Compliance Area:  AWARDS FOR PARTICIPATION

Award limitations apply to awards received by a student-athlete while enrolled during the academic year (from the beginning of the fall term through completion of the spring term, including any intervening vacation period) as a regular student in a minimum full-time academic load, or awards received by a student-athlete while representing the student-athlete’s institution at any other time. Such awards may not include cash, gift certificates, gift cards that are redeemable for cash (original amount or any balance thereof), a cash-equivalent award (an item that is negotiable for cash or trade or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletics participation.

Awards limitations apply to enrolled student-athletes who have exhausted their collegiate athletics eligibility. An institution shall be held responsible for the provision of improper awards to graduating seniors by the institution or its booster organizations. Awards to graduating seniors may not include cash, gift certificates, gift cards that are redeemable for cash (original amount or any balance thereof), a cash-equivalent award (an item that is negotiable for cash or trade or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletics participation, or country club or sports club membership.

Athletics awards given to student-athletes shall be limited to those approved or administered by MSU, the Big Ten conference or an approved agency and shall be limited in value and number as specified. Awards received for intercollegiate athletics participation may not be sold, exchanged or assigned for another item of value, even if the student-athlete's name or picture does not appear on the awards.

Normal-retail value shall be assigned as the value of an award when determining whether an award meets specified value limits, even when a member institution receives institutional awards from an athletics representative or organization free of charge or at a special reduced rate. Normal-retail value is the cost to the institution that is based solely on volume and is available to all purchasers of a similar volume and that does not involve an obligation to make additional purchases to enable the supplier to recover the costs for the original purchase. An institution may not combine the value limits of awards given in a sport during the same season, or given to athletes who participate in more than one sport, to provide an award more expensive than permissible under separate application to some or all of its participating student-athletes. The value of an award may not exceed specified value limits, and a student-athlete may not contribute to its purchase in order to meet those limits.

**Participation Awards**

Awards for participation in intercollegiate athletics may be presented each year limited in value and number as specified. Awards for participation in special events may be provided only to student-athletes eligible to participate in the competition. Participation awards may not be provided to a student-athlete prior to the conclusion of the championship segment in that particular sport.

**Procedure:**

The equipment manager for each sport will coordinate the disbursal of participation awards.

Updated 12/21/10