

Athletics Compliance Office



University of Notre Dame

November 2012

Once a Booster, Always a Booster

You may be tempted to believe that nominal donations made by an alumni to his institution's booster club twenty years ago would not interfere with the eligibility of two incoming student-athletes. But this was not the case for Mark Adams, a former Indiana University alum and current AAU basketball coach. From 1986 to 1992 Adams donated \$185 to Indiana University in seven installments for IU Alumna stickers for his wife's car. The three largest gifts were \$30 and the smallest was \$20. Since making these contributions, Adams went on to found A-HOPE, a not-for-profit organization that assists athletes from foreign countries reach their dreams of playing college athletics in the United States. In particular, Adams assisted IU freshmen Peter Jurkin and Hanner Mosquera-Perea with food, clothing, housing, travel, toiletries, and additional items while IU coaches recruited them. Consequently, the NCAA imposed a nine game suspension on these freshmen players, as well as requiring that they pay back a portion of the funding they received from Adams.

Despite the fact that monetary contributions were made to Indiana University's Athletics Department over twenty years ago and were minimal in nature, they still make Adams a booster under NCAA rules and render his financial assistance to these prospective student-athletes "improper benefits." The NCAA's recent ruling illustrates that boosters maintain their status forever, without regard to the nature or timeframe of their donations. In very limited circumstances, the NCAA does permit prospective student-athletes to receive reasonable living expenses from an individual with whom the student-athlete has a well established, long term relationship (an AAU coach, as in this case, might qualify). However, the NCAA's recent ruling painfully demonstrates that this rule could not apply to those individuals who have triggered booster status at a member institution by making prior financial contributions to a booster club or athletics department.

By The Numbers:

- **10** The number Notre Dame programs currently ranked in the top 25
- **28** The number of student-athletes who earned a perfect 4.0 term GPA following spring 2012
- **212** The number of student-athletes who earned a 3.5 or higher term GPA after spring 2012
- **7,574** The number of online compliance forms completed by student-athletes during the summer of 2012
- **17,735** The number of views the compliance video, Leave the Recruiting to Us, received this fall on YouTube

Around the Office...

Strangest request for NCAA Student-Athlete Opportunity Funding?

Bagpipe lessons from, you guessed it, a men's lacrosse athlete.

Waiving the Rules

The Compliance Office filed 86 waivers in 2011-12 to advocate for student-athletes and coaches; only 3 were denied by the NCAA

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Around the NCAA

Presidential Working Group Updates

- **The Committee on Academic Performance.** In October 2011, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors adopted new initial eligibility standards for prospective student-athletes entering a full-time collegiate program on or after August 1, 2016. Prospects must meet minimum academic standards to be eligible for competition during their initial year of college enrollment. The two primary components that have changed are the sliding scale index (core-course cumulative grade point average and corresponding standardized test score) and the progression of high school core-courses required by the NCAA. A prospect who meets the NCAA standards may receive financial aid, practice and compete during their initial year. A non-qualifier, termed an Academic Redshirt, can receive financial aid and practice on-campus in their first semester. To continue practicing in their second term, an Academic Redshirt must earn 9 credit hours during their first term. Academic Redshirts may not compete during their initial year of enrollment.
- **The Enforcement Working Group.** The NCAA Presidential Enforcement Working Group was charged in 2011-12 with analyzing the current NCAA violation process and penalty structures. As a result of a lengthy study focusing on member institution feedback, the working group proposed a violation reporting and penalty structure based on the principles of fairness, accountability and integrity. Key areas of change include:
 - **The Violation Structure.** Level I through Level IV violations have been defined, replacing the current two-tiered approach that includes secondary and major violations.
 - **The Process.** A more streamlined, timely process was introduced as a result of doubling the Committee on Infractions membership. Additionally, the recent experience and diversity of the committee has broadened.
 - **The Penalty Structure.** Gone are the days of staff members mentally weighing the advantage gained for committing a violation in light of an insignificant penalty imposed. A set range of core standard penalties have been introduced; standard penalties can be adjusted for mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances.
 - **Head Coach Accountability.** Head coaches are responsible for promoting an atmosphere of compliance in their programs and monitoring the behavior of their staffs. Head coaches are now subject to suspension in Level I, Level II and possibly in Level III infractions cases.

Under new academic thresholds taking effect in 2016, 35% of football players and 43% of men's basketball players who entered college in 2009 would not have qualified to compete during their initial year of eligibility

“We wanted people to not be sitting there doing the kind of risk-reward calculus that people do when they’re about to break rules. We wanted to say, Look, if you violate our rules, the penalties are going to be more severe and they’re going to come more swiftly.” - NCAA President Mark Emmert