

Athletics Newsletter

University of Wyoming

April 2011

Arkansas State committed major violations involving 31 students

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INDIANAPOLIS---The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has found that Arkansas State University committed major violations involving 31 student-athletes. The violations in the case include ineligible participation and extra benefits, a failure to monitor the eligibility-certification process, and unethical conduct involving academic fraud. Penalties in this case include two years probation, a reduction in athletics financial aid, and vacating victories in the sports of football, men's basketball, baseball, and women's soccer.

This case was resolved through the summary disposition process, a cooperative effort where the involved parties submit the case to the Committee on Infractions in written form. When the NCAA enforcement staff, the university, and involved individuals agree to the facts of the case and the university proposes penalties, they may use this process instead of having a formal hearing.

The case involved 31 student-athletes who competed while ineligible from the 2005-06 academic year through the fall semester of 2008-09. Specifically, they failed to complete the minimum percentage of course requirements in their specific degree programs. The violations occurred because of the incorrect application of NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements by two former athletics academic advisors. When two new advisors joined the department in 2008, they initiated an audit of prior eligibility and discovered the violations. No indications of intentional wrongdoing were uncovered, but the failure of the institution to detect the violations constituted a failure to monitor the eligibility certification process.

The investigation also uncovered two instances of academic fraud. During the 2007 spring semester, and again in December 2007, the former director of technology in the institution's College of Agriculture and Technology changed a final grade in a course for a men's basketball student-athlete without the consent of the professor.

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The Compliance Office would like to thank Kenny Hardy for his work on this month's Newsletter.



COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Question 1:

Can an institution use express mail delivery services to provide permissible recruiting materials to prospective student athletes?

Question 2:

If a student athlete is self-employed, can he/she use their name or photograph to promote the business?

Indirect Written Offer of Aid Before Signing Date

Date Published: March 4, 2011

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that prior to August 1 of a prospective student-athlete's senior year in high school, it is not permissible for an institution to indirectly (e.g., through relatives, friends, high school, preparatory school, two-year college coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospective student-athlete is involved) provide a written offer of athletically related financial aid or indicate in writing to the prospective student-athlete that an athletically related grant-in-aid will be offered by the institution.

Telephone Calls to Guidance Counselors for Academic Information

Date Published: March 18, 2011

Interpretation:

The academic and membership affairs staff determined that a telephone call to the appropriate academic authority at the prospective student-athlete's educational institution (e.g., registrar, guidance counselor) related to admissions or academic issues is not a recruiting coordination function provided there is no solicitation of the prospective student-athlete and nothing beyond the prospective student-athlete's academic qualifications is discussed.

Season of Competition and Banned Drugs (I)

Date Published: March 4, 2011

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that a student-athlete who, as a result of a drug test administered by the NCAA, is found to have used a substance on the list of banned drug classes automatically loses one season of competition, regardless of whether the positive test occurs prior to or during the institution's playing season in the applicable sport. Further, if a student-athlete has participated in intercollegiate competition during an academic year prior to the positive drug test or participated in intercollegiate competition during an academic year after the restoration of his or her eligibility, the student-athlete also uses a season of competition per Bylaw 14.2.3.1. Consequently, it is possible for a student-athlete to be charged with the use of two seasons of competition during one academic year as follows:

2008-09 season: Student-athlete competes entire season. (Use of Season No. 1)

2009-10 season: Student-athlete competes in first four contests (Use of Season No. 2- minimum amount of competition), tests positive for a banned substance and is declared ineligible for further participation in postseason and regular-season competition in accordance with the ineligibility provisions of Bylaw 18.4.1.5.1. (Automatic charge of Season No. 3- banned drug penalty)

2010-11 season: Student-athlete sits out 365 days and the next four contests of the season (including postseason contests if the institution's team qualifies). Student-athlete competes in last four contests of the season. (Use of Season No. 4-minimum amount of competition)

Arkansas State (Cont.)

In determining the appropriate penalties to impose, the Committee on Infractions considered the institution's self-imposed penalties and corrective actions. The penalties in this case include:

- Public reprimand and censure.
- Two years of probation from March 11, 2011, through March 10, 2013.
- The institution will reduce the amount of athletically related financial aid in the sports of football and men's basketball by one full scholarship each for both the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years.
- The institution will vacate victories for participation by ineligible student-athletes in the following sports: football (2006) six wins, (2005) four wins; men's basketball (2006-07) 15 wins, (2005-06) 12 wins; baseball (2006-07) three wins; women's soccer (2005-06) five wins.
- In January 2009, the institution paid a fine of \$43,500, which represents the maximum fine for the ineligible competition in secondary violations of the student-athletes identified in the institution's self-report.
- During the period of probation, the institution will continue to develop and implement a comprehensive program to educate staff on the certification process. Additionally, the institution must submit a preliminary report to the Committee on Infractions setting forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educations program and file with the committee annual compliance reports indicating progress made with this program
- At the conclusion of the probationary period, the institution's president will provide a letter to the committee affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and procedures conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

COMPLIANCE ABC's

Y- Year in Residence

Before a transfer student is permitted to compete at University of Wyoming, that student must spend one academic year enrolled full-time at UW. Certain circumstances, such as the one-time transfer exception, may allow the year in residence requirement to be waived.

Z- Zero

While unintentional and inadvertent NCAA violations do occasionally take place, the goal of University of Wyoming is to commit zero violations. With our goal in mind, if you are ever in doubt about NCAA or Mountain West Conference rules, please ask before you act!

ANSWERS TO COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS

Answer 1:

No. Bylaw 13.4.1.1.1 states that "an institution is not permitted to use express mail delivery services and may only use first-class mail or a lesser rate of service with no extra services to provide permissible printed recruiting materials to prospective student athletes, their parents or legal guardians, their coaches or any other individual.

Answer 2:

No. According to bylaw 12.4.4, "A student-athlete may establish his or her own business, provided the student-athlete's name, photograph, appearance or athletic reputation **are not** used to promote the business."

UW FACULTY/STAFF CORNER

NCAA Amateurism Certification

In response to the NCAA membership's concerns about amateurism issues related to both international and domestic prospective student-athletes, Former President Myles Brand authorized the creation of a centralized amateurism certification process.

The NCAA Eligibility Center includes an amateurism certification section that is used to determine the amateur status of domestic and international freshman and transfer prospective student-athletes initially enrolling at NCAA Divisions I and II member institutions on or after August 1, 2007.

Registering with the Eligibility Center

Prospective student-athletes may register with the NCAA Eligibility Center via the Internet at the beginning of their junior year in high school. As part of the amateurism certification process, each prospective student-athlete is asked to answer several questions regarding his or her sports-participation history. Early registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center and the completion of the "My Sports" questions will allow institutions to have preliminary information regarding a prospective student-athlete's amateurism status, which will promote consistency in the recruiting process.

Amateurism certification does not cover all areas of NCAA Bylaw 12. Institutions are responsible for determining the amateur status of prospective student-athletes for the areas of the amateurism bylaws not covered by the amateurism certification process. In addition, institutions are responsible for certifying compliance for all amateurism bylaws during the time period between the student-athlete's request for final amateurism certification and his or her initial enrollment at an NCAA institution.

COMPLIANCE WORD SEARCH

U B C K O O H J Z N X E T V Q S O H I U G X Q C S
E N D O G L B M R G U C Q H T D D Q Y L T N O M J
F H S I M W G N A R I B O I T S M Z Q G W M Y W R
P G R C E P E B S E X Z F B O Y E Q V S P D I M Y
E G Q W K V E J J Y D E V F U B R W O L E O E T R
A M A T E U R T B Y N X F D R G Z E I D M H Q E U
G N L N F C O W I E I E O V N G Q A F G E L X L Y
H D P E V F S E B T R D O A A K N W E S C T Q Y V
F I N A N C I A L A I D Q Y M C D A Z H N C Y W M
L A U B A L Z I V G C O K K E G D M C C M A I D K
S E R U H C O R B J H J N K N O J U O B I T R K M
M E W I L X S P H U H S S I T I S T I G O P B T R
U P F A M Q Y M I S B G A V M Z X X E N Y G Z S T
C B U Y M F R A D X W Z B A D P Y F A V C S O Z J
K C J Q T Z E V N V J J P Y J N D L N H G P A J O
I F O N Y E O F Z C E N V L P G E E M N P R F P N
U I K E X Y Z N A P I W B J S S T S L K F I L I X
H E Q M A H D C I J G B X M R V Y S E V Q N L S A
E G F X L G O B M T Z G T U T J X P L H Q G A L Y
D S D M X M E Z U M P D Y P X W G I R T J Z B C T
P O T V Q D I N K J A R L B L B T W E S G E T Y N
V V L D C Z B C T W T S O K Q X W E M Z R V O U W
D I T S N O F D X S V M K E Z I D J N O B C O C O
B L G D R U D W K F D F U B W J I N G B Y V F G S
K K C W F K V S V N Y C S A I Q D V O A Z J E W R

TRANSFER
FOOTBALL
AMATEUR
TOURNAMENT

FINANCIAL AID
COMPLIANCE
AGENTS
BROCHURES

SPRING
BENEFITS
COMPETITION
OFFER

OAS REMINDERS

- ✓ Summer School Applications are now available. Please have your student-athletes see their Academic Coordinator for more information.
- ✓ Fifth Year Aid Applications for the 2011-2012 academic year are also now available. If you have any student-athletes that will need a fifth year of aid to either complete their degree or to use their last season of competition, please have them see their Academic Coordinator.
- ✓ Book return will start on Monday, May 2nd and will end Friday, May 6th. All student-athletes that receive books as part of the scholarship are required to return ALL of their books during this week. Student-athletes will be charged for any books that are not returned by noon on Friday (unless they receive permission from their Academic Coordinator or Jessica to turn in their books later). Book return will occur in Jessica's office.

RECRUITING CALENDAR April 2011

Sport	Contact/ Evaluation Period	Contact Period	Evaluation Period	Quiet Period	Dead Period
Men's Basketball		Apr 7 (noon)-20		April 21 – July 5	Mar 31-Apr 7 (Noon); Apr 11-14; May 19-28
Women's Basketball			Apr 15-19 (Apr 15-17, evaluations permitted at non-scholastic events)	Apr 8-10; Apr 20-July 5	Apr 1-14 (except for 1 event certified by the NCAA and held in conjunction with, and in the host city of, the DI Championship)
Football			Apr 15-May 31 (168 days)	Feb 4-Apr 14; Apr 15-May 31 (outside 168 days)	
Men's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				Apr 11-14
Women's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				Apr 11-14
Women's Soccer	Aug. 1-July 31				
Women's Tennis	Aug. 1-July 31				Apr 11-14
Swimming & Diving	Aug. 1-July 31				Apr 11-14
Track & Field/Cross Country		Jan. 3-July 31			
Volleyball		Jan 1-July 31		May 1-27	Apr 11-14
Wrestling	Aug. 1-July 31				Apr 11-14

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 Athletics Department staff for further information or for answers to NCAA related questions.

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