



The Shifting Landscape of NCAA Implications for FIBA Stakeholders

Jaime Lamboy Riley - Head of Legal Affairs
Kimberley Gaucher - Head of Players Unit



SESSION OVERVIEW

- 01** — The NCAA Landscape
- 02** — International Athletes
- 03** — Key Survey Results
- 04** — Impact on FIBA Stakeholders
- 05** — FIBA Recommendations
- 06** — Recommendations & Actionable Steps
- 07** — 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 - Pending

- 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 still 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”, but direct compensation from colleges to players is envisioned



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 standardised 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%

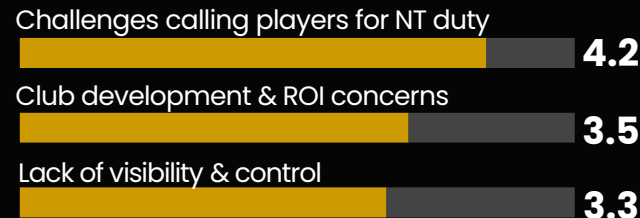
62% aware of agents facilitating players' moves to the NCAA

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



Rating scale: 1 (Not concerned) to 5 (Very concerned)

03 Key Survey Results

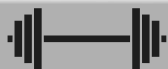


NMFs Management of Players Movement:



56%

Implementing player education programs



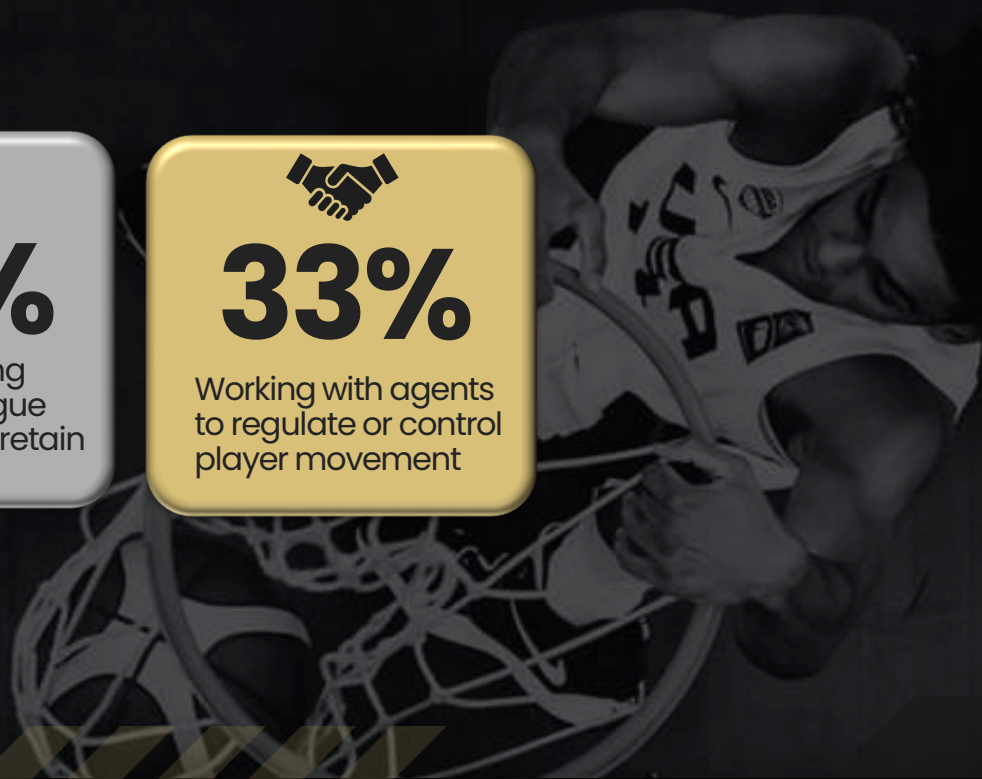
52%

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**



05

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**



COLLABORATION

Work together with individual NCAA colleges or Conferences

06 FIBA Recommendations

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 and Real-Life Experiences

Diverse Pathways

- Stay or Go?
- Exiting Early

Lessons Learned

- What to do differently
- Key mistakes to avoid

Transfer Portal Advice

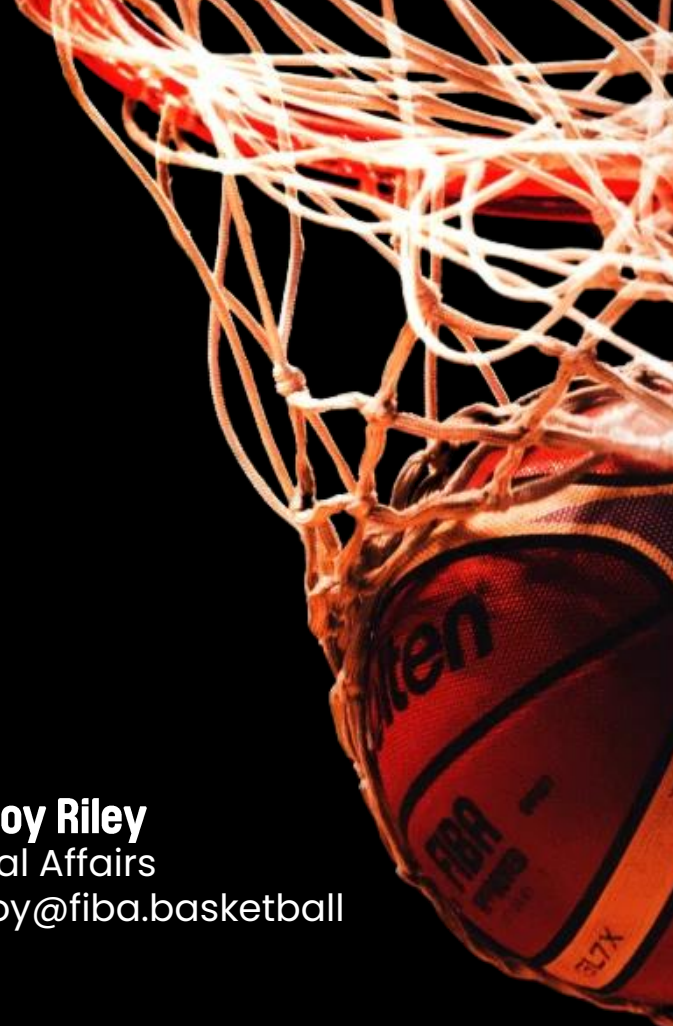
- Why and when should I enter the transfer portal?
- Risks and rewards of transferring

Critical Questions

- Questions that athletes should ask coaches

National Teams

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



THANK YOU!

Kimberley Gaucher
Head of Players Unit
kimberley.gaucher@fiba.basketball

Jaime Lamboy Riley
Head of Legal Affairs
jaime.lamboy@fiba.basketball