Compliance in the News
The Cal Poly athletics department is facing major sanctions at the hands of the NCAA-including having to vacate wins and postseason participation over a three-and-a-half-year period-for providing improper stipends to help students pay for textbooks. The university will also be placed on probation for two years and pay a self-imposed $5,000 fine. Among the wins that could be vacated? The 2014 Big West men’s basketball championship that sent the Mustangs to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. The NCAA found the violations to be wide-ranging, involving 265 students athletes in 18 sports from the 2012-13 academic year to the fall term of 2015. The report says Cal Poly “shall vacate all regular season and conference tournament records and participation in which the ineligible student-athletes competed from the time they became ineligible through the time they were reinstated as eligible for competition.” The NCAA found that the $800 stipends given to athletes was not equal to the actual cost of course-related books purchased, and that Cal Poly failed to monitor its book stipend program. The investigating committee said the stipend exceeded the actual cost of books for 72 athletes by $16,180-ranging from $5 to $734-and caused 30 athletes to exceed their individual financial-aid limits. Cal Poly maintains that the violation was an inadvertent error, saying in a news release Thursday that it self-reported to the NCAA when the error was discovered by the Cal Poly Athletics compliance staff. The university said it submitted a report to the NCAA in August 2017 detailing the facts and self-imposed penalties. “Cal Poly has cooperated in every way with the NCAA throughout this process that began in 2015,” Cal Poly Athletic Director Don Oberhelman said. “There was never an intent to violate NCAA rules, and when we discovered the issue, we self-reported it to the NCAA.” Cal Poly disagreed with the NCAA’s findings, claiming only 30 student athletes were overawarded an average of $174.57 for books, amounting to $5,237 over the three-and-a-half-year period. The committee said Cal Poly “lacked a fundamental understanding of NCAA rules about book stipends. The university mistakenly treated the book stipend in the same manner as room and board stipends, which are used by student-athletes as they see fit to cover off-campus living expenses. “Instead, NCAA rules require book stipends equal the exact cost of the books required for coursework.” The committee did not believe the university broke the long-standing rule on purpose, but said, “There is no ambiguity in the wording of the legislation and thus no room for misinterpretation. Cal Poly simply failed to abide by this rule.”

Scholarship Renewals and Nonrenewals
It’s almost that time of year for scholarship renewals for 2019-2020. Coaches will soon be receiving an email from Melissa with instructions.

All increases or pending aid distributions must be reported at this time.

Compliance Trivia
The UAlbany Baseball team is fresh off an America East championship and on their way to NCAA Regionals. In order to have maximum fan support in the opening round of the tournament, UAlbany decides to book extra rooms at the team hotel for student-athlete’s family members, covering the discounted rate ahead of time for those who plan to attend. Is this permissible?

Answer on next page.
Activities Before and During Finals: Reminder

For those teams that are “out-of-season” (a.k.a. in their 8-hour per week period), no required workouts/activities may take place during the week prior to finals or during the week of finals.

Thursday, May 2nd, is the LAST day that countable activities may take place.

If student-athletes choose, they may participate in voluntary workouts/activities as long as student-athletes are not required to participate, no coach is present, and no one is reporting participation back to any coaching staff members.

ARMS Forms Reminders

As the academic year comes to a close please remember to submit and complete all outstanding forms in your Forms Hub. This includes:

- Post-Official Visit Summaries
- Summer School GIA Applications
- Roster Drops
- Post Camp Forms

Also, remember to submit all outstanding practice and recruiting logs.

Sports Clubs Reminders

If you are coaching a club team this summer please be sure to complete the Local Sports Club Employment form prior to your club team season starting. You must upload all applicable files (e.g. roster, staff, schedule etc.). Those reporting a continuing club team employment will only have to upload files for the current roster.

New Legislation Update

Please be sure to be in attendance for the May 9th all staff meeting at 9am as the Office of Compliance Services will be reviewing all the recently passed legislation and the effects they will have moving forward.

Compliance Trivia Answer:
The first person to email me with the correct answer and bylaw will win a gift card!!

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