STUDENT-ATHLETES: AWARDS

As acknowledgement for athletic participation, and as recognition for outstanding performance, the Department of Athletics selects deserving student-athletes to receive athletic awards in all intercollegiate sports. Athletic awards are presented upon the recommendation of the Head Coach and with the approval of the Director of Athletics and the Chair of the Athletic Council.

In order to receive an athletic award, student-athletes must be of amateur standing, eligible for athletic participation, as defined by the NCAA, and must have been representing LSU at the time of competition. In addition to athletic performance, other factors which are taken into consideration include a student-athlete's academic standing, as well as his/her attention to college regulations, observance of training rules, sportsmanship and overall conduct.

Permissible Awards by the University

Award items are restricted by NCAA regulations to merchandise, which can be personalized with the institution's insignia or letter, event specification or comparable identification. Awards presented must be uniform for all team members receiving the award. Student-athletes may receive the following awards (examples indicated are not exhaustive):

- binoculars
- luggage
- pen & pencil sets
- clock radios
- jackets
- scrolls
- photographs
- cameras
- rings
- blazers
- watches
- cd players
- blankets
- sweaters
- plaques
- dvd players

A student-athlete may not receive an award of cash or its equivalent (i.e., items that are negotiable for cash or trade). Gift certificates and other merchandise items that cannot be properly personalized are prohibited.

Award Value Limitations

The total value of a single participation or "letter" award received in a year by a non-senior student-athlete may not exceed $175. Multiple awards may be presented only if the total value of all participation awards received during a particular academic year by an individual non-senior student-athlete does not exceed $175. (NCAA Bylaw 16.1.4)

Multiple awards may be presented to a senior student-athlete only if the total value of all participation awards presented during a particular academic year to a senior student-athlete does not exceed $325 in each sport in which the student-athlete participates.

Award value limitations for special events and bowls, as well as special player awards, can be found on 505:5.
Letter Awards

The Department of Athletics presents the following "letter awards" to those student-athletes determined to be deserving of such by their respective Head Coach:

- First Year - A jacket with a letter and sports insignia;
- Second Year - A blanket;
- Third Year - A watch; and
- Fourth Year - A plaque.

If in earning the first or second letter award the student-athlete has exhausted his/her eligibility, the individual may choose any of the above awards. Student-athletes who participate in a sport which has more than one competitive season (i.e., golf, tennis or track), may only receive one (1) letter award for that sport for the academic year.

If a student-athlete letters in more than one (1) sport, a laminated certificate for the second sport is awarded. In addition, the chenille letter "L" is awarded with the insignia of the sports involved added at the base of the "L."

The criterion for earning letter awards in each sport is set forth in Appendix 505 in this Manual. However, the Head Coach, at his/her discretion, makes the final decision on recommendations for letter awards. At the end of the season, or the end of the academic year, the Head Coach must complete the Letter Award Petition form (see Appendix 505-2) for the approval of the Athletic Council. The name of each student-athlete in the sport must appear in one of the following sections:

- Those student-athletes who are to receive a letter award, their classifications, the year of lettering and the type of award to be received;
- Those student-athletes who met the criteria, but are not recommended for an a letter, and the reasons for withholding the award;
- Those who participated in an intercollegiate contest, but did not meet the criteria; and
- Those who did not participate in an intercollegiate contest due to ineligibility or "red-shirting."

Once approved, the Head Equipment Manager coordinates the ordering of the awards. The letter awards are received by the Tiger Stadium Equipment Manager, and then distributed to the Head Coach of each sport, who is responsible for giving the awards to the student-athletes.
**Academic Awards**
Student-athletes may receive awards for outstanding academic achievement from the University, Southeastern Conference or the NCAA.

**Athletic Director Cup**
For specific rules and guidelines, consult with the Academic Center for Athletes.

**SEC Scholar-Athlete Award**
A male and female scholar-athlete from each institution is chosen each academic year by a committee of SEC Faculty Athletic representatives. Each institution nominates a male and female to receive this award. The following criteria are used: the candidate must:

1. Nominee must be a starter or important reserve with legitimate athletic credentials.
2. Nominee must have participated in at least 50 percent of team’s games for the nominating year.
3. Nominee must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade point average for their collegiate career.
4. Nominee must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at the participating institution (true freshmen, redshirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible).
5. Nominee must have completed one full academic year at the participating institution.

**SEC Academic Honor Roll**
In order to qualify for SEC Academic Honor Roll, you must:

1. Have at least a 3.0 GPA (either cumulative or during the immediate past school year);
2. Be at least a sophomore in academic standing;
3. Have at least 24 hours countable toward a degree; and
4. Be a letter winner.
NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award
The NCAA currently offers approximately 174 postgraduate scholarship awards. These are one-time awards worth $7,500 per scholarship. To be eligible to receive an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, you must be nominated by the Athletic Director, have a minimum GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) and have obtained significant athletic achievement. Demonstrated campus and community leadership ability is also taken into consideration. If you’d like more information on postgraduate scholarships, contact an ACSA Advisor.

SEC H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete of the Year (Male and Female)
The SEC Boyd McWhorter postgraduate scholarship honors the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. Each institution shall nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the award, with the ultimate selection of the two winners being made by the Faculty Athletics Representative Selections Committee. Twenty-two additional awards, entitled SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Awards, shall be given each academic year to the institutional nominees not selected as the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. The SEC Male and Female Scholar-athlete shall each be awarded a $10,000 scholarship. The SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Award recipients shall each receive a $5,000 scholarship.

SEC Roy F. Kramer Athlete-of-the-Year Award
The Southeastern Conference presents an award for the SEC Male and Female Athlete-of-the-Year. The Director of Athletics submits one nomination for each award. The athletic directors from each SEC institution receive a ballot for each award and are not allowed to vote for their own nominee.

SEC Community Service Postgraduate Scholarship
A male and female athlete is selected each year by a committee of SEC faculty representatives from institutional winners. Student-athletes selected at the institutional and SEC levels receive a postgraduate scholarship in the amount of $2,000 and $5,000 respectively. Selection is based upon commitment to serving others and demonstrated qualities of leadership throughout their collegiate criteria.

1. Have completed eligibility or be actively competing in the last season of eligibility in his/her sport;

2. Have participated for a minimum of two seasons in a sport sufficient to qualify for a varsity letter;

3. Have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75.
Special Events and Bowls
Awards for participation in a Conference and/or a National Championship and special events (e.g., postseason football games, all-star games, featured individual competition, etc.) may be presented by the University when either a team or an individual has represented the Department in such an event. The total value of any single award to a student-athlete may not exceed $325.

If multiple awards are presented for participation in the event or in honor of the student-athlete's achievement, the total value of such awards may not exceed $300.

If an LSU varsity team wins a National or SEC Championship (or equal level for women), Championship rings may be awarded. Award limits for National Championships are $415 and SEC Championships are $325. The individual Head Coach submits a list of the student-athletes who are to receive rings for the approval of the Director of Athletics. The list is restricted to lettermen and travel squad, coaches, trainers and managers. No student-athlete who is ineligible, on hardship or is a red-shirt may receive a championship ring. The Director of Athletics may approve the awarding of any additional rings at his discretion.

Special Player Awards
Special player awards, presented in conjunction with established meets, tournaments and postseason football contests, are permitted by NCAA rules, provided the recipient is selected by a recognized organization approved by a member institution or conference. In a single season, a student-athlete may receive any number of special player awards, provided each award is approved by the institution (and conference) and does not exceed $150 in value.

The following special player awards may be presented at sports banquets (examples indicated are not exclusive):

- Most Valuable Player;
- Team Captain;
- Most Improved Player;
- Academic Awards (2); and
- Special Memorial Awards

Mementos may be awarded for statistical leaders in the various sports (e.g., in baseball, the highest batting average). These mementos should be limited to a total of three for the entire team and should consist of a memento approved by the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. (i.e. medallion, a desk paper weight or a letter opener.)

LSU
11/2006