AMATEURISM

An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual:

A. Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
B. Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
C. Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received;
D. Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skill or participation;
E. Competes on any professional athletics team even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received;
F. Agrees in writing or verbally to be represented by an agent for purposes of marketing his/her athletic ability;
G. Accepts (or a friend or family member accepts) any benefit (e.g., transportation, dinner, cash, gift, etc.) from an agent or runner or anyone interested in marketing the individual’s athletics ability. Information, as it relates to agents, can be obtained from the Compliance Office; or
H. Places his/her name on the draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport. Except as follows:

• In the sport of men’s basketball, an enrolled student-athlete may enter a professional league’s draft one time without jeopardizing eligibility in basketball, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares his intention to resume intercollegiate participation no later than the end of the day before the first day of the spring NLI signing period. This intention must be declared in writing to the institution’s director of athletics.
• In the sport of football, an enrolled student-athlete may enter the National Football League draft one time without jeopardizing eligibility in football, provided the student-athlete is not drafted and the student-athlete declares his intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 72 hours following the NFL’s draft declaration date. This intention must be declared in writing to the institution’s director of athletics.
• In the sport of women’s basketball, an enrolled student-athlete may enter a professional league’s draft one time without jeopardizing eligibility in basketball, provided the student-athlete is not drafted by any team in that league and the student-athlete declares her intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 30 days after the draft. The student-athlete’s declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution’s director of athletics.
• An enrolled student-athlete in a sport other than basketball or football may enter a professional league’s draft on time during his or her collegiate career without jeopardizing his or her eligibility
in the applicable sport, provided the student-athlete is not drafted and within 72 hours following the draft he or she declares his or her intention to resume participation in intercollegiate athletics. The student-athlete’s declaration of intent shall be in writing to the institution’s director of athletics.

• An individual will also lose amateur status if he/she accepts any form of “pay” which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  • Cash, or the equivalent thereof, as an award for participation in competition at any time;
  • Any payment conditioned on the student-athlete’s or team’s place finish or performance, or given on an incentive basis that exceeds actual and necessary expenses, or receipt of expenses in excess of the same reasonable amount of permissible expenses given to all individuals or team members involved in the competition;
  • Expenses received from an outside sponsor (e.g., team, neighbor or business) other than an agent, a pro-sports team or a booster in excess of actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses, and apparel and equipment for competition and practice;

As with many compliance issues, amateurism questions are very fact-specific. Therefore, it is important to remember that the examples given above are merely a few of the common amateurism problems that arise. If a student-athlete is unsure of what to do in a particular situation, he or she should contact the Compliance Office or their team’s head coach as soon as possible. If action is taken without knowing the consequences, a student-athlete’s eligibility may be jeopardized.