

The National Collegiate Athletic Association Assumes Regulatory Functions

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Faced with problems of gambling on college sports, recruiting of athletes, veteran's competition, and the renewal of the Olympic Games following World War II, the National Collegiate Athletic Association was also involved in constitutional revision that was to change the NCAA from an advisory association into a regulatory body.

The first step taken in changing the NCAA into a regulatory body occurred in 1948 with the adoption of the "Sanity Code," a constitutional revision of Article III of the NCAA's constitution dealing with the principles of amateurism, the principle of institutional control and responsibility, principles governing financial aids to athletes, and principles governing recruiting.

A second step taken in changing the NCAA into a regulatory body came with the association's involvement with television. The NCAA did not immediately appoint a television committee after the televising of college football games in 1947. But the action taken by the annual convention in January, 1951, agreeing to a moratorium on live telecasting of college football games for 1951, was the second major step in making the NCAA a regulatory body.

A third step taken by the NCAA did not receive the public attention attracted by the association's actions in regard to the "Sanity Code" and to television. Even so, the decision to hire an executive director and house the NCAA's offices in Kansas City was a major action taken that combined with the others to increase the regulatory and enforcement functions of the NCAA. Walter Byers, who had become the association's executive secretary in 1947, ably assisted the NCAA officers during this transition into a regulatory body.

By introducing the "Sanity Code," televising football games, hiring an executive director, and locating the national office in Kansas City, the NCAA was no longer an advisory association but had become a regulatory body - a regulatory body that would exercise ever increasing control over the conduct of intercollegiate athletics by its member institutions.