

# A DECISION BETWEEN AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL: A LOOK INTO AMERICAN BASKETBALL AND HOW THE NCAA CAN INFLUENCE TOP ATHLETES TO ATTEND COLLEGE THROUGH “SAHIPP”

*By: Andrew Druffel*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The National Basketball Association (“NBA”) is growing at a tremendous rate. Increasing viewership and participation in basketball by the younger generation are major contributing factors.<sup>1</sup> While America considers football its favorite sport, basketball is projected to close the gap in the coming years.<sup>2</sup> To continue its already unprecedented growth, the NBA made two strategic moves. First, the NBA sold the naming rights of their minor league to Gatorade.<sup>3</sup> What was called the NBA Development League or “D-League”, is now called the “G-League”.<sup>4</sup> The G-League will expand to provide a minor league, feeder team for each NBA team.<sup>5</sup> The goal of the NBA is to provide elite prospects an alternate route to the NBA without the concern of amateurism.<sup>6</sup> Beginning in the 2019-2020 season, the G-League is allowing elite prospects the chance to play professional basketball at the age of eighteen instead of nineteen like years

---

<sup>1</sup> Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, The NBA, and not the NFL, is the league of America’s future, *The Guardian* (December 12, 2017), <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/dec/12/nba-surpassed-nfl-league-of-americas-future-kareem-abdul-jabbar>

<sup>2</sup> David Z. Morris, NFL vs. NBA: Which Will be America’s Biggest Sport 10 Years From Now?, *Fortune* (May 26, 2018), <http://fortune.com/2018/05/26/nfl-vs-nba-americas-biggest-sport/>.

<sup>3</sup> Keely Diven, NBA sells D-League sponsorship to Gatorade, renames it G-League, *NBC Sports* (February 14, 2017), <https://www.nbcsports.com/washington/washington-wizards/nba-sells-d-league-sponsorship-gatorade-renames-it-g-league>

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

past.<sup>7</sup> The other big change is Adam Silver, the NBA Commissioner, proposed to the National Basketball Players' Association, the "NBPA", to lower the age requirement for the NBA Draft to eighteen years of age as well.<sup>8</sup> If the NBPA accepts this, then players can go straight to the NBA without playing in college or the G-League. This second change, however, will only affect a smaller number of elite athletes as few are NBA-ready at eighteen years old.

Many current NBA players, like DeMarcus Cousins, a Los Angeles Laker, are in favor of these changes. He stated the following comments after Zion Williamson, the number one overall NBA Draft choice in 2019, who was injured during a game in his one year at Duke University.

I don't understand the point of the 'one-and-done' rule, what's the difference between 18 and 19 and 17 and 18? You're immature, you're young, you're ignorant to life in general. So what's really the difference? You've still got a lot of growing to do as a man. Knowing what I know now, college basketball is [bullsh]-. My advice ... to do what's best for you and your family. Obviously, college... it does nothing for you at this point. You've proven you're the No. 1 pick. You've proven your talent. You're ready for the next level. It's happening. When I was at that age, you enjoy the moment, the experience and all that. But there's so many risks involved to get to the ultimate goal, which is this level. ... how crooked the NCAA business is. I saw a post the other day that showed the highest ticket for the UNC-Duke game was \$2,500-\$3,500. How much does Zion Wiliamson get? That's who they're coming to see. So how much does he get? Who does it go to? How does it benefit any player on that team?<sup>9</sup>

DeMarcus Cousins believes the NCAA is not looking out for the student-athletes' best interest.

---

<sup>7</sup> Id.

<sup>8</sup> Tim Reynolds, Report: NBA proposes lowering draft age to 18, nba.com (February 21, 2019), <https://www.nba.com/article/2019/02/21/nba-and-union-look-end-one-and-done>

<sup>9</sup> Matt Ellentuck, DeMarcus Cousins calls the NCAA 'bullshit' following Zion Williamson's injury, sbnation.com (February 21, 2019), <https://www.sbnation.com/nba/2019/2/21/18235139/demarcus-cousins-zion-williamson-ncaa>.

In the world of sports, each side, whether it be the team, school, league, or athlete, must look out for their own best interest. The National Collegiate Athletic Association, (“NCAA”), is looking out for themselves in this situation by using athletes to gain more revenue, while the athletes do not see any of the profits. The current system is the antithesis of how it should work. The athlete needs to be the priority. The athletes drive the entire sports industry, and the teams need to care about the athletes as human beings. Specifically, the teams need to care for the athlete’s health, whether it be physical and/or mental. In a profession which inherently depends on the health and well-being of the athletes, the athlete needs to be the priority. Without athletes at the top of their game, the leagues and teams are not earning such high revenues. Further, without the dedication, hard work, and incredible talent of these athletes, the teams would not exist.

## II. AMATEURISM

The NCAA, a nonprofit, earns over a billion dollars each year.<sup>10</sup> The large majority of the revenue comes from television contracts for the Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament, or March Madness.<sup>11</sup> While one billion dollars is not necessarily close to the billions made by the major professional sports leagues in America, it is also not insubstantial. The one glaring difference between the NCAA and the NBA is that the NBA does not have an amateurism requirement.

The NCAA requires all student-athletes to have an amateur status to be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics.<sup>12</sup> Bylaw 12.01.2 marks there is a difference between amateur and professional athletics, “[m]ember institutions’ athletics programs are designed to be an integral part of the educational program. The student-athlete is considered an integral part of the student

---

<sup>10</sup> Ahiza Garcia, NCAA surpasses \$1 billion in revenue for first time, CNNMoney Sport (March 7, 2018), <https://money.cnn.com/2018/03/07/news/companies/ncaa-revenue-billion/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n, 2018-2019 NCAA Division I Manual, Const. art. 12.01.1 (2018), <https://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4547-2018-2019-ncaa-division-i-manual-august-version-available-august-2018.aspx>

body, thus maintaining a clear line of demarcation between college athletics and professional sports.”<sup>13</sup> The bylaw goes on to state the many ways a student-athlete can lose their amateurism status and therefore forfeit their opportunity to play NCAA athletics.<sup>14</sup> Most of these involve receiving payments for athletic competitions, hiring an agent, or using one’s own image and likeness for profit.<sup>15</sup> Over the years, though, the NCAA has loosened its grip because of legal actions against amateurism and now allows certain benefits. Some of these benefits include cost of attendance for school which includes money for rent, and the university may provide more meals to the student-athletes.<sup>16</sup> The Court, in *O’Bannon v. NCAA*, stated that the NCAA frees itself from antitrust violations by letting colleges compensate student-athletes with the cost of college attendance.<sup>17</sup> In 2019, the ruling was amended when Judge Claudia Wilken, in the US District Court, ruled, “[to] [a]llow[] each conference and its member schools to provide additional education-related benefits without NCAA caps and prohibitions.”<sup>18</sup> The ruling relays payment to the education of the student-athlete instead of cash.<sup>19</sup> Student-athletes will now be able to receive computers or scholarships for post-graduate degrees.<sup>20</sup> The case illustrates how the NCAA is moving further and further away from strict interpretation of amateurism with pressure from the Courts and the increase in other options for the athletes outside of the NCAA.

---

<sup>13</sup> Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n, 2018-2019 NCAA Division I Manual, Const. art. 12.01.2 (2018), <https://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4547-2018-2019-ncaa-division-i-manual-august-version-available-august-2018.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> 12.2018-19 NCAA Division I Manual: Constitution, Operating Bylaws, Administrative Bylaws, (2018).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Steve Cameron, The NCAA brings in \$1 billion a year - here’s why it refuses to pay its college athletes, *Business Insider* (March 26, 2019), <https://www.businessinsider.com/ncaa-college-athletes-march-madness-basketball-football-sports-not-paid-2019-3>

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *In re Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litig.*, 375 F. Supp. 3d 1063, 1110 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2019).

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at. 1088.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

### III. CURRENT STATE OF THE NCAA

As professional athletes have voiced their disdain for the NCAA, young athletes have become aware of the woes that is college athletics. The glamour of a national championship is starting to fade, and the idea of earning money for their hard work and talent has come to light. Athletes only have so long when they are physically able to earn from their physical abilities.

Between the negative press and the changes by the NBA, the NCAA may have some concerns of whether their future profits will be affected. Allowing eighteen-year-old young men to play in the G-league or NBA will take away top athletes like R.J. Barrett and Zion Williamson from entering into college at all. Highly coveted recruits will become interested in the G-League because of the chance to earn a salary immediately and the ability to use their image and likeness for profit. The number of viewers of college basketball may begin to decrease with the diminished talent pool.

The NCAA may not be overly concerned about lowering the NBA draft age because before 2007, top high school players could go straight to the NBA, and only a small percentage were able to make the jump. Now, though, the question is how many will make the jump from high school to the G-League. The G-League allows those players who are close to being drafted but end up in college the chance to turn professional right away, thus taking more elite prospects out of college.

A lot of attention was brought to this topic in 2019 because a student athlete for Duke University, Zion Williamson. Williamson was in his first and last year in college. Zion was named by many sports websites to be the top NBA draft prospect in 2019.<sup>21</sup> He is a franchise player and considered by many to be a generational player.<sup>22</sup> Williamson earned more revenue for the NCAA and Duke University this year because everyone wanted to see him play.<sup>23</sup> During the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship

---

<sup>21</sup> Josh Planos, *Zion Williamson Is The Best College Basketball Player In At Least A Decade*, FiveThirtyEight (December 12, 2018), <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/zion-williamson-is-the-best-college-basketball-player-in-at-least-a-decade/>.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Myron Medcalf, *UNC-Duke tickets approaching Super Bowl prices because of Zion Williamson*, ESPN (February 19, 2019), <http://www.espn.com/mens-college->

Tournament, March Madness, the networks even had a specific camera dedicated to him.<sup>24</sup> The ticket prices for the Duke University versus University of North Carolina ("UNC") game reached astronomical prices because of Williamson.<sup>25</sup> Duke and UNC are known to be top Division I perennial basketball programs which lead to high ticket prices anyway. However, this year, ticket prices reached new levels because people wanted to see Zion Williamson.<sup>26</sup> The high demand drove the ticket prices into the three thousand dollar and above range.<sup>27</sup> After fans paid thousands to see the game, Williamson, in the first minute, ripped through his Nike shoes and injured his leg.<sup>28</sup>

Scottie Pippen, a former NBA player, thought Zion should sit the rest of the season to keep his draft stock high for the draft.<sup>29</sup> This is a similar approach to top college football players getting ready for the National Football League ("NFL") Draft after injuries. Controversially, Nick Bosa, a top college football player during the 2018-2019 season, skipped the second half of the regular season after suffering an injury.<sup>30</sup> Similarly, several top players over the last few years have skipped bowl games in the interest of the upcoming NFL Draft.<sup>31</sup> The highly debated

---

basketball/story/\_id/26032466/unc-duke-tickets-approaching-super-bowl-prices-zion-williamson.

<sup>24</sup> Tyler Lauletta, CBS hired a special cameraman to work the 'Zion Cam' and record every move the Duke star makes in his NCAA tournament run, Business Insider (March 22, 2019), <https://www.businessinsider.in/cbs-hired-a-special-cameraman-to-work-the-zion-cam-and-record-every-move-the-duke-star-makes-in-his-ncaa-tournament-run/articleshow/68530020.cms>

<sup>25</sup> Myron Medcalf, UNC-Duke tickets approaching Super Bowl prices because of Zion Williamson ESPN (2019), [http://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/\\_id/26032466/unc-duke-tickets-approaching-super-bowl-prices-zion-williamson](http://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_id/26032466/unc-duke-tickets-approaching-super-bowl-prices-zion-williamson).

<sup>26</sup> Id.

<sup>27</sup> Id.

<sup>28</sup> Kyle Boone, Zion Williamson injury update: Duke freshman star is out vs. Miami as he will miss his third game with knee sprain, CBSSports.com (2019), <https://www.cbssports.com/college-basketball/news/zion-williamson-injury-update-duke-freshman-star-is-out-vs-miami-as-he-will-miss-his-third-game-with-knee-sprain/>.

<sup>29</sup> Ricky O'Donnell, 11 thoughts on if Zion Williamson should sit out for Duke to save himself for the NBA draft, SBNation (Jan. 17, 2019), <https://www.sbnation.com/college-basketball/2019/1/17/18185937/zion-williamson-nba-draft-sit-out-duke>.

<sup>30</sup> Matt Maiocco, Nick Bosa details injury that cut short his final season at Ohio State, NBC Sports (Mar. 6, 2019), <https://www.nbcsports.com/bayarea/49ers/nick-bosa-details-injury-cut-short-his-final-season-ohio-state>

<sup>31</sup> Id.

situation includes the same arguments every year: whether to look out for himself and stay healthy for the NFL Draft or be a “team player” and finish the season. Some decide to skip bowl games, while others participate. Williamson’s injury, though, was a first for basketball. The less physical sport had never seen a star like this go down. The number one overall in the 2019 NBA Draft could have harmed his draft stock and lost out on a lot of money if it were a more serious injury. Williamson, however, came back with a response that in no way would he sit the rest of the year.<sup>32</sup> He took time to recover from his leg injury and played the remainder of the season.<sup>33</sup> Williamson stated, “I just can’t stop playing. I’d be letting my teammates down. I’d be letting Coach K down. I’d be letting a lot of people down. If I wanted to sit out, I wouldn’t have went to college. I came to Duke to play.”<sup>34</sup>

Zion Williamson decided college was the best option for him, but he potentially could have chosen to go to the G League or NBA had it been an option for him. There will be more top basketball players like Williamson in the future, but will the NCAA maintain attractive features to recruit the top talent even against the G League and NBA?

#### IV. THE PATHS TO PROFESSIONALISM FOR ELITE PROSPECTS

Currently, the NBA requires each prospect to be nineteen years of age by September 15 of the draft year in order to be eligible for the draft.<sup>35</sup> High school graduates, therefore, are not old enough to enter the draft.<sup>36</sup> The prospect must make a choice between European League basketball, NCAA basketball, and a Select Contract with the NBA’s G League. Each path is a one year minimum where each high school student decides which path will prepare him best to impress scouts and be drafted in the highly selective two rounds of the NBA draft each year. Some high school

---

<sup>32</sup> Nick Schwartz, Zion Williamson explained why he won’t sit out a month before his injury, USA Today (Feb. 21, 2019), <https://ftw.usatoday.com/2019/02/zion-williamson-sit-out-draft>.

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

<sup>35</sup> Frequently Asked Questions: NBA G League Professional Path and Select Contracts, NBA G League, <https://gleague.nba.com/professionalpath/>.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

athletes have gone to Europe, but it has not become a popular option even with the potential to earn a salary immediately. The risk associated with the lack of recognized success and the distance from home may be factors for the lack of popularity. Because the Select Contract option for the G League is new to the 2019-2020 season, the NCAA has been the most popular path for elite prospects. The effect on NCAA men's basketball will be seen in the coming years.

#### *A. The NCAA Path*

The college process is what most, if not all, American NBA players have gone through. Since, 2007, many elite prospects have followed the coined "one-and-done" phrase, where elite prospects attend college for one year then declare for the NBA draft. NCAA teams around the country shoot their shot to earn the top prospects commitments each year. Universities like Duke and Kentucky are two of the most infamous blue bloods who have these players on their team each year. Because of the system in place, the schools are not worried about losing their best players each year. After one year, whether the athlete gets injured or not, the athlete is eligible for the NBA draft. Other NCAA basketball players are drafted after two or more years as well.

#### *B. The NBA's G League Path*

The newest option is the NBA's G League, or just the G League.<sup>37</sup> This minor league is not new, however, rather revamped in a sense. The goal of the NBA is to rebrand the league and garner interest from elite prospects who are not yet eligible to enter the NBA draft. The NBA believes the G League can become more and more popular as basketball is growing in the United States.

Not defined by the NBA, the term, elite prospects or elite athletes, are the ones eligible to sign Select Contracts.<sup>38</sup> Select Contracts are five-month one-way contracts to play in the G League. Starting in the 2019-2020 season, the G League is offering the Select Contracts with a starting salary of \$125,000 for

---

<sup>37</sup> Id.

<sup>38</sup> Id.



the five-month season to elite prospects who are at least 18 years of age by September 15 of the G League draft year.<sup>39</sup> The Select Contracts offer “year-round professional growth and will include opportunities for basketball development, life skills mentorship and academic scholarship” on top of the five-month season.<sup>40</sup>

## V. WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

### A. *Benefits of attending college*

While NCAA student-athletes are not getting paid, there are many benefits to playing college basketball. The NCAA garners over 80% of its revenue from March Madness alone, and the television contracts worth one billion dollars each year are guaranteed through the next 10 years.<sup>41</sup> The athletes are commonly on primetime television for March Madness, and they have that guarantee for the foreseeable future. European league basketball is not as popular, and the players do not receive the same amount of attention. Scouts are able to see the players more often if the player is a quick flight away or on ESPN.

The players have a love for the team and college as stated by Zion Williamson.<sup>42</sup> March Madness is seen as the epitome of college athletics where one is part of a team with the chance to be on the national stage with everyone’s eyes on you.

While it may not be the ideal training place with classes, these young kids can learn a lot from being in a college environment. There are also fewer uncertainties in college as it has proven success at getting players into the NBA. The G League has many uncertainties right now. Will the G League be successful? Will the G League develop the players as well as college does? Many athletes want to stay near their home and

---

<sup>39</sup> Id.

<sup>40</sup> Id.

<sup>41</sup> Rodger Sherman, The NCAA’s new March Madness TV deal will make them a billion dollars a year, SBNation.com (Apr. 12, 2016), <https://www.sbnation.com/college-basketball/2016/4/12/11415764/ncaa-tournament-tv-broadcast-rights-money-payout-cbs-turner>.

<sup>42</sup> Nick Schwartz, Zion Williamson explained why he won’t sit out a month before his injury, USA Today (Feb. 21, 2019), <https://ftw.usatoday.com/2019/02/zion-williamson-sit-out-draft>.

families, but the G League involves a draft which may deter some prospects.

### *B. Benefits of going straight to G league*

This five-month contract is a comparable length to the NCAA season, but without focusing on academics. There are year-round opportunities to develop skills without having to worry about attending class.<sup>43</sup> The G League does offer a chance for educational opportunities if that is important to the athlete.<sup>44</sup> The G League also offers the Winter Showcase, which is the “NBA G League’s annual in-season scouting event, when all of the league’s teams converge in one city to play in front of NBA general managers and player personnel executives from all 30 NBA teams.”<sup>45</sup>

## VI. SOLUTIONS

The NCAA has several options to choose from to promote the college basketball model.

First, the NCAA can do nothing and risk the results. Doing nothing, however is risky. With unknown numbers for Select Contract recipients in the G League, the NCAA could end up losing out on more than just the top elite prospects. If the G League expands to thirty teams, then they may be signing more players to the Select Contracts than the NCAA had initially thought. The NCAA could miss out on a lot of talent causing viewership to go down. With decreased viewership, comes decreased revenue.

Another approach would be to replicate college baseball or hockey drafting bylaw exceptions. The NHL and MLB draft young men straight out of high school, but the NCAA allows them to be drafted and retain amateurism.<sup>46</sup> They must follow specific rules, however. The athletes are able to hire agents, but only for the

---

<sup>43</sup> Frequently Asked Questions: NBA G League Professional Path and Select Contracts, NBA G League, <https://gleague.nba.com/professionalpath/>.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.*

<sup>45</sup> What You Need to Know About the NBA G League, NBA G League, <https://gleague.nba.com/professionalpath/>.

<sup>46</sup> First Year Player Draft Rules, Major League Baseball, <http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/drftday/rules.jsp>.

limited purpose of advising and not being present for negotiations.<sup>47</sup> If the prospect decides to come to college, he must not retain the agent's services. These drafts allow for professional teams to obtain the rights to the prospect, while still maintaining amateurism. Both professional leagues have minor leagues which coexist with college programs. Neither college hockey nor college baseball are as popular as college basketball, so the comparison cannot be exact, but it proves the cooperation is possible.

The next option is to increase benefits and entice prospects. This is the NCAA's mode of operation as of late. The NCAA allowed universities to increase benefits like increased meals and access to Wi-Fi. While these additions may seem insignificant, they add up and could make the difference for high school athletes unsure of which path to take. This option is also fairly risky for the NCAA as the benefits they are able to give may not be able to compare to the G League's benefits. The NCAA's options of benefits are limited because certain benefits will jeopardize amateurism.

Many would like to see college athletes be able to use their own image and likeness for profit. This solution would prove to be effective at providing salary for athletes who are truly capable of going professional but want to be in college. This issue has appeared in court and was ruled to violate amateurism.<sup>48</sup> The fight for this is not over, however.

The final solution is a proposal which would provide certain NCAA student-athletes with an injury insurance policy. To prevent the violation of the NCAA's amateurism bylaws, a health insurance program could be established. The policy would have the NBA and NCAA partner to provide compensation for a NCAA student-athlete's injury. This policy would be subject to many stipulations, however.

To be named the Student-Athlete Health & Injury Policy Program, or "SAHIPP", the program would protect the draft stock of elite men's basketball players should they chose the NCAA path. Currently, the G League has Allison Feaster, a former

---

<sup>47</sup> 12.02, 2018-19 NCAA Division I Manual: Constitution, Operating Bylaws, Administrative Bylaws, (2018).

<sup>48</sup> O'Bannon v. Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n, 802 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2015).

WNBA player, and Rod Strickland, a former NBA player, to identify elite prospects to earn a Select Contract if they want to choose the G League route. For SAHIPP, however, elite athletes would be chosen by a combined NBA and NCAA committee to determine who would be eligible to receive compensation if they are injured. The program has the downfall of only protecting elite men's basketball players, but hopefully over time the program will serve as a model to be expanded to more players and other sports.

### *Student-Athlete Health & Injury Policy Program*

□ Summary: The Student-Athlete Health & Injury Policy Program establishes the program for which elite prospects are afforded a future earnings protection policy in certain instances which are deemed reasonably necessary by the committee.

□ Definitions:

o "Elite Prospects" are the athletes deemed at a high enough level to be eligible for the policy.

o "Future Earnings Protection" (FEP) is the percentage of the difference between the projected entry level signing bonus earnings at the time of the injury and the actual entry level signing bonus after both the injury and the NBA draft. The Committee determines the projected values.

o "The Committee" includes the group of chosen representatives from the NCAA and NBA.

o "Certain Instances" include instances which cause an NCAA Men's Basketball student-athlete to lose future signing bonus earnings from an injury in an NCAA, University sanctioned, or other qualified event deemed appropriate by the committee.

□ Application:

o An NCAA men's basketball student-athlete is eligible to receive compensation when:

- selected by The Committee,
  - The Committee may determine eligibility beginning when prospects are able to commit to a university.
  - The Committee may determine eligibility up until a certain instance occurs.
  - The Committee has full discretion based on this bylaw to decide who is eligible.
  - There is no limit on how many elite prospects may be chosen.
  - A minimum of 10 student-athletes who actually attend college must be chosen each year.
- The policy will be dispersed when the elite prospect is drafted or once the draft officially ends.
- The amount to be dispersed is to follow:

	Fell to Top 10	Fell Outside Top 10	Fell to Second Round	Fell Out of Draft
Projected Top 5 Pick	100% of FEP	100% of FEP	100% of FEP	100% of FEP
Projected Top 10 Pick	N/A	100% of FEP	75% of FEP	75% of FEP
Projected First Round	N/A	N/A	75% of FEP	50% of FEP
Projected Second Round	N/A	N/A	N/A	25% of FEP

- Revocation:
  - The policy may be revoked or reduced by The Committee if:
    - Information is discovered related to the injury which reveals deceit or an intent to defraud,

- The elite prospect acts in other ways to decrease his draft stock including, but not limited to further injury not from NCAA or university sanctioned events or criminal behavior, or
- Other valid reasons which The Committee deems.

The NCAA should create a bylaw to remove the one-and-done rule. If a high school player wants to go to college, they should commit at least three years to a team. This commitment will increase their educational value as well as their athletic product. The athletes will have more time to develop on court and with their team and coaches. The proposal is beneficial for the NCAA, but the NBA is only losing money from this deal by partially footing the bill. This does create a better player for the NBA or G League which will help bring in more viewers. The NBA draft will consist of better basketball players because of the increased development time.

The NCAA and the NBA can partner to create events to generate more revenue. The G League could have exhibition games with top college teams. The NBA would keep most of the revenue from these tournaments as well as part of the March Madness revenue. The NCAA has a chance to recruit top talent with this deal, so it may be worth the risk of giving up part of their revenue from the March Madness deal. The NCAA will benefit from a better product of top players staying longer because it creates better teams. People are more committed to their alma mater than to a minor league team and will enjoy watching their school who may have a chance to win more. More universities will have a chance at the elite prospects because of scholarship limits for the schools who are normally involved in the one-and-done rule.

The NBA should be cautious because the G league may not be that successful. Many minor leagues exist in America, and none have the popularity they may be predicting, let alone in the ballpark of college basketball. They should also buy into the policies to show good will towards the players, which may in turn help them during CBA meetings.

The NCAA may also decide to self-finance this program. They would not have to give up so much, but it may be harder to work

with the G League so that the G League does not increase benefits so much as to ruin any chance of recruiting elite athletes.

SAHIPP is a common-sense approach to allow the betterment of the student-athletes' situation. This could potentially be a major selling point for the NCAA if they are able to guarantee, if injured, they will be compensated.

## VII. OTHER CONCERNS

The injury insurance does not violate amateurism because the "income" is not realized until after amateurism is not applicable. Once drafted, an athlete is no longer considered an amateur. The athlete is paid once the draft occurs, and the amounts are determined by the teams. If the player is never injured, then the student-athlete does not earn anything.

SAHIPP may be considered unfair because it only covers certain athletes, this policy is really only protecting the top athletes each year who earn the protection in a sense. These are the athletes the NCAA is targeting to attend college instead of going straight to the G League or NBA. The athletes who are not eligible may eventually benefit from this policy if it were to expand.

SAHIPP may help convince elite prospects to play in college for those three years. Many young athletes grow up dreaming of playing in March Madness, and this may help coerce elite prospects. Knowing their futures are guaranteed through this program, as long as they work hard, gives elite prospects a reason to attend college. College basketball is king in March and the G League salary may not be able to keep up with the idea of playing in a national championship with millions of viewers.

As of right now, the proposal does not affect other sports. Sports like football are much more prone to injuries, but the NCAA is pressed to find a solution for basketball at the moment as basketball is where the NCAA generates most of their revenue. The partnerships are possible with other sports, but it may be more difficult. Football requires three years before becoming eligible to be drafted and there are a lot more players who end up being drafted, so a system would be much more complex with the NFL.

In the end, the goal is to benefit the student-athletes who, in the past, have not earned anything after becoming injured. While SAHIPP may not be the prime solution, it brings together the NCAA and the NBA as an attempt to retain amateurism while also truly benefitting the student-athletes. This program will be able to help out many young men in the future, and hopefully it will spread to all college sports for all men and women.