

COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

ELIGIBILITY

Freshman Year - Initial Eligibility Standards

All freshmen must meet the NCAA standards for initial eligibility in order to be immediately eligible for practice, competition and athletic financial aid during their first year of school. In order to be a full qualifier (an individual who is eligible for all three things just mentioned), a student must meet a sliding scale that includes a core high school grade point average and a standardized test score. The scale ranges from a 2.0 GPA with a 1010 SAT (or an 86 ACT) to a 2.5+ GPA with an 820 SAT (or 68 ACT). For all freshmen (at all NCAA Division I and II schools), these requirements are certified through a central organization, the NCAA Clearinghouse. (Although this has the "NCAA" label attached to it, it is actually not a part of the NCAA national office staff. It is a separate organization both on paper and physically.)

Continuing Eligibility Standards

As you know, the academic standards do not end after one becomes eligible as a freshman. Once the individual becomes a "full-fledged" student-athlete at a university (i.e., after he or she has attended the first day of practice or classes), he or she must then begin to meet NCAA "continuing eligibility" or "satisfactory progress" regulations in order to be eligible for competition. Each year an individual progresses through school, the NCAA standards are somewhat different. Here is a breakdown of the NCAA requirements as an individual enters each year of school after the freshman year. (Thus, if the individual does not meet the noted requirements at the start of the given year, he/she will be ineligible for competition for at least the first semester of the academic year. The individual could "get healthy" or make up any academic deficiencies by the end of that semester and potentially re-gain eligibility for the beginning of the next semester. This is obviously only helpful in sports that encompass both semesters.)

Sophomore Year (Entering third semester)

- Twenty-four semester hours of credit prior to the start of the student-athlete's second year of collegiate enrollment
- Six-semester hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term

Junior Year (Entering fifth semester)

- Twenty-four semester hours of credit between the opening of classes for the fall of his/her sophomore year and the end of the summer session immediately preceding his/her junior year
- Seventy-five percent of these hours must be taken during the academic year
- Declare a specific degree program (major)
- Forty percent of the course requirements for the degree completed
- Maintain at least a 1.8 GPA
- Six-semester hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term

Senior Year (Entering seventh semester)

- Twenty-four hours of credit between the opening of classes for the fall of his/her junior year and the end of the summer session immediately preceding his/her senior year
- Seventy-five percent of these hours must be taken during the academic year
- Sixty percent of the requirements for his/her current specific degree program completed
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA
- Six-semester hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term

Fifth-Year (Entering ninth semester)

- Twenty-four hours of credit between the opening of classes for the fall of his/her senior year and the end of the summer session immediately preceding his/her fifth year
- Seventy-five percent of these hours must be taken during the academic year
- Eighty percent of the requirements for his/her current specific degree completed
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA
- Six-semester hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term

These are the standards student-athletes must meet in order to preserve their NCAA eligibility for competition. There are additional regulations all students at Coppin State must fulfill in order to remain in good academic standing. These regulations vary by the college in which the student is enrolled.

ELIGIBILITY

If you follow NCAA athletics closely, you have probably heard terms like eligibility, redshirt year, hardship waiver, medical redshirt year and five-year clock. But do you really know what they all mean? Below is a list of the key terms and their meanings in reference to our student-athletes:

Season of Eligibility: Also referred to as a season of competition. A season of eligibility is used as soon as a student-athlete participates in a competition with an outside team (i.e., any team that includes individuals who are not on the institution's team). A student-athlete could play for one down, one basket, one quarter, one game or a whole season and he or she would still use a whole season of eligibility.

As a general rule, student-athletes have four seasons of eligibility. Student-athletes who do not meet the initial eligibility standards to be an initial qualifier have three seasons of eligibility. A student-athlete who is considered an initial "partial qualifier" has the ability to "earn back" a fourth season of eligibility if he/she completes the requirements for his/her degree by the beginning of his/her fifth year of enrollment. An initial nonqualifier does not have the ability to do this. Neither a partial qualifier nor a nonqualifier may use a season of competition as a freshman if they are enrolled at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution.

Five-year clock: This is the five-year period of time during which a student-athlete may complete his/her three or four seasons of competition. The five-year clock begins when a student-athlete first enrolls at any college or university (including a two-year college) as a full-time student and attends the first day of classes. The five-year clock runs continuously from that day with only a few exceptions: official church missions, pregnancy, time served in the U.S. or foreign armed services, time served in recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government (e.g., the Peace Corps).

Extensions of the five-year clock: The NCAA may extend a student-athlete's five-year clock when a student-athlete has been deprived of two or more seasons of competition due to reasons beyond the control of the student-athlete or the institution he/she is attending (e.g., injuries during two seasons, financial difficulties that have caused the student-athlete to withdraw from school or his/her sport, natural disasters). When granted, these waivers provide a student-athlete an extra year in which to complete one of his/her four seasons of competition. These waivers do not result in a fifth or sixth year season of competition for the student-athlete. These waivers may not be officially requested and granted until the student-athlete has completed his/her five-year clock.

Redshirt: The term "redshirt" is not an official NCAA term. It is simply a reference to a year in which a student-athlete does not use a season of eligibility. This is usually a conscious decision made by the coaching staff so that an individual can have time to concentrate on academics, gain strength or gain knowledge of a sport.

Medical Redshirt: The term "medical redshirt" is not an official NCAA term either. It is also a reference to a year in which a student-athlete does not use a season of eligibility. As the term suggests, a "medical redshirt" occurs when the student-athlete does not compete due to an injury or illness. If a student-athlete actually competes during a given year and is then injured, he/she must apply for a medical hardship waiver so that he/she will not be charged with a season of eligibility.

Medical Hardship Waiver: This waiver allows a student-athlete to be granted an additional season of competition when he/she has participated in competition during a given year but subsequently suffers a season-ending injury. A student-athlete may qualify for this waiver when he/she has participated in 20% or less of his/her team's competitive events for the season, his/her participation occurred only during the first half of the season and he/she suffered a season ending injury. These waivers may not be officially requested and granted until the completion of the season in which the student-athlete was injured. Such waivers are granted through the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference office.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

Compliance with NCAA rules requires the effort of everyone associated with an institution's athletic program: institutional staff, faculty, students, student-athletes and athletic boosters. Do you know the rules related to enrolled student-athletes and extra benefits?

What is an extra benefit?

Any special arrangement by a Coppin State employee or booster to provide a student-athlete (or his/her relatives, guardian or friends) a benefit not generally available to CSU students (or their relatives, guardian or friends). Extra Benefits include (but are not limited to):

- cash or loans in any amount;
- co-signing or arranging a loan;
- gifts or free services (e.g., airline tickets, cash, restaurant meals, summer storage space, use of laundry facilities);
- use of an automobile
- rent-free or reduced cost housing
- money for, or a guarantee of, bail or bond
- employment of a student-athlete at a higher rate than the wages paid for similar work
- payment to a student-athlete for work not performed
- transportation (aside from transportation related to an occasional home meal)
- tickets to an athletics, institutional or community event
- financial aid for a post-graduate education
- promise of employment after college graduation
- invitations to your home or summer home for purposes other than an occasional meal

Do these rules related to extra benefits also apply during the summer?

YES. The rules apply year-round. Enrolled student-athletes are bound by NCAA rules until the end of the academic year in which their athletics eligibility is completed. And even then, some actions, including providing a benefit to such an individual, may cause an NCAA violation.

There are a few Coppin State student-athletes who are from my hometown. Is it permissible for me to take them out to dinner during the summer when they are home?

You cannot take them out to a restaurant, but occasionally you may have them to your home for a meal. You could actually do this at any time during the year, not only in the summer. These meals should be limited to infrequent, special occasions.

I own a local business. Is it permissible for me to employ an Coppin State student-athlete during the academic year or summer?

YES to both. During the academic year, however, student-athletes are limited in the amount of money they may earn. Also during the academic year, student-athletes and their employers must sign a written statement provided by CSU prior to the student-athlete commencing work. An NCAA violation will result if you allow a student-athlete to begin work for you prior to signing such a statement.

During the summer, there is no limit on the amount of money a student-athlete may earn. You must pay the student-athlete for work actually performed, you may not pay the student-athlete more than the "going rate" for similar work in that particular locale; you may not pay the student-athlete based on his or her reputation or fame.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL

Compliance with NCAA rules requires the effort of everyone associated with an institution's athletic program: institutional staff, faculty, students, student-athletes and athletic boosters. In order to act within NCAA rules, it is important to understand not only the rules themselves, but also why NCAA rules exist and why schools must monitor compliance with the rules.

The Foundations of NCAA Rules

Since its inception, the NCAA has focused on rules: rules to create a level playing field, rules to ensure the safety and welfare of student-athletes, rules to ensure consistency in the actions of personnel at all member institutions. Eventually a "code of conduct" was established by which all NCAA schools were to operate. This code of conduct is formally called the NCAA's Principles for Conduct of Intercollegiate Athletics. Each NCAA rule is written to advance one of these principles. Currently there are 16 principles, including Institutional Control and Responsibility, Student-Athlete Welfare, Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, Sound Academic Standards, Nondiscrimination, Rules Compliance, Amateurism, Eligibility, Financial Aid, Economy of Athletics Program Operation and several others.

Institutional Control

Of these 16 principles, the Principle of Institutional Control and Responsibility (institutional control) is the principle upon which compliance with all other principles, rules and regulations depends. Without this principle, essentially there would be no formal responsibility for a school to monitor compliance with NCAA rules. Many people look at this principle as the foundation upon which every NCAA institution's rules compliance program is built. It defines the responsibility of each NCAA school to control its intercollegiate athletics program within the rules and regulations of the Association.

This principle is so fundamental to membership in the NCAA that when a school is found in violation of the Principle of Institutional Control and Responsibility, the school will be charged with a major violation of NCAA rules. This is one principle not to be taken lightly!

What does a school have to do to demonstrate institutional control?

There are many ways to demonstrate institutional control. Schools must employ an individual (or individuals) who is clearly responsible for managing compliance with NCAA rules. Managing compliance is not only a matter of answering questions related to NCAA rules, but also it involves educating student-athletes, coaches, staff members and constituencies, monitoring such activities as recruiting, eligibility and financial aid, and following-up on possible violations of regulations.

It also means that each head coach must create and maintain an atmosphere for compliance within his or her program, including being aware of the actions of assistant coaches in the program.

Another measure of institutional control is looking at what happens when violations or alleged violations are reported to an athletics department. All athletics staff, university staff and boosters must have an awareness of what constitutes a violation and to whom they should report the violation if they believe one may have occurred. Once the information is reported properly, the institution's compliance coordinator must investigate the situation to determine whether a violation did or did not occur. If it is determined that a violation did occur, it is the institution's responsibility to then report the situation to the NCAA. All of these pieces (as well as some others) must fall into place to establish institutional control.

We know that not everyone agrees with all of the rules and regulations of the NCAA, but as a member of the NCAA we must live by all the rules. If you have questions at any time, or have knowledge of a possible violation, please contact the Compliance Office

PLAYING SEASON/PRACTICE HOURS

It seems that there are no seasonal sports anymore. Baseball plays games in the fall, soccer plays games in the spring, basketball starts off-season conditioning during the first week of school and track & field never stops! With most sports running practically year-round, it is hard for student-athletes to juggle their academics and athletics. This is why the NCAA has rules in place related to the number of hours teams may practice and compete in a given week.

The Playing Season

During different times of the year, different teams may be involved in different activities. For example, at some times of the year teams are permitted to practice and compete. Sometimes they are allowed to condition and strength train only. So, while baseball may choose to compete in September, softball may choose to not compete until October. The activities in which a team may be involved are dictated by the manner in which each head coach "declares" his or her playing season. This is something that will differ from sport to sport. In most sports, a coach may designate up to 132 days as his/her playing season (for individual sports, it is 144 days; for track and field, it is 156 days). All days outside of these 132 (or 144 or 156) are considered "out-of-season". The designated playing season may be broken into two segments (e.g., a fall segment and a spring segment). Again, this is all at the discretion of the coach and is designated at the start of the academic year.

The above information related to designation of a playing season does not apply in football and basketball. In these sports, the playing is designated by NCAA rules. Coaches do not really have any flexibility like in the other sports.

Hours of Athletic Activity During the Playing Season

During the playing season, student-athletes may be involved in athletic activities no more than 20-hours per week and no more than four hours per day. Activities that may take place during the playing season include: practice, conditioning, strength training, competition, discussion of game films, lectures regarding the sport and any other on-field, on-court, on-floor or on-water activity. In general, the amount of time counted against the 20/4-hour limits is minute for minute (i.e., 1.5 hours of activity reduces the 20/4 hours by 1.5 hours). Competition, however, counts as three hours of the 20. It does not matter if the baseball team plays a double header that takes up six hours or the field hockey team plays a game that takes up 1.5 hours, competition still counts as three hours of athletic activity for the week.

One Day Off Per Week

During the playing season student-athletes must receive one day off from all athletic activities. This rule does not apply during Conference and NCAA Championships.

Hours of Athletic Activity Outside of the Playing Season

Outside of the playing season, student-athletes may be involved in athletic activities no more than eight hours per week. Activities that may take place include only the following: weight-training, conditioning and skill/game-related instruction that occurs at the request of the student-athlete. The skill/game-related instruction may occur in groups of no more than four student-athletes at a time and may only take up two of the eight hours per week outside the playing season. This may include anything from a tennis student-athlete requesting assistance with his or her back hand to a basketball student-athlete requesting assistance with the triangle and two defense. This voluntary skill/game-related instruction may not occur in the off-season in football.

Number of Competitions

Each sport is also limited in the number of contests in which its student-athletes may participate in a given year. Generally, a contest is counted when members of a sport team compete against any team that is made up of individuals that do not attend that university. Some limitations include: 56 contests for baseball, 28 for basketball and 12 for football. There are some types of contests that may be excluded from these limits, such as NCAA championship competition, one alumni game per sport each year and one competition per sport against a U.S. national team each year.

Summer Practice

Mandatory summer practice with coaching staff members is prohibited in all sports. In some sports, coaches are permitted to be involved with a student-athlete's workout for safety reasons, provided the workout is voluntary on the part of the student-athlete.

DEFINITIONS

Representative of Athletics Interests (Booster)

A "representative of the institution's athletics interests" (athletics representative), or booster, is an individual who is known (or who should have been known) by the institution's staff to:

- a) Be a member of or have participated in activities of an agency or organization promoting the Coppin State intercollegiate athletics program.
- b) Have made financial contributions to the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics or to an athletics booster organization of Coppin State;
- c) Be assisting or to have been requested (by a Coppin State Division of Intercollegiate Athletics staff member) to assist in the recruitment of prospects;
- d) Be assisting or to have assisted in providing benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families (e.g., helping to arrange summer and/or vacation employment for a student-athlete); or
- e) Have been involved otherwise in promoting Coppin State Intercollegiate Athletics.

IMPORTANT: ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHLETICS INTERESTS, YOU WILL ALWAYS RETAIN THAT IDENTITY.

Prospective Student-Athlete (Prospect)

A prospective student-athlete, or prospect, is any student (not just students who are athletes) who has started classes for the ninth grade. Also, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospect if the institution provides such an individual (or his/her relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally.

A prospect remains a prospect until he or she begins classes as a full-time student or attends official preseason team practice at Coppin State. Signing a National Letter of Intent to attend Coppin State does not "remove" the status of "prospect."

Junior College Prospects

The same recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to junior college prospects.

Four-Year College Prospects

An athletics staff member may not have contact with a student of another four-year college, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining written permission from the first institution's athletics director, regardless of who makes the initial contact. The first institution is not required to grant, and may in fact deny, such permission. The recruiting rules that apply to high school prospects also apply to four-year college prospects, if permission is granted to have contact.

Recruiting

Recruiting is any solicitation of a prospect (or his/her family or legal guardian) by a member of an institution's staff or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospect's enrollment (and ultimate participation) in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

A prospective student-athlete becomes a recruited prospective student-athlete when an institution's staff member(s) or an athletics representative do any of the following:

- a) Provide the prospect with an official (expense paid) visit to the institution;
- b) Have an arranged in-person, off-campus encounter with the prospect (or his/her parents or legal guardians); or
- c) Initiate or arrange more than one telephone contact with the prospect (or family member or guardian).

Offers and Inducements

Institutional staff members or representatives of athletics interests may not directly or indirectly provide, arrange for the provision of, or offer any financial aid or other benefits to a prospect (or the prospect's relatives, guardian or friends) other than expressly permitted by NCAA regulations. This shall apply regardless of whether similar financial aid benefits or arrangements are available to prospective students in general.

Specifically prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- a) arranging employment for a prospect's relatives;
- b) a gift of clothing or equipment;
- c) co-signing of a loan;
- d) providing a loan to a prospect's relatives or friends;
- e) cash or like items;
- f) any tangible items, including merchandise;
- g) free or reduced-cost services, rentals or purchases of any type;
- h) free or reduced-cost housing;
- i) use of an institution's athletics equipment (e.g., for a high school all-star game); or
- j) sponsorship of or arrangement for an awards banquet for high-school, preparatory school or two-year college athletes by an institution, its athletics representatives, or its alumni groups or booster groups.

OTHER RECRUITING RULES FOR ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVES:

You may only speak to a prospect via telephone if the prospect initiates the phone call and the call is not for recruiting purposes. All inquiries regarding the Coppin State Intercollegiate Athletics program must be referred to the Coppin State Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

You may observe a prospect's athletics contest on your own initiative, but you may not contact a prospect on such an occasion.

You may not contact a prospect's coach, principal or counselor in an attempt to evaluate a prospect.

You may not visit a prospect's educational institution to pick up film/videotape or transcripts pertaining to the evaluation of the prospect's academic eligibility or athletics eligibility.

You may send the Coppin State coaching staff information (e.g., newspaper clippings) about prospects you think might be of interest.

Unavoidable incidental contact made with a prospect by an athletics representative is permitted, provided:

- a) the contact is not prearranged by the athletics representative or athletics department staff member;
- b) the contact does not take place on the grounds of the prospect's educational institution or at practice or competition sites involving the prospect or his/her team;
- c) the contact is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospect, and
- d) the contact involves only normal civility.

You may make a financial donation to a high school athletics program in your locale provided:

- a) You make the donation of your own accord,
- b) Your donation is distributed through the normal channels established by the high school, and
- c) Your donation is not earmarked for a specific prospect.

Alumni Organizations

Prospective student-athletes may attend luncheons or dinners in their immediate locales that are sponsored by bona fide alumni organizations of an institution. These alumni organizations must meet specific criteria to be considered as such. Please check with the Compliance Office for more specific information.

ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

Extra Benefits to Enrolled Student-Athletes

An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or athletics representative to provide a student-athlete (or his/her relatives, guardian or friends) a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete (or his/her relatives, guardian or friends) is not considered a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students (or their relatives, guardian or friends) not on a basis related to athletics ability.

Extra Benefits include, but are not limited to:

- a) cash or loans in any amount
- b) co-signing or arranging a loan
- c) gifts or free services (e.g., airline tickets, cash, restaurant meals, summer storage space)
- d) use of an automobile
- e) rent-free or reduced cost housing
- f) money for, or a guarantee of, bail or bond

- g) employment of a student-athlete at a higher rate than the wages paid for similar work
- h) payment to a student-athlete for work not performed
- i) transportation (aside from transportation related to an occasional home meal)
- j) tickets to an athletics, institutional or community event
- k) financial aid for a post-graduate education
- l) promise of employment after college graduation
- m) invitations to your home or summer home for purposes other than an occasional meal

As a Representative of Athletics Interests, YOU MAY?

Provide tickets to a professional sports contest to the Coppin State Division of Intercollegiate Athletics for entertainment of student-athletes involved in an away-from-home athletics contest. Coppin State must disseminate the tickets to student-athletes.

Provide an occasional meal in your home to a student-athlete or an entire team.

Provide transportation to your home for a student-athlete who will be receiving an occasional meal there.

Provide a summer job to a student-athlete as long as it is at a normal rate of pay for that position and the student-athlete is paid for work actually performed, but remember to check with the Compliance Office at Coppin State before doing so.

Provide a job to a student-athlete during the academic year as long as you and the student-athlete sign a written statement (provided by the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics) prior to commencement of the employment indicating that you agree to compensate the student-athlete at a normal rate of pay and not based on his/her value or utility because of his/her reputation or fame, and the student-athlete is paid for work actually performed. Once again, you should check with the Compliance Office at Coppin State before doing so.

Possible Penalties for Improper Actions

Violations of NCAA rules are a serious matter. There are many penalties the NCAA may impose upon a student-athlete (prospective or enrolled), an institution, a coach or a representative of athletics interest. In some instances, the NCAA may impose penalties on an institution even if the student-athlete involved in the violation has no eligibility remaining or is no longer attending the school. Some penalties the NCAA may impose on an institution include,

- a) Ceasing recruitment of a prospective student-athlete;
- b) Loss of eligibility of an enrolled student-athlete;
- c) Having to sit out of competition for a limited period of time (enrolled student-athletes);
- d) Forfeiture of competitions;
- e) Prohibiting a coach from recruiting off-campus for a period of time;
- f) Institutional fines;
- g) Suspension of a coach for one or more competitions;
- h) Reduction in the number of scholarships an institution may award in a sport(s);
- i) Reduction in the number of expense-paid recruiting visits that an institution may provide;
- j) Prohibiting a team from participating in postseason competition;
- k) Institutional probation, or
- l) Disassociation of relations with a representative of athletics interests.

FIVE BASIC RULES TO REMEMBER

- 1) Do not do anything for a prospective student-athlete or an enrolled student-athlete without specific permission from the Coppin State Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- 2) Only coaches and Coppin State Intercollegiate Athletics staff members may be involved in the recruiting process. Alumni, friends and other athletics representatives who are not employed by the institution may not contact a prospect (or his/her family or guardian) via written correspondence, telephone, or in-person (either on or off campus) for the purpose of soliciting their participation in the Coppin State Intercollegiate Athletics program.
- 3) A prospective student-athlete remains a prospective student-athlete until he/she enrolls (e.g., begins classes) full-time at Coppin State, or until he/she begins official team practice immediately prior to the start of classes - even if the prospect signs a National Letter of Intent or other commitment to attend the University.
- 4) An enrolled student-athlete risks losing his/her athletics eligibility if he/she accepts any benefit based on his/her status as an athlete or because of his/her athletics skill, or a benefit not generally afforded to other students.
- 5) NCAA rules applicable to enrolled student-athletes are not only applicable during the academic year, but they are also applicable during the summer months. Enrolled student-athletes are bound by NCAA rules until the end of the academic year in which their athletics eligibility is completed. And even then, some actions, including providing a benefit to such an individual, may cause an NCAA violation.

VIOLATIONS

Compliance with NCAA rules requires the effort of everyone associated with an institution's athletic program: institutional staff, faculty, students, student-athletes and athletic boosters. Do you know the rules related to reporting NCAA violations?

I often hear of schools committing violations, why do schools have to report violations to the NCAA?

The NCAA is a self-policing organization made up of four-year colleges and universities and conference offices. Self-policing means that as an obligation of membership, each NCAA institution is required to report all situations in which a rule has been broken. Failure to report a violation generally results in sanctions on the institution (in addition to those that will be imposed for the violation).

Why should schools be required to follow all these rules that are imposed by the NCAA?

It is actually the member schools and not the NCAA staff who impose the rules. At times, however, the NCAA's staff will be called on to provide interpretations of a rule. In these instances, member institutions generally have the ability to challenge the ruling if the institution believes the ruling is contrary to the way the rule was intended to apply.

Are some violations worse than others?

Yes. Violations can be classified as either secondary or major. Secondary violations are those that provide only a limited recruiting or competitive advantage. Major violations result from actions that cause an extensive recruiting or competitive advantage. Major violations may also result from repeated secondary violations.

What types of penalties can be imposed for committing violations?

The penalty depends on the violation that was committed. Penalties range from a letter of reprimand for the involved coach or staff member, to reduced days that a coach may recruit, to a reduction in scholarships, to disassociation of an athletic booster to forfeiture of contests. In most cases, penalties are determined based on previous actions taken in similar cases. Penalties for secondary violations are generally less severe than for major violations.

Is an institution required to publicly disclose all violations?

No. This is usually only required in major violation cases or in secondary violation cases that result in a distinct recruiting advantage.

How many violations does an institution generally report in a year?

There is no magic number, but it would not be unusual to report 50-60 violations in a given year - depending on the number of sports, coaches and administrators your program includes. Provided the violations are not major in nature, are not committed willfully and do not constitute a pattern of violations by a specific person or program or in a specific area of the rules, this is acceptable. In fact, the NCAA may become as concerned about those schools that report very few violations each year (e.g., 10) as they are about those who report a very high number of violations.

Do all violations affect a student-athlete's eligibility?

No. A student-athlete's eligibility is effected in cases when he/she receives an extra benefit, in cases of recruiting violations and in some other instances. When a violation effects a student-athlete's eligibility, it prohibits him/her from competing only at the institution that committed the violation. In most cases, the student-athlete's eligibility must be reinstated through the NCAA staff. In cases where a student-athlete received a benefit (either before or after enrollment at the institution) his/her eligibility will only be reinstated after he/she repays the value of the benefit.

Can someone other than an institutional staff member commit a violation? If so, how are other people supposed to know the rules?

Really, anyone can commit a violation. The most common types of violations that would be committed by an individual outside of the institution's staff is the provision of an extra benefit to a current student-athlete or an improper contact with a prospective student-athlete. It is hard for outsiders to know the NCAA rules. This is why the University publishes columns like this and brochures like the Booster's Guide to NCAA Rules. Even with this information being disseminated not all rules can be communicated to everyone. It is for this reason that we encourage you to call the Coppin State Compliance Office at (410) 951-3746 if you have questions.