

STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE

1984

Source

SR 7

Senate
Resolve No.

3



Relating to the eligibility of the University of Alaska's athletic teams for NCAA competition.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS disqualification of the UAA athletic teams by the NCAA would have an adverse impact on this new and growing

athletic program and would no doubt unfairly tarnish UAA's image not only in Alaska but nationally as well; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS the UAA athletic program honestly and sincerely attempted to comply with the NCAA regulations and to fulfill the intent of the regulation in question to assure a balanced athletic program; and

WHEREAS it is inherent in our system that interpretation and enforcement of the spirit of a law is often more equitable than following the strict letter of the law; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate respectfully requests that the NCAA Administrative Committee officials reconsider the appeal by the University of Alaska, considering this unique set of circumstances, at their January 26, 1984, meeting; and be it

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

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

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