



COMPLIANCE CORNER



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FOCUS OF THE MONTH

ALSTON V. NCAA UPDATE

- On December 16, the Supreme Court announced that they would hear the NCAA's appeal of a lower court decision from earlier this year.
- **CASE HISTORY:** In March 2019, the US District Court in California ruled that the NCAA and its 11 major conferences had violated antitrust laws by capping the value of athletic scholarships. The ruling stated that the NCAA can't bar institutions from offering student-athletes compensation and benefits related to education in excess of their scholarship money and cost-of-attendance payments. Those benefits do not include cash, but include things such as computers, science equipment, musical instruments, and whatever courts may decide to be a non-cash educational benefit.
- In May 2020, a three-judge panel from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the lower court's ruling.
- **UPCOMING TIMELINE:** Following the Court's announcement that they will hear the case, it is most likely that the Court will hear oral arguments in the spring, likely in late March to mid April, with a decision likely to be issued in mid June.

REMINDERS

- January 18, 2021— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO CLASSES)
 - It is permissible to use a vacation day to satisfy the weekly-day off requirement.
 - For in-season sports, there is no daily CARA or RARA limitations.
 - For out-of-season sports, all CARA and RARA is impermissible.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA** - Chad Brendel and BearcatJournal are considered noninstitutional publications that report on athletic programs. This means on social media, you may follow them, but it is impermissible for any athletics staff member to reply or mention them in tweets, or retweet or like any of their tweets or posts.
 - **NCAA Bylaw 11.2.3.4 11.3.2.4 Noninstitutional Publications That Report on Athletics Program.** Athletics department staff members shall not endorse (either orally or in writing) any noninstitutional publication dedicated primarily to reporting on an institution's athletics activities, except as provided in this section, and shall not write for such publications. (Adopted: 1/16/93, Revised: 1/11/94, 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01).

SPOT THE VIOLATION

Leonard Skinard, women's lacrosse coach at Rock and Roll University, wants to gift his players an award for winning their conference regular season and conference championship. Leonard is aware that an award for this achievement can't exceed \$325 so he budgets \$650 since his team won both. Is this permissible?



No. If the same team wins both the conference regular season and championship, the award may not exceed a combined value of \$325.

16.1.4.2 Awards for Winning Conference and National Championships. [A] Awards for winning an individual or team conference or national championship may be presented each year, limited in value and number as specified in Figure 16-2. Awards for winning a conference or national championship in a team sport may be provided only to student-athletes who were eligible to participate in the championship event. The total value of any single award received for a national championship may not exceed \$415. The total value of any single award received for a conference championship may not exceed \$325, and each permissible awarding agency is subject to a separate \$325 limit per award. Each permissible awarding agency may provide only a single award for each championship to each student-athlete. Separate awards may be presented to both the regular-season conference champion and the postseason conference champion (with a separate \$325 limitation), but if the same institution wins both the regular-season and postseason conference championship, the combined value of both awards shall not exceed \$325. [R] (Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 8/7/14)

FLORIDA INFRACTIONS CASE

- The Florida football program violated recruiting rules on two occasions and the head coach didn't promote an atmosphere of compliance.
- The head coach and an assistant had impermissible in-person contact with a PSA when they met the PSA's high school coach while the PSA was in the room, where the coaches expressed their interest in recruiting the PSA. The coach also texts to the PSA about his upcoming visit to the high school and his interest in recruiting him.
- Members of the coaching staff also had impermissible contact with 127 PSAs when seven non-scholastic football teams visited campus and toured the football facilities.
- PENALTIES:**
 - One year of probation.
 - Reduced fall 2019 evaluations from 42 to 21 and evaluation days by 12 for the 2018-19 academic year.
 - Reduction in official visits by 1 and unofficial visits by 14 for the 2019-20 academic year.
 - One-year show-cause order for the head coach, during which he is prohibited from all off-campus recruiting during the fall 2020 evaluation period and a four-day off-campus recruiting ban during the fall 2021 contact period.
 - The head coach is banned from recruiting for the first 10 days of the January 2020 contact period and banned from recruiting off-campus during the fall 2019 evaluation period.
 - A seven-day off-campus recruiting ban for the entire coaching staff during the spring 2021 off-campus recruiting

RECRUITING CALENDARS

Contact Period	Evaluation Period	Dead Period	Recruiting Shutdown
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All Sports						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The NCAA adopted Emergency Legislation to establish a temporary recruiting dead period for all NCAA Division I sports, effective immediately, and in effect until at least April 15, 2021.