

THE COMPLIANCE CORNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UC COMPLIANCE OFFICE

DECEMBER 2011

Student-Athlete Awards

The head women's soccer coaches at Ocean State University are placing orders for the student-athletes' participation gifts. Traditionally, the coaches have provided a jacket after a student-athlete's first year; blanket after the second; watch after the third and a ring to the seniors. Some of the seniors asked for a pendant instead of a ring. Is it permissible to provide some senior student-athletes with a ring and some with a pendant as long as the cost of each award does not exceed NCAA maximum limitations?

No. NCAA Bylaw 16.1.2 states that awards presented by a member institution, conference or other approved agency must be uniform for all team members receiving the award. NCAA Staff Interpretation- 12/13/91- Uniformity of awards to student-athletes- states that a permissible awarding agency (e.g., member institution, management of event) may provide to student-athletes more than one type of an award (e.g., rings to seniors, watches to underclassmen), provided the award given is uniform within a category (e.g., all watches must be the same).

REMINDER: ALL AWARDS SHOULD BE PRE-APPROVED BY THE COMPLIANCE OFFICE WITH NOTED VALUE OF THE AWARDS.

Mid-Year Junior College Enrollees (FB)

Recruiting Calendar Adjustments:

- (1) December 19-22, 2011- Dead Period*- All junior college PSAs who intend to enroll midyear
- (2) December 23-31, 2011 - Quiet Period- All junior college PSAs who intend to enroll midyear

Recruiting Dates

Baseball

12/1 - 12/31 Quiet Period

Men's Basketball

12/1 - 12/23 Evaluation Period

12/24 - 12/26 Dead Period

12/27 - 12/31 Evaluation Period

Women's Basketball

12/1 - 12/23 Evaluation Period

12/24 - 12/26 Dead Period

12/27 - 12/31 Evaluation Period

Football

12/1 - 12/17 Contact Period

12/18 Quiet Period

12/19 - 12/31 Dead Period**

Women's Lacrosse

12/1 - 12/31 Quiet Period

Track and Field/Cross Country

12/1 - 12/11 Contact Period

12/12 - 12/15 Dead Period

12/16 - 12/31 Quiet Period

Volleyball

12/1 - 12/4 Contact Period

12/5 - 12/13 Quiet Period

12/14 - 12/31 Dead Period

All Other Sports

12/1 - 12/31 Contact Period



Thoughts of the Month

"There are no exceptions to the rule that everybody likes to be an exception to the rule."

- George Osner

"Hold yourself to the highest standard, never excuse yourself from your responsibility."

- Friar Telly, II

Supplements Note

Bob Mangine is the Nutritional Supplement Designee for UC. All orders and questions about supplements, shakes, protein bars, etc., need to go through him for approval.

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Coaches, please provide this information to your student-athletes.

REMINDER: You cannot be "friends" with a PSA on Facebook until the 1st permissible date that they can send general correspondence, which in sports other than MBB at UC is Sept. 1st on their junior year.

University of Memphis Self-Reports Softball Team Violations

MEMPHIS (TN) - The University of Memphis told the NCAA last month that its softball team exceeded the amount of time allotted for sport-related activity in 2010-11, a year that saw the most successful season in the program's history.

The Tigers also self-reported failure to monitor and unethical conduct violations involving former head coach Windy Thees, who left Memphis in June to become the head coach at Ole Miss. An unnamed assistant coach and "several" players were also included in the unethical conduct violation.

Memphis said the softball team exceeded its limits for activity by 16 hours during the 2010-11 academic year and said it would dock 32 hours from the 2011-12 allotment as punishment.

In its five-page report, Memphis says some players approached the compliance office in September 2010 with concerns about the team going over the amount of time it can practice -- "countable athletically related activities" in NCAA parlance.

NCAA rules limit such activities on a daily and weekly basis. A bylaw defines them as "any required activity with an athletics purpose involving student-athletes and at the direction of, or supervised by one or more of an institution's coaching staff."

In the report, the compliance office said it didn't feel as if the players who came forward in September had a full understanding of the rules. So they asked the players to document their time over the next seven days.

"Although the student-athletes agreed to the request, not all of them followed through," the report said. "If they did report back, they stated they were in compliance, and the reported times for strength and conditioning were much more accurate than before."

A compliance officer met with the team and coaches again and attempted to educate them on the rules. According to the report, the compliance office "made extra efforts" to monitor practice hours, visited practice often and reached out to the players.

"With all their efforts, the student-athletes continued to provide the same response, 'we are good, and no issues,'" the report reads. So compliance ended its inquiry.

In April, a parent of a player contacted the school, which re-opened its investigation. This time, the players -- and a staff member -- said the team was exceeding its allotted time, the report said.

The U of M said Thees failed to monitor her team's activities because it said that while she insisted the times were right, "the weight of the testimonies suggests that this is not accurate information." In its report, the compliance office said it believes the coach was reporting the scheduled practice times, not the actual ones.

As for the unethical conduct charge, Memphis reported that five players didn't provide accurate information during the fall investigation. In the spring, when it interviewed 15 players, the players indicated they were anxious about reporting information largely over fear of retaliation.

In citing the unethical conduct violation, the U of M said the head coach, assistant coach and "several" players "failed to act in accordance with the standards of honesty and sportsmanship, when they knowingly furnished false and misleading information concerning their involvement in or knowledge of matters relevant to possible NCAA violations."

Memphis declared five players ineligible and has requested reinstatement on two because they have remaining eligibility. The school redacted the names of the players from the released version of the report.

University counsel Sheri Lipman said the school expects that the players will be reinstated.

Memphis is on NCAA probation through Aug. 19, 2012, for violations in men's basketball and women's golf.

The school is subject to the repeat violator clause of NCAA rules that could subject it to harsher penalties if it is found to have committed a major violation from the date of 2009 decision to Aug. 19, 2014.

Bylaw 17.02.1 - Countable Athletically Related Activities: Countable Athletically Related Activities (CARA) include any REQUIRED activity with an athletics purpose involving SAs and at the direction of, or supervised by, one or more of an institution's coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and MUST BE COUNTED WITHIN THE WEEKLY AND DAILY LIMITATIONS under Bylaws 17.1.6.1 and 17.1.6.2. Administrative activities (e.g., academic meetings, compliance meetings) shall not be considered CARA.

Role of Boosters in Intercollegiate Athletics

What are examples of impermissible recruiting activities?

As a booster, you may not:

- Contact a prospect in-person on-campus or off campus.
- Contact a prospect by telephone, email, Internet or letter.
- Provide gifts or free or reduced-cost services to a prospect or the prospect's relatives or guardian.
- Employ relatives, guardians or friends of a prospect as an inducement for the prospect's enrollment and athletics participation at a university.
- Become directly or indirectly involved in making arrangements for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or guardian to receive money or financial aid of any kind.
- Provide transportation for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or guardian.
- Provide free or reduced-cost tickets for a prospect or the prospect's relatives or guardian to attend an athletic event.
- Provide any material benefit (e.g., meals, cash) to the coach of a prospect, including high school, two-year college, AAU and summer team coaches.

Finals CARA Reminder

Bylaw 17.1.6.2 - Sports Other than Football (Outside the Playing Season): Outside of the playing season, from the institution's first day of classes of the academic year or September 15, whichever occurs earlier, to one week prior to the beginning of the institution's final examination period at the conclusion of the academic year, only a student-athlete's participation in required weight training, conditioning and skill-related instruction shall be permitted. A student-athlete's participation in such activities per Bylaw 17.02.1 shall be limited to a maximum of eight hours per week with not more than two hours per week spent on skill-related workouts. **All countable related activities outside the playing season are 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.**

Congratulations, Volleyball!

The Compliance Office would like to extend their congratulations to Head Coach Reed Sunahara, Assistant Coaches Myanna Webster and Ethan Pheister, and the entire volleyball team on winning Cincinnati's first BIG EAST Conference Tournament Championship in any team sport! Good luck in the NCAA Tournament!

Congratulations, Eric!

The Compliance Office would also like to extend their congratulations to Men's Cross Country runner Eric Finan for winning the BIG EAST meet and earning All-American honors at the NCAA national championship meet on November 21st. Congratulations on an excellent season, Eric!

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The Compliance Staff

Bearcat Spirit!

Look out for your fellow Bearcats in their big events of the month:

Football - vs. Connecticut, December 3rd @ 12 PM

M Basketball - vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Dec. 21st @ 7 PM

W Basketball - vs. Louisville, December 14th @ 7 PM

Volleyball - vs. Samford, Dec. 2nd @ 4:30 PM

Women's Track - @ EIU Early Bird, Dec. 9th