

Contact: James Grant (213) 740-6156 or grantjr@usc.edu

USC to Appeal NCAA Ruling; Penalties Too Severe for Infractions Alleged

USC Says Some Violations Occurred, Accepts Some Sanctions

Los Angeles, CA – June 10, 2010 -- The University of Southern California today announced that, after reviewing the NCAA Committee on Infractions report, it will accept some of the penalties imposed by the Committee and it will appeal those penalties it believes are excessive.

The university noted that it is pleased that the NCAA determined that USC's self-imposed penalties on men's basketball and women's tennis were sufficient, and that the NCAA imposed no further sanctions.

"We acknowledge that violations occurred and we take full responsibility for them. However, we sharply disagree with many of the findings in the NCAA Committee on Infractions Report. Further, we feel the penalties imposed are too severe for the violations identified in the report," said Todd Dickey, USC's senior vice president for administration.

Dickey added, "We will accept those sanctions we believe to be consistent with penalties imposed upon other NCAA member institutions found guilty of similar rules infractions. We are hopeful that the NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee will agree with our position on appeal, and reduce the penalties."

"There is a systemic problem facing college athletes today: unscrupulous sports agents and sports marketers," Dickey stated. "The question is how do we identify them and keep them away from our student-athletes? To provide us with recommendations about the best way to protect our student-athletes and their families from those who seek to violate the rules, we have retained the Freeh Group, headed by former federal judge and ex-FBI director Louis Freeh.

"Our success in athletics and the outstanding individuals we recruit make our student-athletes an attractive target for those seeking to take unfair advantage of them," Dickey stated. "We cannot and will not tolerate this. Our program must set the highest standards in the country. USC deserves that and our 640 student-athletes deserve that."

Dickey said that USC will not comment about specific elements of its position while it is in the appeals process.

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For a special message to the Trojan Family from USC President Steven B. Sample, please visit: <http://www.usc.edu>

For an online video message regarding USC's response to the NCAA ruling, please visit: <http://www.usctrojans.com>