MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Transfer 101

Recently the University of Miami has been in the news regarding the transfer status of a football student-athlete. According to news reports, the university placed restrictions on which institutions the student-athlete could transfer to. Per NCAA legislation, institutions have the ability to place restrictions on a student-athlete's request to transfer.

In order for a student-athlete to be able to contact a second four-year institution regarding the possibility of transferring, the student-athlete must receive "permission to contact" from his/her original institution. Permission to contact is the first step in the transfer process. Per NCAA legislation, a coach may not make contact (written or by telephone) with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year institution without first obtaining the written permission of the first institution. If permission is not granted, the second institution shall not encourage the transfer. If an institution denies a student-athlete's request for permission to contact a second institution, the first institution must provide the student-athlete with the opportunity for a hearing. It is permissible for a student-athlete to transfer without having received permission to contact from the first institution; however, the student-athlete may not receive athletically related financial aid from the second institution for one academic year.

In general, when a student-athlete transfers from one four-year institution to another, he/she is not eligible for competition until the student-athlete fulfills one academic year in residence at the second institution. One exception to this rule is the one-time transfer exception. In order to qualify for the one-time transfer exception the student-athlete must meet all of the following conditions:

- Participates in a sport other than baseball, basketball, football bowl subdivision or men's ice hockey;
- The student-athlete has not transferred previously from another four-year institution (unless the student was enrolled at an institution that did not sponsor or discontinued the sport);
- The student-athlete is in good academic standing and meets progress-toward-degree requirements. The student must have been academically eligible to compete at the first institution had he/she remained; and
- The first institution states that it has no objection to the one-time transfer exception.

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Find the Infraction

Facts: A local high school’s parent teacher organization is organizing a fundraiser to raise money to purchase new computers for the high school. The PTO has solicited donations from various organizations including All State University’s athletics department. In an effort to help the local high school the athletics department provides the PTO with a basketball and football autographed by the respective head coaches.

Infractions: An institution may not provide funding directly or indirectly to assist a high school in fundraising for any group (e.g., athletics, band, choir, drama). Therefore, it would not be permissible for an athletics department to provide autographed memorabilia to the PTO to be used in the fundraiser.

Transfer 101 Continued

A student-athlete who participates in one of the above mentioned sports may qualify for the one-time transfer exception if he/she was not recruited by the original four-year institution and has never received athletically related financial aid from any four-year institution.

If the student-athlete does not qualify for or the institution does not grant the one-time exception, the student-athlete must serve one academic year in residence at the second four-year institution before he/she will be eligible for competition.

Compliance A to Z

K - Know the Rules!

Michigan State University appreciates your support of our athletics program. Your commitment to understanding the importance of adhering to NCAA, Big Ten and institutional rules helps us maintain our tradition of excellence and integrity. Got questions? Ask Compliance!

L - Loan

Boosters may not provide a student-athlete with a loan of money or a guarantee of a bond. In addition, boosters may not sign or cosign a note with an outside agency to arrange a loan for a student-athlete.

M - Meals

Boosters may not provide a student-athlete with a meal free of charge or at a reduced rate. The one exception to this rule is a booster may provide a student-athlete or an entire team with an occasional home meal. The meal must be provided in the booster’s home (as opposed to a restaurant) and may be catered. Boosters must receive approval from the Office of Compliance Services PRIOR to providing a student-athlete with an occasional meal. Failure to obtain approval may result in an NCAA Rules violation.

Did You Know?

Did you know that in order to be a Football Bowl Subdivision institution (formerly known as I-A) the institution must sponsor a minimum of 16 varsity sports including football. The institution must average 15,000 in actual or paid attendance for all home football games. At least 60% of the football team’s competitions must be against other Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) members, including a minimum of four home contests against FBS opponents. The football team may play one contest against a Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) opponent, provided the opponent has averaged 90% of the maximum grant-in-aids over a rolling two-year period. The FBS institution must provide an average of at least 90% of football maximum grants over a rolling two-year period, and annually offer a minimum of 200 athletics grant-in-aids or $4 million total.

Hot Topic - Seventh Grade Hoopsters

The NCAA voted this past week to change the definition of a men’s basketball prospective student-athlete from a student who has started classes for the ninth grade to a student who has started classes for the seventh grade. The new definition of a men’s basketball prospect applies only to NCAA tryout legislation and the regulations related to camps and clinics. The change in legislation addresses a recent trend of some men’s basketball college coaches working at private, elite camps for seventh and eighth graders. Schools had expressed concerns that college coaches were receiving a recruiting advantage while working these younger-age elite camps. The new legislation is effective immediately.
Division I Committee on Infractions Issues Decision on Alabama State University. Alabama State University was penalized for major and secondary violations in its athletics program, primarily in football. The case involves a lack of institutional control, failure to monitor by the former head football coach and violations in several areas including academic fraud, extra benefits, as well as ineligible participation and financial aid. Some of the findings of the Committee on Infractions are as follows:

- Numerous student-athletes were allowed to practice, compete and receive athletics aid while ineligible. The involved sports include football, men's and women's basketball and baseball. These student-athletes were ineligible for a variety of reasons including failure to designate a degree program prior to the start of their fifth semester; erroneous application of percentage-of-degree legislation; erroneous certification based on grade-point average calculation; failure to enroll in a minimum full-time program of studies; and failure to meet transfer requirements.
- Several prospective and current football student-athletes received impermissible inducements and extra benefits in the form of lodging, utilities and/or meals at no cost and free long distance telephone calls.
- Institutional staff members arranged for fraudulent academic credit for several football players. Specifically, the staff members changed a failing grade to a passing grade without prior written authorization from the course instructor and institutional administrators. Several of the football athletes who received the grade changes became eligible for competition based on the improved grade.
- Members of the football coaching staff engaged in impermissible recruiting activities including impermissible contact, impermissible meals and transportation, excessive entertainment monies and official visit violations.

Based on the violations in this case, the committee found the university exhibited a lack of institution control over its football program due to a general lack of compliance education and monitoring institution-wide. The committee stated that the university created an environment that facilitated violations of NCAA rules across several university departments. The committee also found that the former head coach failed to monitor his and his staff’s activities for NCAA rules compliance and failed to maintain an atmosphere of compliance among his staff and within the football program.

The penalties, some of which were self-imposed by the institution and adopted by the committee, are as follows: public reprimand and censure; five years of probation ending December 2013; two-year show-cause order for the former head football coach ending December 2010; no postseason competition for the 2009 football season; reduction of official paid visits in football during the 2003-05 academic years from 56 to 46; reduction in football scholarships to 58.74 during the 2004-05 academic year and 54.11 during the 2005-06 academic year from the limit of 63; withheld all football coaches from engaging in recruiting activities for two weeks in December 2003; reduce the total number of student-athletes who can receive scholarship in the football program during the 2004-06 academic years by five for continuing athletes and ten for incoming athletes; forfeiture of all regular season football contests in the 2000 and 2001 seasons including the conference championship. [NCAA News 12/10/08]