VACATION PERIOD REMINDERS

The information below provides an overview of NCAA legislation and SDA policy relating to vacation-period activities. Please let the Compliance Office know if you have any questions regarding any of the activities you plan to conduct with your student-athletes during ASU’s winter vacation period (December 15 - January 12).

MEALS

Student-athletes required to remain on campus for practice or competition may receive meal expenses.

- The maximum meal allowance under SDA policy is $20 per day ($5 breakfast, $5 lunch, and $10 dinner).
- SDA may provide additional meals incidental to participation but may not consistently provide student-athletes with both meal stipends and meals incidental to participation.

Student-athletes living at home during the vacation period may not receive meal expenses, but they may participate in team meals incidental to participation.

TEAM ENTERTAINMENT

Reasonable entertainment in connection with practice or competition may be provided for in-season sports. For team entertainment to occur on an off day, the student-athlete’s participation in the activity must be voluntary.

PLAYING AND PRACTICE HOURS

Daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply to CARAs during the vacation period for in-season sports. But sports must provide one day off each week from all RARAs.
IN THE NEWS

UC-SANTA BARBARA

UC-Santa Barbara was recently penalized by the Committee on Infractions for violations in its water polo and cross country programs.

Violations occurred in the water polo program when the coach (a) allowed a prospect to arrive early and (b) failed to monitor all his expenses. Specifically,

• An incoming student-athlete received free pre-enrollment housing, meals, and rides for approximately one month from a local club coach.

• The head coach impermissibly arranged the housing even though the head coach had no involvement in the specifics of the housing arrangement beyond giving the prospect’s name to the club coach. The head coach was not aware the prospect received free housing, meals, and rides.

• Additionally, the Committee on Infractions determined the pay rate two water polo student-athletes who worked for the club team received was too high ($29 and $36/hour) compared to the typical pay rate ($12/hour) offered to student-athletes, and thus, constituted an extra benefit.

During the water polo investigation, student-athletes in the track/cross country programs reported potential CARA violations to the administration.

• The head coach directed student-athletes to log their hours in a Google Sheet at times when mandatory practices were not allowed (e.g., summer vacation and weekly off day).

• Because the coach (a) directed, (b) reviewed, and (c) reprimanded based on failure to do the workouts, the runs were all mandatory. Note, any of these three done by a coach would make them mandatory.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND QUOTES:

1. This is the 9th major infraction case since October 2017 relating to a prospect arriving to campus early, and “the Committee on Infractions has long warned of the heightened risk of violations when prospects move to the institution’s local before enrollment.”

2. “When prospects wish to arrive early, it is incumbent upon head coaches to know the details of the arrangements - e.g., when they arriving, where they are staying, who they are interacting with - to minimize the risk of violations.”

3. “It did not matter that the head coach labeled training ‘voluntary’ or ‘optional’. The head coach’s actions created a perception among the student-athletes that the training was required.”

4. “Both coaches operated independently of the compliance staff, either assuming they knew the rules or acting with indifference toward applicable rules.”

The University of Argon baseball team just reported to the field for pregame activities. In addition to the regular coaches and student-athletes, a strength and conditioning coach, the team’s director of operations, a sports psychologist, and two student managers are also participating in pregame activities. The director of operations is setting up video equipment. One student manager is working with the first baseman, critiquing his fielding motion, while the other student manager is setting up cones for a pregame drill. The sports psychologist is talking to the starting pitcher in the bullpen, helping him visualize throwing strikes. Lastly, the strength and conditioning coach is throwing batting practice.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Please remind all international student-athletes to confirm they are in good standing with the ASU International Students and Scholars Center (ISSC). Returning student-athletes who are required by ASU to report to the ISSC will see a task on their MyASU profiles. Any ISSC hold on a student-athlete’s account will impact that individual’s athletics scholarship disbursement.

New international student-athletes enrolling for Spring 2020 must report to the ISSC as soon as possible after arriving on campus to complete the check-in process. The ISSC must see new student-athletes’ original immigration documents – specifically their I-20s, student visas, and passports.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

With the holiday season upon us, remember that NCAA rules prohibit coaches and other staff members from providing gifts (regardless of value or type) to student-athletes. If your team hosts a gift exchange or Secret Santa event, please make sure student-athletes only exchange gifts with other student-athletes (no coaches or staff) and their participation is voluntary.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Holiday cards sent to prospects, like all other correspondence, must comply with the recruiting materials time restrictions, so all sports may provide holiday cards only to juniors, seniors, and junior college prospects. Also, holiday cards must meet NCAA size restrictions relating to general correspondence (e.g., may not exceed 8 1/2 by 11 inches when fully opened) and envelopes (e.g., may not exceed 9 by 12 inches) and may not be bought in a store.

Note: The rules above also apply to an individual linked to a prospect (e.g., coach, family member).

AND THE ANSWER IS...

The sports psychologist, one student manager, and the strength and conditioning coach all violated NCAA non-coaching staff member rules. NCAA rules prohibit sports psychologists from working with student-athletes on the field during practice/competition activities. Further, student managers cannot provide technical or tactical instruction to student-athletes (e.g., critique throwing motion). Lastly, strength and conditioning coaches are only permitted to conduct flexibility, warm-up, and physical conditioning activities, thereby becoming a countable coach by engaging in an activity such as batting practice.
Recruiting Period in MBB

*Exception for coaches to evaluate at two events at the SCA of America National Convention during these dates. Dead period ends at 12:01am on December 12.

Please note this table has dates that run until December 31. Many of the periods run past December 31. Visit the NCAA Recruiting Calendars website for full recruiting calendars and NCAA sport-specific recruiting guides.