

# VILLANOVA

## ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE NEWSLETTER

### NCAA DIVISION I COACHES CERTIFICATION TEST

The practice test for the NCAA Division I Coaches Certification Test is now available using the following link:

<http://web1.ncaa.org/coachesTest/exec/practiceexam?division=1>.

The practice test may be accessed on the NCAA Web site by selecting “legislation and governance.” On the left side of the page, under the “rules compliance” section, select the appropriate coaches’ certification tests page. The practice test is intended to be of assistance in the rules-education process for coaches at NCAA Divisions I and II institutions. The use of the NCAA Divisions I or II Manual during practice testing is permitted.

Please note that the actual Divisions I and II coaches certification tests may differ in the level of difficulty and content from the practice tests. The actual tests consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions related to legislation contained in NCAA Divisions I and II Bylaws 12 (amateurism), 13 (recruiting), 14.02 (eligibility definitions and applications), 14.3 (freshman academic requirements), 14.4 (continuing eligibility), 14.5 (transfer regulations), 15.02 (financial aid definitions and applications) and 15.3 (terms and conditions of awarding institutional financial aid).

### Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi cited for violations

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has penalized Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for major violations in its women’s volleyball, men’s tennis and men’s basketball programs.

Penalties for the violations include four years of probation, postseason bans, scholarship reductions, recruiting restrictions and a vacation of records.

The violations included ineligible participation, receipt of recruiting inducements, impermissible recruiting phone calls, failure to report NCAA violations and lack of institutional control. The committee also cited unethical conduct against the former athletics director and former compliance director.

The violations centered on two international student-athletes – one in women’s volleyball and one in men’s tennis – and an international prospect in men’s basketball who were involved in several categories of violations.

The committee traced the violations to four “shortcomings that contributed to a culture of noncompliance” at the university. First, the university did not establish adequate policies and procedures to ensure compliance with NCAA rules. That was due in large part to the university’s failure to devote the necessary resources for an effective compliance program. Second, the university failed to monitor and evaluate its athletics program to detect or deter instances of NCAA rules violations. Third, the university failed to provide adequate rules education to staff members. Finally, and the most troubling to the Committee on Infractions, university officials decided not to investigate and report information related to NCAA rules violations.

Specifically, the university allowed a women’s volleyball student-athlete to represent the university in competition during the sixth year after her initial full-time enrollment – a year beyond the permissible five-year period of eligibility.

The university also provided a former men’s tennis student-athlete with \$1,500 in impermissible athletically related financial aid at the time the young man was a non-qualifier and was fulfilling a year of residence (page 2)

## Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi cited for violations

at the university. Under state law, the student-athlete's receipt of institutional aid also allowed him to pay in-state tuition, which increased the value of the benefit significantly. Once the university became aware of the violations involving this student-athlete, it failed to declare the young man ineligible and continued to allow him to compete and receive travel expenses while ineligible.

From August 2007 through February 2008, an assistant men's basketball coach placed at least 92 impermissible telephone calls to four two-year prospective student-athletes. The assistant coach made the impermissible telephone calls after he already had made a permissible call to the prospective student-athletes during that week.

The university also provided a prospective men's basketball student-athlete with various recruiting inducements, including cost-free lodging and transportation, while the prospective student-athlete resided in the vicinity of the university and attempted to enroll at the school.

The committee found that the former AD and former compliance director "failed to deport themselves in accordance with the generally recognized high standards of honesty and sportsmanship normally associated with the conduct and administration of intercollegiate athletics." The unethical conduct charge for the former director of athletics was due to his decision not to report this violation to the conference office or NCAA. The unethical conduct and failure to exhibit exemplary conduct charge for the former compliance director was due to his attempt to enhance his own financial situation by threatening to disclose unreported NCAA rules violations during a meeting with the member of the university's human resources staff. Specifically, he indicated he would not report the NCAA violations in exchange for a "buy out" of his employment contract/agreement, according to the committee. The penalties, are below.

- Public reprimand and censure.
- Four years of probation (March 25, 2009, to March 24, 2013).
- Reduction of three total women's volleyball scholarships awarded (from 12 to nine) for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years.
- Reduction of one overall equivalency awarded in men's tennis (from 4.5 to 3.5) for the 2009-10 through 2011-12 academic years.
- The women's volleyball and men's tennis teams must end the 2009-10 season with the last regularly scheduled, in-season contest and are not eligible to participate in any postseason competition, including an international tour, after that season.
- The men's tennis team must limit its schedule to 23 dates of competition during the 2008-09 through 2010-11 academic years. This is a two-contest reduction from the 25 maximum allowed. (Self-imposed by the university.)
- Reductions in the number of official visits allowed in men's basketball, men's tennis and women's volleyball during the 2008-09 academic year, as detailed in the public report. (Self-imposed by the university.)
- Vacation of wins in which the involved volleyball student-athlete competed during 2005-06. (Self-imposed by the university.)
- Vacation of all matches that the involved men's tennis student-athlete won during spring 2005 as well as the 2005-06 and 2006-07 academic years. (Self-imposed by the university.)
- Restrictions regarding off-campus contacts made by the men's basketball coaching staff.
- No recruiting telephone calls were made by any men's basketball coaching staff during the entire month of August 2008. (Self-imposed by the university.)
- The two full-time assistant men's and women's tennis coaches are not allowed to participate in any recruiting activities through the 2009-10 academic year. (Self-imposed by the university.)

## MEALS: "TO GO" OR "SIT DOWN"?

Around Thahorn is a baseball prospective student-athlete. Around will be visiting College USA's campus this upcoming weekend on an official visit. Around and his parents will be flying in late Thursday night and will start the visit Friday morning.

What expenses can be provided to Around and/or his parents Thursday night without triggering the start of the visit?

- A. Lodging and a "to go" meal can be provided to Around only
- B. Lodging and "a to go" meal can be provided to Around and his parents
- C. Lodging and a "sit down" meal with a coach can be provided to Around only
- D. No expenses may be provided without triggering the start of the visit

The answer is A. **NCAA Official Interpretation- 3/26/09- Meals and Lodging while in Transit to Official Visit (I)**- states that:

(a) A prospective student-athlete may receive lodging in the locale of the institution without beginning the 48-hour official visit period in instances in which he or she arrives in the locale too late to begin the official visit that day. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period, including the cost of additional occupants in the same room.

(b) A prospective student-athlete may receive a drive-thru or "to-go" meal while in transit with an athletics department staff member from the major airport or bus or train station nearest the institution without beginning the 48-hour official visit period. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse, children) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period.

(c) A prospective student-athlete may receive a "sit-down" meal at the major airport or bus or train station nearest the institution while accompanied by an athletics department staff member at the time of his or her arrival for an official visit or a "sit-down" or "drive-in" meal enroute to the institution's campus with an athletics department staff member, even if such a meal occurs outside a 30-mile radius of the institution's campus; however, such a meal begins the 48-hour official visit period. Under these circumstances, the prospective student-athlete's parents (or legal guardians), spouse and/or children may also receive such a meal.

(d) A prospective student-athlete may receive a meal at or in the vicinity of his or her place of lodging without beginning the 48-hour official visit period in instances in which he or she arrives in the locale of the institution too late to begin the official visit that day, provided no athletics department staff members or student-athletes are present during the meal. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse, children) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period.

### **STARTING APRIL 1st - PSA's CAN FINALIZE THE NCAA AMATEURISM QUESTIONNAIRE AND REQUEST FINAL CERTIFICATION**

Login to your NCAA Clearinghouse record by entering your SSN or Clearinghouse ID and PIN number.

Choose **ENTER/UPDATE AMATEUR QUESTIONNAIRE** from tabs on left side of page.

On the WELCOME PAGE, move the scroll bar to bottom of page.

Choose **FINAL AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE**.

READ the NCAA 10.1 Ethical Conduct Statement page carefully.

Check the **"I AGREE"** box and type name in appropriate spaces provided.

\*Prospects under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign his page as well.

Choose **SUBMIT**.

## NCAA ANNOUNCES DECISION REGARDING REVIEW OF LAURINBURG INSTITUTE

INDIANAPOLIS --- As part of its continuing effort to ensure the integrity of academic credentials used by high schools in the initial eligibility process, the High School Review staff at the NCAA Eligibility Center has issued a "not cleared" decision for Laurinburg Institute in Laurinburg, North Carolina. As a result, core courses, grades and graduation from Laurinburg Institute will not be used when determining prospective student-athletes' initial eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

During the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years, the Eligibility Center staff reviewed Laurinburg Institute's curriculum, class schedules, teacher schedules, quality control practices and enrollment figures. The review also included two in-person site visits. The review identified several areas of concern, including quality control and curriculum.

The school was notified of these and other concerns and given an opportunity to respond to the specific issues; however, the written response provided by school officials failed to sufficiently address the irregularities and deficiencies of Laurinburg Institute identified by the Eligibility Center staff.

Students currently enrolled for the 2008-09 academic year may have their individual academic records reviewed through the initial-eligibility process. A determination will be made regarding their NCAA initial-eligibility status based on this review.

**FOR A LIST OF HIGH SCHOOLS AFFECTED BY THE INITIAL ELIGIBILITY PROCESS  
AND CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW VISIT:  
[HTTP://WWW.NCAA.ORG/WPS/NCAA?CONTENTID=1519](http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?contentid=1519)**

## Florida State challenging NCAA decision to take away wins

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State, in undertaking what officials are calling a vigorous appeal of an NCAA sanction to vacate wins, has hired a former administrative law judge to handle the case.

At issue for FSU President T.K. Wetherell, who confirmed the school's appeal during a news conference Tuesday, is what he sees as the wrongful punishment of FSU coaches as well as the student-athletes not involved in academic misconduct that included 61 athletes and three former FSU employees.

"It just isn't right. It just flat isn't right," Wetherell said. The school has 30 days to appeal, according to Wetherell. If the appeals committees rules against FSU, the school will have 90 days to identify those losses in 10 sports over the 2006 fall, 2007 spring and 2007 fall seasons.

"The coaches had no involvement," Weatherell said. "If you look at the organizational charts that were placed there were no line, dotted or connect, between the coaches an the academic side. That's by design. "To suggest they then be penalized is simply wrong and unfair." Bill E. Williams of the law firm Gray Robinson of Tallahassee will handle the appeal, which FSU will make before the NCAA Infraction Appeals Committee.

No coach is more greatly affected than Bobby Bowden who is one victory behind Joe Paterno as the winningest coach in major college football. He could lose up to 14 wins although Wetherell stressed that FSU does not at this time know how many losses would be affected.

"It's just not about Bobby Bowden," Wetherell said. "It's about a bigger issue."

The vacating of wins could also impact the school's 2007 NCAA men's track and field championship. The NCAA also placed the school on a four-year probation, double what FSU imposed, and a modest adjustment of scholarship deductions already put in place for 10 sports including football. FSU does not oppose any other sanction besides the one to vacate records.

It is FSU's contention that the school did not knowingly play ineligible student-athletes. The NCAA contends that it does not matter, and that once a player accepted help on an online quiz he or she was ineligible and those contests must be vacated.

Wetherell said that the school will formally appeal by Saturday's deadline and that he optimistic that the committee will rule in FSU's favor and that the NCAA "will see the error of their ways."

## APRIL/MAY RECRUITING CALENDARS

### Women's Basketball:

April 1- April 2 Contact  
 April 3—April 9 Dead  
 April 10– April 12 Quiet  
 April 13-April 16 Dead  
 April 17– April 21 Evaluation  
 April 22– May 31 Quiet

### Men's Basketball:

April 1 Quiet  
 April 2– 9 Dead Period  
 April 9– 12 Contact  
 April 13-16 Dead  
 April 17-22 Contact  
 April 23– May 20 Quiet  
 May 21-30 Dead  
 May 31 Quiet

### Softball:

April 1– April 5 Contact  
 April 6– April 9 Dead  
 April 10-May 25 Contact  
 May 26-June 4 Dead

### Cross Country & Track:

April 1-May 31 Contact

### Field Hockey, Soccer

April 1– May 31 Contact

### Baseball:

April 1-April 5 Contact  
 April 6-April 9 Dead  
 April 10– May 31 Contact

### Golf, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Crew, Water Polo

April 1– April 5 Contact  
 April 6 - April 9 Dead Period  
 April 10– May 31 Contact

### Football:

April 1 – April 14 Quiet  
 April 15—May 31 Evaluation\*  
 \*Days not Evals are Quiet

### Women's Lacrosse:

April 1 - April 5 Contact  
 April 6– April 9 Dead  
 April 10-May 21 Contact  
 May 22-May 24 Dead  
 May 25-May 31 Contact

### Volleyball

April 1– April 5 Contact  
 April 6– April 9 Dead  
 April 10– April 30 Contact  
 May 1– May 21 Quiet  
 May 22– May 31 Contact

### Men's Lacrosse:

April 1– April 5 Contact  
 April 6– April 9 Dead  
 April 10 –May 21 Contact  
 May 22– May 26(noon) Dead  
 May 26(noon)-May 31 Contact

### NLI SIGNING DATES 2009-2010:

- Basketball (regular period)  
 April 15-May 20, 2009
- Football (midyear JC transfer)  
 Dec. 17, 2008-Jan. 15, 2009
- Football (regular period)  
 Feb. 4-April 1, 2009
- Field Hockey & Soccer, Track & Field, Cross Country  
 Feb. 4-Aug. 1, 2009
- Other Sports (regular period)  
 April 8-Aug. 1, 2009



### ASK Before You ACT!

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