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   CAROLYN H. LUEDTKE (State Bar No. 207976)
   Carolyn.luedtke@mto.com
   JUSTIN P. RAPHAEL (State Bar No. 292380)
   Justin.Raphael@mto.com
   CHRISTOPHER CRUZ (State Bar No. 346128)
   Christopher.Cruz@mto.com
  JAVIER KORDI (State Bar No. 348358)
   Javier.Kordi@mto.com
5
  MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP
   560 Mission Street, Twenty-Seventh Floor
   San Francisco, California 94105-2907
                   (415) 512-4000
   Telephone:
   Facsimile:
                   (415) 512-4077
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   Attorneys for Defendant National
   Collegiate Athletic Association
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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                      EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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                                      Case No. 1:23-cv-00425-WBS-KJN
   JOSEPH COLON, SHANNON RAY,
   KHALA TAYLOR, PETER ROBINSON,
   KATHERINE SEBBANE, and PATRICK
                                      NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
   MEHLER, individually and on
                                      ASSOCIATION'S ANSWER TO
   behalf of all those similarly
                                      PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED CLASS
  situated,
                                      ACTION COMPLAINT
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             Plaintiffs,
                                      Judge: Hon. William B. Shubb
17
        VS.
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   NATION COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
   ASSOCIATION, an unincorporated
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   association,
             Defendant.
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Defendant National Collegiate Athletic Association
("Defendant" or "NCAA") hereby answers the Amended Class Action
Complaint (the "Complaint") of Plaintiffs Joseph Colon, Shannon
Ray, Khala Taylor, Peter Robinson, Katherine Sebbane, and Patrick
Mehler ("Plaintiffs"). Defendant generally denies each and every
allegation except those hereinafter specifically admitted.

Defendant has included the headings reflected in the Complaint to
aid the Court in reviewing the Defendant's Answer. To the extent
these headings include factual allegations, Defendant expressly
denies each and every allegation. Defendant further answers the
numbered paragraphs of the Complaint as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

Defendant admits the NCAA member schools and 1. conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.7.6, which imposed limits on the number of paid coaches member institutions could hire across various sports, and Division I Bylaw 11.7.6.2.3, which permitted a certain number volunteer coaches to be hired in excess of the paid-coach limits. Defendant further admits the NCAA member schools and conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, which defined a volunteer coach as one "who does not receive compensation or remuneration from the institution's athletics department or any organization funded in whole or in part by the athletics department or that is involved primarily in the promotion of the institution's athletics program." Defendant further admits the NCAA member schools and conferences in January 2023 agreed to pass Division I Proposal 2022-28, effective July 1, 2023, which eliminated the volunteer coach designation and increased the number of countable coaches permitted in applicable sports. Division I Proposal 2022-28 repealed Division I Bylaws 11.01.6 and 11.7.6.2.3. All other allegations in Paragraph 1 are

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legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required.

To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies all
the allegations unless specifically admitted.

- Defendant admits the NCAA member schools and conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.7.6, which imposed limits on the number of paid coaches member institutions could hire across various sports, and Division I Bylaw 11.7.6.2.3, which permitted a certain number volunteer coaches to be hired in excess of the paid-coach limits. Defendant further admits the NCAA member schools and conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, which defined a volunteer coach as one "who does not receive compensation or remuneration from the institution's athletics department or any organization funded in whole or in part by the athletics department or that is involved primarily in the promotion of the institution's athletics program." Defendant admits that some NCAA member schools compete with each other for coaches, but to the extent Paragraph 2 alleges NCAA member schools compete only with "each other" for coaches, Defendant denies such an allegation. Defendant denies all remaining allegations in Paragraph 2 unless specifically admitted herein.
- 3. Defendant admits the NCAA member schools and conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.7.6, which imposed limits on the number of paid coaches member institutions could hire across various sports, and Division I Bylaw 11.7.6.2.3, which permitted a certain number volunteer coaches to be hired in excess of the paid-coach limits. Defendant further admits the NCAA member schools and conferences adopted Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, which defined a volunteer coach as one "who does not

- 4. The allegations of Paragraph 4 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 5. The allegations of Paragraph 5, including the allegations contained in the accompanying footnote number 2, are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 6. Defendant admits the volunteer coach designation, as set forth in Division I Bylaws 11.01.6 and 11.7.6.2.3, as they last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual, has recently been abrogated by the Division I membership. All other allegations of Paragraph 6 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.

## PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 7. Defendant admits that Fresno State University's wrestling team competed in Division I during the 2017 to 2020 academic years. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 7 and on that basis denies them.
- 8. Defendant admits that Arizona State University's track and field team competed in Division I during the 2019 to

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2021 academic years. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 8 and on that basis denies them.

- Defendant admits that San Jose State University's softball team competed in Division I during the 2022 academic year. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 9 and on that basis denies them.
- 10. Defendant admits that the University of Virginia's swimming and diving teams competed in Division I during the 2019 to 2021 academic years. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 10 and on that basis denies them.
- Defendant admits that the University of 11. Pittsburgh's softball team competed in Division I during the 2019 to 2021 academic years. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 11 and on that basis denies them.
- 12. Defendant admits that American University's men's soccer team competed in Division I during the 2019 to 2023 academic years. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 12 and on that basis denies them.
- 13. Defendant admits that it maintains its principal place of business in Indianapolis, Indiana. Defendant admits it is an unincorporated association comprised of member schools and conferences with more than 500,000 college athletes competing across three divisions-Divisions I, II, and III. Defendant

- 14. The allegations of Paragraph 14 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 15. The allegations of Paragraph 15 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 16. The allegations of Paragraph 16 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 17. Defendant admits that it conducts business affecting interstate commerce and Division I member schools use instruments of interstate commerce to carry out their operations. The remaining allegations of Paragraph 17 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 18. Defendant admits Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, as it last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual before its repeal in 2023, applied to any volunteer coach who may have worked for an NCAA Division I baseball team located in this District and some of those teams may have competed in games in this District. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a

19. Defendant admits its member institutions participate in organizing intercollegiate athletic contests that take place in this State and District, and the NCAA occasionally hosts championships for sports in this State and District. Except as admitted above, the allegations in Paragraph 19 are denied.

# CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 20. The allegations of Paragraph 20 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 21. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to exact size of the Proposed Class, and on that basis denies the allegation. The remaining allegations of Paragraph 21 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 22. The allegations of Paragraph 22 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 23. The allegations of Paragraph 23, including subparagraphs 23(a) through 23(f), are legal arguments or

- 24. The allegations of Paragraph 24 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 25. The allegations of Paragraph 25 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 26. The allegations of Paragraph 26 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 27. The allegations of Paragraph 27 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.

# FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### A. The NCAA and College Sports.

28. Defendant admits there are approximately 1,100 member schools across Divisions I, II, and III. Defendant admits that Division I schools generally have the biggest student bodies and manage the largest athletics budgets and those schools must sponsor at least fourteen varsity sports teams to qualify for Division I. Defendant admits that Division I has about 350 members. Except as admitted, the allegations in Paragraph 28 are denied.

allegations in Paragraph 29 and on that basis denies them.

- 30. Defendant denies the president of the NCAA earns nearly \$4 million per year. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the remainder of the allegations in Paragraph 30, and on that basis denies such allegations.
- 31. Defendant denies that all Division I sports programs implicated in this lawsuit are "booming." Defendant admits that at the time of the 2021 NCAA volleyball final, the game set an attendance record, as had a regular season game earlier that year. Defendant otherwise lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations, and on that basis denies such allegations.
- 32. Defendant admits the allegations in Paragraph 32 except it denies that there were 83 women's rowing teams in the cited survey. There were 88.

#### B. The illegal unpaid coaching position.

- 33. Defendant admits Division I athletic programs attract talented athletes and coaches. Defendant denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 33.
- 34. Defendant admits that the NCAA Division I membership has adopted and enforced rules that regulate college sports, including rules relating to amateurism and the size of

- 35. Defendant admits that many Division I member schools compete with each other to hire coaches, but to the extent Paragraph 35 alleges NCAA member schools compete *only* with "each other" for coaches, Defendant denies such an allegation. Defendant otherwise lacks knowledge or sufficient information as to the remaining allegations in Paragraph 35 and on that basis denies them.
- 36. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the allegations in Paragraph 36 and on that basis denies them.
- 37. The allegations of Paragraph 37 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 38. The allegations of Paragraph 38 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 39. Defendant admits that NCAA member schools compete for coaches on compensation, among other things, but to the extent Paragraph 39 alleges NCAA member schools compete *only* with "each other" for coaches on compensation Defendant denies such an allegation. Defendant otherwise lacks sufficient knowledge or information regarding the allegations of Paragraph 39 and on that basis denies them.

- 40. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 40.
- 41. Defendant admits the NCAA constitution enables member schools to enact legislation that governs the conduct of members' athletics programs, and that member schools agree to abide by the constitution and bylaws and legislation enacted pursuant to the legislative process. All other allegations in Paragraph 41 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 42. Defendant admits NCAA member institutions and conferences propose, draft, vote upon, and implement NCAA rules. Defendant further admits some member institutions compete with one another to hire coaches. Defendant otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 42.
- 43. Defendant admits Division I Bylaw 11.7.1.1, in effect prior to repeal by Division I Proposal 2022-28, required an "institutional staff member or any other individual outside the institution (e.g., consultant, professional instructor) with whom the institution has made arrangements" be "counted against coaching limits in the applicable sport as soon as the individual" participated in providing "technical or tactical instruction related to the sport to a student-athlete at any time," or made or assisted in "making tactical decisions related to the sport during on-court or on-field practice or competition," or engaged "in any off-campus recruiting activities." Defendant further admits Division I Bylaw 11.7.3 restricts noncoaching staff members from "participating in on-court or on-field activities (e.g., assist with drills, throw

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batting practice, signal plays)." Defendant otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 43.

44. Defendant admits Division I Bylaw 11.7.6, imposed limits on the number of paid coaches member institutions could hire across various sports, and Division I Bylaw 11.7.6.2.3 permitted a certain number volunteer coaches to be hired in excess of the paid-coach limits. Defendant further admits Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, as it last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual before its repeal in 2023, defined a volunteer coach as one "who does not receive compensation or remuneration from the institution's athletics department or any organization funded in whole or in part by the athletics department or that is involved primarily in the promotion of the institution's athletics program." Defendant further states that the quoted material referenced in footnote 4 speaks for itself, and to the extent the allegations vary therewith, Defendant denies the allegations. All remaining allegations in Paragraph 44, including the allegations contained in the accompanying footnote 4, are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.

45. Defendant admits Division I Bylaw 11.7.6, imposed limits on the number of paid coaches member institutions could hire across various sports, and Division I Bylaw 11.7.6.2.3 permitted a certain number volunteer coaches to be hired in excess of the paid-coach limits. Defendant further admits Division I Bylaw 11.01.6, as it last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual before its repeal in 2023, defined a volunteer

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coach as one "who does not receive compensation or remuneration from the institution's athletics department or any organization funded in whole or in part by the athletics department or that is involved primarily in the promotion of the institution's athletics program. Defendant denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 45.

- 46. Defendant admits that Bylaws 11.01.6(b)-(c), as they last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual before their repeal in 2023, provided that volunteer coaches "may receive a maximum of two complimentary tickets to home athletics contests in the coach's sport," and "may receive complimentary meals incidental to organized team activities (e.g., pre- or postgame meals, occasional meals, but not training table meals) or meals provided during a prospective student-athlete's official visit, provided the individual dines with the prospective studentathlete." Defendant admits that pursuant to Figure 11-1, section II(E), as it last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual, volunteer coaches were not permitted to receive life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, or tuition waiver from member schools. Defendant otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 46. The allegation that "coaches would otherwise receive" any renumeration or benefits "in a competitive labor market" is a legal argument or conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegation.
- 47. Defendant admits it employs a compliance and enforcement staff that investigates violations of NCAA rules and member schools have committed to self-reporting instances of

noncompliance with those rules. Defendant further admits that
NCAA member schools and conferences have adopted legislation that
identifies certain penalties, including fines, scholarship
reductions, recruiting restrictions and limitations on
competition for violating NCAA rules. Defendant admits that there
have been enforcement proceedings related to Bylaw 11.01.6.
Defendant denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 47.

- 48. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 48 and on that basis denies them.
  - 49. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 49.
- 50. The allegations in Paragraph 50 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.

#### C. Relevant Market and Market Power

- 51. The allegations in Paragraph 51 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 52. The allegations in Paragraph 52 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies such allegations.
- 53. Defendant admits member schools "engage in competitive play with other member schools across state lines, and the games are frequently broadcast across state lines." The remaining allegations in Paragraph 53 are legal arguments or

- 54. Defendant admits the NCAA has argued in certain contexts that college sports are a product that is distinct from professional sports. Defendant denies that Division I is the "only place where coaches can provide their services at the elite, amateur collegiate level" and Defendant denies the characterization of Division II and III schools. Defendant lacks knowledge or sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 54 about the availability of professional coaching options in the many sports covered by this litigation. The remaining allegations in Paragraph 54 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
- 55. Defendant denies that "[b]y coaching in Division I, coaches obtain knowledge and/or certifications that are useful only in Division I." Defendant admits that the certification and testing requirements for coaches differ in some ways depending on whether they coach in Division, I, II or III but denies that they are different in all respects. Defendant otherwise admits the allegations of Paragraph 55.
  - 56. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 56.
  - 57. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 57.
  - 58. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 58.
- 59. The allegations in Paragraph 59 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the

extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.

## C. Anticompetitive Conduct and Effects

- 60. The allegations in Paragraph 60 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
  - 61. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 61.
  - 62. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 62.
  - 63. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 63.
- do spend different amounts on coaches and facilities and that there is no draft for Division I athletics. Defendant further admits the Division I bylaws do not limit the amount of compensation member schools can provide to head or assistant coaches. Defendant otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 64.
- January 11, 2023 to rescind the volunteer coach designation as set forth in Division I Bylaws 11.06.1 and 11.7.6.2.3 as those Bylaws last appeared in the 2022-23 Division I Manual, effective July 1, 2023, and adopted bylaws that changed the limit on countable coaches in numerous sports. Defendant otherwise denies the allegations of Paragraph 65.
- 66. Paragraph 66 is a reiteration of previous allegations to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant incorporates its earlier

therein except were previously expressly admitted.

COUNT I - Violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act
(Brought by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the Class)

- 67. The allegations in Paragraph 67 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
- 68. The allegations in Paragraph 68 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
  - 69. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 69.
  - 70. Defendant denies the allegations of Paragraph 70.
- 71. The allegations in Paragraph 71 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
- 72. The allegations in Paragraph 72 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.
- 73. The allegations in Paragraph 73 are legal arguments or conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is deemed required, Defendant denies the allegations.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Defendant denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any relief from NCAA.

# NCAA'S AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

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Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(c), Defendant asserts the following affirmative defenses, without admitting that Defendant would bear the burden of proof on any of the following. Defendant reserves the right to supplement or amend this Answer, including through the addition of further affirmative defenses, based upon the course of discovery and proceedings in this action.

# FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

# (Injunctive Relief Unavailable)

The Complaint, and each and every claim for relief therein, fail to allege facts sufficient to support a claim for the injunctive relief described therein.

#### SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

#### (Laches)

The Complaint, and each and every claim for relief therein, are barred in whole or in part, by the doctrine of laches.

#### THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

#### (No Causation)

Assuming, arguendo, that Plaintiff sustained a loss, injury, and/or damage, either as alleged in the Complaint or otherwise, such loss, injury, and/or damage are not recoverable from Defendant because any alleged act or omission of Defendant was not the cause of such loss, injury, and/or damage.

#### FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(No Damages)

Plaintiff's claims for damages are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff suffered no recognizable loss, injury and/or damage as a result of the matters which are subject of the Complaint.

#### FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

# (Damages Speculative and Conjectural)

The claims of the Plaintiffs and others claimed to be members of the putative class, are barred because their alleged damages are speculative and conjectural and are not capable of calculation with a reasonable degree of certainty.

#### SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

# (Statutes of Limitations)

The Complaint, and each and every claim for relief therein, are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statues of limitations.

# SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

#### (No Unreasonable Restraint)

The claims of the Plaintiffs and alleged members of the putative class are barred, in whole or in part, because the actions of Defendant did not unreasonably restrain trade, but were lawful, justified, and procompetitive.

#### NCAA'S DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendant requests a trial by jury for each issue that is triable before a jury.

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2	DATED:	August	31,	2023	MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP
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4					By: /s/CAROLYN H. LUEDTKE
5					CAROLYN H. LUEDTKE Attorneys for Defendant National
6					Collegiate Athletic Association
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