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March Madness Is Here!



It's that time of year when all the television sets are tuned into the Big East and NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments! A great deal of attention will be placed on the teams participating in the tournaments along with brackets, point spreads, office pools or other forms of wagering on the games.

NCAA legislation prohibits all Athletic Department employees and student-athletes from gambling on intercollegiate and professional athletics.

The NCAA has "zero tolerance" for any gambling activities, whether by staff members of the athletics department or student-athletes. The Athletics Department has the obligation to educate its staff members and student-athletes as to the potential for serious ramifications resulting from gambling-related activities. Staff members and student-athletes of a member institution shall not knowingly:

* Provide any information (i.e., reports concerning team

morale, game plans and injuries of team members) to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;

* Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;

* Accept a bet or bribe on any team representing the institution;

* Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value;

* Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.

A student-athlete who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of a game or in an effort to affect win-loss margins (i.e., "point shaving") or who solicits or accepts a bet or participates in any gambling activity that involves wagering on Notre Dame athletics will permanently lose all remaining regular season and postseason eligibility in all sports. A student-athlete who

solicits or accepts a bet or participates in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics (other than Notre Dame) or professional athletics will be ineligible for all regular season and postseason competition for a minimum of one year and will lose a minimum of one season of competition. Institutional staff members found in violation of NCAA gambling legislation will be subject to immediate disciplinary or corrective action.

The NCAA and the University of Notre Dame, while recognizing the fact that gambling is very popular in today's society and that people gamble, also recognize the importance of ensuring the integrity of intercollegiate competition and that student-athlete welfare and institutional character is not compromised.

For more information, visit the NCAA's sports wagering website: www.dontbetonit.org



What is “The Clearinghouse”?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse (the Clearinghouse) is an organization administered by the American College Testing, Inc., an independent, non-profit organization located in Iowa City, Iowa. The Clearinghouse works with the NCAA to determine a student's eligibility for athletics participation in his or her first year of college enrollment. Students who want to participate in college sports during their first year of enrollment in college must register with the clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse staff follows NCAA bylaws and regulations in analyzing and processing a student's high school academic records, ACT or SAT scores, and key information about amateurism participation, to determine the student's initial eligibility. To be initially eligible to compete, a prospective-student athlete must (1) graduate from high school, (2) complete 14 core courses if in the class of 2007, and if in the

classes of 2008 and later, he/she must complete 16 core courses (for a list of the core courses required, see http://www1.ncaa.org/membership/enforcement/bkb_certification/2006_online_app/tool_kit/quick_reference_sheet.pdf), (3) earn a minimum required grade-point average in the core courses; and (4) earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches their core-course grade-point average and test score sliding scale (see above mentioned website).

Recently the NCAA announced the creation of an NCAA Eligibility Center which will bring the Clearinghouse operations in-house to better integrate the academic and amateurism functions the NCAA provides before a student-athlete enrolls in college. The new NCAA Eligibility Center will be located in Indianapolis and will gradually assume responsibilities this summer.

What is the NCAA's jurisdiction on academic standards for initial and continuing eligibility? Does it include the pre-college environment? Does it extend beyond college enrollment? A Centerpiece article discussing these issues can be found in the January 29, 2007 edition of *The NCAA News* online: http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal!/ut/p/kcxml/04_Sj9SPykssy0xPLMnMz0vM0Y_QjzKLN4g3NPUESYG_Yxqb6kWhCjhgihqYeCDFj_zcVKBMpDIQwNTIQz8qJzU9MblSP1jfWz9AvyA3NDSiPN8RANobkoo!/delta/base64xml/L3dJdyEvd0ZnQUFzQUsvNEIVRS82XzBfMTVL?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/NCAA/NCAA+News/NCAA+News+Online/2007/Association-wide/Centerpiece+-+What+is+the+NCAA%27s+jurisdiction+on+academic+standards+-+01-29-07+NCAA+News



New Amateurism Addition to Clearinghouse

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse has expanded this year to include review of the amateur status of all prospective student-athletes who plan to enroll for the first time at an NCAA Division I or II institution in fall 2007 or later.

In addition to reviewing prospective student-athletes' academic credentials, the Clearinghouse also will conduct a similar review of a prospect's amateur status. Like the academic review, prospects must complete the amateurism

certification process to receive athletically related financial aid and participate in Division I or Division II athletics.

During the online registration process, prospects will provide demographic and academic information and answer questions about athletics participation, prize money, expense money received and any contact the applicant may have had with agents or professional teams.

Once the prospect provides the information, a preliminary

amateurism status report will be issued to guide institutions in the recruiting process. In the late spring 2007 and summer, a final amateurism certification will be issued that member institutions can access.

Membership frustration about determining prospects' amateur status led to the new certification process in the first place. Institutional personnel were increasingly challenged because of the rise in popularity of club leagues and traveling teams both in the U.S. and abroad.

Hot Topic: Text Messaging and Recruiting

In the current legislative cycle, The Ivy Group proposed legislation that would eliminate the use of text messaging during the recruiting process. Specifically, proposal 2006-40 limits electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete to only electronic mail and facsimiles, thus eliminating the ability of coaches to use text messaging and instant messaging to communicate with prospective student-athletes.

Currently, there is no limit on the use of text messaging and instant messaging. The Ivy Group argues that as the rule stands now with unlimited text messaging, coaches feel compelled to contact prospects constantly, prospects are distracted at all hours of the day and night and prospects and their parents are bearing the significant costs involved with

receiving text messages.

Several groups have made statements in opposition to the legislation, including the NCAA's Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet: "Although a certain level of intrusion exists in permitting these forms of communication, a better approach is to adopt reasonable restrictions that will promote efficiency in the recruiting process and control the intrusion factor."

In January, the NCAA Management Council referred the proposal to the membership for a 60 day comment period. In April, the Management Council and Board of Directors will review the comments and render a final decision on whether to adopt or defeat the proposal.

Spring Break Restrictions

During an institution's officially published vacation period, some "normal" NCAA restrictions on team travel and meals become relaxed. Therefore, during spring break next week:

* Travel restrictions don't apply to regular season competition. (When **not** on an official break, and in other limited instances, a student-athlete can depart for competition no earlier than 48 hours prior to the start of the actual competition and can remain no more than 36 hours following the conclusion on the actual competition.)

* Additional meals may be provided if the student-athlete is required to remain on campus for practice/competition during the break.

* Reasonable entertainment costs may be provided if taking place within a 30 mile radius and the team is required to reside on campus during the break.

* No weekly/hourly countable hour limitations. (When **not** on an official break, a student-athlete is limited to athletically related activities for 20 hours a week while in season and 8 hours a week while out of season. The student-athlete must have 1 day off per week while in season and 2 days off per week while out of season.)

One restriction that remains in place during official vacation periods: No practice or athletically related activities after a competition.

Definition you should know...

Countable Athletically Related Activities – Any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by one ore more of an institution's coaching staff. Administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings) are not considered countable athletically related activities.

March Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

- March 1-31 – Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Basketball

- March 1-15 – Evaluation Period
- March 16-22 – Contact Period
- March 23-28 – Evaluation Period
- March 29-31 – Dead Period

Women's Basketball

- March 1-29 – Contact Period
- March 30-31 – Dead Period

Football

- March 1-31 – Quiet Period

Men's Lacrosse

- March 1-31 – Contact/Evaluation Period

Women's Lacrosse

- March 1-31 – Contact/Evaluation Period

Softball

- March 1-31 – Contact/Evaluation Period

Volleyball

- March 1-31 – Contact/Evaluation Period

Why aren't Notre Dame's other sports ever listed in the Recruiting Calendar box?

There are no specified recruiting periods for the other sports with the exception of a dead period surrounding the National Letter of Intent Signing Dates in the fall and spring.

Definition you should know...

Amateur Status - An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual:

*Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;

*Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;

*Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received;

*Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skill or participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;

*Competes on any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received;

*Subsequent to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft; or

Test Your Knowledge...

Tee Off, a golf student-athlete at Big Time University, wants to transfer to College USA after being expelled for a conduct offense. Is Tee eligible for the one-time transfer exception (see January 2007 issue for explanation of this term)?

Generally student-athletes in sports other than division I-A football, basketball and men's ice hockey are eligible for the one-time transfer exception (and immediate eligibility at their new school) provided they are academically eligible when leaving Big Time University.

However, **NCAA Bylaw 14.5.1.3** states that a student who transfers to any NCAA institution from a collegiate institution while the student is disqualified or suspended from the previous institution for disciplinary reasons (as opposed to academic reasons) must complete one calendar year of residence at the certifying institution.

If you have anything you would like to see addressed in The Irish Interpreter, please email Nina Stephan stephan.6@nd.edu