



Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics
Athlete Compensation, Organizing, and Employee Status in College Sport.

What is the Path Forward?

Thursday, November 21, 2024 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

MEET OUR PANELISTS



ROSS DELLENGER, Moderator, Senior Writer for Yahoo Sports covering national college football. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Elizabeth Crisp, who serves as a political reporter and editor for The Hill. Ross is originally from the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast, graduated from Mississippi State and then began to cover SEC football as a beat writer in Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Louisiana. He joined *Sports Illustrated* in May of 2018 as a national reporter covering the sport. In July of 2023, he left SI to join Yahoo Sports, where he began to specialize in reporting around the transformation of college athletics and its future, including topics such as NIL, the College Football Playoff, the House settlement and conference realignment.



DOMINIQUE DARIUS, Junior Basketball Player, Team Captain, and Athlete Advocate, University of Southern California. With 100 other Big Ten female basketball players, she sent a letter to Charlie Baker, NCAA President, asking the NCAA to drop its proposed restrictions on the types of NIL deals players are permitted to have with third-party groups and is now objecting to the *House-Hubbard-Carter v. NCAA* proposed settlement which includes that provision. Ranked 26th on ESPN's 2021 HoopGurlz Recruiting Rankings, she was a 2021 graduate of Blair Academy in New Jersey, 2020 NJISAA State champs. She scored 1,197 points and averaged 15.6 points per game in her prep career. Finished high school early, entering UCLA as a mid-year addition, transferring to USC in 2022-23, where she was ineligible for competition due to NCAA transfer rules. Darius is entering her third season of competition at USC this year.



CHARLES GRANTHAM, MBA, Faculty Associate and Director of Center for Sports Management, Seton Hall University. Professor Grantham served as the first Executive Vice President of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and was its first Executive Director. He worked to transform the NBPA from a mere bargaining unit to a multifaceted organization designed to enhance the league's image and protect the NBA players. He helped establish the league's four Collective Bargaining Agreements and was an architect of the industry's first revenue-sharing/salary cap business model that guaranteed a fixed percentage of NBA revenue to players. Author of "It is Time to Share Revenue with Collegiate Athletes," *Harvard Journal of Sports and Entertainment Law*.



PAUL McDONALD, Co-Counsel for the College Athlete Plaintiffs in *Johnson v. NCAA*, the current case based upon his groundbreaking legal argument that College Athletes meet hourly employee criteria under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) as much as fellow students in Work Study-style programs. Paul has practiced law for 25 years, from all sides, including tenures as a prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, as outside counsel with Kirkland & Ellis, and as in-house counsel with Kraft Foods. Paul received his B.A. from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. While at Princeton University, he was elected President of the Undergraduate Student Government. He received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law.



AMY PRIVETTE PERKO, CEO, Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. Amy Privette Perko is the chief executive officer of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an independent leadership group whose purpose is to lead change to prioritize college athletes' education, health, safety, and success. She has served the Commission in a leadership position since 2005. During her tenure, the NCAA adopted a number of the Knight Commission recommendations. The most prominent of these actions include requiring teams to be on track to graduate 50 percent of their players to be eligible for postseason championships and revising its revenue distribution to include incentives for academic outcomes. These policies are factors in the record high graduation rates Division I athletes continue to achieve.



KAREN WEAVER, Ed.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Weaver is the Policy, Organizations, Leadership, and Systems Division Academic Director, Collegiate Athletics Certificate Program. Weaver is a distinguished authority on college sports and higher education, particularly where it intersects with management, media, finance, and policy. With extensive practical experience as both a Division I and Division III head coach and athletics administrator, Dr. Weaver's scholarship investigates a variety of college athletics topics, ranging from the perspectives of university presidents and trustees to the intricacies of athletic conference organization, higher education governance, and sports finance. She focuses on mid-major institutions and FBS Division I programs, scrutinizing matters such as public finance, facility debt policies, and student fees.