April Legislative Update

This month, 5 new rules, 4 of which apply to all sports, were approved by the NCAA Legislative Council. Those 4 rules are outlined below.

Sports-Safety Certified Staff Member Presence during Countable Physical Activities

**Summary:** An institutional staff member with current certification in first aid, CPR, and automatic external defibrillator (AED) use must be present any time a student-athlete participates in a physical countable athletically related activity.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2014

Strength and Conditioning Coaches – Nationally Recognized Certification

**Summary:** All strength and conditioning coaches must maintain current certification through a nationally accredited strength and conditioning certification program.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2015

Meals and Snacks Incidental to Participation

**Summary:** Unlimited meals and snacks may be provided at any time (including vacation periods) to all student-athletes.

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2014

Ineligibility for Use of “Street Drugs”

**Summary:** A student-athlete who tests positive for “street drugs” on a NCAA-administered drug test will be deemed ineligible for 50% of a season of competition in all sports.

**Effective Date:** Effective for tests occurring on or after August 1, 2014

**Question of the Month**

**Q:** The tennis team has two official visitors coming to campus for the weekend. Visitor 1 lives in Louisiana. Rather than fly him to campus, the assistant coach picks him up at his home at 1PM. Visitor 2 flies into Gulfport at 2PM and is picked up by the head coach. Both arrive on campus at 3:30 PM. Both are dropped off at the Gulfport airport at 3PM on Sunday. Has either prospect exceeded the 48 hour official visit limitation?

**A:** Yes, prospect 1 has exceeded the limit. When a coach picks a visitor up at his or her home, the 48-hour clock begins to run immediately. Prospect 1’s visit started at 1PM. When a coach picks up a prospect at a local airport, train station, or bus station, the clock does not begin to run until he or she arrives on campus. Prospect 2’s visit did not begin until 3:30.

**Tip:** On the way home, there is no exception that allows us to stop the clock when driving the prospect to a nearby airport. We must cease all contact with a prospect after 48-hours.
Reminders

End-of-Year Awards

As you may know, the NCAA places a cap on the cumulative value of annual awards we may provide to student-athletes. Before distributing any end-of-year awards, please have the awards approved through the compliance office. A one-page form was emailed to you on 4/21, it should help!

Signee Tasks

Please remind your signees to complete all required Eligibility Center and Southern

BYLAW OF THE MONTH

13.1.2 Permissible Recruiters

13.1.2.1 General Rule. All in-person, on- and off-campus contacts with a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete’s relatives or legal guardians shall be made only by authorized institutional staff members. Such contact, as well as correspondence and telephone calls, by representatives of an institution’s athletics interests is prohibited.

Analysis: There is an exception to this rule that permits any institutional staff member to have contact with a prospect on-campus. Otherwise, recruiting must be left to our coaches. As Tim Tebow learned, this rule extends to telephone calls!

In the News

In February, Ohio State released a list of the 42 NCAA violations the University self-reported in 2013. The most noteworthy violation occurred as a result of a phone conversation Tim Tebow had with a recruit. This violated bylaw 13.1.2.1, our bylaw of the month!

Contact the Compliance Office with questions or concerns. Daniel is located in the Duff Athletic Center. Kristi and Scott are in the West Football Stadium.

Daniel Feig
Senior Associate AD
601-266-6586

Kristi Pierce
Compliance Coordinator
601-266-5485

Scott Garrison
Compliance Coordinator
601-266-4532

FOLLOW USM COMPLIANCE ON TWITTER!

@USMCOMPLIANCE