



HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE STUDENT TICKET

From Chaos to Consensus: Defining New Models for College Sports



*The Allen Sack National Symposium
Advancing Integrity in College Sport*

*April 23, 2026
Howard University, Washington, DC*

[APPLY HERE](#) for our one-day symposium to learn more about critical issues in college sport. Read below to learn more about the program and review questions and answers about policies related to free student tickets.

Why Our Donors/Sponsors Make It Possible for Students to Attend at No Charge

Conferences such as the Symposium are invaluable professional development activities for students. The Drake Group Education Fund is dedicated to removing financial barriers and making this enriching experience accessible to all students.

You get to hear and meet members of the national sports and higher education media, leaders and key influencers from national sports governance organizations and higher education organizations working in their chosen career field, and nationally recognized experts in the economic and legal aspects of college athletics. Up to one hundred sports management, sports

law, and other currently enrolled students in sports-related majors from colleges and universities within 60 miles of Washington D.C. (with preference given to students from HBCUs and other low-resourced institutions) will attend at no charge thanks to sponsors and donors. We believe you are the future leaders who will ensure that college athletics is a safe and rewarding experience, free from race and sex discrimination, and delivering on the promise of receiving a meaningful education.

Student attendees will receive:

- a complimentary subscription to the TDGEF newsletter and invitations to all programming;
- a complimentary student membership in The Drake Group, our sister organization working directly with Congress on policy issues;
- issue summaries and research papers on all topics covered at the symposium; and
- the opportunity to participate in the closing cocktail/networking gathering that enables them to meet and interact with panelists and experts.

Event Overview

The purpose of the 2026 Allen Sack National Symposium is to examine the new landscape of college athletics in the wake of House v. NCAA, exploring the evolving relationship between education, athlete compensation, and the commercialization of college sports within the framework of the NCAA. The Symposium will provide a comprehensive examination of the post-settlement era, including the implementation of direct revenue sharing, debates over athlete employment status and unionization, governance challenges in an increasingly deregulated environment, and the emergence of potential “super-league” models. The Symposium will also feature a “fireside chat” with Cody Campbell on the future of college athletics. A central feature of the program will highlight the voices of current and recent college athletes, offering a frontline perspective on how the settlement is reshaping daily life in locker rooms, team dynamics, and competitive opportunities, and whether the promise of reform has produced new and unforeseen challenges across collegiate athletics.



PROGRAM DETAILS

The Thursday, April 23, 2026, one-day program at Howard University Blackburn Center in Washington D.C. features four national award-winning journalists, each moderating a 60-minute panel of experts with each panel examining a critical issue in college sport.

8:00-9:00am - REGISTRATION – COFFEE AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00-9:15am - WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**9:15-10:15am - PANEL 1: The Athletes' Verdict Post-House Settlement
From the Courtroom to the Locker Room: A Frontline Report on the New
NCAA**

As the dust settles on *House v. NCAA*, a new era of collegiate athletics has emerged—one defined by direct revenue sharing, employment status debates, and a fractured Title IX landscape. While the courtrooms are busy with filings and appeals, the locker rooms are dealing with the fallout.

This session brings together a panel of current and recent college athletes to pull back the curtain on life in the "pay-for-play" era. We move beyond the legal jargon and theoretical debate to the lived reality of the modern college athlete. Join us to hear from the athletes who are currently navigating this uncharted territory and learn why the "solution" provided by the settlement may have created a brand-new set of systemic crises.

**10:30am-11:30pm - PANEL 2: The Cost of Undervaluation: Media Rights, Revenue Sharing,
and the Rising Value of Women's College Sports**

Join top leaders in sports broadcasting as they dissect the seismic shifts shaping college athletics. From the landmark Kaplan Report, to NIL legislation, to the *House v. NCAA* settlement allowing direct athlete pay, we're in a new world. This webinar will explore the new media landscape as well as how the findings of the landmark Kaplan Report—which revealed the NCAA's systematic undervaluing of women's sports—stand in stark contrast to the new revenue-sharing formulas of the *House v. NCAA* settlement. Do these new deals, which allow for direct athlete payments, truly reflect the surging value of women's sports and avoid perpetuating the historical inequities highlighted by the Kaplan Report? While revenue-sharing models are currently being implemented at institutions, proceeding without proper valuation creates a significant legal and ethical risk of solidifying a financial structure built on the undervaluing of women's sports. Our panelists will share their insights on how this evolving landscape is creating unprecedented opportunities and challenges for media companies, institutions, and athletes alike. Join us to learn how this focus on equity and value will drive the next generation of growth in college athletics.

11:45am-12:45pm - AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCH

The luncheon features presentation of The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF) national awards. The awards program includes recipients of the TDGEF National Public Service Award, the TDGEF Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics, the TDGEF Hero Award, and TDGEF "Making A Difference" Award, among others.

12:45-1:30pm – FIRESIDE CHAT with Cody Campbell – the Future of College Sports

Join the Executive Director of the Drake Group Education Fund for a focused conversation with Cody Campbell on the future of college athletics following the House v. NCAA settlement. As a result of the settlement, schools have moved to direct athlete compensation and revenue sharing, and this discussion will examine how this new financial model reshapes athletic department priorities, competitive balance, and the sustainability of non-revenue sports. The conversation will also address emerging Title IX and gender equity considerations, evolving NIL dynamics, and the broader implications of these structural changes for governance, academic integrity, and the educational mission of higher education.

1:45-2:45pm - [PANEL 3: The Labor Paradox: Navigating the Complexities of Collegiate Athlete Unionization](#)

As the 2026 collegiate landscape shifts from the "amateur" era toward a formal revenue-sharing model, the conversation around collective bargaining has moved from theoretical debate to a complex legal and structural confrontation. However, the path to a unionized collegiate system is fraught with structural, legal, and ethical hurdles that challenge the very sustainability of athletic departments. This panel explores the friction between athlete advocacy and the operational realities of higher education. Rather than assuming collective bargaining is an inevitable "endgame," this session critically examines the significant complications inherent in such a transition.

3:00-4:00pm - [PANEL 4: The New Playbook: Redefining Governance in the Era of College Super-Leagues](#)

In an era defined by rapid deregulation and shifting capital, the future of the NCAA is no longer a localized concern—it is a national priority. This session brings together key stakeholders and strategic thinkers to debate the challenges of managing institutional complexity and weakened governance in a new economic and federal landscape. We will explore whether new regulatory frameworks can stabilize a system currently navigating unprecedented volatility.

4:00-5:00pm - [Networking Reception in Blackburn Ballroom](#)

All attendees are invited to attend a post-symposium networking and cocktail reception.

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Q1: How many tickets are available and how are applicants selected?

A1: Up to 100 students will be selected on a first come/first served basis from each of two groups of colleges and universities (lower-resourced institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and community colleges and Other. There is a limit of one free ticket per

applicant and no more than 4 students will be selected from the same school unless a school or alumnus sponsors a student table for their institution or additional openings become available due to late cancellations.

Q2: How soon will I know whether my application is successful?

A2: Student selections/notifications begin on March 1, 2025, and all applicants will be notified of their selection by no later than April 3, 2025.

Q3: Will I be able to sit with my classmates?

A3: There is a notes field in the application where you can request seating with others. We will try to accommodate such requests but cannot guarantee that we can do so.

Q4: How will tickets be received?

A4: Your ticket will be waiting for you at the Armour J. Blackburn University Center Ballroom, 2397 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C. on the day of the event (Thursday, April 23, 2025). Please bring photo ID.

Q5: What is the appropriate dress for the event?

A5: Business attire.

Q6: Will food be available, or do we leave for lunch?

A6: A continental breakfast (coffee, tea, muffins, Danish, bagels and cream cheese) and a buffet lunch are provided at no charge. There is no need to leave the venue once you arrive. There is no food at the post-symposium networking/cocktail reception, but you will be provided with a ticket for a free beverage.

Additional questions? Email: CollegeSportsSymposium@gmail.com