Compliance in the News

Stanford Football Player got impermissible benefits; Softball sanctioned for practice-time violations

Stanford was sanctioned for practice-time violations by the school’s softball team, according to an NCAA statement released Thursday that also noted a football player had received impermissible benefits.

Stanford already had self-imposed reductions in practice time — both in season and out — when it reported the violations of former longtime head softball coach John Rittman, who resigned in 2014. But the NCAA ruled the penalties did not go far enough, so it also imposed a $5,000 fine and Stanford was issued a public reprimand.

Two boosters provided a football player with nearly $3,500 of extra benefits, including a loan to purchase a bicycle, free use of a vehicle, meals and the use of a vacation home, according to Stanford and the NCAA. The player lived with the booster as part of a short-term housing program, one that gave players a place to stay as they searched for housing in the summer months.

The football player, who was not named, was given a one-game suspension by Stanford.

“The NCAA investigation explored whether there was a possibility of other violations,” Stanford said in its statement. “No other violations were addressed in the report.

“Recognizing the risks of these housing arrangements, the university revised its policy and now prohibits student-athletes from renting local housing during the summer. Student-athletes are now housed on campus. The university has provided additional education to community members and boosters regarding impermissible benefits.”

FAFSA Application

The 2017-18 FAFSA can be completed starting October 1st three months earlier. Please go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your FAFSA.

Upcoming Holidays and Practice Hours

Two upcoming holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, start and/or end during the middle of a day. If classes take part during any time during a day, practice hour limitations still apply. If no classes are in-session during the day, then practice hour limitations would not apply. This means that only on October 3rd & 12th do practice hour limitations NOT apply for those teams in-season.

Spot the Violation

Jump Serve is a 2016 volleyball recruit, who has come to Albany on her Official Visit. In the last couple of hours before her visit ends, the team really wants to show Jump how teams at UAlbany support each other, so the team decides to join up with the Women’s Soccer team and their recruit and take them both to the Men’s Soccer game. Because it gets pretty chilly down at Casey Stadium, one of the girls on the team gives Jump an Albany hoodie to wear to the game. The game is great and Albany wins! Shortly after, Jump’s mom comes to pick her up and the visit ends. Jump loves her new Albany hoodie.

Answer on next page.
**Student-Athlete Employment Reminders**

As a student-athlete, it is permissible for you to work during the academic year. However, please remember that you need to complete a Student-Athlete Employment Form on ARMS located in the Workflow Launchpad under Student-Athlete Forms. Please contact the Office of Compliance Services with any questions.

**Employers MAY:**
- Employ student-athletes that are eligible to work (even if the job was arranged by an athletics department staff member or booster).
- Compensate student-athletes for work actually performed.
- Compensate student-athletes at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar services.

**Employers MAY NOT:**
- Provide student-athletes with benefits or perks not provided to all employees in that job title and description (e.g., use of an automobile, free or reduced cost housing, arrangement for a loan).
- Provide transportation to and from the work site, unless all employees in that position receive such transportation.
- Compensate student-athletes for the value or utility that they have for your business because of the publicity, reputation, fame or personal following that they have obtained because of athletics ability.

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**Important Dates**
- October 7th – Applications due for Fall 2016 graduation
- October 19th – Advanced registration begins for Winter ‘16 & Spring ’17
- October 26th – Last day to drop 8 week 2 course with 0% liability
- October 27th – Last day to add 8 week 2 course

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**Spot the Violation Answer:**

It is permissible to lend a recruit any clothing, gear, or equipment on their Official Visit. However, the lender must get whatever was lent back from the recruit before the end of the visit and/or before he/she leaves campus.

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**Melissa Peach**
Associate Athletics Director for Compliance
mpeach@albany.edu
518-442-3005
@UAlbanyBylaws

**Jose Genao**
Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance
jgenao@albany.edu
518-442-3045