

January 6, 1942.

Chancellor Deane W. Malott,  
University of Kansas.

Dear Chancellor Malott:

Replying to your query concerning Mr. George L. Rider's letter to you, I beg to state that it is high time that the N.C.A.A. is taking some steps to have their rules respected.

My answer to this is the answer I made some time ago - that the conferences comprising the schools under the N.C.A.A. elect a czar-commissioner, or a super-commissioner, that this czar-commissioner have full authority to investigate any complaints or acts of illegality, and to prescribe the penalty without resorting to a board. In other words, give him carte blanche authority as is given Judge Landis, to mete out penalties and decisions, and that his word is final.

I would further add that such commissioners as Commissioner Atherton of the Pacific Coast be installed as commissioners in other conferences. Commissioner Atherton is the only commissioner who is doing the job of a commissioner. The other fellows are merely figure-heads or clerks who select officials for conference games, but who do not have disciplinary authority. There are some commissioners who are hired to pinch off the fuse of the dynamite keg before it explodes. a conference scandal.

Unfortunately the athletic conferences are much in the same fix as other organizations of the present day. They do not regard printed rules as anything other than to break. So many coaches and athletic directors have got stuff on the other fellows that no one will charge anyone else with a misdemeanor for fear that someone will squeal on him and break his little glass house. In my opinion, intercollegiate athletics are in the worst fix that they have ever been in. But I believe that this war is going to deflate them all so badly that there will not be much danger during war time.

My suggestion would be that the American Association of University Presidents and other administrators look into the future now as is the national administration when they are planning ahead to take up the slack that will come when the war is over. If a group of educators could plan to get hold of the start of the new athletic era with a set of rules with teeth in them, then that would lessen the abuses and keep athletics in bound.