

Introduced: 1/20/84
Referred: Rules

BY RODEY, STURGULEWSKI, KELLY,
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FAIKS AND KERTTULA

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the eligibility of the

6

University of Alaska's athletic teams

7

for NCAA competition.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

9 WHEREAS National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulations
10 require that schools with Division II status have a student athletic
11 program consisting of six complete teams; and

12 WHEREAS the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) swim team never
13 anticipated that it would drop below the NCAA required minimum of 11
14 swimmers during the 1982-1983 school year because of illness, and in one
15 case because of a failure to meet academic qualifications, thus placing the
16 UAA men's varsity athletic program in noncompliance with the NCAA
17 regulations requiring six complete teams; and

18 WHEREAS the UAA men's athletic varsity teams have been disqualified
19 from competing in any NCAA national playoff in 1984 as a result of the
20 unintentional 1982-1983 NCAA infraction because of circumstances beyond
21 their control; and

22 WHEREAS the UAA always has made a sincere and good faith effort to
23 comply with the NCAA regulations, a fact that has been acknowledged by the
24 NCAA, and the UAA did notify the NCAA of the situation that inadvertently
25 led to the infraction; and

26 WHEREAS the UAA is today in total compliance with the NCAA Division II
27 requirements to muster a full-strength men's varsity athletic program; and

28 WHEREAS the UAA has struggled and worked extremely hard to establish a
29 strong Division II program in all sports; and

1 WHEREAS disqualification of the UAA athletic teams by the NCAA would
2 have an adverse impact on this new and growing athletic program and would
3 no doubt unfairly tarnish UAA's image not only in Alaska but nationally as
4 well; and

5 WHEREAS the disqualification of UAA teams by the NCAA could inhibit
6 the university's ability to continue strengthening its athletic program and
7 to recruit athletes; and

8 WHEREAS the UAA men's hockey team, with an incredible two-year record
9 of 30 wins and 3 losses, is the pride of Alaska, has gained enormous public
10 support and accolades for the university's athletic program, and would
11 almost certainly have qualified for this year's Division II championship
12 playoffs; and

13 WHEREAS the NCAA's steering committee has stated at its December 1983
14 meeting that it was never the NCAA's intent that the team size regulation
15 would penalize a program in UAA's unfortunate situation; and

16 WHEREAS the UAA athletic program honestly and sincerely attempted to
17 comply with the NCAA regulations and to fulfill the intent of the regu-
18 lation in question to assure a balanced athletic program, and

19 WHEREAS it is inherent in our system that interpretation and enforce-
20 ment of the spirit of a law is often more equitable than following the
21 strict letter of the law; and

22 WHEREAS the citizens of Alaska through the media, through a petition
23 drive, and through this resolution have shown their overwhelming support
24 for the UAA Division II athletic program and their concern over the
25 disqualification of the teams from participation in the NCAA national
26 playoffs in 1984;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate respectfully requests that the
28 NCAA Administrative Committee officials reconsider the appeal by the
29 University of Alaska, considering this unique set of circumstances, at

1 their January 26, 1984, meeting; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate supports the decision of the
3 City of Anchorage to send a citizen delegation to meet with the NCAA
4 president and other officials to lend support to the UAA appeal; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCAA Division II is respectfully urged to
6 grant UAA a special waiver because this unfortunate situation was beyond
7 the control of the university's athletic program and its participants.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
9 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
10 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.