



January 18, 2006

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Barbara Camp
Chair
Sports Academy Director's Cup
P.O. Box 16428
Cleveland, Ohio 44116

Dear Ms. Camp:

On behalf of the NCAA Wrestling Committee, we would like to formally state our opposition to the scoring change with regards to the 2005-06 Sports Academy Director's Cup.

The committee, which consists of coaches and administrators from Divisions I, II and III, was very concerned to learn that champion teams will be treated differently in some sports. We feel that the scoring should go back to the system used in the 2003-04 academic year to allow full scoring for each championship. We feel the previous scoring system does the best job of rewarding broad-based athletics programs, instead of honoring institutions that have a few championship-level programs in high participation sports. The scoring change goes away from the original philosophy of the program, which stated that a champion is a champion and all sports should be treated equally. This also could result in schools dropping certain sports because they receive less credit in the Directors Cup standings. At a time when we should be promoting the value of broad-based programs and the benefits to student-athletes, this is a step in the wrong direction.

While it may not seem like lowering the point totals should be a big concern, we feel it is sending a message not only to the administration, but also to the coaches and student-athletes that their sport/championship isn't as important as those with larger sponsorship numbers. The student-athletes in sports with less sponsorship work equally as hard as those with larger brackets and may in fact have a more challenging road to selections for the championship since the bracket is smaller.

We understand that you have spent a great deal of time studying the point system and ask that you review the unintended consequences it has had with the sports that do not have at least 25 percent sponsorship. We understand that the scoring system has already been released to the NACDA membership, and therefore, understand that changes might not be able to be implemented until 2006-07.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

An association of more than 1,200 members serving the student-athlete
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Thank you and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Col. William Walker

Col. William P. Walker, chair
NCAA Wrestling Committee

Greg Waggoner

R. Greg Waggoner, chair
NCAA Division II Wrestling Committee

Ron Beaschler

Ron Beaschler, chair
NCAA Division III Wrestling Committee

WW/RGW/RB:cmt