the total number of points that team could have earned. That number is then multiplied by 1,000, giving an individual sport its APR score.

Here is an example:

Below is an example of three hypothetical student-athletes' APR scores, showing how individual and team calculations are made.

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Total Points Earned/ Total Possible Points
Student-athlete 1	SA1 enrolls full time, remains eligible for the spring semester and returns for the spring semester. SA is eligible = 1 SA is retained = 1 Total = 2/2 points received	SA 1 enrolls full time, remains eligible for the fall semester and returns for the following academic year (fall semester). SA is eligible = 1 SA is retained = 1 Total = 2/2 points received	4 points earned / 4 points possible
Student-athlete 2	SA 2 enrolls full time, remains eligible for the spring semester, and returns for the spring semester SA is eligible = 1 SA is retained = 1 Total = 2/2 points received	SA 2 enrolls full time, remains eligible for the fall semester but transfers to another school for the next academic year (fall semester) SA is eligible = 1 SA is NOT retained = 0 Total = 1 out of 2 points received	3 points earned / 4 points possible
Student-athlete 3	SA 3 enrolls full time, does not remain eligible for the spring semester and does not return in the spring. SA is NOT eligible = 0 SA is NOT retained = 0 Total = 0 out of 2 points received	SA 3 does not enroll in the spring semester	0 points earned / 2 points possible

Let's say there are 20 people on this team. The rest of the student-athletes individual APR points totaled 69. Adding the 7 points from above gives this team a total of 76 points. Since each student-athlete can earn 4 points, the team had the possibility of earning a total of 80 points in one academic year. Now, this is how this team's APR would be calculated:

$$76 \text{ points earned} / 80 \text{ points possible} = .95$$

$$.95 \times 1000 = \boxed{950 \text{ APR Score}}$$

What does this score mean (or any score)?

The total number of points a team can earn is 1000, which would mean that every student-athlete remained eligible and returned the following semester (or graduated). The NCAA determined an APR score of 925 is equivalent to an approximate graduation rate of 60%. So a score of 950 would be around 65% (give or take a few %'s) graduation rate.

The APR gives the NCAA and institutions a definite measure of how their student-athletes are progressing in the classroom. It also indicates how teams compare to others in the same sport by providing the percentile ranking.

Contemporaneous Penalties: When a team's academic progress score falls below a 925 the team will not be able to replace the grant-in-aid (scholarship money) for one year for any student-athlete who leaves the institution and would not have been academically eligible had they stayed at the institution (score of 0 for 2).

There are instances in which teams will not be subject to contemporaneous penalties for circumstances beyond their control, such as squad size adjustments and student-athletes entering the professional sports industry. The NCAA has an appeals process in place for such circumstances.

More information can be found at www.ncaa.org