

The Interpreter

December 2003

FSU's Agent Day

Here at Florida State, the Compliance Office has taken a proactive approach in its attempt to combat the unethical antics of those sports agents attempting to corrode the moral fiber of intercollegiate athletics. The athletics department has implemented several programs designed to directly confront the agent problem. Chief among these programs is FSU's annual Agent Day.

Florida State University's Agent Day, held on November 16th, attracted quite a large agent turnout. The Agent Day format is such that a promulgation of the nation's top sports agents have an opportunity to make a series of individual presentations to FSU's junior and senior football players who harbor professional football aspirations. Each student-athlete had the opportunity to meet with the agents of their choice for twenty minutes. During this time period, the agent may make a presentation of his/her services and respond to any questions by the student-athlete. This process provides a forum for the agent selection process to occur in a controlled environment, and is intended to alleviate the perceived need for agents to meet with student-athletes in settings conducive to potential NCAA rules violations.

Student-athletes, agents and Compliance Office staff members alike proclaimed this past Agent Day a success. Brian Battle, Director of Compliance stated, "these agents really appreciate the fact that Florida State has provided them an opportunity to meet with its student-athletes in an environment that is conducive to keeping within the NCAA rules."

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has unveiled a model statute for states that would tighten regulations on sports agents. It calls for stiff penalties in regards to agents who break the law.

The important thing to remember regarding the various sports agent-related issues surrounding college athletics is that multiple parties suffer when NCAA violations occur. The parties that may be hurt by the occurrence of NCAA violations include the student-athlete, the school, the coaches, the team and the fans.



Holiday Employment

For all you wondering whether student-athletes are allowed to work over Christmas vacation, NCAA Bylaw 15.2.6 addresses this issue.

NCAA Bylaw 15.2.6 states that a student-athlete may obtain a job as long as the student-athlete is compensated for work actually performed, is paid the going rate and is not compensated for publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that he or she has obtained because of his or her athletic ability.

At Florida State University, student-athletes who are in their first year of residence are not able to work during the academic year. During vacation times, such as the holiday break, the first-time students at Florida State may obtain a job.

The NCAA has recently relaxed the rules regarding employment for student-athletes. There is no limit to the amount a student-athlete can earn from legitimate employment during the year.

Student-athletes who work during the vacation periods are NOT required to complete the employment forms mandated for employment during the academic year.

John Lata in the Student Services Office is available to aid any student-athlete who is looking for a job. He can be reached at 644-3281.



Camp Brochures

In the past, camp brochure regulations were quite restrictive, requiring that the content relate directly to the camp. It was not permissible to include information regarding the institution or the sports program's highlights.

However, effective August 1, 2003, camp brochure regulations have been significantly relaxed. Aside from pictures of current student-athletes, camp brochures are no longer restricted by content or design.

Camp brochures **ARE** restricted in size. They are limited to a single two-sided sheet of paper, **not to exceed 17" x 22"** when opened in full. This includes all portions of a camp brochure, including waiver statements, applications, maps, etc. Everything must be included on the

single sheet of paper. Inserts are not permitted.

Pictures

If the names or pictures of current student-athletes appear in the camp brochure, they can be there only for the purpose of identifying them as staff members of the camp. Effective April 17, 2002, pictures and names of current student-athletes may be located **ONLY** in a designated camp counselor section. Please remember that it is permissible to use current student-athletes' names and pictures only in the camp brochure.

If current student-athletes are pictured in the camp counselor section, then **ALL** pictures of staff members must be included in the same camp counselor section.

If **NO** current student-athletes are pictured in the brochure, then there are no regulations governing pictures of other individuals.

Other Permissible Items

Other items that can be included in the camp brochure are:

- Program accomplishments
- Camp staff accomplishments, including coaching records
- General information about Florida State University, including reproduced articles or information about the academic or athletic programs at the university
- Information about Tallahassee
- Pictures or descriptions of on- or off-campus sites that are not specifically related to camp activities

All camp brochures must be approved by the Compliance Office.



From the Interpretation File



Four-Year College Transfer Prospective Student-Athlete Participating in Weightlifting Activities.

It is permissible for a four-year college transfer prospective student-athlete to participate in weightlifting activities on an institution's campus, provided: (a) Such activity is not prearranged; (b) The strength coach is performing normal supervising duties in supervision of the weight room and does not conduct the workout; and (c) The four-year college transfer prospect has signed a written offer of financial aid and/or admission.

Certification of Outside Aid Unrelated to Athletics Ability.

If a student-athlete applying for an outside financial aid award includes athletic participation or achievements on the application form, such an award may satisfy the provisions of Bylaw 15.2.5.2 as being awarded solely on basis of having no relationship to athletics ability only if: (a) The application form does not request the applicant to list athletics participation, achievements, extracurricular activities or any other category in which athletics may be relevant (for example, honors); and

(b) The awarding agency verifies that it does not consider athletics participation in the awarding of the aid.

Use of a Picture Portfolio

It is not permissible for an institution to create a portfolio of information (e.g., pictures) to be shown to prospective student-athletes during the recruiting process unless the portfolio is considered the institution's one permissible athletics recruiting publication (e.g., media guide or recruiting brochure).



In the News....



Tennessee State on Probation

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has placed Tennessee State University on probation for three years for violations of NCAA bylaws relating to impermissible try-outs, out-of-season practice activities, recruiting inducements, coaching staff limitations and ethical conduct in the men's basketball program.

This was the university's second major infractions case in the past four years, so the committee considered the institution to be a repeat violator.

The committee found that during the 2000-01 and 2001-02 academic years, the former head coach organized or observed numerous pick-up basketball games for prospects who were making their official paid visits and unofficial visits to campus.

The committee also noted that, during the 2000-01 and 2001-02 academic years, the former head coach required men's basketball student-athletes to participate in mandatory basketball-related activities that resulted in numerous violations.

The committee also found several secondary violations involving recruiting offers and inducements

The penalties the committee imposed include:

- Reduce the grants-in-aid in men's basketball by one each for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years.
- Reduce the number of evaluation days for men's basketball from 40 to 35 days for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years.
- Reduce the number of official paid visits to campus for men's basketball prospects from 12 to 10 visits for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years.

Morehouse Gets Death Penalty

The Division II Committee on Infractions has disbanded the men's soccer team at Morehouse College for three years and placed the institution on probation for five years for violations including the use of signed professionals on the men's soccer team.

This is the first application of the "death penalty" since it was applied to Southern Methodist's football program in 1987. The multiple-season ban on competition was the first handed down by any infractions committee.

The report states that there was no regard for NCAA rules requiring players' certification. Two Nigerian-born stand-outs suited up and played two years for Morehouse after they'd competed in 1998 for the Atlanta Ruckus, a team affiliated with the United Soccer Leagues' A-League, the rough equivalent of baseball's Class AAA. One other problem...they both apparently played for Morehouse before actually enrolling.

The NCAA hit Morehouse with the most serious charge in its book, a lack of institutional control. Not only did the school fail to monitor its soccer program, the NCAA says a school vice president and the athletic director at the time became aware in the spring of 2000 that professionals might have participated in soccer. They didn't immediately investigate and the two professionals were allowed to play for the Tigers again during the 2000-01 school year.

Even when the school caught on, replacing the coach and initially self-imposing recruiting and scholarship restrictions and three years probation, problems went on. A player was allowed to compete in the fall of 2002 without completing NCAA paperwork.



Huskies Discipline Staffers

The University of Washington announced disciplinary action against 12 athletic department employees, including football coach Keith Gilbertson and compliance officer Dana Richardson, for participation in gambling pools on college basketball.

The disciplinary actions were included in the university's response to an investigation by the Pac-10 Conference regarding gambling by athletic department employees. The investigation was launched after allegations of gambling by fired head coach Rick Neuheisel first became known.

Neuheisel won as much as \$12,000 in basketball pools over the past two years. Neuheisel claims he didn't know it was against NCAA rules to gamble in neighborhood pools. He cited a memo from Richardson, which authorized such pools for athletic department personnel.

Gilbertson and other assistants acknowledged participating in \$5 basketball pools in 1999.

The NCAA has said that all gambling by athletes, coaches and administrators is against its rules.

Washington officials agreed with a Pac-10 finding that Richardson made an erroneous interpretation of NCAA rules in her memo about off-campus pools.

In addition to firing Neuheisel last summer, the university has issued disciplinary letters to the 12 staffers involved with the gambling allegations.

December Recruiting Calendar

Football

Nov 30-Dec 20	Contact
Dec 14 (JC recruits)	Quiet
Dec 15-18 (JC recruits)	Dead
Dec 19 (JC recruits)	Quiet
Dec 21	Quiet
Dec 22-Jan 1	Dead

Men's Basketball

Nov 20-Mar 15	Eval/Quiet
---------------	------------

Women's Basketball

Oct 8-Feb 29	Eval/Quiet
--------------	------------

Baseball

Dec 1-31	Quiet
----------	-------

Softball

Dec 1-2	Quiet
Dec 3-7	Dead
Dec 8-Jan 1	Quiet

Volleyball

Dec 1-7	Cont/Eval
Dec 8-16	Quiet
Dec 17-31	Dead

Interpreter On-Line

The Interpreter can be found on-line at www.seminoles.com by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance", in the left column. The Interpreter icon is under the "What's New??" section. Past issues are archived here and contain more detailed information than space prohibits in the newsletter form.

The Interpreter is published by Heather McAtee. All comments should be directed to **The Interpreter**, P.O. Drawer 2195, Tallahassee, FL 32316, phone (850) 644-4272, or by e-mail: hmcatee@mailier.fsu.edu.

COMPLIANCE STAFF 644-4272

Mr. Bob Minnix
Associate Athletic Director
for Compliance

Mr. Brian Battle
Director of Compliance

Ms. Heather McAtee
Compliance Coordinator

Ms. Katie Hughes
Compliance Assistant

Florida State University
Athletic Compliance Office
P.O. Drawer 2195
Tallahassee, FL 32316

**December 2003
Holiday Employment
Agent Day
Camp Brochures**

