

# Athletics Compliance Office



University of Notre Dame  
October 2011

## Transforming Intercollegiate Athletics

NCAA President Mark Emmert held a Division I Presidential Retreat in August that set the tone for athletics reform. Following the retreat, five working groups were created to address core concepts related to intercollegiate athletics. Some concepts could be adopted as early as October 25 when presented to the NCAA Board of Directors.

The five established groups focus on the areas of: resource allocation; student-athlete well-being; NCAA rules; NCAA enforcement; and academic performance.

### Resource Allocation

Preliminary recommendations from the Resource Allocation Group include a reduction in basketball and football scholarships, elimination of both non-traditional competition and foreign travel, and a reduction in non-coaching staff positions.

### Student-Athlete Well-Being

The Committee on Student-Athlete Well-Being, on which Jack Swarbrick serves, is considering permissible multi-year GIAs and ath-

letics aid awards up to the Cost of Attendance or \$2,000, whichever is less.

### Collegiate Model-Rules

The Collegiate Model — Rules Working Group is primarily reviewing current NCAA bylaws and proposals to determine whether they are meaningful, support student-athlete success, and are enforceable. Most believe significant “deregulation” is imminent.

### Collegiate Model-Enforcement

The Enforcement Working Group is considering a multi-level violation and penalty structure, and is reevaluating the NCAA’s entire enforcement and investigative process.

### Committee on Academic Performance

The Committee on Academic Performance is focusing on improving academic success by considering increased initial eligibility and transfer standards, a rise in the APP

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### By The Numbers:

- **7,574** The number of compliance forms completed online by student-athletes during a 2 month period
- **570** The number of post-cards mailed to local hotels, restaurants and miscellaneous establishments in August reminding the community of NCAA rules
- **123** The number of education sessions conducted by the compliance staff through October of the 2011 calendar year

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## Athletics Reform

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benchmark to 930, and amending the penalty structure to include a post season ban when the 930 benchmark is not met. The increase to initial eligibility standards also would include an introduction of 10 core courses by the seventh semester of high school and more rigorous standards for competition eligibility in the first academic year as student-athletes are acclimating to college life.

At least two committees will be included on the October 25 Board of Directors agenda when Student-Athlete Well-Being and Academic Performance initiatives are heard.

## Technology Update

Thanks to a partnership with JumpForward Proactive Compliance Solutions, many once cumbersome processes have gone paperless!

### **Interactive Student-Athlete Forms**

Student-athletes were prompted in mid-July to login and complete anywhere from nine to twelve required NCAA compliance forms online. In previous years, the forms were completed during the mandatory team education sessions hosted by compliance. The driving force behind the change was the need to collect accurate, time sensitive information from student-athletes, and to improve our ability to audit such information. Online submission of forms by student-athletes allowed the Compliance Office to enhance education sessions, which included more material and more pertinent examples to illustrate NCAA rules. Student-athletes were found to be more attentive and interactive, and they offered positive feedback about the online form experience. Student-athletes should expect this process to continue and, most notably, be more streamlined and timely in 2012.

### **Recruiting Visit Forms**

Paperwork associated with official and unofficial prospective student-athlete campus visits has also moved online. Essentially, the entire process from prior approval to post-visit reports may be completed online by coaches. Additional documents such as transcripts and test scores may be uploaded. Forms may be viewed and approved immediately by compliance staff lifting phone call restrictions during official visits.

### **CARA Logs**

Online CARA (Countable Athletically Related Activity) Logs are now also available via the JumpForward coaches portal. Weekly schedules may be created and approved in a multistep process that is transparent for coaches and compliance and allows for student-athletes, student managers, strength and sports medicine staff to verify logs when prompted by email.

Please contact the Compliance Office for online form training or to schedule a demonstration of additional technology initiatives (online questionnaires, mass branded email) with JumpForward.

**JumpForward's Nate Noel is scheduled to visit campus on Tuesday, October 25.**

## National Letter of Intent

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Final</u>
Early Period—Basketball & all other sports not listed	November 9	November 16
Football (Regular Period)	February 1	April 1
Soccer, Cross Country, Track & Field	February 1	August 1
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 11	May 16
Regular Period—All other sports not listed	April 11	August 1



## In the Pipeline

### The NCAA News—Major Infractions

- Louisiana State's major infraction report was released in July and centers on benefits provided to prospective student-athlete Akiem Hicks during his unofficial visit and while living in the vicinity of campus. Former receivers coach DJ McCarthy directed student workers to transport Hicks to and from campus and the airport on several occasions and provided transportation directly to Hicks on more than one occasion. McCarthy violated ethical conduct legislation when he did not disclose an unofficial visit to the football or compliance staff and made impermissible telephone calls to prospects on a second cell phone not disclosed to the department or the NCAA after three interviews. Two additional football coaches inadvertently caused violations of telephone call legislation as a direct result of McCarthy not disclosing his second cell phone call log to compliance or his colleagues.
- A common theme of the September 13 Boise State public infractions report surrounded international prospective student-athletes receiving impermissible benefits such as meals, lodging and transportation while living in the vicinity of campus prior to full time enrollment. In one instance, an academic non-qualifier track and field prospective student-athlete arrived in Boise with \$30 and 2 changes of clothing, prompting student-athletes to provide impermissible lodging, meals and clothing. Moreover, the football program had encouraged student-athletes to "house" prospective student-athletes the summer prior to full time enrollment as they participated in voluntary conditioning activities. Track and Field and Men's and Women's Tennis coaches also facilitated reduced or cost-free housing arrangements for prospects as they arrived in Boise prior to orientation. It would have been permissible for a prospect to contact a student-athlete on his or her own initiative to make short-term housing arrangements.



## In the Pipeline

### The NCAA News

- No major violations of NCAA rules were found at Auburn following the 13-month investigation stemming from a pay-for-play allegation involving Cam Newton's father, Cecil. Also unsubstantiated were the allegations of impermissible benefits received by 4 Auburn football players on HBO's Real Sports "Dirty Money". 80 interviews conducted by the NCAA confirmed statements from Cam Newton and the university that there was no knowledge of conversations facilitated by Cecil Newton.
- Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean self-reported an impermissible contact violation that occurred on October 6 at an Indianapolis high school, one day after the completion of the published Contact Period. October 6 was the beginning of an Evaluation Period in basketball (a coach may view contests but have no in-person contact with PSAs off-campus).
- Inadvertent text messaging and "pocket dialing" were cited for numerous phone call violations at Georgia. Six violations in 5 sports were self-reported to the NCAA during a 2-month period. Coaches from Men's Basketball, Football, Gymnastics, Softball and Volleyball all accidentally responded to PSA text messages (when attempting to forward to other coaches or even in one instance the compliance office staff!) or inadvertently "pocket dialed" prospects. Text messages may not be sent to PSAs until the calendar day after they've signed the NLI and the accidental "pocket dialing" put coaches over their permissible 1 call per week limit to affected PSAs. Georgia coaches use paper phone logs.
- Wisconsin wide receiver Nick Toon violated NCAA rules when he commented to the media about prospective student-athlete and former North Carolina State quarterback, Russell Wilson. According to the NCAA, institutions may only confirm the recruitment of a prospect (even a potential transfer student) and make no additional comments until it is permissible to send an official release. Toon, whose interview was not cleared through athletics, embellished about Wilson's talent and fit at UW.

Check out our newest compliance video on [ncaacompliance.nd.edu](http://ncaacompliance.nd.edu)!

