

# The Irish Interpreter



University of Notre Dame April 2011  
Athletics Compliance Office

## Ethical Conduct

If you read this entire newsletter and remember only one thing, let it be this: The Compliance Office exists to ensure that student-athletes and athletic programs remain eligible to compete. We encourage questions; It is our responsibility to proactively answer them.

Promoting an atmosphere of compliance at an institution is the responsibility of all individuals associated with athletics. Ethical conduct is an expectation and includes the sharing of information with the appropriate staff.

In April 2010 Jim Tressel was allegedly made aware via more than one email that several of his athletes were selling and trading their gear and participation awards for money and extra benefits such as discounted tattoos. An investigation by Ohio State did not take place until eight months later in December 2010 when the institution was made aware of the possible violations by the US Attorney's Office following a federal drug-trafficking probe involving Edward Rife and Fine Line Ink Tattoos in Columbus. Rife was found in possession of OSU football gear once belonging to 5 Buckeye student-athletes, including Terrelle Pryor.

If Tressel failed to communicate possible violations to his compliance staff, he could be charged by the NCAA with a failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance, failure to monitor, and unethical behavior. Thus far, he and OSU have self-imposed a five game suspension equivalent to that passed down from the NCAA reinstatement staff to Pryor and teammates Thomas, Posey, Herron and Adams. Tressel has also paid \$250,000 in fines.

Tressel, a head football coach for 25 years, stated during a March 8 news conference that he was protecting his players by not breaking the confidentiality of the federal case. While he may not have shared the information with his AD or compliance staff, it is now being reported that he allegedly alerted Pryor's mentor, Ted Sarniak, of Jeannette, PA. Should this be proven, it may dispel any assumptions that Tressel didn't take the allegations seriously or didn't personally read the April emails (which were responded to).

The NCAA investigation is ongoing.

### By The Numbers:

- **5,500** The number of hits the widely popular Cool Talk with Joey Brooks compliance video recorded on YouTube (stay tuned as 2 additional videos are currently in production)
- **2** The number of National Championship titles earned by Irish teams thus far during this academic year. In 2004-05 Fencing & Women's Soccer also jointly celebrated championship titles
- **1** The number of compliance programs praised by Luke Winn of Sports Illustrated for producing a "cool" public service announcement

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## Summer Policies

### Financial Aid

Summer aid may be issued to student-athletes attending the institution's summer session pursuant to the equivalency received during the previous academic year. Should a student-athlete attend only one full-time term during the previous academic year (mid-year enrollee, transfer student), summer aid may be equivalent to the full-time term attended. The recent passing of Proposal 2010-70 by the NCAA has opened up summer athletics aid to continuing student-athletes who will receive aid for the first time in the following term. According to the proposal, a continuing student may receive summer aid equivalent to the following term (2011-12) provided they did not receive athletics aid the previous year.

### Strength & Conditioning

Although student-athletes and prospects cannot participate in organized practice activities during the summer, they are permitted to participate in voluntary weightlifting and conditioning activities. The weight room may be open to student-athletes who are currently on an institutional roster, and to those prospective student-athletes who qualify (i.e., sign a National Letter of Intent, attending summer school) during the period they are attending the summer term. Only those individuals should be using the weight room.

Most athletic department weight rooms are not open to the general public. Therefore, prospective student-athletes that do not meet the exceptions to participate in voluntary conditioning activities may not use the athletic department's weight room.

A voluntary activity cannot include the presence of a coaching staff member (with safety exceptions), the recording of attendance, or the reporting of information back to a coaching staff member.

### Apparel

Workout apparel may be issued to prospective student-athletes participating in voluntary workouts conducted by regular strength and conditioning coaches while they attend the summer session prior to initial full-time enrollment in the fall term.

### Equipment

A student-athlete may retain and use athletics equipment during a summer vacation period (per the institution's normal equipment policy).

**NCAA Educational Column- March 18, 2004- Equipment and Apparel to Enrolled Student-Athletes and Prospects-** Division I institutions should note that a student-athlete may retain athletics apparel items (not equipment) at the end of the individual's collegiate participation. Used equipment may be **purchased** by the student-athlete on the same cost basis as by any other individual interested in purchasing such equipment and may be offered to student-athletes before other interested parties are aware of the opportunity to purchase the equipment.

Further, it is not permissible to sell equipment to prospective student-athletes unless the sale of equipment is made available to the general public. The sale of equipment must be publicized to the public generally and made available to all individuals on the same terms and conditions.

### Media

**NCAA Staff Interpretation- July 17, 2009-Member Institution Arranging for Media Interviews with Prospective Student-Athletes Participating in Voluntary Summer Workouts Conducted by Strength and Conditioning Coach (I)**

It is permissible for a member institution to arrange for media outlets to conduct interviews with a prospective student-athlete during the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment, provided the prospective student-athlete is on campus and permitted to participate in voluntary summer workouts conducted by an institution's strength and conditioning coach.

## Summer Camps

### Institutional Camps—Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** May a coach invite particular prospects to a camp?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the institution legitimately advertises the camp, making it open to all entrants limited only by number and age. [NCAA Staff Interp 8/19/1988]

**Question:** May one of the institution's coaching staff members employed at the camp work exclusively with certain prospects (e.g., prospects invited to camp, high profile prospects participating in camp)?

**Answer:** No, it is not permissible for an institution's coach to work exclusively with certain prospective student-athletes, inasmuch as such selective tutelage would constitute a special arrangement for the prospective student-athletes. [NCAA Staff Interp 8/19/1988]

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## In the Pipeline

### The NCAA News

- Baylor freshmen forward Perry Jones III was declared ineligible for participation by the NCAA just hours before the Bears were to take the court with Oklahoma in the opener of the Big 12 Conference Tournament. Jones, a two time freshmen All-American from Duncanville, Texas, was benched after an NCAA investigation alleged that his mother received three 15-day loans from an AAU coach while Jones was a prospect. Jones also accepted travel expenses from the same coach to attend a preseason football game in San Diego while in high school. Baylor administration cited no knowledge of the receipt of improper benefits by the family and filed for reinstatement immediately.
- Ray Drew, a five star defensive end prospect, held a news conference at his high school on January 28 as he committed to play football at Georgia. No harm done until two former Bulldogs and representatives of athletics interests, Randall Godfrey and David Pollack, took to the podium during the media event. As a result, Georgia has self-reported 5 NCAA secondary recruiting violations to the SEC including the off-campus recruitment of a prospect by non-countable coaches and comments concerning the recruitment of a prospect before the signing of an NLI.
- A photograph featuring Arkansas basketball coach John Pelphrey and two 2012 prospects has surfaced on the internet. The photo was allegedly taken last December at a tournament in Conway, Arkansas which featured the prospective student-athletes. NCAA Bylaws preclude a coach from engaging in off-campus contact with a PSA (or their family) until July 1 following the completion of their junior year in high school. Incidental contact cannot be argued while attending the site of an organized competition including prospects, regardless of the content of the conversation that takes place. Recall the Bruce Pearl Tennessee investigation stemmed from a photograph of Pearl with then prospect Aaron Craft during impermissible off-campus contact in 2008 while Craft was a junior.

## Summer Camps

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**Question:** May AWARDS and MERCHANDISE be provided to prospects during institutional sports camps and clinics?

**Answer:** Prospective student-athletes may receive awards from an institution's sports camp or clinic, with the understanding that the cost of such awards is included in the admissions fees charged for participants in the camp or clinic. It is not permissible to provide free mementos to prospective student-athletes and high school coaches for participating in an institution's sports camp or clinic, unless the value of the memento is included as part of the admission price of the camp or clinic, and it is provided to all participants in the camp or clinic.

**Question:** May the media interview prospects who are attending our summer camps (which are open to the general public)?

**Answer:** Per NCAA Bylaw 13.10.4 an institution shall not publicize (or arrange for publicity of) a prospect's visit to the institution's campus; therefore, it is not permissible for you to arrange interviews between the prospects attending the camps and any member of the media.

**Question:** May a camp counselor arrange a campus tour for registered campers?

**Answer:** A campus tour may include only those facilities that will be utilized for the camp (e.g., dining hall, athletic fields, dormitory) without it being considered a recruiting visit function.

### Non-Institutional Camp Reminders

Non-institutional camps and clinics must be operated in accordance with restrictions applicable to an institutional camp (open to any/all entrants, no free or reduced admission to or employment of athletics award winners). Employment must be reported to Compliance for *prior approval* on the **Non-Institutional Camp Employment Form**.

No Athletics Department staff member may be employed (salaried or volunteer) in any capacity by a camp or clinic established, sponsored or conducted by an individual or organization that provides **recruiting or scouting services** concerning prospects. Staff members can serve as officials at such camps.

### The NCAA Coaches Practice Exam is Available Online

The 2011 NCAA Coaches Certification Exam will be administered in early June and schedule information is forthcoming. In the meantime, brush up on legislation and view newly passed proposals while practicing for the exam. As a reminder, countable coaches, volunteer coaches, and individuals serving in a sport specific director, graduate assistant, or intern position are required to pass the exam. In order to access the practice exam:

**Login to [naia.org](http://naia.org)**

**Click Governance > Compliance > Coaches Recruiting Test (for coaches)**