



Knowing involvement in academic fraud by a prospective or current student-athlete or an institutional staff member is a violation of the NCAA's Bylaw 10.1, which defines unethical conduct. *The NCAA has stated that any academic fraud violation involving a staff member will be processed as a major infractions case.* The NCAA defines a staff member as anyone who performs work for the institution or athletics department regardless of compensation or function. This definition includes student managers, student trainers, volunteers and tutors.

### Key Points to Keep In Mind

- Prospective and enrolled student-athletes may never submit someone else's academic work as their own.
- *Only authorized staff members should be involved in academic support activities with student-athletes.* For example, members of the coaching staff may never assist a student-athlete with their coursework.
- Prospective student-athletes may never utilize South Carolina's Academic Services to assist them with test preparation, core course requirements or transfer eligibility.
- Academic Service for student-athletes should only take place in locations that have been designated and approved by appropriate South Carolina officials.
- No athletics staff members are permitted to provide typing services to a student-athlete, even if the student-athlete pays the going rate for such services.
- A student-athlete need not gain eligibility in order for a violation of Bylaw 10.1 to occur. For example, if a staff member writes a paper for a student-athlete and the student-athlete still fails the class, a violation has occurred.
- In the University's review of academic situations involving student-athletes, institutional policies and procedures applicable to all students must be applied.

### When Must Academic Wrongdoing be Reported to the NCAA?

According to an official NCAA interpretation from September 6, 2000, *an academic situation must be reported to the NCAA if it fits the parameters of either A or B below.*

- a. Anytime an institutional staff member (e.g., coach, professor, tutor, teaching assistant) is knowingly involved in arranging fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts for a prospective or enrolled student-athlete, regardless of whether the institutional staff member acted alone or in concert with the prospective or enrolled student-athlete.
- b. Any time a student-athlete, acting alone or in concert with others, knowingly becomes involved in arranging fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts, regardless of whether such conduct results in an erroneous declaration of eligibility.

However, if a student-athlete commits an academic offense (e.g., cheating on a test, plagiarism on a term paper) with no involvement of an institutional staff member, the institution is not required to report a violation of Bylaw 10.1, unless the academic offense results in an erroneous declaration of eligibility.

Any academic issues that may conflict with NCAA rules should be reported to South Carolina Office of Compliance Services at **803.777.1519**.