

# Compliance Newsletter

University of Wyoming

October, 2009

## MICHIGAN PLAYERS ALLEGE NCAA VIOLATIONS

DETROIT — Several Michigan football players claim the program regularly violates NCAA rules limiting how much time they can spend on training and practice sessions, according to a published report.

Players from the 2008 and 2009 teams told the Detroit Free Press for a story published on the newspaper's Web site on Saturday that the amount of time they spend on football activities during the season and in the offseason greatly exceeds the limits. The players spoke to the newspaper on condition of anonymity because they feared repercussions from coaches.

Coach Rich Rodriguez and the university's compliance director, Judy Van Horn, both denied that the football program was violating NCAA rules.

"We know the practice and offseason rules, and we stay within the guidelines. We follow the rules and have always been completely committed to being compliant with all NCAA rules," Rodriguez said in a written statement to the newspaper.

Van Horn said her department conducts "in-person spot checks of practice during the academic year and summer. We have not had any reason to self-report any violations in this area with any of our sports."

NCAA rules allow eight hours a week for mandatory workouts during the offseason. However, players told the newspaper that they spent two to three times that amount on required workouts.

The players also said the amount of time they spent on football activities during the season exceeded the weekly limit of 20 hours and often exceeded the daily limit of four hours.

They also said quality-control staff often watched seven-on-seven offseason scrimmages that are supposed to be voluntary and that only training staff are allowed to attend.

The Free Press said five of the 10 current or former players it interviewed gave similar accounts of how the program is run and a sixth player confirmed most of the descriptions. Other players gave a general idea of the program. None disputed the allegations, the newspaper said.

The players acknowledged they had signed forms stating NCAA rules had been followed and had not told the university's compliance department about their concerns. One player told the Free Press that athletes would get in trouble if they didn't sign.

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## COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### Question 1:

Institutions can provide PSAs with a media guide on a digital storage device (CD or flash drive). Is it permissible to include other information, such as game film or a recorded message from a coach, with the media guide on the device?

### Question 2:

Is it permissible for a coach to call a PSA during the coach's team's athletic contests?

### Question 3:

How many complimentary admissions can an institution provide to a high school or two-year school coach, or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a PSA is involved?

## Ed Column: Provision of Electronic Media Guides to Prospective Student-Athletes (I)

Date Published: September 10, 2009

*\*The Official Interp regarding the provision of electronic media guides was included in last month's Compliance Newsletter. These questions are to help clarify any questions you may have with regards to that interp.*

**Question No. 1:** Is it permissible to include other information, such as game film or a recorded message from a coach, with the media guide on the digital media storage device?

**Answer:** No. The digital media storage device may only contain an exact reproduction of the media guide.

**Question No. 2:** Do any restrictions apply to the packaging of the media storage device?

**Answer:** There are no specifications or limitations regarding the size or type of the media storage device's packaging (e.g., compact disc case and insert, flash drive case or wrap). However, institutions should note any information or image(s) on such packaging is limited to a reproduction of the images found on the cover of the media guide or other identification of the institution (e.g., name, logo) and the media guide (e.g., sport). For example, an institution that elects to send its media guide on a compact disc, but does not want to reproduce its media guide cover on either the compact disc case insert or on the compact disc wrap, may label the item using an institutional logo and text to identify the contents (e.g., 2009-10 State University Football Media Guide).

**Question No. 3:** Do the images or information that appear on the packaging have to be an exact replica of the media guide cover?

**Answer:** No. Institutions may use the media guide cover in its entirety, or choose to use only portions of the cover. In addition, institutions may include identifiers such as the institution's name, logo, sport and/or season as noted in the answer to Question No. 2. Therefore, it would also be permissible for an institution to use flash drives that include an institutional (or athletics) logo on the flash drive case or wrap.

**Question No. 4:** An institution plans to send an electronic version of the media guide to prospective student-athletes using a flash drive. The media guide is 97 megabytes. The institution can purchase 500 standard flash drives with a maximum capacity of 256 megabytes at a lower cost than if it purchased 300 standard flash drives with a maximum capacity of 128 megabytes or flash drives with a maximum capacity of 97 megabytes which would require a special order. Is an institution permitted to provide the media guide on a flash drive with excess storage necessary to store the media guide?

**Answer:** While an institution is not required to use a flash drive that contains only the exact storage capacity necessary to store the media guide, an institution is only permitted to use a flash drive that has the minimum standard storage capacity. Providing a flash drive with excess memory space beyond the available minimum standard is considered an impermissible offer or inducement pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 13.2.1. In this example, the institution would be not be required to use a flash drive with a maximum storage capacity of 97 megabytes since that is not a standard storage capacity, but the institution is limited to using the 128-megabyte flash drive as that would be the minimum standard storage capacity available.

**Question No. 5:** Many flash drives that are available have additional functions (e.g., key chain, flashlight, pen). Is it permissible to provide an electronic version of the media guide on a flash drive that has additional functions?

**Answer:** No. Providing a prospective student-athlete with a media storage device that has additional functions constitutes an impermissible offer or inducement pursuant to Bylaw 13.2.1.

## Administration of Hardship Waiver for Transfer Student-Athletes (I)

Date Published: September 17, 2009

The committee determined that in applying the hardship waiver legislation to a student-athlete who suffers an injury or illness while attending an NCAA Division II or Division III institution and later transfers to a Division I institution, the legislation of the division in which the injury or illness occurred or the Division I legislation may be used. The application of a particular division's legislation must include all the applicable elements of that division's legislation, as opposed to selected elements of the legislation of each division.

# COMPLIANCE ABC'S

## ***O - Outside Competition***

During the academic year, student-athletes may not compete for a team that does not represent University of Wyoming athletics program without jeopardizing their eligibility. However, student-athletes may compete for an Olympic or National team during the academic year.

## ***P - Playing and Practice Seasons***

In the interest of student-athlete welfare and competitive equity, the NCAA has established daily and weekly limits on athletics participation. For the length of a team's playing season, student-athletes may not be required to participate in athletically-related activities for more than four hours a day and 20 hours a week. Student-athletes must also receive at least one day off each week. Outside of the playing season, student-athletes are limited to eight required hours of weight-training, conditioning, and skill instruction per week, with a minimum of two days off each week.

## COMPLIANCE MATERIALS & FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The UW Athletics Compliance Staff reminds you that most compliance materials and forms are available online at the UW Athletics Website.

Information can be obtained from the UW Athletics Website by scrolling over the *Athletics Dept.* tab at the top of the page and then clicking on the *Compliance* category. Once on the Compliance page, click on the *Coaches* tab to access specific forms. The direct URL is <http://www.wyomingathletics.com/ot/wyo-coaches.html>.

Some of the many forms available online include: official visit forms, camp forms, complimentary ticket forms, eligibility forms, and phone log forms. The Website also includes summarizes issues concerning eligibility & admission requirements, official visit protocol, recruit contact provisions, and transfer/walk-on stipulations.

Please contact the UW Athletics Compliance staff if you need more information.

## ANSWERS TO COMPLIANCE

### **Answer 1:**

No. The digital media storage device may only contain an exact reproduction of the media guide.

### **Answer 2:**

No. A coach cannot call a PSA during any portion of the institution's contest for that sport. The no-call restriction runs from the time the team reports at the competition site as directed by the coach until the team has been dismissed by the coach.

### **Answer 3:**

Per NCAA Bylaw 13.8.1, an institution can provide a maximum of two complimentary admissions for high school, prep school, or two-year college coaches or any individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a PSA is involved.

These admissions can only be for home events, must be issued through a pass list and can be provided only on an individual-game basis (no season passes).

## UW FACULTY/STAFF CORNER

### What are Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements?

To be eligible to represent their school in athletic competition, student-athletes must maintain progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree.

Student-athletes entering their third year of full-time college enrollment are required to have completed 40 percent of the course requirements in their degree program. Students entering their fourth year of full-time college enrollment are required to have completed 60 percent of degree requirements, while those entering their fifth year of full-time college enrollment are required to have completed 80 percent of degree requirements.

To be considered full-time a student-athlete must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours each semester, with the exception of their final semester. During their final semester they can be enrolled in less than 12 credit hours as long as they are enrolled in all the credit hours they need to complete their degree.

*If there are specific topics you would like to see covered for faculty/staff, please email Jessica Kumke at [jkumke@uwyo.edu](mailto:jkumke@uwyo.edu)*

*I would like to thank Brett Befus and Zach Chapman, compliance interns, for their help in putting together this month's newsletter.*

## RECRUITING CALENDAR

Sport	Contact/ Evaluation Period	Contact Period	Evaluation Period	Quiet Period	Dead Period
Men's Basketball		September 9 - October 5	Oct. 6-Mar. 31	August 1 - September 8	November 9-12
Women's Basketball		September 16 - October 6	Oct. 7-Feb. 28	August 1 - September 15	November 9-12
Football			42 eval days during Sept., Oct. and Nov.	August 1 - November 28	
Men's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Women's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Women's Soccer	Aug. 1-July 31				
Women's Tennis	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Swimming & Diving	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Track & Field/Cross Country		August 9- December 13		August 1-8	November 23 - November 24
Volleyball		August 1 - December 6			November 9-12
Wrestling	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12

### Recruiting Period Definitions

**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 UW campus.

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

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

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

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