Male Practice Players

Office of Compliance Services - University at Albany

This tip sheet is intended to provide a summary of NCAA rules related to male students practicing with women’s teams. Be sure to notify the Office of Compliance Services if you are planning on using male practice players. Please remember to contact the Office of Compliance Services if you have any questions as the applicable NCAA, Conference, and University at Albany rules change over time.

NCAA Bylaw 11.01.6 Manager; NCAA Bylaw 12.7.5 Eligibility Requirements for Male Students to Practice with Women’s Teams; NCAA Division I Education Column – Proposal No. 2013-3 Playing and Practice Seasons – Summer Athletic Activities – Women’s Basketball (I), April 12, 2013; NCAA Division I Staff Interpretation – Use of Male Students During Women’s Basketball Summer Athletic Activities (I), April 26, 2013; NCAA Division I Staff Interpretation, Male Student Who Regularly Practices with an Institution’s Women’s Team & Traveling Expenses, November 13, 2002

Male Practice Players vs. Student Managers [NCAA Bylaw 11.01.6]

- Male Practice Players may not serve as Student Managers
- Student Managers may not serve as Male Practice Players

Eligibility for Participation [NCAA Bylaw 12.7.5]

- Must be certified as eligible for practice in accordance with all applicable NCAA eligibility regulations:
  - Must be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies (12 credits) (NCAA14.2.1);
  - Must have eligibility remaining under the five-year/10-semester rule (NCAA 12.8);
  - Must sign the NCAA drug-testing consent form;
  - Must be included on the institution’s NCAA Squad List;
  - Must have their academic eligibility certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center (first year students)

Note: Continuing students who already have completed a year of residence (current sophomore who spent their entire freshman year at institution) do not have to go through the NCAA Eligibility Center for academic certification.

- No Amateurism Certification – Male practice players don’t have to have any amateurism certification done, either by the NCAA Eligibility Center or on-campus.

- A male student-athlete who is a participant in a men's sport may not engage in practice sessions with an institution's women's team in any sport.

- It is not permissible for a male student-athlete who is serving an academic year of residence as a non-qualifier to participate in practice sessions with a women's team.
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- It is permissible for a male practice player to participate in summer athletic activities with women’s basketball student-athletes, provided the practice players are enrolled in summer school or meet the academic requirements exception to enrollment and are not receiving any form of financial assistance from the Athletics Department (NCAA Staff Interp. April 26, 2013).

Practice Activities & Other CARA (countable athletically related activities)

- If a male student-athlete is involved in skill-related instruction with a women’s team, he must be included in the permissible number of student-athletes permitted to be involved in such instruction at any one time in any facility.

Expenses, Employment Compensation, & Financial Aid

- It is not permissible for an institution to provide male students financial assistance (room and board, tuition and fees, and books) in return for practicing with a women’s team.

- A male student who is receiving financial aid or any compensation for serving in any position in the Athletics Department may not practice with a women's team (e.g. tutor, facilities, help desk, etc).
  - Male practice players may not serve as paid student managers.
  - Male practice players may not be employed in the Athletics Department.

- Male practice players may not receive expenses to attend away-from-home competitions.

- It is not permissible to place a male student-athlete in the position of a team manager for the purpose of receiving expenses to practice with the women’s team on away-from-home competitions.

- It is not permissible for an institution to provide male students room and board to remain on campus during a vacation period to participate in practice sessions with a women’s team.

Apparel & Other Benefits

- **Apparel.** It is permissible for an institution to provide practice apparel to male students for the purpose of practicing with a women's team.

- **Team Banquets.** It is up to institutional discretion as to whether or not male practice players may attend the team banquet and receive a complimentary meal.