

The Interpreter

March 2003



Changes to Title IX?



The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics appointed by President Bush began reviewing recommendations developed over the last six months for altering Title IX, which bans sex discrimination in educational programs, including athletics.

The recommendations are aimed at preserving the intent of Title IX, while addressing concerns that it is often enforced in a way that enhances female athletic opportunities at the expense of men. Male athletes have complained that smaller sports have been cut back as resources have been shifted to women's teams.

The most controversial proposal is permitting colleges and universities to limit the number of scholarships awarded to female athletes without regard to enrollment. Schools could devote as little as 43

percent of their athletic scholarships to women and still comply with the law... even though women comprise 55 percent of the enrollment at nation's colleges.

An alternative recommendation being considered would require schools to conduct regular surveys of female and male students' interests in competing in sports. Athletic opportunities would be pegged into the survey results.

Other recommendations conform more closely to current Title IX enforcement practices. One proposal would permit a 5-7 percentage point difference between the proportion of female athletes at a school and the percentage of women in the student body. Others would require that colleges have about the same percentage of female athletes that high schools in their region have.

There is also a proposal that calls on the U.S. Department of Education to move more quickly to sanction schools found to be out of compliance with the law. While the department fields complaints every year, no school has ever been denied federal funding for noncompliance.

The report also proposes phasing out the regulations that allow schools to comply by increasing athletic opportunities for women.

On January 30, 2003, the 15-member commission met to decide what proposals to send to the Education Secretary Rod Paige. The commission recommended changes that deal with roster spots, nonscholarship athletics and nontraditional students. The suggestions of the commission are fairly conservative, considering many of the proposals. They will be forwarded to Dr. Paige in early spring.

A Punt, A Dunk and A Bet: An Inside Look at College Sports Gambling

The Department of Athletics is co-sponsoring a conference entitled "A Punt, A Dunk and A Bet: An Inside Look at College Sports Gambling" on March 3 and 4, 2003. This conference is another step in our on-going educational efforts.

There will be feature speakers from the NCAA, the FBI, the Florida Council on Gambling and Benny Silman, a former student bookie.

There will be four sessions of the conference. Athletics department staff will be required to attend the 9-11 am session on March 3, while coaches and their teams, managers and trainers will be required to attend the 7-9 pm session on March 3.

March 3, 2003

9-11 am

First Session, opening remarks by Dave Hart, Director of Athletics

Primarily for Athletic Department Staff

Miller Hall, 3rd Floor, University Center C

2-4 pm

Second Session

Primarily for University Faculty and Staff

Miller Hall, 3rd Floor, University Center C

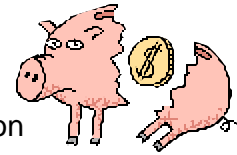


8-10 pm

Third Session

Primarily for students and student-athletes

Location
University Center B
Ballroom



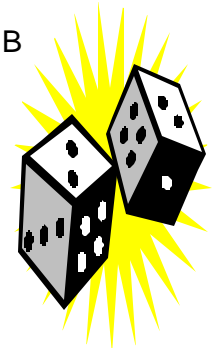
March 4, 2003

9-11 am

Fourth Session

For all groups unable to attend Monday sessions

Location
Thagard Student Health
Center, Conference Room,
3rd Floor



From the Interpretation File

Instant Messenger

Electronic interaction through instant messenger is considered a telephone call. Thus, if an institutional coaching staff member prearranges or initiates a conversation with a prospect, that conversation must be counted as an institutional telephone that week. However, consistent with the regulations regarding regular telephone calls, if the prospect initiates a conversation with a coaching staff member through instant messenger, the conversation is considered a

telephone call but does not count as an institutional telephone call that week.



Professional Team's Involvement with Collegiate Event

It is not permissible for a professional team's name to be used in the title of a collegiate event.

Sports Psychologist Attending Practice Sessions

It is permissible for a sports psychologist to attend practice sessions without including such an individual in the institution's coaching limitations, provided the individual does not participate in any coaching activities. The sports psychologist may evaluate a student-athlete during a practice session only for the purposes of assisting the student-athlete in off-court or off-field noncoaching activities (e.g., mental imagery) directly related to the sport.



In the News....



Possible Transfer Tampering

Former Bradley basketball star Danny Granger has transferred to the University of New Mexico. A coaching change placed Granger's former coach and recruiter, Duane Broussard, at New Mexico.

The Bradley staff contends that Broussard continued to keep in contact with Granger after he left Bradley. NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.3 states that a coach cannot talk with a student-athlete at another institution without permission from the institution's athletic director. Bradley has not given permission for New Mexico or any other school permission to talk with Granger.

It has not been decided whether Bradley will ask the NCAA to investigate the allegations.

More Transfer Questions

Washington State has asked for an investigation into Washington's recruitment of Carl Bonnell, who signed a letter of intent to play for Washington State a year ago and now plans to play for the Huskies.

The issue isn't whether Bonnell can enroll at Washington this fall, but whether the Huskies violated National Letter of Intent rules by contacting Bonnell when his letter of intent to Washington State was still binding.

The Pac-10 said that the Letter of Intent Steering Committee would determine if rules were broken.



High School Athlete Ruled Eligible by Judge

LeBron James, a high school athlete at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio, was ruled ineligible by the Ohio High School Athletic Association for violating amateur rules. James accepted two free jerseys from a local sports store valued at over \$800.

OHSAA Bylaw 4-10-1 (c) states "an amateur forfeits his or her amateur status by capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value."

Also at question was the purchase of a \$50,000 Hummer sport-utility vehicle. The OHSAA cleared James after an investigation of the purchase of the vehicle.

A Summit County Judge issued a temporary restraining order that will allow James to return to high school basketball. He must serve a two-game suspension. St. Vincent-St. Mary may choose what games he must sit.

James will probably be the number one draft pick in the NBA draft in June. If he decides to attend college instead, the NCAA may have some issues with their bylaws involving amateurism.

Terps Probe Possible Violations

The University of Maryland announced that it is investigating a possible recruiting violation by its football team.

The review is focusing on allegations that a high school football prospect was offered \$300 by a coach to attend the university.

The report says that the prospect accepted the money, returned it and ultimately decided to attend Notre Dame.



Academic Fraud at Fresno

A published report stated that former Fresno State men's basketball players had academic course work completed and term papers written that were paid for by money funneled through a Las Vegas sports agent.

The allegations occurred during the Jerry Tarkanian coaching era and involve at least three former players and a former academic advisor.

If verified by the NCAA, academic fraud violations carry one of the stiffest set of penalties.

RECRUITING CALENDAR

March



Football

March 1-31 Quiet

Men's Basketball

March 1-15 Eval/Quiet
March 16-22 Contact
March 23-31 Quiet

Women's Basketball

March 1-April 3 Quiet
Except 18 day contact period declared in writing.

Volleyball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Softball

March 1-31 Cont/Eval

Interpreter On-Line

The Interpreter can be found on-line at www.seminoles.com by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance", in the left column. The Interpreter icon is under the "What's New??" section. Past issues are archived here and contain more detailed information than space prohibits in the newsletter form.

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