

# INSIDE THIS

Mental Health Best Practices
NCAA, Power 5 Settlement
Sports Betting Culture
Is This Permissible?
Blanket Waivers
Word Search

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**Recruiting Calendars** 

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# FOCUS OF THE MONTH

## MENTAL HEALTH BEST PRACTICES

The second edition of NCAA Mental Health Best Practices was approved at the 2024 NCAA convention in January and will go into effect August 1st. The four best practices have been updated to recognize the importance of creating healthy environments as a first step in promoting mental health, and flexibility in membership implementation.

The four best practices are:

- The creation of HEALTHY environments that support mental health and promote well-being.
- Procedures, including mental health screening tools, for identifying student-athletes with mental health symptoms and disorders.
- Action plans that outline referral pathways of student-athletes to qualified providers.
- Licensure of providers who OVERSEE and manage student-athlete mental health care.

## NCAA, POWER 5 SETTLEMENT

The NCAA and the Power 5 Conferences have agreed to a settlement to allow schools to directly pay studentathletes. The NCAA will pay \$2.7 billion in damages over 10 years to past and current athletes. Here's what to know:

- The agreement will settle three current federal antitrust cases against the NCAA: House v. NCAA, Hubbard v.
   NCAA, and Carter v. NCAA. They must still be approved by Judge Claudia Wilken.
- The agreement includes a revenue-sharing plan that allows each school to share roughly \$20 million per year with student-athletes.
- Schools will likely begin sharing REVENUE in Fall 2025.
- All Division I athletes dating back to 2016 are eligible to be in the settlement class. However, if they opt in, they cannot sue the NCAA for other potential antitrust violations.

#### **SPORTS BETTING CULTURE**

The NCAA is advocating for the elimination of player-specific prop bets in collegiate competition. The NCAA has launched several INITIATIVES to address harassment of college athletes in relation to sports betting and prop bets. Data trends from the 2023-2024 championship season show that:

- 1 out of 3 high-profile athletes receive abusive messages from someone with a betting interest.
- Higher-profile events with sports betting markets attract increased volumes of abuse or threats.
- 90% of HARASSMENT is generated online or through social media.
- In sports with high volumes of betting, 15%-25% of all abuse surrounding that competition is betting related.
- During March Madness, 4,000 out of 54,000 flagged comments were confirmed as abusive or threatening and reported to the relevant social media platforms, with some elevated to law enforcement.
- Student-athletes are not the only group experiencing these threats and abuse. Game officials, administrators, and other athletics employees have been harassed related to their respective involvement in COMPETITIONS.

## IS THIS PERMISSIBLE?

A basketball student-athlete wants to organize an independent practice session with their teammates over the SUMMER break. Will the SA be able to organize the practice?

- Yes, per Bylaw 17.02.19, so long as:
  - **♦ The participation is VOLUNTARY and non-participants are not penalized;**
  - ♦ The session is not supervised or directed by the institution's coaching staff; and
  - ♦ The participants are not required to report back to the coaching staff.

## **BLANKET WAIVERS**

Blanket Waiver for Men's and Women's Basketball Official Visits: As of May 8th, the NCAA approved a blanket waiver allowing institutions to provide an unlimited number of official visits in men's and women's basketball for a rolling period from August 1st, 2023 through to July 31st, 2025.

Blanket Waiver for Tennis Postseason Opportunities: As of May 16th, the NCAA approved a blanket waiver allowing tennis student-athletes to participate in individual CHAMPIONSHIP opportunities in the fall and team championship in the spring for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.

## **WORD SEARCH!**

Throughout this issue, some words have been EMPHASIZED... use those words to solve the following Word Search!

(Hint: there are 11



## JUNE RECRUITING CALENDARS

Contact Period Quiet Period Evaluation Period Dead Period Recruiting Shutdown

	Football								
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat									
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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									

	Women's Basketball									
Sun	Mon	Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat								
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
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WBB: June 13 (noon) - June 15 (6 P.M.) evaluation period for scholastic events approved by NCC and NFHS and intercollegiate events approved by applicable two -year college governing body only.

	Men's Basketball									
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	Women's Lacrosse								
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Track/Cross Country										
Sun	Mon	Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat								
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
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30										

Baseball										
Sun	Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat									
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
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All Other Sports									
Sun	Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat								
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
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