UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
I/I TC Review Sub-Committee
Wednesday, June 23, 2010 • 12:00 noon ET

Members Present:
Dr. Bruce Wells, Co-Chairman
Kimberly M. Syme, I/I Program Director
Cindy Halle
Lou Lopez
Peter Rizzo
Russell A. Sheldon, Co-Chairman
Megan Judge
Danny Scheraga
Tom Wisehart

Guests:
Amy Wisehart
Jim Burton
Duncan Huyler

Russ Sheldon, Co-Chair, presided over the meeting. He began at 12:02 with a welcome to members and guests, and a thanked all for their time committed to the review and on the teleconferences.

I. Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2010
MOTION: Bruce Wells moved to accept the minutes from June 9, 2010. Lou Lopez seconded.
All in favor.

II. Old Business
A. Item 1 - Update by Student Eligibility Sub-committee
1. Tom Wisehart gave an update on the sub-committee's work and presented the proposed language changes of IC student eligibility. Russ Sheldon went through the eligibility language by section. Cindy asked to confirm whether semester meant term or quarter or year. Duncan replied it is not intended to mean year but wanted to cover all university systems. Danny suggested using "semester/quarter" throughout the eligibility section. Duncan mentioned that is how NCAA words it.
2. Russ questioned whether the Registrar would confirm a student's eligibility. It was noted by Kim and Megan that the registrar at most schools will give limited information on a student and they will not sign off on a student's athletic eligibility. Megan Judge suggested the USPA creates its own grade point average of 2.0. Duncan Huyler argues that a 2.0 at some schools is not the same at another school and Bruce Wells noted that not all schools grade on a 4.0 scale. Kim mentioned it was the intent of this sub-committee to request that the registrar only verify a student's full time status, passing grade point average(for that school), and year of matriculation. It was suggested that a form be created with these components with a signature or a university's form with an embossed seal to be accepted. The group felt that an official school representative could verify a student's eligibility to participate in sports.
3. Online classes – What is the definition of an online course? Some schools have their classes online and then meet once a week - is this considered an online course? Duncan and Tom noted that the NCAA mentions that a student must have interaction with an instructor for that course to be accepted. The eligibility sub-committee is trying to accommodate students that are supplementing classes with online classes due to budgets and technology but still encourage polo programs that will last into the future, not create dream teams for a year or two. Russ noted that the group seems to agree with the concept but that the wording needs some work.
4. Student in last semester - There was a discussion on graduating senior in last semester of school to be allowed to take a lesser than full-time course load. Russ Sheldon suggested adding the word "only" to the final sentence – and only if in their last semester.
5. Military/Active duty – This would be for those students who have started college and leave for active duty. They can request a waiver to "stop the clock" on their 5 years from matriculation to play 4 years of polo. The topic of age restriction was also discussed. It was noted that this is the only exception for extension of eligibility (not sickness, illness or death in family, etc.).

6. Age Restriction – It was discussed whether the age restriction (26 years) should be extended or removed from IC polo. Tom Wisehart discussed some reasons for the extending the age. Kim Syme noted that the sub-committee found that NCAA does not have an age limitation. A straw vote was taken to determine whether the group felt the age restriction of 26 years should be changed. Bruce leave, Russ change, Megan leave, Cindy change, Danny leave, Lou leave, Tom change, Peter leave. Five voted to leave the age as is, three voted to change it.

7. Amateur vs. Pro – Tom mentioned the eligibility sub-committee discussed whether pros should be allowed to play IC polo. Tom and Duncan noted that NCAA and some other club sports do not allow pros to play in IC competition. The group agreed that it would be difficult to track and determine who is a pro. Megan does not feel a player should be excluded for playing at a professional level and for going to school. Duncan noted that perhaps the opportunity for another student would be open if the pros were not allowed to play. A straw vote was taken to determine whether the group would like to discuss this topic further. Bruce yes, Russ no, Megan no, Danny yes, Lou no, Tom yes, Peter abstain. Tom and Lou feel that this could be a discussion item for next year. Danny suggested that a separate task force be created to research it further.

Russ thanked the sub-committee for time they've put into this and asked that final language be presented to the TC Review Committee when ready.

B. Item 2 – Penalty 7 - Russ tabled to next meeting
C. Item 3 – Spare horse procedure Russ- tabled to next meeting

III. New Business

Open Comments – Kim will start work on proposed changes to I/I required forms.

Russ asked if the group felt there was any topic that they would like to see the coaches reps get feedback on from the coaching community. Tom and Dave will get feedback on the age restriction and military extension.

IV. Announcements – next scheduled teleconference – July 7th, 12 Noon ET.

V. Adjournment - Danny Scheraga moved to adjourn at 1:23 PM ET. Seconded by Bruce. All in favor.