

**Life Skills Subcommittee Report to
the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
April, 2005**

Introduction

A subcommittee of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee has been established to assess the Life Skills provided to student athletes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The purpose of the subcommittee is to determine that the University of Nebraska provides life skills training for every student athlete, and to establish control methods for the delivery of this training. This directive was mandated by the Big XII Conference as per the vote of the Conference's Life Skills Committee in January 2005 (**see Attachment 1**).

For the academic year 2004-2005, the members of the committee were Jo Potuto, Tom Zorn, Dennis LaBlanc, Keith Zimmer, and Michael Brenneman (chair). This report presents our findings and recommendations for the Life Skills programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Progress

The University of Nebraska Athletic Department has established a Life Skills Workshop System that covers five (5) areas: Athletic Excellence, Academics, Personal Development, Career Development, and Service. These areas are administered through hour-long seminars or workshops that are attended by the student athlete. Through this attendance, the student athlete should acquire a basic set of life skills.

The Life Skills Workshop—5 in 1 Menu is attached to this report (**see Attachment 2**). This attachment gives more specific information about the training provided within each life skills area. All Life Skills training is coordinated by Life Skills Director Keith Zimmer.

A Life Skills Team Competition is held annually during the academic year. Teams are awarded points in the competition based on their participation in Life Skills training during the year. At the annual academic banquet, the team with the highest Life Skills points is awarded a trophy. **Attachment 3** gives information on the Life Skills Team Competition.

A summary of the 2004-2005 Life Skills Programs conducted at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is included as **Attachment 4**.

The subcommittee finds that Life Skills participation by various athletic teams has been sporadic in the past. Some teams have embraced the system and excelled, while other teams have looked the other way. This describes the extremes and possibly not the norm.

It appears that the University of Nebraska has been in compliance with the proposed NCAA requirements; however, the accounting thereof has not been done. The NCAA

will soon mandate reporting of Life Skills and demand an annual accounting from each university's athletic department as to their compliance. This mandate justifies changes in policies and procedures relative to the Life Skills program on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Recommendations

In order to comply with the Big XII Conference mandate of January 2005 and the anticipated NCAA mandate later this year, we are proposing the following changes in procedures.

The committee recommends that the responsibility for such accounting of the Life Skills Program be placed upon the head coach of each sport. Each head coach will then be responsible for developing a Life Skills plan (**see Attachment 5**) for his or her team. Each plan should be completed and submitted to the NU Director of Life Skills prior to August 10 for the upcoming academic year (e.g., August 10, 2005 for the 2005-2006 academic year).

Upon preliminary approval by the Life Skills Director, each plan will be submitted to the Intercollegiate Athletic Committee (IAC) for their review, comments and subsequent approval. The plan will then be returned to the Athletic Department for final sign-off by the Athletic Director.

The Life Skills Director and his staff will then be responsible for monitoring each plan for compliance during the academic year. The Life Skills Director will report the status of such compliance back to the Athletic Director on a bi-monthly basis. The Athletic Director will be responsible for any sanctions that may be applied due to non-compliance.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Big XII Conference Life Skills Resolution

Attachment 2: Life Skills Workshop—5 in 1 Menu

Attachment 3: Life Skills Competition Documents

Attachment 4: Summary of 2004-2005 Life Skills Programs

Attachment 5: Life Skills Plan and Instructions