

**Intercollegiate Rowing Association  
Eligibility and Infractions Committee**

Secondary/Level III Violation Report

**Case Number: 2018-06**

**Date submitted: August 15, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I 13.6.3 – Requirements for Official Visit

**Facts of the Case:** During the fall of 2017 three PSA's had official visits without being placed on the institutional request list (IRL). The violation was discovered later in the fall when the Head Coach was reconciling expenses and realized the visits had not been approved.

**Institutional Action:** The PSA's were subsequently added to the IRL. Additional education was provided to the coach on official visit requirements.

**Decision:** : Processed by primary conference office, No further action required.

**Rationale:** The Head Coach self-reported the incident as soon as he realized a violation had been committed. The Compliance Office took adequate action with institutional steps to remedy the violation and educate the coaching staff.

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Legislative Relief Waiver

**Case Number: 2018-07**

**Date submitted: August 29, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I 13.6.2.2.1 First Opportunity to Visit & Association Moratorium.

**Facts of the Case:** During the summer of 2018 the IRA Board of Stewards placed a moratorium on adopting the new Division I legislation pertaining to first opportunity to visit. The Association informed the membership the prior NCAA rule would be followed for the academic year. The institution reached out as four official visits had been scheduled prior to the official moratorium memo being issued.

**Institutional Request:** Permit the four PSA's to visit as planned since travel arrangements were in motion with documented receipts provided.

**Decision:** Approved.

**Rationale:** The institution provided detailed receipts which showed travel arrangements/purchases were made during the window of the new Division I rule being adopted and the IRA's distribution of the memo citing the moratorium. At the time of purchase this was permissible.

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Progress Towards Degree Waiver

**Case Number: 2018-08**

**Date submitted: September 21, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I: 14.4.3.1 (b) and (c)

**Facts of the Case:** Not made available by primary conference office.

**Decision:** Processed by primary conference office, Approved.

**Rationale:** In approving the waiver request it was noted the SA was asked to leave the university in the middle of term due to a disciplinary suspension. Per NCAA case precedent, including similarly situated student-athletes at the institution, the request has been granted. Any future waiver requests will be considered under stricter guidelines.

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Progress Towards Degree Waiver

**Case Number: 2018-10**

**Date submitted: October 31, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I 14.4 Progress Toward-Degree Requirements

**Facts of the Case:** The SA chose to change majors at their institution (which also requires changing schools at the institution) and was advised by an academic advisor that he would need two semesters of full-time enrollment to change majors through Intra-University Transfer (IUT). In preparation for his change in major he enrolled for classes in the spring semester that pertained to his newly desired major so he could successfully meet the previously mentioned institutional requirements for IUT and major change. It was never explained to the SA that if he did not complete his IUT and change his major prior to Fall he would not meet PTD requirements.

**Institutional Action:** Staff noticed the deficiency in the Fall while certifying SA eligibility. The Academic Coordinator for the men's rowing program contacted the Advisor for the new major to confirm the SA's eligibility and IUT request.

**Decision:** Approved

**Rationale:** The student-athlete has not been subject to a progress toward-degree waiver in the past, has changed his degree program at the institution and has a good overall academic record. Additionally, the SA was misadvised and given incorrect information from his advisor and would be meeting progress toward-degree requirements had he remained in his initial program of studies.

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Legislative Relief Waiver

**Case Number: 2018-11**

**Date submitted: November 20, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I: 14.5.5.2.10 One-Time Transfer Exception

**Facts of the Case:** The student-athlete enrolled at the institution in Fall of 2018 and would like to participate in men's rowing. He does not meet the one-time transfer exception per NCAA rules as he has transferred multiple times.

**Institutional Request:** To grant relief from this legislation and allow the SA to be immediately eligible without serving a year in residence.

**Decision:** Denied.

**Rationale:** The IRA recognized the SA's challenging academic road map, however there is no case precedent that would allow the Association to waive the mandatory year in residency. The provided cases submitted by the institution from RSO cites the NCAA came to the same determination in a similar case.

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Secondary/Level III Violation

**Case Number: 2018-12**

**Date submitted: November 15, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I 12.7.3 Drug Testing Consent Form

**Facts of the Case:** The student-athlete participated in practice activities prior to completing the necessary forms for practice eligibility. The violation was discovered when the Athletic Trainer received an update from the Compliance Services office regarding who was eligible for practice. The SA completed the necessary forms before participating in further practice activities.

**Institutional Action:** Additional education was provided to the coach on beginning of the year eligibility requirements.

**Decision:** : Processed by primary conference office, no further action required.

**Rationale:** NCAA case precedence was followed regarding additional education for coaching staff.

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Re-Issue of Official Association Interpretation

**Case Number: N/A**

**Date submitted: November 20, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I: 13.02.5.4 (dead period) and 13.17.11.1.1 (dead periods – NLI Signing Date).

**Rationale:** After questions from member institutions regarding whether the Association follows NCAA bylaws as it pertains to NLI dead periods the Commissioner re-issued an official interpretation from the Association from 2012.

*The IRA Board of Stewards determined that the recruiting dead periods surrounding the National Letter of Intent signing dates do not apply to the sport of men's crew, inasmuch as the National Letter of Intent is not used in the sports of men's crew. [Note: This interpretation does not preclude individual IRA member institutions from deciding to adopt a more restrictive standard and apply the dead periods surrounding the NLI signing dates to men's crew].*

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Medical Absence Waiver

**Case Number: 2018-13**

**Date submitted: December 11, 2018**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division II: 14.4.3.9.1 Medical Absence Waiver Requirements

**Facts of the Case:** SA fractured a bone in her right ankle during practice and later fractured her left foot. She received an institutional medical withdrawal. SA withdrew from all classes due to inability to get to and from school.

**Institutional Request:** To grant a medical absence waiver so she can be eligible in the Spring for practice and competition.

**Decision:** Approved.

**Rationale:** The student-athlete met the outlined requirements for a Medical Absence Waiver. The SA was granted adjusted credit hours under the progress toward-degree regulations of Bylaw 14 and deemed immediately eligible.



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Secondary/Level III Violation

**Case Number: 2019-01**

**Date submitted: February 19, 2019**

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I: 13.1.1.3 Four-Year College PSA's

**Facts of the Case:** In January of 2019 the men's Assistant Coach had contact with a four-year PSA prior to receiving permission to contact or placing their name in the Transfer Portal. The PSA reached out to the Assistant in January regarding a possible graduate transfer. The Assistant corresponded back-and-forth with the PSA via email. The infraction was discovered when the Assistant called Compliance Services to ask about gathering further information regarding remaining eligibility. Upon discovery of the violation the Assistant immediately ended communication with the PSA. It has been determined the PSA had no remaining eligibility.

**Institutional Action:** Rules education and letter of admonishment to Coach.

**Decision:** Processed by primary conference office, no further action required.

**Rationale:** The institution followed NCAA case precedence and swiftly responded to the violation when it was discovered.

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Delayed Enrollment Violation

**Case Number: 2019-02**

**Date issued:** March 4, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** IRA Eligibility & Operating Bylaw, Article III, Section 2 – Delayed Enrollment

**Facts of the Case:** The institution was issued an interpretation from their primary conference regarding SA eligibility based on NCAA precedence without recognizing the separate IRA rule pertaining to Delayed Enrollment. The interpretation was not filed in a timely manner to the Association and later received after request from the Association.

**Association Action:** The institution was informed the involved SA was ineligible for participation and had utilized a season of eligibility due to competition after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Further, the SA's participation in the fall needed to be reviewed as he was ineligible at the time of participation and thus a violation had occurred.

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Secondary/Level III Violation

**Case Number:** 2019-02.1

**Date issued:** March 18, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.4.1

**Facts of the Case:** An institution's Assistant Coach sent an email to a PSA that was a current sophomore in high school. The coach thought he was responding to a recruitable PSA. Coach is aware of the recruiting rules and simply made a mistake in responding

**Institutional Action:** The institution provided rules education. The program may not provide general or electronic correspondence with this PSA for two weeks once he reaches July 1 after his junior year.

**Decision:** Processed by primary conference office, no further action required.

**Rationale:** The institution followed NCAA and conference case precedence of the involved bylaws.

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Secondary/Level III Violation

**Case Number:** 2019-04

**Date issued:** March 25, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I Bylaw 16.11.1.5 Occasional Meals

**Facts of the Case:** On an annual basis for the last 15 years various men's rowing SA's received meals valued at approximately \$10 from a representative of athletics interests at an away-from-home contest. Specifically, meals were provided to SA's at an annually held regatta via an alumni reception. Head Coach stated he felt this was permissible based on the minimal amount of food provided and occasional meal legislation.

Violation was discovered when the women's team inquired about the permissibility of their team being provided the same meal while attending the regatta.

**Institutional Action:** Institution provided rules education to coach and the booster organization. Institution noted the meal was otherwise permissible and Boosters could have donated value of meal to the program under NCAA legislation.

**Decision:** Processed by primary conference office, no further action required.

**Rationale:** The institution followed NCAA and conference case precedence of the involved bylaw.

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Secondary/Level III Violation

**Case Number:** 2019-05

**Date issued:** March 29, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.8.2

**Facts of the Case:** On March 25, the Athletics Compliance Office was reviewing expense reports. The Associate AD for Compliance (AAD) noticed that the assistant rowing coach had an expense for a lunch that took place on a recruiting trip in California. The lunch listed two additional individuals that were not institutional staff members. The AAD e-mailed the assistant coach and asked who the two additional individuals listed were. The assistant coach indicated that the two were club coaches. Per NCAA Bylaw 13.8.2, coaches are not permitted to purchase or provide meals to club coaches. The assistant coach indicated that he also paid for a club coach's meal during a recent recruiting trip as well. Cost of all three club coaches meals were \$44.40.

**Institutional Action:** Rules education has been provided. The assistant rowing coach will receive a letter of admonishment and not be reimbursed for the cost of his meals. The program will also be unable to communicate with any PSA associated with the three club coaches or the three club coaches for four weeks.

**Decision:** No further action required.

**Rationale:** The institution followed NCAA case precedence of the involved bylaw and acted swiftly upon discovery of the violation.

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Appeal of Delayed Enrollment Violation

**Case Number:** 2019-03

**Date issued:** April 8, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** IRA Eligibility & Operating Bylaw, Article III, Section 2 – Delayed Enrollment

**Facts of the Case:** Institution is appealing Association’s decision regarding SA’s eligibility as it pertains to the Delayed Enrollment bylaw. Institution states the Compliance Office provided coaching staff with the appropriate interpretation pertaining to SA’s eligibility five months before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Assistant Coach that was provided the interpretation did not relay this information to the SA. The institution feels an SA should not be penalized due to misadvisement and his welfare and experiences should not be negatively impacted because of miscommunication.

**Institutional Request:** For SA to remain eligible for spring participation and give back two dates of competition next academic year. Citing NCAA case precedence the institution feels these terms are acceptable.

**Decision:** Initial Interpretation upheld. SA remains ineligible for remainder of academic year. Further, it was noted the committee was not implementing additional penalties or missed competitions for the upcoming academic year even though the SA competed in two contests while ineligible this fall. The committee felt further penalty for the SA based on institutional oversight was not appropriate in this circumstance.

**Rationale:** The committee admonished the department’s lack of institutional oversight and fact-gathering as it pertains to SA certification, specifically international SA’s. It was noted that knowledge of IRA and NCAA rules is ultimately the responsibility of the Head Coach. It is their responsibility to stay current on policy changes and communicate such changes to staff as appropriate.

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Season of Competition Waiver

**Case Number:** 2019-06

**Date issued:** June 7, 2019

**Applicable Bylaws:** NCAA Division I Bylaw: 12.8.6 Season-Of-Competition Waiver

**Facts of the Case:** SA competed in minimal contests during 2016-17 seasons due to mitigating circumstances and multiple documented hardships.

**Institutional Request:** Institution is requesting the Association to consider the mitigating factors of this case and grant the SA a season of competition waiver due to limited participation.

**Decision:** Approved. SA is immediately eligible for all competition opportunities for an additional year.

**Rationale:** The IRA recognizes the SA's challenging 2016-17 academic year and applauds the institution in its diligence in providing necessary documentation and finding NCAA case precedence for reference and consideration. It was noted the Association assumes the season will be utilized in the 2019-20 academic year. If that should change additional follow up and discussion will be required.