



The Interpreter

September 2007

Why Do We Have A Compliance Office?

Besides all of the forms and investigations, the Compliance Office ensures the university is following the guidelines outlined in Article 2 of the constitution of the NCAA Manual. These principles range from institutional control to student-athlete well-being to ethical conduct. While the Compliance Office may deal with the rules and regulations on a daily basis, please remember that compliance is everyone's responsibility.

Principles of Institutional Control

It is the responsibility of each member institution to control its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NCAA. The institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures.

Principles of Institutional Responsibility

The institution's responsibility for the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics program includes responsibility for the actions of its staff members and for the actions of any other individual or organization engaged in activities promoting the athletics interests of the institution.

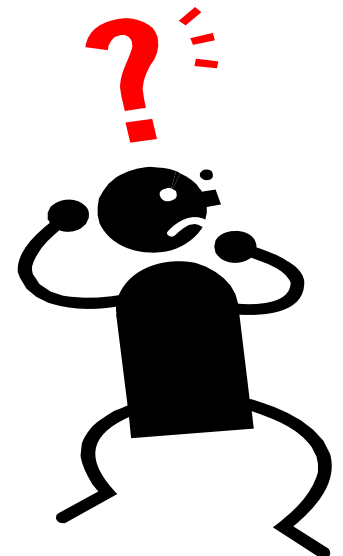
Principles of Rules Compliance

Each institution shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the NCAA in the conduct of its intercollegiate athletics programs. It shall monitor its programs to assure compliance and to identify and report to the NCAA instances in which compliance has not been achieved. In any such instance, the institution shall cooperate fully with the NCAA and shall take appropriate corrective actions. Members of an institution's staff, student-athletes, and other individuals and groups representing the institution's athletics interests shall comply with the applicable NCAA rules, and the member institution shall be responsible for such compliance

Compliance Corner

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT UNIVERSITY WAS PLACED ON 2 YEARS PROBATION FOR MAJOR VIOLATIONS IN 2003 PERTAINING TO ELIGIBILITY AND THE IMPROPER CERTIFICATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN MEN'S BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, FIELD HOCKEY, MEN'S GOLF, MEN'S LACROSSE, MEN'S SOCCER, MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK, WOMEN'S SOFTBALL AND WOMEN'S TENNIS?

Answer on page 4





Hot Topic: Recent Interpretation



On August 22, 2007, the NCAA Office for Membership Services released the following interpretation of Bylaw 15 as it relates to the reduction or cancellation of a grant-in-aid:

The membership services staff confirmed that, in addition to the legislated conditions by which a student-athlete's financial aid may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award, an institution may include other non-athletically related conditions (e.g., compliance with academic policies or standards, compliance with team rules or policies) in its financial aid agreements. The staff noted that regardless of the reason for reduction or cancellation, the student-athlete must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before the aid is reduced or cancelled.

[References: Division I and Division II Bylaws 15.3.2.4 (hearing opportunity), 15.3.4.1 (reduction or cancellation permitted) and 15.3.4.3 (reduction or cancellation not permitted)]



From the Interpretation File



Educational Column -- Activities during Official and Unofficial Visits

NCAA Division I institutions should note that in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 13.6.7.9, 13.7.3 and 13.10.5, an institution may not arrange miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aids (e.g., personalized jerseys, personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations) nor may an institution permit a prospective student-athlete to engage in any game-day simulations during an official or unofficial visit. Further, prospective student-athletes may not participate in team activities that would make the public or media aware of the prospective student-athlete's visit to the institution.

Impermissible game-day simulations involving prospective student-athletes include running onto the field during pre-game introductions, participating in pre-game team walks to the competition facility, riding with the team on the bus to the competition facility and/or participating in pre-game on-field traditions. For example, if an institution's team normally participates in a pre-game walk to the stadium on game day, prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits would not be permitted to use the same route to the stadium during the time period when the public can reasonably be expected to be assembled to witness the team's arrival at the stadium. Another example to illustrate the application of the legislation would be if an institution's team normally rides on a bus to the competition facility with a police escort or takes a route occupied by fans, the prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits would not be permitted to ride with the team on the bus to the competition facility. Instead, under either of these circumstances, an institution should make arrangements for prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits to arrive at the stadium using a different route than the team.

While game-day activities vary by institution and by sport, institutions are reminded to review institutional official- and unofficial-visit policies to ensure all activities surrounding official or unofficial visits are not personalized or conducted in a manner that appears to publicize the prospective student-athlete's visit.

[References: Bylaws 13.6.7.9 (activities), 13.7.3 (activities while on unofficial visits) and 13.10.5 (prospective student-athlete's visit)]



In the News....

Three Husker baseball players suspended for bat trading scheme

Associated Press

The NCAA has suspended three Nebraska baseball players for trading bats for store credit at a sporting goods store.

The Nebraska athletic department announced that outfielder Andy Gerch will be suspended the first 12 games of 2008, while catcher Jeff Lanning and utilityman Craig Corriston will miss the first six games of the season under the NCAA's suspensions.

Infielder Jeff Tezak, the team's leading hitter, also received vouchers from the Scheels store but was not suspended because they were worth less than \$100, the athletic department said.

Lanning transferred to the University of New Orleans and will serve the suspension there, the athletic department said.

Gary Barga, the university's compliance director, said the suspensions were based on the value of the benefits received.

Nebraska coach Mike Anderson said in a release that he will consider further discipline for the players. "I'm very disappointed that these secondary violations occurred," Anderson said. "This is not indicative of Nebraska athletics."

Tezak, Corriston and Gerch were everyday starters for the Cornhuskers last season. Lanning started 18 games. (ESPN Online, August 24, 2007)



Arkansas has hearing with NCAA for track allegations

Associated Press

The University of Arkansas has appeared before the NCAA infractions committee to answer allegations levied against its storied track and field program after a former assistant coach was convicted last year of embezzlement, the university said.

Scott Varady, associate general counsel to the school, said the half-a-day hearing in Indianapolis focused on former assistant Lance Brauman, who resigned last year after his convictions. Varady declined to discuss specifics of what transpired at the hearing, citing NCAA rules, but said the university remained confident the NCAA would view the school's self-imposed penalties as sufficient.

Brauman received a year in prison for fraudulently using the federal work-study program to get around a Kansas Jayhawk CC Conference ban on giving athletes full-ride scholarships. He also sent false academic credentials to the University of Arkansas on an athlete's behalf.

The allegations against Brauman stunned Arkansas, which has won 42 national championships in track and field and cross country. In 21 of the past 23 years, the Razorbacks have won at least one national title, including an 18-year streak. The most recent came in the 2006 indoor season.

In a January report to the NCAA commission, the university acknowledged Brauman or his wife gave the student-athlete impermissible transportation, arranged about \$135 worth of lodging during the summer of 2003 before the athlete started at Arkansas and helped the student enroll in a correspondence course in a way that exceeded the assistance allowable under NCAA rules.

The university said Brauman also asked his sister-in-law to tutor the student and arranged two people to serve as proctors for tests in the correspondence course. Arkansas also reported that the athlete was unknowingly enrolled in a course at Barton County and received a grade.

Arkansas' self-imposed penalties included loss of three scholarships for 2007, 2008 and 2009, and the school also agreed not to recruit from junior colleges for those years. Varady said the NCAA committee would decide in six to eight weeks whether Arkansas' sanctions would be sufficient. (ESPN Online, August 14, 2007)

Recruiting Calendar

Football	
September 1-30	Quiet (Except 6 Evaluation Days for Sept., Oct., & Nov.)
Men's Basketball	
September 1-8	Quiet
September 9-30	Cont/Eval
Women's Basketball	
September 1-15	Quiet
September 16-30	Cont/Eval
Baseball	
September 1-13	Quiet
September 14-30	Cont/Eval
Softball	
September 1-3	Cont/Eval
September 4-30	Contact
Volleyball	
September 1-30	Cont/Eval
Track and Field	
September 1-30	Cont/Eval
All Other Sports	
September 1-30	Cont/Eval

Interpreter On-Line

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The Interpreter is published by the Compliance Staff. All comments should be directed to **The Interpreter**, P.O. Drawer 2195, Tallahassee, FL 32316, or by phone at (850) 644-0963.

Answer from page 1

Rutgers was placed on probation for violations of several bylaws pertaining to the proper academic requirements for student-athletes to be eligible to compete.

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