

Compliance Corner

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IT'S MARCH MADNESS!!!

RISK + REWARD + BETTING ON AN NCAA SPORT = NCAA VIOLATION

The NCAA has established strict guidelines and sanctions concerning involvement in gambling for a student-athlete and a staff member of an athletics department. Student-athletes and staff members of an athletics department shall not knowingly participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, the internet, parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling. Gambling is a serious problem and can have tragic consequences for the student-athlete who may be tempted to engage in such activities. Gambling also poses a significant threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics.

Most people understand that "throwing games" is both illegal and against NCAA rules, but did you know that even a "friendly" wager can have negative consequences? For example, several members of a women's soccer team at a Division I institution participated in a sports pool to pick the winners of college sporting events. The women won the pool, which was worth a \$50 gift certificate. When the institution learned about the participation in the pool, the women were banned from two games. The student-athletes were not allowed to accept the gift certificate and were required to perform 10 hours of community service.

NCAA Bylaw 10.3 states that student-athletes and staff members of the athletics department shall not knowingly:

1. Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition (i.e., reporting information about injuries, new plays, team morale, discipline problems, etc.);
2. Participate in any gambling activity that involves a sport sponsored by the NCAA, whether through a bookmaker, a parlay card, or any other method employed by organized gambling (i.e., internet gambling, "800" numbers, office or dorm "bracket" contests or pools, online contests with an entry fee).

Student-athletes are also responsible for the following:

1. Reporting any offers of gifts, money or favors in exchange for supplying team information or for attempting to alter the outcome of any contest to the coaching staff or the associate athletics director for compliance;
2. Maintaining a clear understanding of what constitutes gambling and bribery activities and reporting any suspected infractions;
3. Contacting the coach or other department personnel (i.e., sports information office staff) when questions concerning appropriate release of team information occur; and
4. Recognizing that participation in gambling or bribery activities will result in disciplinary action by the NCAA as well as local, state, and/or federal prosecution of the involved individual(s).

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ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!

RECRUIT. RETAIN. GRADUATE CHAMPIONS.

Penalties for involvement in gambling activities:

NCAA rules are clear. The minute a student-athlete is discovered to have made a bet of any kind on any college or professional sport or has given information to someone who does gamble, the following will occur:

1. Student-athlete's involvement in activities designed to influence outcomes or win/loss margins shall result in permanent loss of all eligibility.
2. Student-athlete's involvement in accepting or soliciting bets on their own institution shall result in permanent loss of all eligibility.
3. Student-athlete's involvement in any other type of sport wagering through organized gambling shall result in at least one-year loss of all eligibility.

Also, the student-athlete runs the risk of being arrested and charged with a crime. That's because sports wagering is illegal in every state except Nevada. Sports bribery is illegal in every state.

Why is the NCAA so tough on sports wagering?

Sports wagering threatens the student-athletes personal integrity and safety. It corrupts sports. It is illegal. It attracts organized crime. The NCAA believes that illegal sports wagering exists on every college campus. For more information, go to <http://www.ncaa.org/> under the gambling section.

Remember...

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