



# The Shifting Landscape of NCAA Player Compensation

## Implications for FIBA Stakeholders

# SESSION OVERVIEW

- 01** — The NCAA Landscape
- 02** — Challenges for International Athletes
- 03** — Key Survey Results
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- 06** — Recommendations & Actionable Steps
- 07** — Top question / Q & A

# 01 THE NCAA LANDSCAPE



2021

## NIL Introduction - NCAA legalized NIL payments

- Athletes can benefit from endorsements & sponsorships
- First significant change to NCAA amateurism model
- “Economic” regulations challenged

2025  
2026

## Revenue Sharing Model - settlement June 6, 2025

- Allows direct athlete payments from schools
- **Cap: \$20.5M/year** (based **Power schools**), **1 July 2025**
- Roster limits to replace scholarship limits (15 players)
- Third-party NIL deals must be reported if over \$600

*\***NCAA situation: highly dynamic**, characterized by ongoing and unsolved litigation.*



## Shift from amateurism to professionalism

- Courts are reshaping college sports (still academic institutions under FIBA IR?)
- Top men’s (and some women’s) basketball players can earn \$170K–\$1M+ per year
- NIL is technically not supposed to be “Pay-for-Play”, direct compensation from colleges to players.



# 01 HISTORIC NCAA SETTLEMENT



## POWER CONFERENCES:



ATLANTIC COAST



BIG 10



Big 12



PAC-12



SOUTHEASTERN



\*only 2 universities  
more to join in 2026

70+  
UNIVERSITIES

17 June 2025

# 01 HISTORIC NCAA SETTLEMENT



## 2.8B

**\*Payment** in back damages to athletes who competed in college from 2016 through present day.

**400K**  
current &  
former  
Division I  
athletes

*\*in addition to existing scholarships and other benefits.*



## Impact:

- **Reshapes the landscape of college sports** prioritizing fairness, stability, integrity, and opportunity for student-athletes and institutions.
- Creation of a New **Oversight Body**
- Participating schools can **distribute up to 22% of average revenue** (from media rights, ticket sales, sponsorships).

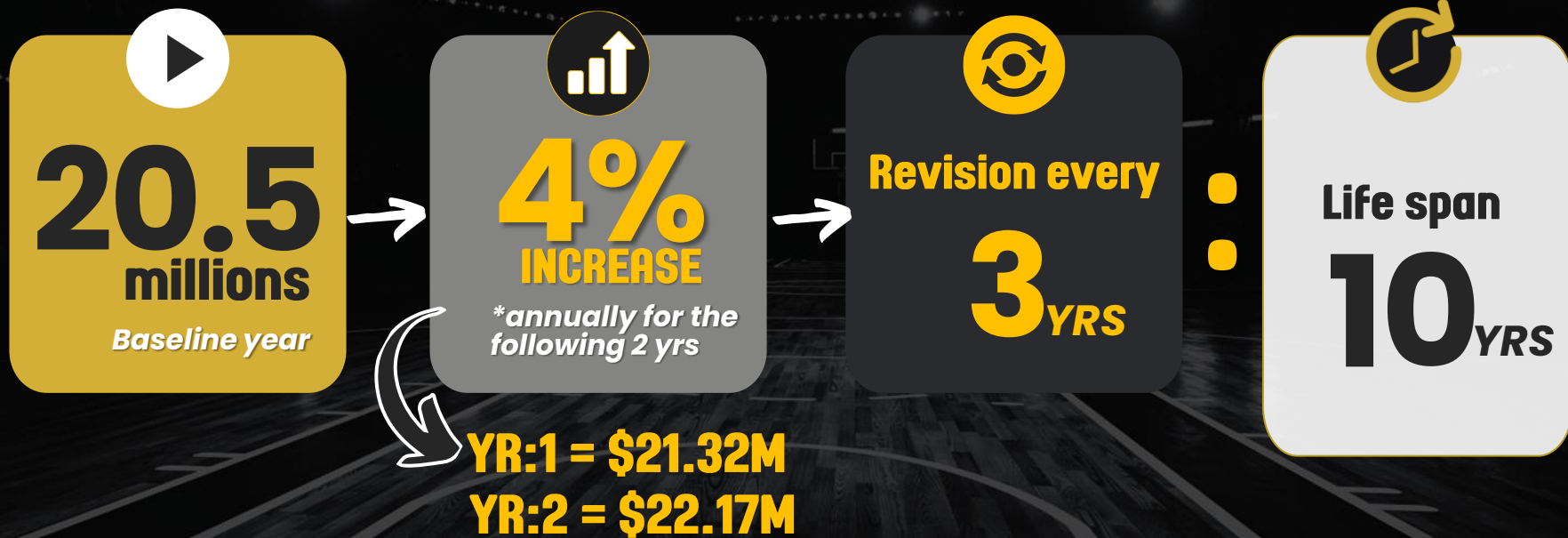
## College Sports Commission

- Independent organization
- Implements settlement terms for:
  - Revenue sharing
  - Student-athlete Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) deals
  - Roster limits
  - Investigates violations
  - Determines penalties
  - Administers rules

# 01 HISTORIC NCAA SETTLEMENT



## Revenue Sharing:



# 01 HISTORIC NCAA SETTLEMENT



## New Platforms for Management:

### College Athlete Payment System (CAPS):

For managing and reporting institutional revenue sharing.

**NIL Go:** For student-athletes to report their third-party NIL deals, ensuring compliance based on valid business purpose and compensation range. **(\$600 or more)**

## Scholarship & Rosters

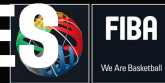
- NCAA scholarship limits have been removed.
- Sport-specific roster limits have been established.

**Minimal impact in Basketball.**

## Challenges:

- For schools – short timeframe to establish necessary infrastructure for new rules.
- The settlement does not address all legal questions, athletes vs employees or current playing time rules.
- Transition period with possible "bumps in the road"

# 02 CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES



## Visa limitations

- F-1 visas restrict work opportunities
- Limited to on-campus employment
- NIL activities may violate visa terms

## Tax implications

- Complex dual-country taxation
- May trigger tax obligations in US & home country
- Limited financial literacy resources

## Knowledge gaps

- Lack of understanding about opportunities
- Confusion about permissible activities
- Limited guidance from home countries

## Regulatory barriers

- Conflicting home country regulations
- NCAA compliance complexity- no standardized international framework

## International Participation in NCAA

# 12.8%

of Division-I NCAA athletes are  
**international students**

“*International student-athletes have found ways to participate in NIL. They can sign deals back in their home countries or explore other visa options, but legal uncertainty remains high.*”



# 03 KEY SURVEY RESULTS



- Increase in Player Movement to NCAA

- European players movement (2020-2024)

**+47%**

Female

**+27%**

Male

- \$ NIL Payments as a Major Driver:

*NMFs Perspective:*

**51%**

TOTAL NMFs

Europe

**64%**

Americas

**42%**

Africa

**33%**

**62%** aware of agents facilitating players' moves to the NCAA

**Positive Perception of NCAA Player Development:**

- Sporting performance: 3.9
- Educational opportunities: 3.9
- Personal growth: 3.8

*Rating scale: 1 (Much Worse) to 5 (Much Better)*

## ⚠ Highest Concerns

Challenges calling players for NT duty



Club development & ROI concerns



Lack of visibility & control



# 03 KEY SURVEY RESULTS

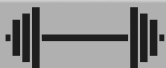


## NMFs Management of Players Movement:



**56%**

Implementing  
player education  
programs



**52%**

Strengthening  
domestic league  
development to retain  
top talent



**33%**

Working with agents  
to regulate or control  
player movement

# 04

## IMPACT ON FIBA STAKEHOLDERS: NATIONAL MEMBER FEDERATIONS



### NMFS

- General concern about young players moving to the NCAA is moderate (stronger in Europe).
- Tendency to believe that NCAA offers better opportunities than domestic leagues in: sporting performance, educational opportunities, and personal growth.

### CHALLENGES:



#### PLAYER TRACKING

Monitoring NCAA players movements



#### NATIONAL TEAM AVAILABILITY

Securing NCAA players for international competitions

# 04 IMPACT ON FIBA STAKEHOLDERS: CLUBS



Impact of NIL on clubs can **vary significantly** depending on factors such as the club's **financial resources, development model, and geographical location.**

## Roster Planning

- Losing best young players
- Efforts to increase playing time ineffective

## Finance & Development

- Considerable investments in youth development (**↑European Clubs**)
- Loss of ROI when players leave for NCAA

# 04

## IMPACT ON FIBA STAKEHOLDERS: PLAYERS



### \$ Financial Opportunities

#### ADVANTAGES

- Significant ↑ income via NIL
- **Up to \$1.2M in NIL**
- Particularly attractive for female athletes

#### CONSIDERATIONS

- **Tax/visa challenges** for international players
- Not all players receive equal opportunities/compensation



### Educational Benefits

#### Advantages

- Academic support resources
- English language proficiency
- Cultural experience

#### CONSIDERATIONS

- Transfer portal **undermines educational success**



### Development Factors

#### ADVANTAGES

- Exposure to U.S. style of play
- Athletic facilities and resources
- High-performance expectations

#### CONSIDERATIONS

- In some cases, domestic leagues offer higher level of competition
- **Risks of sporting development for the sake of winning instantly**



# IMPACT ON FIBA STAKEHOLDERS: AGENTS



## → Agent Involvement:

- Agents serve as **intermediaries** in NCAA recruiting processes, particularly **for international players** (and not under FIBA jurisdiction)
- Current regulations present varying degrees of oversight across different situations.

## → House v. NCAA Settlement:

- Direct compensation of athletes by colleges would **introduce new considerations in the relationship between NIL deals and recruitment processes**, particularly in contexts where agents participate in NIL

## → NCAA Placements:

- NIL agreements typically involve higher **commission structures** than contracts to “play” (employment)

## → Transfer Portal:

- Consideration of various factors: potential NIL opportunities, which can influence both athlete compensation and representation fees.

# 06 FIBA RECOMMENDATIONS



## EDUCATION

**Educate** all stakeholders **on NCAA risks/benefits**



## MONITORING

**Track player** movements, and build **alumni support platforms**



## REGULATION

Promote NCAA collaboration and incorporation into **FIBA transfer system** and **training compensation**



## COLABORATION

**Work together** with individual NCAA colleges or Conferences

# 06 FIBA RECOMENDATIONS

## NAVIGATING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



Educate athletes about the pros and cons of an NCAA pathway, providing real-life perspectives and actionable advice for informed decision-making.



- Provide knowledge resources
- Collaborative education
- Build strong relationships

### Perspectives from NCAA Players: Real-Life Experiences

#### Diverse Pathways

- Stay or Go?
- Exiting Early

#### Lessons Learned

- What to do differently
- Key mistakes to avoid

#### Transfer Portal Advice

- Why and when should I enter the transfer portal?
- Risks and rewards of transferring

#### Critical Questions

- Questions that athletes should ask coaches

#### National team

- Importance of NTs in players' development
- Maintain contact during players' NCAA tenure



# 07 TOP QUESTION: FIBA AND NIL DEALS



## What does FIBA insurance cover?

- Current professional contracts
- Contracts that expired in the previous year
- Long term disability
- Short term disability
- Academic scholarships

## What does FIBA insurance not cover?

- Image rights deals.
- Endorsement deals
- Sponsorship agreements

## Considerations for the future:

- Coverage of direct contracts between universities and players