



The Huskie Compliance Corner

Volume 1, Issue 1 September 2006

Northern Illinois University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

EDITOR'S NOTE

The continuing goal of the Northern Illinois University Athletic Compliance Office is to educate constituents about the importance of adhering to NCAA, MAC, and NIU rules. To assist in the understanding of and compliance with these rules, beginning with this issue, *The Huskie Compliance Corner* will be published monthly throughout the academic year. *The Huskie Compliance Corner* is also available online at

<http://niuhuskies.cstv.com/compliance/niu-compliance.html>

NLI SIGNING DATES 2006-2007

Coaches, as you plan for the upcoming year, the signing dates for the 2007-08 National Letter of Intent signing period are as follows:

Do not sign prior to 7:00 a.m. (local time) on the following dates or after the final signing date listed for each sport.

Sport	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball (Early Period)	November 8, 2006	November 15, 2006
Basketball (Late Period)	April 11, 2007	May 16, 2007
Football	February 7, 2007	April 1, 2007
Soccer	February 7, 2007	August 1, 2007
All Other Sports (Early Period)	November 8, 2006	November 15, 2006
All Other Sports (Late Period)	April 11, 2007	August 1, 2007

COMPLIANCE ABC'S

The following is Part One of an ongoing series of compliance concepts important to all involved with NIU Huskie Athletics.

A - Amateurism

Only amateur student-athletes are eligible for participation in intercollegiate athletics. Student-athletes may lose their amateur status and eligibility by using their athletics skill for pay, competing on a professional team, entering into an oral or written agreement with an agent or professional team, or by promoting or endorsing a commercial product.

B - Boosters

Also known as Representatives of Athletics Interests. You are a booster if you are or have ever been a member of a booster organization that supports Huskie Athletics; have made any financial contributions to any area of the university; have made any annual or lifetime membership commitment to a booster organization; are or have ever been involved with the recruitment of a prospect; have provided or are providing benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or their relatives or friends; provided or helped arrange employment for student-athletes; are the parent of a student-athlete; are or have ever been a season ticket holder; or have otherwise been involved in promoting Huskie Athletics. Remember, once a booster, always a booster!

C - Complimentary Admissions

Student-athletes may receive complimentary admissions to home and away athletics events. Complimentary admissions must be provided through a pass list. "Hard tickets" may not be issued. It is impermissible for student-athletes or any individual receiving a complimentary admission to sell or exchange the admission for any item of value.

FALL RECRUITING CALENDARS

Sport	Dates	Recruiting Period
Baseball	September 15 through November 5	Contact/Evaluation Period
Men's Basketball	September 9 through October 5	Contact Period
Women's Basketball	September 16 through October 6	Contact Period
Football	September 1 through November 25	Quiet Period
Softball	September 1 through November 22	Contact/Evaluation Period
Volleyball	September 1 through December 3	Contact/Evaluation Period
All Other Sports	September 1 through September 30	Contact/Evaluation Period

Contact Period

Permissible to make in-person, off-campus, recruiting contacts and evaluations.

Evaluation Period

Permissible to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospects. NO in-person, off-campus contacts may be made during evaluation periods.

Quiet Period

Permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts ONLY on the NIU campus.

Dead Period

NOT permissible to make in-person contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or to permit official or unofficial visits.

LATEST RECRUITING NEWS

Sampson Reprimanded by NABC

The National Association of Basketball Coaches reprimanded Indiana University coach Kelvin Sampson after he committed recruiting violations during his tenure as coach at Oklahoma University. Sampson is the first coach to be punished by the group since the ethics committee was formed in 2003. The association placed his membership on probation for three years, took away his Final Four ticket privileges, made him ineligible for district and national coach of the year awards, and is prohibiting him from serving in an official capacity with the NABC.

TCU Tennis coach admits phone call violations

The TCU tennis coach has admitted to excessively calling international recruits beyond the permissible number of times allowed by the NCAA. This has been part of a recent trend across the country, with Fresno State University and Oklahoma University also being found in violation of the rule of permissible number of phone calls to recruits. The penalties at Oklahoma ranged from loss of scholarships, reduced number of official visits, and reduced number of phone calls to recruits. The former Oklahoma coach (Kelvin Sampson) is prohibited from making recruiting phone calls for one year and cannot perform any off-campus recruiting duties.

University of Delaware reports text message violation

University of Delaware men's basketball coach sent an impermissible text message to a high school recruit before the permissible date (In Men's Basketball, June 15 at the conclusion of the prospect's sophomore year in high school). The recruit mentioned the text message on an ESPN show and then the school reported the violation.

Recruiting Telephone Calls Reminder

Coaches, please be sure that you are communicating with all of your other coaching staff members to ensure that only one phone call per week is being made to a recruit.

Compliance Question of the Month

Question: Is it permissible for a booster to provide a student-athlete with tickets to attend NIU athletics events?

Compliance Question of the Month

Answer: NO. It is NOT permissible for a booster to provide a student-athlete with tickets to attend NIU athletics events. Student-athletes must obtain their tickets to NIU athletics events in the same manner as all other students. In fact, boosters are prohibited from providing any form of entertainment expenses to student-athletes, whether it is tickets to a movie, cover charge at a club, or greens fees at a local golf course. Providing such benefits to student-athletes would be considered an impermissible extra benefit, constituting a violation of NCAA legislation.

Sports Wagering Update:

Don't Bet on It (Big Brother May be Watching You, and He has a Partner in Government)

As the Major League Baseball season winds down, College and NFL Football are in full swing, and with College and Professional Basketball just around the corner, the issue of sports gambling is prevalent. Although the NCAA's position on gambling has not changed, the issue of Sports Wagering continues to take on increased importance, particularly with the advancement of betting techniques through the use of the Internet. The NCAA has remained proactive and consistent in enforcement of its gambling regulations under Bylaw 10.3. The NCAA clearly prohibits conference staff members, athletics department staff members, and student-athletes from knowingly becoming involved in a variety of gambling activities.

Legislation expressly forbids this group from "provid[ing] information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition; solicit[ing] a bet on any intercollegiate team; accept[ing] a bet on any team representing the institution; solicit[ing] or accept[ing] a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value; or participat[ing] in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling."

Student-athlete violators of this bylaw face stiff sanctions, including permanent loss of all remaining eligibility in all sports, for engaging in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or win-loss margins (point shaving) or being involved in wagering on NIU sporting events.

Likewise, student-athletes who participate in betting or in any gambling activity involving intercollegiate or professional athletics are ineligible for all competition for a minimum period of one year and are charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of competition. Subsequent repeat violations lead to permanent loss of all remaining eligibility in all sports.

The NCAA's definition of impermissible gambling activities also includes increasingly common activities such as participation in fantasy or rotisserie leagues that award a prize and require a fee to participate or participation in NCAA tournament bracket pools, easily found on the Internet or in offices throughout America, activities that may not always be considered gambling by the general public.

<http://www.ncaa.org/gambling/dontbetonit/2004.pdf>

However, despite the ease of access to these various betting sources, the NCAA is hardly the lone watchdog. Rather, as highlighted during ESPN's September 10, 2006 broadcast of "Outside the Lines," the federal government is stepping up its pursuit of those engaged in gambling activities. Admittedly, although many of the sports wagering outlets deemed impermissible gambling activities by the NCAA are also illegal under either federal or state law, this cannot be said of all such activities, with online fantasy and rotisserie leagues being one example.

However, as ESPN's investigation highlighted, the Internet has proven to be a huge boon to the proliferation of both legal and illegal sports wagering activities. To capture the gambling potential of the Internet, numerous sports wagering companies have been founded in tropical locations such as the Caribbean island of Antigua. Estimates of the size of the Internet offshore sports gambling business are staggering. Some of these companies claim client bases greater than 250,000 customers. Even more astounding are expert estimates of annual revenues reaching \$12 billion, mostly from American bettors. However, it is unlikely that an accurate assessment will ever be reached, given the current climate. Although some of these sites have gone public, opening their books to regulators and shareholders, most remain private corporations, keeping their numbers permanently closed to scrutiny. Many of these companies have established operations in offshore sites, relying on the legal theory that they would be able to escape regulation and prosecution by taking all bets and keeping all assets offshore. Still, some, like BetonSports.com, have been extremely aggressive in attracting customers, even parking

“Betmobiles” outside of NFL stadiums, housing computers and employees available to teach fans how to open Internet gambling accounts.

The Law

While no federal law currently prohibits placing bets online, Internet sports wagering is, nonetheless, illegal in the United States, based on the use of the Wire Act by federal prosecutors. The Wire Act was designed during the Kennedy Administration as a tool to target organized crime and prevent the use of telephone and telegraph lines to place bets.

However, with billions of untaxed dollars continuing to flow offshore, federal prosecutors have attempted to extend use of the Wire Act to reach these companies. The move has achieved some measure of success, leading to the arrests in recent weeks of the chairmen of Sportingbet PLC and BetonSports.com and voluntary dismantling of the BetonSports.com operation.

Still, some law professors consider the statutes to be too weak to be far-reaching, describing the Department of Justice (DOJ) as not having many weapons in its arsenal. Nonetheless, U.S. Attorney Catherine Hanaway, who will prosecute the CEO of BetonSports.com, says “the message drawn from [this] should be that this is an illegal activity, and an illegal activity will be prosecuted.”

Although the current DOJ arsenal may be sparse, help might be on the way. Supporters of tougher Internet gambling legislation in Congress are finding some success. In July, the House passed the Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, 317-93, designed to strengthen the Wire Act by preventing credit card companies from allowing Internet gambling transactions.

The lesson for institutional staff members and NIU student-athletes remains clear. Someone is always watching you. The NCAA has been referred to by some authors as the Orwellian “Big Brother,” watching over every coach, player, and staff member, waiting for a mistake to be made before dropping the proverbial hammer. Therefore, when it comes to the issue of gambling, there is real danger lurking. For staff members, loss of employment for participation in gambling activities, like Rick Neuheisel at the University of Washington in 2003, is a very real possibility under NCAA legislation. For student-athletes, the punishment of permanent loss of eligibility for competition can be meted out in the blink of an eye.

Now, with federal prosecutors taking more aggressive steps to nab Internet gamblers, and Congress taking steps to provide them with more weapons to do so, the NCAA may finally have an effective partner in its battle against sports wagering on the Internet. Coaches, staff members, and student-athletes must pay careful attention to this issue, as soon, NCAA penalties may not be the only sanctions faced by violators of gambling legislation. Rather, federal prosecution may soon also be a very real possibility.

Need More Information?

Please contact the Compliance Office staff for further information or for answers to NCAA related questions.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STAFF

Bobbie Cesarek
Associate Athletics Director - Compliance
bcesarek@niu.edu
(815) 753-9474

Ed Pasque
Assistant Athletics Director - Compliance
epasque@niu.edu
(815) 753-9494

Brent Moberg
Director of Compliance
bmoberg@niu.edu
(815) 753-8290

Brent Moberg publishes the Huskie Compliance Corner monthly. All comments, questions, or submissions should be directed to Brent at (815) 753-8290 or bmoberg@niu.edu