

Sycamore Sentinel

Compliance Newsletter

March 2013

Gambling on College Sports - What's the Big Deal?

Isn't sports wagering harmless?

No! Sports wagering can be a serious crime that threatens the well-being of student-athletes and the integrity of the game. Financially troubled student-athletes are viewed by organized gambling as easy marks for obtaining inside information or affecting the outcome of a game. Student-athletes who gamble are breaking the law and jeopardizing their eligibility. The NCAA believes sports should be appreciated for the benefits of participating or watching, not the amount of money that can be won or lost depending on the outcome of the games.

What exactly is the NCAA policy on sports wagering?

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering on college sports. NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes, and athletics department, conference office, and NCAA national office employees from wagering on intercollegiate, amateur, and professional sports in which the Association conducts championships.

How does the NCAA define sports wagering?

The NCAA defines sports wagering as putting something at risk – such as an entry fee or a wager – in return for the opportunity to win something. Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; Internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

Does the NCAA conduct background checks on officials?

The NCAA conducts background checks on officials and umpires in the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships, FBS bowl games, the Men's Frozen Four and the Men's College World Series.

What is the NCAA doing to stop sports wagering?

Campus-level programs across the country are using NCAA-supplied educational materials. The NCAA's Enforcement group continues to process cases involving student-athletes and coaches across all divisions and sports. Despite differing motivations, the NCAA and Las Vegas sports wagering officials work closely together to identify instances in which the integrity of college sports may be threatened.

Does the NCAA really oppose the harmless small-dollar bracket office pool for the Men's Final Four?

Yes! Office pools of this nature are illegal in most states. The NCAA is aware of pools involving \$100,000 or more in revenue. Worse yet, the NCAA has learned these types of pools are often the entry point for youth to begin gambling. Fans should enjoy following the tournament and filling out a bracket just for the fun of it, not on the amount of money they could possibly win (www.ncaa.org).

March Madness
Don't Bet On It!



Sports Wagering Activities: From the NCAA DI Manual

Sports Wagering Activities: The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition: (a) staff members of an institution's athletics department; (b) non-athletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports); (c) staff members of a conference office; (d) student-athletes; and (e) team managers.

Scope of Application: The prohibition against sports wagering applies to any institutional practice or any competition (intercollegiate, amateur or professional) in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

Sanctions: The following sanctions for violations of Bylaw 10.3 shall apply: (a) A student-athlete who engages in activities designed to influence the outcome of an intercollegiate contest or in an effort to affect win-loss margins ("point shaving") or who participates in any sports wagering activity involving the student-athlete's institution shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports and (b) A student-athlete who participates in any sports wagering activity through the Internet, a bookmaker or a parlay card shall be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for a minimum period of one year from the date of the institution's determination that a violation occurred and shall be charged with the loss of a minimum of one season of eligibility. If the student-athlete is determined to have been involved in a later violation of any portion of Bylaw 10.3, the student-athlete shall permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports.

Disciplinary Action: Prospective or enrolled student-athletes found in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility. (See Bylaw 10.3.2 for sanctions of student-athletes involved in violations of Bylaw 10.3.) Institutional staff members found in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary or corrective action as set forth in Bylaw 19.5 of the NCAA enforcement procedures, whether such violations occurred at the certifying institution or during the individual's previous employment at another member institution.

Topic: NCAA Investigations

Stories about accusations of NCAA violations and ongoing investigations:

North Carolina Spot Checking Classes – [CLICK HERE](#) to read this Bylaw Blog.

Undercover NCAA Operations Are a Terrible Idea – [CLICK HERE](#) to read this Bylaw Blog.

EMU's Intern Practice Monitoring – [CLICK HERE](#) to read this Bylaw Blog.

NCAA Lost a Lifeline with Miami Debacle – [CLICK HERE](#) to read this Bylaw Blog.

Takeaways From the NCAA External Review – [CLICK HERE](#) to read this Bylaw Blog.



Remember: Ask Before You Act!

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