Sports Wagering

With March Madness this month, please keep the following NCAA rules governing sports wagering in mind.

- NCAA rules prohibit athletics department staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities as they relate to amateur, intercollegiate or professional sporting events (includes both practice and competitions).
- Sports wagering is defined as putting something at risk, such as an entry fee, with the opportunity to win something in return. Accordingly, student-athletes, coaches and administrators may not participate in competitions where there is both a required entry fee and an opportunity to win a prize.

1. Can I just wager a non-monetary item like a meal, item or drink?
   No, any item of value may not be wagered.

2. Can I bet on events such as table games, horse racing, or dog races?
   Yes, sport wagering legislation only pertains to sports that are sponsored by the NCAA at both the amateur and professional levels.

3. If SJSU does not sponsor the sport do the wagering restrictions still apply?
   Yes, despite whether or not SJSU sponsors the sport, it is impermissible to wager on an NCAA sponsored event at both the amateur and professional levels.

4. What are some examples of prohibited sports wagering activities?
   The use of a bookmaker or parlay card; internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

Compliance Brain Busters

1. Can an SJSU assistant coach and athletic trainer use chewing tobacco during practice?
   YES
   NO

2. Can an assistant coach let a student-athlete borrow the coach’s car to go pick up a prospect at an airport to start an official visit?
   YES
   NO

Answers on Page 2
Offers of Athletics Aid

**Written:** Before August 1 of a prospect's senior year in high school, an institution shall not, directly or indirectly, provide a written offer of athletically related financial aid or indicate in writing to the prospect that an athletically related grant-in-aid will be offered by the institution. On or after August 1 of a prospect’s senior year in high school, an institution may indicate in writing to a prospect that an athletically related grant-in-aid will be offered by the institution; however, the institution may not permit the prospect to sign a form indicating his or her acceptance of such an award before the initial signing date in that sport in the National Letter of Intent program. [Bylaw 13.9.2.2]

**Verbal:** Verbal offers of Financial Aid are permissible at any time as long as the prospect is a contactable individual (in person, by telephone, or on a visit to campus).

Brain Buster Answers

1. **NO** - The use of tobacco products is prohibited by all game personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers and game officials) in all sports **during practice and competition.** [NCAA Bylaw 11.1.5]

2. **NO** - While an institution is permitted to provide student-athletes with reasonable, local transportation on an occasional basis, it is not permissible for an institution to provide a vehicle for a student-athlete to use at any time. [NCAA Official Interp, 12/12/1994]

Compliance Education Sessions

This month’s mandatory SJSU Compliance Rules Education Session will take place on Thursday, March 21 from 9-10 AM and Tuesday, March 26 from 2-3 PM in the Order of Sparta Room. **ALL coaching staff members are required to attend at least one of these Sessions, and we encourage staff members to attend as well.**

Interpretation Questions and Answers

**Question:** SJSU volleyball coaches would like to continue with out of season workouts and conditioning up until the beginning of finals week. Is this permissible?

**Answer:** No, Bylaw 17.1.6.2 states that outside of the playing season, all CARA is prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the final examination period for the applicable academic term through the conclusion of each student-athlete’s final exams.

**Question:** For a football student-athlete, what is the minimum number of credit hours that must be successfully completed during the fall term in order to be eligible for the entire season of competition in fall 2013?

**Answer:** 9 hours, per NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.1.6, in football, a football student-athlete who does not successfully complete at least nine-semester hours of academic credit during the fall term...shall not be eligible to compete in the first four contests against outside competition in the following playing season.

**Question:** The men’s soccer coaches at SJSU are hosting a few recruits next weekend. One of the current student-athletes that would like to serve as a student host is a senior who is enrolled part-time and will graduate in May. Is it permissible for SJSU to provide expenses to this student-athlete to serve as a student host?

**Answer:** No, per the NCAA Staff Interp on 12/20/89, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies at the institution at the time he or she participate as a student host.