



Dear USADB Executive Committee,

We are writing this letter in grave concern about the impact of the new proposal in having current NCAA players play in and with the USADB regional and national tournaments.

This will greatly impact and harm our players and program in many different ways.

1. Our players will be **distracted** in who and when they will play for their club teams. Our season begins October 15 and goes from anywhere from the end of Feb to mid March depending on if we make the NCAA tournament or not. It will greatly impact the players' focus, cohesion, and unity.
2. The student-athletes will have **missed** numerous school days during the season traveling to away games and back. In addition to the regional and/or national tournaments, they will miss unnecessary additional school days which does not look good on the team and individuals.
3. There would be **possible NCAA violations** if a player is paid to fly to play or to play for a team or in winning cash prizes. This does not mean it will happen but gives the NCAA team/coach the burden of monitoring things like this does not happen and take away their eligibility and put any college in a negative situation.
4. A student-athlete could be tempted to leave the team at any time during the season and play on a club team which would be another potential negative that should be avoided. A student-athlete may be disappointed with his/her playing time and decide to quit the team because s/he knows s/he can quickly play on a club team. This puts the **university and club in a negative light**.
5. We think the current rules and system has worked perfectly and that the USADB is not broken and should be left the way it has practiced and not cause any harm or negative publicity for both or either the USADB and NCAA teams.

Gallaudet University was very pleased to be able to have the USADB National Tournament here in our Field House for the final day of the tournament and viewed it as a huge success for USADB. We value our partnership and relationship in our small Deaf community and feel this will hurt each other more than help each other and in turn continue our positive and healthy relationship.

Thank you for your time in reading this and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or want to discuss this further. We can be reached at kevin.kovacs@gallaudet.edu or stephanie.stevens@gallaudet.edu