

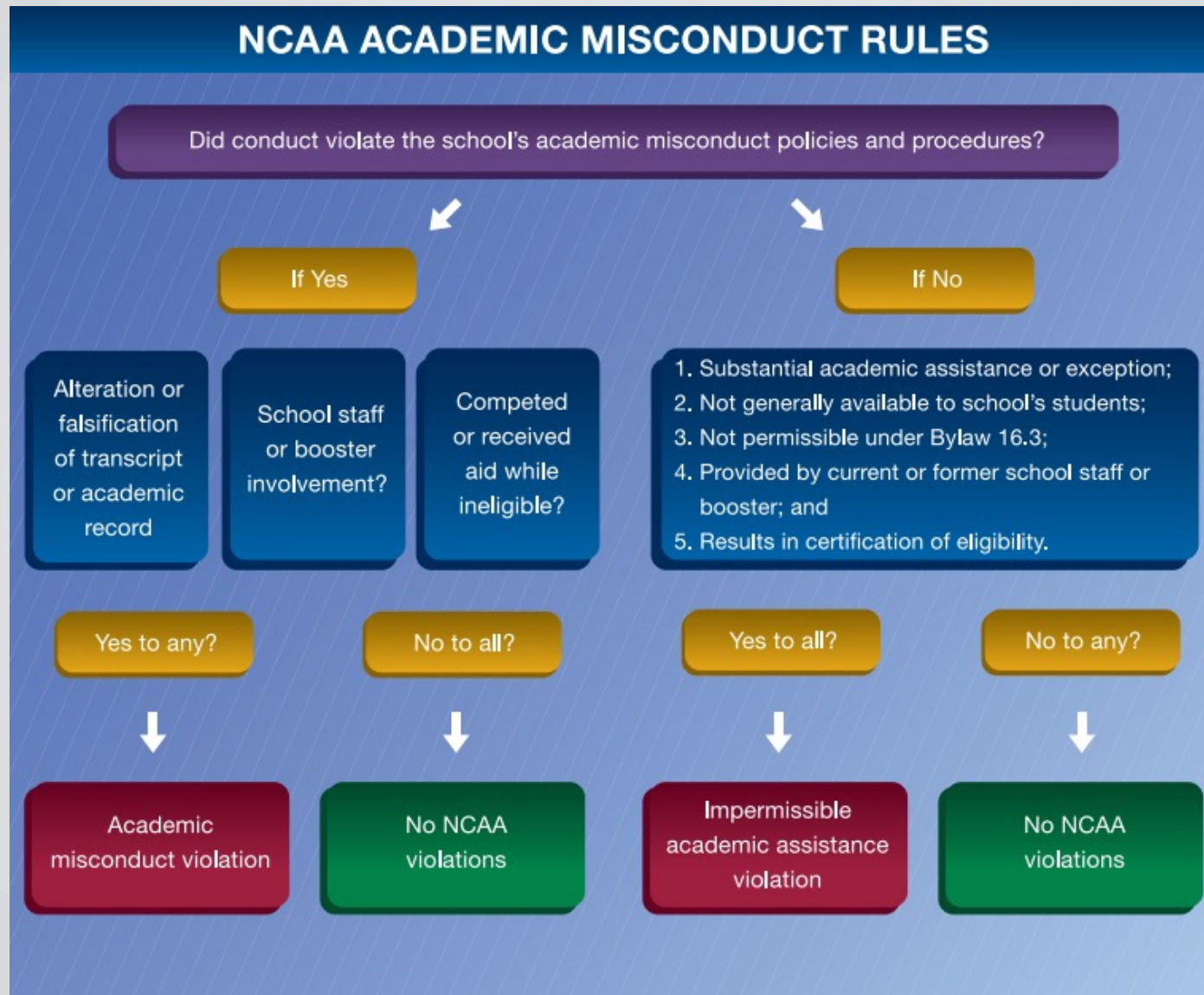


Academic Misconduct training: Athletic Academic Advising

Training Road Map

- ▶ NCAA legislation.
- ▶ Institutional policy.
 - ▶ The importance of knowing it and following it.
- ▶ Signs of Academic misconduct.
 - ▶ The miraculous recovery.
 - ▶ Overzealous coaches.
 - ▶ Lack of knowledge of materials (online courses).
 - ▶ Friends of the program.
 - ▶ Proctoring.
- ▶ Transfer student-athletes.

NCAA Legislation



Institutional Policy

- ▶ It all starts with institutional policy.
 - ▶ Under NCAA legislation, if academic misconduct is alleged, student-athletes must be processed through the institution's academic misconduct policy.
 - They should not be treated differently (better or worse) than general students.
 - Exception: the institution may have an expedited academic misconduct process for student-athletes. It must be in writing, approved by the president/chancellor and cannot be made up post allegation.
- ▶ It's always important that athletics academic advisors follow institutional policy at all times. When it is necessary to deviate from institutional policy, make sure you have the appropriate approval.
 - ▶ This is true not only for institutional academic misconduct policies, but other policies as well.

What Does This Mean for You?

- ▶ Athletics academic advisors are often the individuals who discover alleged academic misconduct.
- ▶ Its important that you understand how the academic misconduct policy works on your campus.
- ▶ Advisors are in a difficult position: how do I turn a student-athlete in while still maintaining a relationship with him or her and their respective teammates?
 - ▶ Also, how do I report a coach whom I suspect of academic misconduct?
- ▶ Remember, you are part of the academic community too. Academic integrity is the entire university's responsibility.
- ▶ If you can, have a policy in the student-athlete handbook indicating you must turn student-athletes in for alleged academic misconduct. Try to set up a protocol where there are specific steps athletics academic advisors must take, but that ultimate adjudication is left elsewhere.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

▶ Miraculous recoveries.

- ▶ Student-athlete has consistently performed poorly in class, then manages to score extraordinarily well on subsequent assignments/tests. This is done without corresponding tutoring or other academic assistance.
- ▶ Possible preventative steps: visit with the enrolled student-athlete to determine how they are achieving these results. Remind them of the possible ramifications of a academic misconduct violation.

▶ Overzealous coaches.

- ▶ Coaches who become increasingly demanding of athletics academic advisors and do not feel the advisor is “doing enough.” Coaches who go around the appropriate individuals and speak directly to campus personnel and/or professors.
- ▶ Possible solution: make it clear to all coaches that academics is best left to the experts. It’s impossible for coaches to be viewed neutrally by campus when they are advocating for their student-athletes. If you can, have a no-contact policy between professors and coaches concerning their student-athletes.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

- ▶ Lack of knowledge of course materials.
 - ▶ Particularly in online courses, student-athletes do not know how to sign on to the course page, do not know how many assignments they have, when exams are, yet they have been making progress in the course.
 - ▶ Possible preventative measures: athletics academic advising should be involved in the registration and monitoring of online courses. Have an institutional policy concerning what is expected of student-athletes enrolled in online courses and how a failure to follow this policy could restrict their ability to enroll in these courses in the future.
- ▶ Friends of program.
 - ▶ Campus individuals (professors, administrators) who are particularly close to a sport program(s) and are interested in helping student-athletes. They take the assistance too far and engage in academic misconduct.
 - ▶ Possible preventative measures: for friends who are known to athletics, take the time to educate them on what is appropriate academic assistance and what is not.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

▶ Proctoring.

- ▶ Student-athletes who are traveling take an exam on the road and the proctor, usually an athletics department staff person, allows the student-athlete to use outside materials for the exam, or worse, helps them complete the exam.
- ▶ Possible preventative measures: try to use the FAR at the institution you are traveling to for proctoring exams. If that is not possible, have a proctoring policy that those administering the exam must follow.

Transfer Student-Athletes

- ▶ The NCAA has seen a rise in the amount of academic misconduct involving transfer student-athletes.
- ▶ These transfers use online courses in order to gain their eligibility at the certifying institution.
- ▶ Apply the following four-part test:
 - ▶ If a transfer student-athlete uses an online course:
 - ▶ At an institution other than the one they are attending;
 - ▶ Completed in the semester before their enrollment (or later) at the certifying institution; and
 - ▶ It was used to gain their eligibility.
- ▶ Institutions should think about reviewing the course.
- ▶ Remember, this could not only involve potential academic misconduct, but also involve an inducement in the form of an impermissible person paying for the course (e.g. a coach).



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