Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement: Institutional, NCAA and Media Navigation

Intro to Student-Athlete Reinstatement (SAR)

Who is SAR?

Student-Athlete Reinstatement Staff:

- Jennifer Henderson
- Danielle Teetzel
- Matt Maher
- Danielle Ghiloni
- Matt Brewer
- Brad Rochman
- Payton Williams
- Jess Rigler
- Stephanie Metz
- Megan Ryther

Intro to SAR

What does SAR do?

- Process reinstatement requests.
- Process five types of waivers:
  - Extension requests.
  - Season-of-competition waivers – competition while eligible.
  - Season-of-competition waivers – competition while ineligible.
  - Hardship waivers.
  - Athletics activities waivers.
When do you need SAR?
- Determined a violation has occurred and SA needs reinstatement; OR
- SA needs an additional year on his/her clock; OR
- SA needs a season back.

Where do you request reinstatement or a waiver?
- Requests and Self-Reports Online (RSRO)

How do you complete a request?
- Complete application.
- Include all required documentation (e.g., signatures and Buckley statement).
- Include additional relevant documentation (e.g., statements, medical documentation, financial documentation, etc.).
A closer look at waivers processed by SAR:

- Athletics Activity Waivers: 32
- Extension Requests: 222
- Hardship Waivers (Independent): 2
- Hardship Waiver Appeals: 44
- Season-of-Competition Waivers: 47

- Staff analysis.
  - Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement guidelines.
  - Policies and Procedures.
  - Case Precedent.
  - Mitigation.
Who is the PMR reinstatement team?
- Stacey Osburn
- Chris Radford
- Emily James
- Michelle Hosick

What does PMR do? (before the story breaks):
- Work collaboratively with SAR and the member school to determine communications strategy.
- Monitor media stories.
- Monitor social media, including involved individuals.

What does PMR do? (after the story breaks):
- Continue working collaboratively with SAR and member school.
- Continue monitoring media stories and social media.
- Respond to reporter’s inquiries to clarify process.
- Correct inaccuracies, if needed.
What does PMR do? (leading up to and after the SAR decision):

Continue working collaboratively with SAR and member school.

Determine whether to communicate proactively or reactively once the decision is issued.

Reactive communication: NCAA and/or member school will not release the information to the media.

Proactive communication: NCAA will issue a statement about the decision after the student-athlete has been notified.

Intro to PMR

• Hoops U was selected as the number one seed in the West Regional of 2012-13 men’s basketball tournament.

• Men’s basketball team won their first game on Thursday evening and is scheduled to play on Saturday.

Case Example

• Men’s basketball SA, Bruce Baller, is in his final season at Hoops U and the starting point guard.

• Friday morning, the local newspaper published a story indicating that Baller’s mother may have sold two tickets and received significant payment.
In addition, media reports indicated that SA received two free slices of pizza and a drink from the local pizza restaurant while exiting the arena after his contest.

Media reports state that violations of this type generally include some withholding condition.

Case Example

AD at Hoops U calls your cell phone wanting to know:

- If you’re aware of the situation; and
- How to respond to media inquiries.

Determine the facts:
- SA’s mother sold two tickets.
- SA did not receive pizza and a drink.

Determine what bylaws were violated:
- Work with conference office and, if necessary, AMA interpretive staff.

Determine the value of the impermissible benefits and whether reinstatement is required.

Notify appropriate individuals:
- Institutional staff members.
- Conference office.
- SAR staff.
Next Steps - PMR

- Contact your athletics communications or university relations teams to discuss media strategy.
- Contact NCAA PMR staff to discuss media strategy.
- Monitor social media and other statements made by involved individuals, including student-athletes, coaches, third parties, etc.

Next Steps - SAR

- Submit a reinstatement request in RSRO.
- Review Division I guidelines and case precedent.
- Discuss potential repayment options.
- Be available.

Next Steps - PMR

- PMR will assess the case to determine if the NCAA will use a proactive or reactive approach.
  - Joint statement with the school.
  - NCAA statement and school statement.

- Timeline:
  - SAR gives reinstatement conditions to the school.
  - PMR and school collaborate on statement.
  - School notifies student-athlete in a timely manner.
  - NCAA and school release statement.
Best Practices

- Questions.