“Progress is impossible without change,” as stated by George Bernard Shaw. My partner and I agree and thus affirm the resolution:

**Resolved: NCAA student athletes ought to be recognized as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.**

**My partner and I affirm the resolution for two main reasons: Status Quo Insufficient and Employee Classification Solves.**

**We offer the following framework:**

1. Ought implies moral obligation.
2. Given that employee status is meant to provide student athletes with compensation to match the value of the work they put in, the round should be weighed based on improved quality of life for athletes.

**I. Contention I: Status Quo Insufficient**

* 1. **Sub Point A: Financial Burden Bohling, 2017**

“In fact, a 2013 study by the National College Players Association "concluded that 86% of college athletes live below the poverty line." While this statistic is shocking on its own, supplemented by the value each player brings to the school, it is appalling. For example, the average football player at the University of Texas is valued at $ 513,922. Yet, each receives a sliver of this amount in tuition and some living expenses.”

* 1. **Sub Point B: Exploitation**

“While many argue that scholarships should be enough for student athletes,

a 2010 study showed that the average NCAA athlete in the big-time sports, like

football and basketball, actually ends up paying around $2,951 per year due to school related costs. He cites the example of Reggie Bush, a former USC football player who lost his Heisman trophy because his mother received money under the table. “When you look at USC – a school with an endowment that’s larger than every historically black college in the country combined – that this school made over $100 million from Reggie Bush’s play on the field – it’s hard to argue that some people should be outraged about that,” he adds.”

* 1. **Sub Point C: Corruption**

**Evidence 1: Bilas, 2017**

“The current NCAA system and rules are largely responsible for creating the underground black-market economy for players. There are contradictions everywhere, to the point of hypocrisy, and business relationships with third parties that strain the imagination.”

**Evidence 2: National College Players Association**

“With the countless scandals that have occurred over the last year, this may be the most appropriate time to point out that the NCAA’s version of amateurism is not only at the root of the problem, it is impossible to uphold. To be sure, *Inside Higher Education* reported that 53 of 120 FBS schools were caught violating NCAA rules between 2001-10 (Lederman, 2011).”

**Impact**: ***The current amateurism model fosters black market negotiations that undermine the very principle behind classifying athletes as student-athletes instead of employees. Thus, the only way to resolve the issue is to recognize NCAA student athletes as employees.***

1. **Contention II: Employee Classification Solves**
	1. **Sub Point: Reduction in Poverty Staurowsy, 2011**

“Support legislation that will allow universities to fully fund their athletes’ educational opportunities with scholarships that fully cover the full cost of attendance. The average $3,222 increase per player would be enough to free many from poverty and reduce their vulnerability to breaking NCAA rules to make ends meet.”

* 1. **Sub Point B: Activism HOFSTRA LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW JOURNAL, 2015**

If college athletes in revenue-generating sports are seen for what they are, employees that are also students, other groups of workers in more precarious conditions, but in similar nonstandard contracts of employment, may fare better when they seek the aid of the law. Disabled janitor "clients" working for their rehabilitation institutions, graduate students working as teaching assistants and research assistants, franchise employees seeking to bargain with the franchisors, and not just their direct employers, the franchisees, and a slew of other nonstandard employees, may have a better chance to meet justice in the future.

* 1. **Sub Point C: Transparency Ortiz, 2017**

“There’s this underground network already going on of secret deals and corruption,”

said Marc Edelman, a law professor focusing on sports and gambling at Baruch College in New York City. “The most reasonable way to resolve this matter would be to overturn the NCAA principle of amateurism, which would force the compensation of college athletes into an open and above-board market,” he added, “one that would be observable and transparent.”

* 1. **Sub Point D: Net Benefit Nance-Nash, 2011**

“If nothing changes, about half of football and basketball players will continue to not graduate and will continue to break NCAA rules. If reform takes place, graduation rates will increase dramatically, their financial desperation will be reduced, and they will finally receive their commercial free market value,” predicted Huma.

**Impact**: ***Classifying student-athletes as employees holds the NCAA accountable by forcing free-market negotiations, and protects them from exploitation. Furthermore, the additional compensation student-athletes will receive will lift many out of poverty and improve their quality of life.***

**For these reasons and more my partner and I strongly urge a PRO ballot! Thank You!**