7-19-1971

Big Sky Conference Presidents Council makes changes in sports rules

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--

Members of the Big Sky Conference Presidents Council, meeting Monday at the University of Montana, voted unanimously to reduce or limit the numbers of varsity football and basketball players who can participate in out-of-town and home games and to reduce the number of athlete grants-in-aid for conference teams.

The new regulations are effective fall quarter 1972.

UM President Robert T. Pantzer, council chairman, said the player reductions and limitations, the grants-in-aid reductions and other decisions made at Monday's meeting are the result of "the very difficult problems every school is facing in financing various programs, including those in athletics."

Joining the presidents of the Big Sky Conference schools at the meeting was John Roning, Boise, Idaho, commissioner of the conference.

The major decisions made at Monday's meeting included:

(1) Reduce to 40 from 44 the number of varsity football players that conference teams can have suited up for out-of-town games and limit the number of players for home games to 50. Reduce to 10 from 12 the number of varsity basketball players who can suit up for road games and limit to 15 the number for home games. At this time neither football nor basketball has any limits on the numbers of players who can suit up at home.

(2) Reduce the number of athlete grants-in-aid to 98 from the present 110. The new regulation specifies that no more than 58 of the grants-in-aid can be in football and 15 in basketball. Other sports are limited to a total of 25 grants-in-aid.
(3) That every conference school will be required to participate in at least six intercollegiate sports - football or basketball or both and four or five other sports to comprise the six minimum. The Big Sky schools can participate in any number of intercollegiate sports now.

The Big Sky Conference presidents also voted unanimously to give serious consideration this fall in determining the amount of reduction in the costs of recruiting student athletes within the conference.

No date or site has been set for the fall meeting.

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