UL enforces restrictions on bags at sport-related events

Mesh bags, backpacks and coolers are among the list of items that will no longer be allowed at University of Louisiana at Lafayette sporting events as part of new safety precautions.

Announced on the university website May 30, the policy limits each ticket holder to one bag plus a small purse, which includes clear plastic bags that do not exceed 12-inches-by-6-inches-by-12-inches; strapped or strapless small purses that do not exceed 6.5-inches-by-4.5-inches; equipment bags for medical items and diaper bags for children. Non-obstructive team logos on one side of a person’s bag will also be allowed.

Outlawed bags include: coolers, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, mesh bags or any bag larger than the permissible size.

The policy applies to Cajun Field, the Cajundome, E.K. Long Gym, M.L. “Tigue” Moore Field at Russo Park, Lamson Park and the Ragin’ Cajuns Track/Soccer facility.

The policy will not prohibit fans from wearing or carrying items such as binoculars, hand-held electronic devices, cameras, blankets and seat cushions. However, the items will be screened upon entry. Those who wish to buy clear bags from campus will be able to purchase them through the Ragin’ Cajuns Store and retailers around the Lafayette area.

Senate OKs funding TOPS

The Louisiana State Senate has decided in a vote of 36-1 on Saturday, June 3, on a budget plan of $29 billion.

The past year has seen Louisiana government making various cuts in different areas and, notably, to the funding of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). The program, which serves some 50,000 students in Louisiana, was cut almost in half the previous fiscal year, but this year, the Senate and House of Representatives agreed to fully fund TOPS and seemed to have put it as a top priority.

Along with TOPS, the Senate is also giving more funding to agencies that the House gave less to such as those that overlook child protective services, veteran services, courts and prisons.

State Legislature has also stalled proposals that would likely lead to the increase of tuition in state colleges and universities.

The measure proposed, HB 66, lost in a vote of 45-57. The bill would have given control of public universities to the higher education institutions’ management boards, which is more likely to increase the cost of attending these colleges than the state legislature would be.

The increase in tuition would have been used to fill in various deficits from the previous year, but legislators argue it isn’t fair to make the students pay for those losses.

Sandra Woodley, president of the higher education system, said it would be unlikely Louisiana would see any increase in tuition even if the legislation passed because many universities are already charging “as much tuition as the market can bear currently.”