

Compliance Corner

MARCH 2015

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EXTRA BENEFITS

“They explain the rules to you, but as a kid you’re not really listening to all of them. You go out and just, people show you so much love, you don’t even think about the rules. You’re just like ‘Ah man, it’s cool.’ You take it, and next thing you know the NCAA is down your back.”

Ray Small, former Ohio State football student-athlete

Accepting an extra benefit, no matter how big or small, can jeopardize your ability to participate in NCAA competition. An extra benefit is what Ray Small is talking about when he says “You take it, and next thing you know the NCAA is down your back.” Don’t be the student-athlete that doesn’t listen to the rules. Don’t accept extra benefits.

What is an “extra benefit?”

An extra benefit is “any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution’s athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete’s relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation.” NCAA Bylaw 16.02.3. In simpler terms, an extra benefit is anything you accept that you are not supposed to accept under NCAA rules.

POP QUIZ: CAN I ACCEPT THIS “FREE” STUFF?

- Q: Our team participated in an event over the weekend in support of a group that raises money for cancer research. One of the local businesses that sponsored the activity would like to provide us student-athletes with a small token of appreciation for our time and effort. Is it permissible for student-athletes to receive an award for participating in this event?
- A: Yes, with conditions. Local merchants who wish to provide awards to student-athletes for participation in a charitable fundraiser to raise funds for a charitable organization, which was sponsored by the member institution or by the charitable organization would not be precluded provided the award item is of nominal value and the award is properly personalized for the event (e.g., t-shirt).

Extra Benefits, continued from page 1

Here are some real-life, and almost unbelievable, stories of student-athletes who took extra benefits and suffered the consequences.

- ◆ A men's basketball student-athlete at Kansas State accepted between \$100-\$300 in discounts for clothes at a department store; he was suspended for 3 games.
- ◆ Washington State accidentally paid \$1 of a \$14 pay-per-view movie watched by men's golfers at a hotel during a road trip; the student-athletes were declared ineligible until they repaid \$1 to charity.
- ◆ Some men's basketball student-athletes at Iowa State were paid \$10 by their coach on a few occasions for making free throws in a game or practice; the student-athletes were declared ineligible and had to donate \$10 to charity before being re-instated. (Bonus: this is also a sports wagering violation!)

Although these examples seem minor, they violated the rules. Extra benefits can be loans, use of something (cell phone, credit card, etc.), a discount, service, or item of value. Don't miss participating in competition because you didn't listen to the rules and you accepted an extra benefit. It's not worth it. If someone offers you something and it doesn't seem like the right thing to do for you to accept it, don't accept it or...

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Be like the Missouri golfer who won a car by making a hole-in-one at a charity golf tournament. Rather than accepting the car without thinking, he immediately contacted his coach and the compliance office to see if he could accept it. Because of his actions, he avoided losing the remainder of his eligibility at the school.

AMATEURISM ISSUES

All student-athletes know the basics of amateurism after their first compliance meeting. Don't sign with an agent. Don't sign a contract to play pro sports. But there's more to amateurism legislation than that. For example, did you know that you can have an attorney review contracts for you, even if they're with a professional sports team, as long as an attorney doesn't represent you in negotiations and you pay the regular legal fees? It turns out that some of the NCAA's amateurism legislation is "looser" than some students think.

Then again, some pieces of the NCAA's amateurism legislation catch student-athletes off guard. For example, did you know that you cannot miss class for an event to promote the Athletics Department? Or that you can't appear in an ad for a local company, even if it's a class project? If anyone asks to use your name, photo, or likeness, be sure to see compliance ASAP!

Don't risk being in the same situation as current Ohio State football player, Braxton Miller, who is under school investigation for his online promotion of AdvoCare nutritional products. NCAA bylaw 12.5.2.1 says that a student athlete's eligibility will be lost if the athlete accepts compensation for or permits the use of his or her name or picture to advertise or promote any commercial product or service. Also, an athlete will lose eligibility if the athlete accepts compensation for endorsing any commercial product or service through the athlete's use of that product or service. In other words, always be mindful not to use your image or status as a student athlete for commercial purposes!

POP QUIZ: CAN I ACCEPT THIS “FREE” STUFF?

Q: After a game, a fan offers you \$10 to sign a ball for his son. Is this okay?

A: No, it is not acceptable. It's also best to personalize autographs to the person you're signing them for. That way, people can't sell your autograph to make money off of your name or likeness.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION: Miguel Lozano Jr.

Have you ever had a situation where you wanted to intervene or help someone out but didn't know how? This happens more often than you think and you are not alone! As athletes we face countless situations in which we might have to help out a teammate or peer.

Academically you might witness or suspect someone of cheating, with alcohol you could run into a situation of wanting your teammate to calm down on his/her drinking (performance inhibiting, drunk driving, underage, poisoning are all valid reasons to get them to stop), if a friend or teammate you know is facing depression and or suicide you would want to get them professional help, and last but not least you might face a case associated with violence in which you would want to help out (this could entail sexual assault, stalking, hazing or physical abuse). There are many others events that might happen to you (or around you) as a student-athlete, however these are a few to get us started.

From here lets move to the 4 steps of how to intervene in a situation...

1. Notice the event

It's easy to overlook something you weren't looking for. Unfortunately our society has become distracted over the years with advancements in technology so naturally we've become less observant.

2. Interpret the event as a problem

If you're having trouble deciding whether an event is a problem, get an outside opinion... chances are they are thinking the same thing as you!

3. Assume personal responsibility

Don't assume someone else is going to act! Take responsibility and take action to help out. If not you, then who will help? Be a leader.

4. Know how to help

Be prepared and have a game plan of what you want to do. Gather information, consider your options and provide support. If a situation gets too out of hand call 911 or seek professional help.



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COMPLIANCE WEBSITE FOR YOU

- Be sure to check out the part of the IUPUI compliance website made just for you: http://www.iupui.edu/~jagsncaa/sa/rules_ed.html.
- In the student-athlete section, you'll find compliance forms that you may need to fill out. Rather than coming to the office to get them, you can fill them out from home and email or fax it to compliance.
- Other things on the compliance website—
 - Student-Athlete Handbook
 - Newsletters
 - Resources like NCAA documents, IUPUI events calendar, and Office of Student Involvement information
 - Rules Education, such as a list of NCAA Banned Substances and IUPUI's Drug Testing Policy
- **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @IUPUICompliance**

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!