

A. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. Acknowledgment of Violations

This is a self-report by the University of Wisconsin - Madison of violations of NCAA legislation that, in large part, were brought to our attention in July 2000, and thoroughly investigated over the course of the last nine (9) months. It also includes the results of our investigation into some other issues where NCAA legislation was implicated that surfaced during the course of our review of the initial information. In those instances where our investigation confirmed the presence of violations, those violations are also included in this self-report.

2. General Nature of Violations

The violations being reported principally involve NCAA legislation related to the provision of discounts and credit to incoming and enrolled student-athletes, and their friends and relatives by a representative of the institution's athletics interests (Bylaws 13.2.1 and 16.12.2.1). Other violations involve improper summer housing arrangements for prospects by the football coaching staff (Bylaws 13.2.1 and 13.6.2); one instance of allowing a student-athlete to compete while ineligible (Bylaw 14.11.2); the return of university issued merchandise (Bylaw 16.12.2.1); an instance of transportation being provided by a representative of the institution's athletics interests (Bylaw 16.12.2.1); and receipt of free or reduced-cost housing (Bylaw 13.2.2 (h)). Based upon the nature of the violations reported above, the university believes that it violated the provisions of Bylaw 2.8.1 because it should have more thoroughly reviewed the information reported to it in the fall of 1999.

3. Other Issues

The report also includes a review of other possible violations that surfaced during the course of the investigation. In these situations, the institution has concluded that no violation occurred, but has elected to include the information so that the NCAA staff is aware that they were reviewed and to note the thoroughness of the university's investigation.

4. Nature of the Case

The institution acknowledges that this case is likely to be a major case. Although the institution believes that each individual violation is secondary in nature and has been treated in that fashion by NCAA staff dealing with the related requests for restoration, the institution

acknowledges that, in the aggregate, the violations are likely to constitute a major case.

5. Other Background

The institution wants to note at the outset that its prior major infractions case history involves two cases: Case No. M144 in 1998 and Case No. M77 in 1994. Each of these cases resulted in institutional probation, and, as in 1998, the institution is aware that it is subject to the provisions of NCAA Bylaw 19.6.2.3 applicable to repeat violators. Both cases are reviewed in greater detail later in this report at Section G.4. This includes a discussion of their relevance to the current case as well as how they may be distinguished from the current case.

The institution would also like to note at the outset that it believes that the scope and nature of the current investigation and report is evidence of the institution's commitment to rules compliance and its willingness to take a serious and comprehensive look at allegations and to take responsibility for their consequences. The institution is quite mindful of its prior infractions case history and believes that, both in response to those prior cases and the current inquiry, significant changes have been accomplished that underscore the institution's continuing obligations and attention to this commitment.

A detailed listing of our more recent changes is included later in the report at Section G.1. However, the university briefly notes the following:

- The current chancellor, whose appointment was effective January 1, 2001, has quickly and emphatically expanded the institutional oversight of the athletic department, designating his executive assistant as his contact with the department and requiring the athletic director and his deputy/chief of staff to participate in the chancellor's executive leadership meetings on a permanent basis.
- Since replacing the director of compliance in 1998, two additional full time staff have been added to that unit and a third position has been approved for 2001-2002, at which point there will be four full-time staff working in the compliance area.
- Supervision of the education and monitoring functions of compliance has now been assigned to an associate athletic director to provide a greater degree of day-to-day oversight.
- Several major initiatives are being undertaken with respect to compliance education, including a partnership with an organization who specializes in on-line interactive education to develop and pilot a series of modules for athletic compliance education.

- The institution has successfully completed all of the required corrective actions related to its most recent case, including a comprehensive external audit of its booster organizations' income and expenditures.