



A recent survey by the University of Cincinnati indicated that gambling is alive and well on college campuses. Of the 648 Division I intercollegiate men's basketball and football respondents, 25.5% had gambled money on college sporting events, 3.7% had gambled money on a game in which they had played and 0.5% received money from a gambler for not playing well in a game. But, the perception that this is a football or basketball issue is just not true. Gambling can happen to anyone, including any student-athlete.

Having said all that, we should be reminded that the NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sport wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sport contests and jeopardize the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of "sport". Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition.

In addition, more than 20 NCAA Division I coaches, athletic administrators and college presidents spoke with members of Congress June 27 about the importance of proposed legislation that would extend a ban on legal sports wagering on college athletics to all states. The group is calling for passage of the Amateur

Sports Integrity Act (S.718) and the Student-Athlete Protection Act (H.R. 1110). Both bills would make it clearly illegal to gamble on college athletics in all states.

The NCAA's interpretation Committee clarified the scope of Bylaw 10.3 to preclude a student-athlete from soliciting or accepting a bet for a non-monetary material item (e.g., shirt, dinner) that has tangible value.

The Interpretation Committee also decided that the prohibition against student-athletes and athletics department staff members participating in gambling activities associated with professional sports events is applicable only to those sports in which the Association conducts championship competition, Division I-A football, and emerging sports. If you place a bet of any kind on any college or professional sport, or if you give information to anyone who uses that information to make a bet, you risk being removed from your team, expelled from college, humiliated in news stories, an embarrassment to your family and team, banished from professional sports, a victim of bookies and organized crime, ruined financially and even hurt physically, turned down for future jobs, and sent to jail. In short, sports wagering can destroy your life. For this reason, college athletic administrators, conference staff officials and college athletes may not gamble on college or professional sporting events.

NCAA Bylaw 10.3 Gambling Activities. Staff members of the athletics department and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- a) Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- b) Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- c) Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- d) Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value; or
- e) Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.