NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION[1]

Liberty University – Case No. 020543

November 24, 2026

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Liberty University (Liberty); Jamey Chadwell (Chadwell), head football coach; Newland Isaac (Isaac), assistant football coach; Colton Korn (Korn), director of player personnel; Tony Washington (Washington), assistant football coach; and NCAA enforcement staff agree with the violations and penalties detailed below.

On January 13, 2026, the enforcement staff received information from Monmouth University (Monmouth) regarding Liberty's potential impermissible communication with a Monmouth football student-athlete (Student-Athlete 1). As a result, the enforcement staff sent Liberty a letter of inquiry (LOI), directing them to conduct an internal investigation focusing on impermissible communication with Student-Athlete 1 and those affiliated with him. Liberty submitted the LOI response April 20, 2026, which included phone records and interview transcripts and recordings for eight football staff members.

During their internal investigation, the institution found that from November 26, 2025, through January 1, 2026, three football staff members had impermissible communication with Student-Athlete 1, another Monmouth football student-athlete (Student-Athlete 2) and their representatives. The three staff members involved were Isaac, Korn and Washington. Phone records demonstrate that Korn sent 17 text messages to Ian Grutman (Grutman), representative of Student-Athletes 1 and 2; Washington sent 10 text messages to and had one phone call with David Ben-Zaken (Ben-Zaken), representative of Student-Athletes 1 and 2, and sent 13 text messages to and had five phone calls with Student-Athlete 1; and Isaac sent 49 text messages to Student-Athlete 2 before the student-athletes' information was entered into the transfer portal.

According to Isaac, Korn and Washington, they were not aware communication with the student-athletes' representatives was impermissible. Isaac and Washington initiated impermissible communication directly with Student-Athletes 1 and 2 after learning from social media the student-athletes intended to transfer but failed to confirm their information was entered into the transfer portal. Additionally, Chadwell was not aware that the three staff members involved had impermissible communication with Student-Athletes 1 and 2 and their representatives and did not condone their conduct. His lack of awareness was partly based on significant health matters that impacted his ability to fully monitor the football program.

[1] In reviewing this agreement, the hearing panel made editorial revisions pursuant to NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions (COI) Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 4-7-1-2. These modifications did not affect the substance of the agreement.

II. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS

A. Agreed-upon findings of fact, violations of NCAA legislation and violation levels.

1. [NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.1.1.4 (2025-26)] (Level II)

   From November 26, 2025, through January 1, 2026, Korn, Washington and Isaac had impermissible communication with Student-Athletes 1 and 2 and their representatives without first obtaining authorization through the notification of transfer process. Specifically:

   a. From November 26, 2025, through January 1, 2026, Washington sent 23 text messages to and had six telephone calls with Ben-Zaken and/or Student-Athlete 1. Specifically, November 26 and December 1, 2025, Washington sent 10 text messages to and had one phone call with Ben-Zaken prior to Student-Athlete 1 entering the transfer portal. Subsequently, between December 18, 2025, and January 1, 2026, Washington sent 13 text messages to and had five phone calls with Student-Athlete 1 before Student-Athlete 1's information was entered into the transfer portal.

   b. From December 2, 2025, through January 1, 2026, Korn sent 17 text messages to Grutman before Student-Athlete 1's and 2's information was entered into the transfer portal.

   c. From December 3 through December 30, 2025, Isaac sent 49 text messages to Student-Athlete 2 before Student-Athlete 2's information was entered into the transfer portal.

   The agreed-upon findings of fact serve as part of the basis for Agreed-Upon Findings of Fact No. 2.

2. [NCAA Division I Bylaw 11.1.1.1 (2025-26)] (Level II)

   From November 26, 2025, through January 1, 2026, Chadwell, head football coach, is responsible for the violations detailed in Agreed-Upon Findings of Fact No. 1.

B. Agreed-upon aggravating and mitigating factors.

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.3-(e), the aggravating and mitigating factors identified below are applicable.

Assessing the factors by weight and number, this case should be properly resolved as Level II – Mitigated for the institution, Chadwell, Isaac and Korn and Level II – Standard for Washington

1. Institution:

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.1]

(1) Multiple Level I and/or Level II violations for which the institution is responsible.

(2) Persons of authority condoned, participated in or negligently disregarded the violation or related wrongful conduct.

(3) Intentional, willful or blatant disregard for NCAA bylaws by a person with institutionally derived authority.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.1]

(1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.

(2) Institution self-imposed meaningful corrective measures and/or penalties.

(3) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution of the matter, including timely submission of a negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.

(4) An established history of self-reporting Level III violations.[2]

(5) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations within the past 10 years.

2. Involved Individual (Chadwell)

a. Aggravating factor(s). [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.2]

None.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.2]

(1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.

(2) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution of the matter, including timely submission of a negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.

[2] The institution reported 52 Level III or secondary violations from 2022 to 2026, approximately 10 violations each year.

(3) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations.

3. Involved Individual (Isaac):

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.2]

(1) Persons of authority condoned, participated in or negligently disregarded the violation or related wrongful conduct.

(2) Intentional, willful or blatant disregard for NCAA bylaws by a person with institutionally derived authority.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.2]

(1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.

(2) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution of the matter, including timely submission of a negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.

(3) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations.

4. Involved Individual (Korn)

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.2]

(1) Persons of authority condoned, participated in or negligently disregarded the violation or related wrongful conduct.

(2) Intentional, willful or blatant disregard for NCAA bylaws by a person with institutionally derived authority.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.2]

(1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.
(2) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution of the matter, including timely submission of a negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.

(3) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations.

5. Involved Individual (Washington)

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.2]

(1) Persons of authority condoned, participated in or negligently disregarded the violation or related wrongful conduct.

(2) Intentional, willful or blatant disregard for NCAA bylaws by a person with institutionally derived authority.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.2]

(1) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution of the matter, including timely submission of a negotiated resolution pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.

(2) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations.

III. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIATED; NOT ALLEGED

None.

IV. REVIEW OF OTHER ISSUES

None.

V. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON PENALTIES[3]

All penalties agreed upon in this case are independent and supplemental to any action that has been or may be taken by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics through its assessment of postseason ineligibility, historical penalties or other penalties.

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.3-(e), the following penalties apply:

Core Penalties for Level II – Mitigated Violations (Bylaw 19.12.7)

1. One year of probation from **November 24, 2026**, through **November 23, 2027**.

[3] All penalties must be completed during the time periods identified in this decision. If completion of a penalty is impossible during the prescribed period, the institution shall make the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions aware of the impossibility and must complete the penalty at the next available opportunity.

2. The institution shall pay a fine of $25,000.

3. Recruiting Restrictions:

   a. The institution shall impose a three-week ban on recruiting communication for the football program during the 2026-27 academic year.

   b. The institution shall impose a three-week ban on unofficial visits for the football program for the 2026-27 academic year.

   c. The institution shall reduce official paid visits in the football program during the 2026-27 year by 3% of the average number of official paid visits from the previous four years.

   d. The institution shall reduce the number of recruiting-person days in the football program by 5% from the number of permissible recruiting-person days.

   e. The institution shall impose an additional one-week ban on recruiting communication for Chadwell.[4]

4. Show-cause order: Korn violated recruiting legislation when he had impermissible communications with the representative of two four-year college prospective student-athletes who were not in the transfer portal. Therefore, Korn shall be subject to a one-year show-cause order from **November 24, 2026**, through **November 23, 2027**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.7.4 and Committee on Infractions IOP 5-15-5, any employing member institution shall prohibit Korn from having communications with four-year college prospective student-athletes during the entire January 2027 football notification of transfer window, suspend Korn from one date of competition per the terms below in No. 5 and require Korn to complete regular NCAA Learning Portal modules. Any member institution that employs Korn in an athletically related position during the one-year show-cause period, shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.

5. Suspension: Bylaw 19.12.7.5 and Figure 19-1 penalty guidelines contemplate suspensions. Therefore, any member institution that employs Korn in an athletically related position shall suspend Korn from 8% of the football regular season contests

[4] The institution, Chadwell and enforcement staff agreed to impose an additional one-week recruiting communication ban for Chadwell in lieu of a show-cause order that would include a suspension due to his significant health conditions that impacted his ability to monitor the football program. Chadwell served the additional week September 3 through 10, 2026.

(completed). This suspension corresponds with one regular season contest.[5] The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Korn not be present with or have contact with or communication with football coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled contest of the championship segment. The prohibition includes all coaching activities for the suspension period that begins at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Korn may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. Any employing institution may not utilize Bylaw 11.02.2.1 to replace Korn on a temporary basis during the period of suspension. The results of those contests from which Korn is suspended shall not count toward the coach's career record if he is in the role of a head coach at the time of suspension.

6. Show-cause order: Isaac violated recruiting legislation when he had impermissible communications with a four-year college prospective student-athlete who was not in the transfer portal. Therefore, Isaac shall be subject to a one-year show-cause order from **November 24, 2026**, through **November 23, 2027**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.7.4 and Committee on Infractions IOP 5-15-5, any employing member institution shall prohibit Isaac from having communications with four-year college prospective student-athletes during the entire January 2027 football notification of transfer window, suspend Isaac from one date of competition per the terms below in No. 7 and require Isaac to complete regular NCAA Learning Portal modules. Any member institution that employs Isaac in an athletically related position during the one-year show-cause period, shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the OCOI to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.

7. Suspension: Bylaw 19.12.7.5 and Figure 19-1 penalty guidelines contemplate suspensions. Therefore, any member institution that employs Isaac in an athletically related position shall suspend Isaac from 8% of the football regular season contests (completed). This suspension corresponds with one regular season contest.[6] The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Isaac not be present with or have contact with or communication with football coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled contest of the championship segment. The prohibition includes all coaching activities for the suspension period that begins at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Isaac may not participate

[5] Korn served this suspension on September 5, 2026.

[6] Isaac served this suspension on September 5, 2026.

in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. Any employing institution may not utilize Bylaw 11.02.2.1 to replace Isaac on a temporary basis during the period of suspension. The results of those contests from which Isaac is suspended shall not count toward the coach's career record if he is in the role of a head coach at the time of suspension.

Core Penalties for Level II – Standard Violations (Bylaw 19.12.7)

8. Show-cause order: Washington violated recruiting legislation when he had impermissible communications with a four-year college prospective student-athlete who was not in the transfer portal and his representative. Therefore, Washington shall be subject to a two-year show-cause order from **November 24, 2026**, through **November 23, 2028**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.7.4 and Committee on Infractions IOP 5-15-5, any employing member institution shall prohibit Washington from having communications with four-year college prospective student-athletes during the entire January 2027 football notification of transfer window, suspend Washington from two dates of competition per the terms below in No. 9 and require Washington to complete regular NCAA Learning Portal modules. Any member institution that employs Washington in an athletically related position during the two-year show-cause period, shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the OCOI to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.

9. Suspension: Bylaw 19.12.7.5 and Figure 19-1 penalty guidelines contemplate suspensions. Therefore, any member institution that employs Washington in an athletically related position shall suspend Washington from 10% of the football regular season contests (completed). This suspension corresponds with two regular season contests.[7] The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Washington not be present with or have contact with or communication with football coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled contest of the championship segment. The prohibition includes all coaching activities for the suspension period that begins at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Washington may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. Any employing institution may not utilize Bylaw 11.02.2.1 to replace Washington on a temporary basis during the period of suspension. The results of those contests from which Washington is suspended shall not count toward the coach's career record if he is in the role of a head coach at the time of suspension.

[7] Washington served the suspensions on September 5 and 12, 2026.

Additional Penalties for Level II – Mitigated Violations (Bylaw 19.12.9)

10. Public reprimand and censure through the release of the negotiated resolution agreement.

11. During this period of probation, the institution shall:

    a. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive educational program on NCAA legislation to instruct coaches, the faculty athletics representative, all athletics department personnel and all institutional staff members with responsibility for recruiting activities.

    b. Submit a preliminary report to the OCOI by **January 15, 2027**, setting forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educational program.

    c. File with the OCOI annual compliance reports indicating the progress made with this program by **October 1st** during each year of probation. Particular emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring related to recruitment of four-year college prospective student-athletes.

    d. Inform prospects in the football program in writing that the institution is on probation for one year and detail the violations committed. If a prospect takes an official paid visit, the information regarding violations, penalties and terms of probation must be provided in advance of the visit. Otherwise, the information must be provided before a prospect signs the institution's written offer of admission and/ or financial aid.

    e. Publicize specific and understandable information concerning the nature of the infractions by providing, at a minimum, a statement to include the types of violations and the affected sport programs and a direct, conspicuous link to the public infractions decision located on the athletics department's main website "landing page" and in the media guides for the football program. Permissible website posting locations include the main navigation menu or a sidebar menu. The link may not be housed under a drop-down menu. Further, the link to the posting (i.e., the icon or the text) must be titled "NCAA Infractions Case." With regard to the content of the posting, the institution's statement must: (1) clearly describe the infractions; (2) include the length of the probationary period associated with the case; and (3) give members of the general public a clear indication of what happened in the case to allow the public (particularly prospects and their families) to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. A statement that refers only to the probationary period with nothing more is not sufficient.

12. Following the receipt of the final compliance report and prior to the conclusion of probation, the institution's president shall provide a letter to the Committee on Infractions affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

VI. OTHER AGREEMENTS

The enforcement staff and participating parties believe that this case will be processed through the NCAA negotiated resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 19.10.

The enforcement staff notified the parties, and the parties agree with and/or acknowledge the following:

- The negotiated resolution contains findings of fact of NCAA violations based on information available at this time.
- Nothing in this resolution precludes the enforcement staff from investigating additional information about potential rules violations.
- Pursuant to Bylaw 19.1.2, the violations identified in this agreement occurred and should be classified as Level II – Mitigated for the institution, Chadwell, Isaac and Korn and Level II – Standard for Washington.
- If a hearing panel approves the negotiated resolution, the involved parties will take every precaution to ensure that the terms of the penalties are observed.
- The involved parties acknowledge that they have or will impose and follow the penalties contained within the negotiated resolution, and these penalties are in accordance with those prescribed in Bylaws 19.12.7, 19.12.8, 19.12.9 and 19.12.10.
- The OCOI will monitor the penalties during their effective periods.
- Any action by the involved parties contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations may be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties or may result in additional allegations and violations.
- This negotiated resolution may be voidable by the Committee on Infractions if any of the involved parties were aware or become aware of information that materially alters the factual information on which this negotiated resolution is based.
- The hearing panel, subsequent to its review of the negotiated resolution, may reject the negotiated resolution.
- Should the hearing panel reject the negotiated resolution, the hearing panel will issue instructions for processing of the case pursuant to hearing resolution (Bylaw 19.8) or limited resolution (Bylaw 19.9) and prior agreed-upon terms of the rejected negotiated resolution will not be binding.
- Should a hearing panel approve the negotiated resolution, there are no additional NCAA hearing and appellate opportunities.

VII. DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS APPROVAL

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.1, the panel approves the parties' negotiated resolution agreement. The panel's review of this agreement is limited. Panels may only reject a negotiated resolution agreement if the agreement is not in the best interests of the Association or if the agreed-upon penalties are manifestly unreasonable. *See* Bylaw 19.10.4. In this case, the panel determines the agreed-upon facts, violations, aggravating and mitigating factors, and classifications are appropriate for this process. Further, the parties classified this case as Level II-Mitigated for the institution, Chadwell, Isaac and Korn and Level II-Standard for Washington. The agreed-upon penalties align with the ranges identified for core penalties for Level II-Mitigated and Level II-Standard cases in Figure 19-1 and Bylaw 19.12.7 and the additional penalties available under Bylaw 19.12.9. Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.6, this negotiated resolution may be used in an advisory capacity in a future negotiated resolution.

The COI advises the institution, Chadwell, Isaac, Korn and Washington that they should take every precaution to ensure that they observe the terms of the penalties. Any action by the institution, Chadwell, Isaac, Korn and Washington contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations shall be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties and/or may result in additional allegations and violations.

NCAA COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS PANEL
Tricia Turley-Brandenburg
Rich Ensor
Susan Lipnickey, chief hearing officer

APPENDIX

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY'S CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1. The institution suspended Chadwell from one practice, and all other athletically related duties, August 26, 2026.

2. The institution strengthened its rules education in response to the violations in this case and provided the football staff with additional guidance on applicable recruiting restrictions.

3. The institution required each member of the football coaching staff to sign a compliance attestation confirming an understanding of the three-week recruiting communication ban and agreeing to adhere to its terms.

4. As part of its enhanced monitoring efforts, the institution interviewed incoming men's basketball and football transfer student-athletes regarding the circumstances and timelines of their recruitment and entry into the transfer portal.

5. The institution's president met with Chadwell July 14, 2026, to emphasize the importance of maintaining a culture of compliance within the institution's athletics programs.