

□ Claim (statement) □ Evidence (Example) □ Reason (Explanation)

PRO/CON: Should college athletes ~~be paid?~~ get paid?

Newsela - <https://newsela.com/read/pro-con-college-athletes-paid/id/433957>

NO! ~~PRO~~: Paying college athletes would cause more problems

College athletes are not allowed to be paid to play their sport. However, some colleges have gotten into trouble for offering things to athletes to get them to join their teams.

To address these problems in college basketball, a commission issued a report. **Former** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice led the commission, or group. The report made several good recommendations, but, wisely, it did not suggest that players be paid.

The commission favored the amateur rule of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The members supported the idea that paying players would bring more problems later.

The report's focus was on basketball, but it also could apply to college football. The report has been criticized, but it is a sincere effort to improve college athletics.

Money is playing too large a role in college sports. The answer is not to add even more money by paying players.

Many Athletes Receive Scholarships To Pay For College

* Many athletes receive **scholarships** to attend college. A year at college can be worth \$50,000 or more. So they do receive something for their work.

Much of the call for paying athletes has come from the popularity of college football and basketball on television, and the money these sports produce. However, most of that money goes back to the universities. It supports both sports and academics.

Some Rice report recommendations stand out.

— The NBA should allow players to enter its pro draft out of high school. The current rule **requires** players to be 19 years old or a year out of high school. Some colleges have become a one-year stopover for players on their way to the NBA.

— The punishments should be severe enough to prevent cheating.

The NCAA has moved slowly, but it's a start.

The report supported the value of amateur play. It also noted the worth of an education for the many college basketball players who don't go on to the NBA.