

# INTERCOLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION

## OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION

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**Date Issued:** January 26, 2012

**Subject:** General Applicability of NCAA Rules to Men's Rowing

**Source:** Board of Stewards

**Interpretation:**

As noted in the IRA Eligibility Regulations and Operating Bylaws ("IRA Bylaws"), all IRA member institutions are required to abide by all NCAA bylaws and interpretations in the areas of Amateurism (Bylaw 12), Recruiting (Bylaw 13), Awards & Benefits (Bylaw 16) and Playing & Practice Seasons (Bylaw 17) at all times, except and only to the extent that those bylaws and interpretations are specifically excluded from application to IRA members by the IRA Constitution, the IRA Bylaws or by vote of IRA membership.

The IRA Board of Stewards confirmed that the NCAA rules and interpretations to be applied to men's rowing shall be those applicable to women's rowing. Therefore, if a particular NCAA rule applies exclusively to a sport (or sports) other than women's rowing, that rule shall not apply to the sport of men's rowing. Likewise, if a sport-specific exception to a particular NCAA rule applies to women's rowing, it shall apply to men's rowing. [Note: This interpretation shall apply to existing and newly-adopted NCAA rules, and it shall apply on a division-specific basis – e.g., IRA members who are NCAA Division III institutions shall apply Division III women's rowing rules to men's rowing, unless otherwise stated in the IRA Bylaws].

**Example:** The eligibility rule set forth in NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.2.3.2.1 applies to women's rowing and all other NCAA sports except men's ice hockey, skiing and tennis, and it has not been specifically excluded from application to IRA members under the IRA Bylaws. Therefore, the rule applies to men's rowing for all regular season, conference and IRA competition.

**Example:** The recruiting exception contained in NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.15.1.6.1 applies specifically to women's rowing. Therefore, the exception also applies to men's rowing because the exception was created specifically for women's crew.

**References:** Article I, IRA Eligibility Regulations and Operating Bylaws.