

NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION¹

Iowa State University – Case No. 020502

September 22, 2026

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Iowa State University (Iowa State) and the NCAA enforcement staff agree with the violations and penalties detailed below.

Origin of the investigation.

In June 2025, the enforcement staff received information that the Iowa State men's wrestling program may have impermissibly contacted two men's wrestling prospective student-athletes (Prospective Student-Athlete 1 and Prospective Student-Athlete 2) at another NCAA institution before they entered the NCAA transfer portal. Specifically, the enforcement staff received a text message between another institution's former head men's wrestling coach (Head Wrestling Coach 1) and head wrestling coach 2 (Head Wrestling Coach 2), then head men's wrestling coach at Iowa State, in which Head Wrestling Coach 2 expressed interest in two men's wrestling prospective student-athletes then enrolled at the institution from which Head Wrestling Coach 1 was departing² The institution and enforcement staff began a collaborative investigation on October 10, 2025.

Recruiting violations.

On October 30, 2025, Iowa State and the enforcement staff interviewed the two men's wrestling student-athletes referenced in Head Wrestling Coach 2's text message to Head Wrestling Coach 1. Both student-athletes reported that Chris Perry (Perry), a representative of the institution's athletics interest and wrestling coach at the Cyclone Regional Training Center (RTC), was involved in their recruitment to Iowa State. Specifically, both stated that Perry was their first point of contact and primary recruiter to the institution. Additionally, Prospective Student-Athlete 2 reported that Perry provided him with an Iowa State commitment graphic to post on social media. Both men's wrestling student-athletes committed to Iowa State the day they entered the transfer portal.³

Perry previously served as an assistant men's wrestling coach at Oklahoma State University from approximately fall 2017 through May 2024. By the time the violations in this case occurred, he was an assistant wrestling coach at the Cyclone RTC in Ames, Iowa, and reported to Head Wrestling Coach 2 in Head Wrestling Coach 2's capacity as the head coach of the Cyclone RTC.⁴ Iowa State never employed Perry as an institutional staff member; however, Perry's involvement in Iowa State's

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.

² From February 2017 through April 2026, Head Wrestling Coach 2 was the head men's wrestling coach. He became Iowa State's director of men's and women's wrestling on April 16, 2026.

³ Prospective Student-Athlete 1 entered the transfer portal and committed to Iowa State on June 13, 2025. Prospective Student-Athlete 2 entered the transfer portal and committed to Iowa State on June 16, 2025.

⁴ See <https://www.themat.com/team-usa/regional-training-centers>.

recruitment of the men's wrestling student-athletes made him a representative of the institution's athletics interests under NCAA legislation. As a representative of the institution's athletics interests, the recruiting communications Perry had with Prospective Student-Athlete 1 and Prospective Student-Athlete 2 were impermissible.

Additionally, some of Perry's communications with Prospective Student-Athlete 1 regarding Iowa State occurred before Prospective Student-Athlete 1 entered the transfer portal on June 13, 2025. Specifically, Perry called Prospective Student-Athlete 1 on two occasions (June 9 and June 12, 2025) and sent 14 text messages between June 9 through 13, 2025. Through text messages, Perry requested Prospective Student-Athlete 1's academic transcripts, shared financial information regarding potential revenue sharing payments and cost of attendance and directed Prospective Student-Athlete 1 to select that he did not want to be contacted by institutions when he entered the transfer portal.⁵

II. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS

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

1. [NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.1.1.4 and 13.1.2.1 (2024-25)]⁶ (Level II)

In June 2025, Perry impermissibly assisted in the recruitment of two men's wrestling prospective student-athletes to Iowa State.⁷ Additionally, Perry's communications with one of the men's wrestling prospective student-athletes occurred before Iowa State received authorization through the notification of transfer process. Specifically:

- a. From June 9 through June 13, 2025, Perry called Prospective Student-Athlete 1 on two occasions and exchanged 14 text messages before Prospective Student-Athlete 1 entered the transfer portal. In text messages to Prospective Student-Athlete 1, Perry requested Prospective Student-Athlete 1 email him his academic transcripts and instructed Prospective Student-Athlete 1 to indicate that he did not wish to be contacted by other institutions in the transfer portal. Additionally, Perry provided Prospective Student-Athlete 1 with Iowa State cost of attendance and revenue sharing information. Prospective Student-Athlete 1 subsequently entered the transfer portal on June 13, 2025, and committed to the institution the same day. [NCAA Bylaws 13.1.1.4 and 13.1.2.1 (2024-25)]
- b. On approximately June 16, 2025, Perry assisted in the recruitment of Prospective Student-Athlete 2 to Iowa State. Specifically, Perry was Prospective Student-Athlete 2's initial and primary recruiting contact at Iowa State and provided

⁵ Prospective Student-Athlete 1 was declared ineligible by Iowa State and reinstated on November 6, 2025, prior to engaging in competition on behalf of the institution.

⁶ Effective October 9, 2024, NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.3 was renumbered to 13.1.1.4 with no substantive change.

⁷ At the time of the violations, Perry worked as a wrestling coach at the Cyclone RTC in Ames, Iowa, and reported to Head Wrestling Coach 2, Iowa State head men's wrestling coach and head coach at the center.

Prospective Student-Athlete 2 with an Iowa State commitment graphic to post on social media. Prospective Student-Athlete 2 entered the transfer portal on June 16, 2025, and committed to the institution the same day. [NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.1 (2024-25)]

B. Agreed-upon aggravating and mitigating factors.

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

The parties assessed the factors by weight and number and agree that this case should be properly resolved as Level II – Mitigated.

1. Institution:

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.1]

- (1) Persons of authority condoned, participated in or negligently disregarded the violation or related wrongful conduct.
- (2) Involvement by a representative of the institution's athletics interests in violations.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.1]

- (1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.
- (2) Affirmative steps to expedite final resolution for this matter.
- (3) An established history of self-reporting Level III violations.⁸
- (4) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations within the past 10 years.

III. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIATED; NOT ALLEGED

None.

⁸ The institution reported 47 Level III or secondary violations from 2022 to 2026, approximately nine violations each year.

IV. REVIEW OF OTHER ISSUES

Head coach responsibility.

Bylaw 11.1.1.1 provides that an institution's head coach shall be held responsible for the actions of all institutional staff members who report, directly or indirectly, to the head coach. The parties agreed that a head coach responsibility violation was not appropriate for the facts of this case.

While Head Wrestling Coach 2 knew that Perry communicated with Prospective Student-Athlete 1 and Prospective Student-Athlete 2 in his capacity as a recruiter for the Cyclone RTC, he was not aware that the communications involved inducing their entry into the transfer portal and/or recruiting them to attend Iowa State. Additionally, Head Wrestling Coach 2 was not aware that some of the communications occurred before one of the student-athletes entered the transfer portal. Therefore, the parties agreed that Head Wrestling Coach 2 should not be at risk for a head coach responsibility violation due to his own actions. Additionally, because Perry was not an Iowa State institutional staff member, Bylaw 11.1.1.1 does not hold Head Wrestling Coach 2 responsible for Perry's actions. To address Head Wrestling Coach 2's culpability, the parties agreed the institution's "persons of authority" aggravating factor and Head Wrestling Coach 2's suspension during the 2026-27 season are appropriate.

Education and monitoring.

Institutions are obligated to educate and monitor their athletics programs to ensure compliance and identify and report instances in which compliance has not been achieved. The parties agreed that a failure to monitor violation was not appropriate for the facts of this case.

Iowa State has a robust and effective rules education and monitoring system in place. Regarding the men's wrestling program specifically, all three members of the men's wrestling staff were also employed by the Cyclone RTC, an entity independent from the institution. The men's wrestling staff received regular, in-depth education specific to their dual roles. During their respective interviews, the coaches described a "bright line" as to what was permissible as an Iowa State wrestling coach and what was not permissible in their capacity as a Cyclone RTC coach. The institution's leadership, specifically its faculty athletics representative, has an active and ongoing physical presence with the men's wrestling program. Additionally, in December 2024, Iowa State's compliance staff, through its established monitoring systems, identified and proactively prevented a separate potential violation involving Perry and the men's wrestling program.

V. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON PENALTIES⁹

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 parties agree to the following penalties:

Core Penalties for Level II – Mitigated Violations (Bylaw 19.12.7)¹⁰

1. Probation: One year of probation from **September 22, 2026, through September 21, 2027.**
2. Financial penalty: The institution shall pay a fine of \$25,000 plus 0.5% of the budget for the men's wrestling program.¹¹
3. Recruiting restrictions: The institution shall prohibit all recruiting communications with four-year college prospective student-athletes in men's wrestling for one week beginning on the first day of the men's wrestling notification of transfer windows in 2026-27 and 2027-28.
4. Disassociation: Iowa State shall disassociate the representative of the institution's athletics interests pursuant to Bylaw 19.12.9-(i), the disassociation shall include:
 - a. Prohibit the representative of the institution's athletics interests from all communications with any four-year college prospective student-athlete, including communication or contact regarding the Cyclone RTC, for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic years;
 - b. Prohibit the representative of the institution's athletics interests from being present during any Iowa State men's wrestling official and unofficial recruiting visits for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic years;

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The panel applauds and appreciates Iowa State's approach to this case. Iowa State self-imposed and/or agreed to significant and meaningful penalties that directly relate to and address the conduct in this case. In particular, the panel acknowledges Iowa State's prohibition of all recruiting communication during the first seven days of the wrestling transfer window in consecutive years. Similarly, Iowa State's decision to self-impose a suspension for head coach 2 recognizes the significance of the substantive conduct even though that conduct did not result in a head coach responsibility violation. This case serves as a positive example for member institutions for how to approach and navigate the infractions process.

¹¹ The fine from the program budget must be calculated in accordance with Committee on Infractions Internal Operating Procedures 5-15-6 and 5-15-6-1.

- c. Prohibit the representative of the institution's athletics interests from being present in or around its athletics facilities, including but not limited to the Hilton Coliseum, the Harold Nichols Wrestling Room, Lied Recreation Center or the Stark Performance Center, during Iowa State's men's wrestling dates of competition for the 2026-27 academic year;
- d. Ensure that no athletics benefit or privilege is provided to the representative of the institution's athletics interests, either directly or indirectly, that is not available to the general public for the 2026-27 academic year;
- e. Refuse financial assistance or contributions to the institution and its wrestling programs from the representative of the institution's athletics interests during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic years;
- f. Prohibit the institution from providing the representative of the institution's athletics interests with complimentary tickets to athletics events during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 academic years; and
- g. Provide the representative of the institution's athletics interests targeted NCAA rules education from the Iowa State compliance staff.

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

- 5. The institution shall suspend Head Wrestling Coach 2 from 10% of the men's wrestling regular season contests during the 2026-27 men's wrestling season. This suspension corresponds with two regular season dates of competition. The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Head Wrestling Coach 2 not be present with or have contact or communication with the men's wrestling coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled date of competition for the 2026-27 men's wrestling season. 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, Head Wrestling Coach 2 may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. The institution may not utilize Bylaw 11.02.2.1 to replace Head Wrestling Coach 2 on a temporary basis during the period of suspension. The results of those contests from which Head Wrestling Coach 2 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. Public reprimand and censure through the release of the negotiated resolution agreement.

7. 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 legislation.
 - b. Submit a preliminary report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) by **November 1st**, 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 **July 15th** during each year of probation. Particular emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring related to recruiting.
 - d. Inform prospects in the men's wrestling 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 men's wrestling 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.
8. 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 party believes that this case will be processed through the NCAA negotiated resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 19.10. A hearing panel comprised of members of the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions will review the negotiated resolution.

The enforcement staff notified the participating party and the participating party agrees with and/or acknowledges 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 19.1.3, the violations identified in this agreement occurred and should be classified as Level II – Mitigated.
- 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 Iowa State. The agreed-upon penalties align with the ranges identified for core penalties for Level II-Mitigated cases in Figure 19-1 and Bylaw 19.12.7. Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.6, this negotiated resolution has no precedential value.

The COI advises Iowa State that it should take every precaution to ensure that they observe the terms of the penalties. Any action by Iowa State 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

Jeremy Jordan

Kay Norton

Mary Schutten, chief hearing officer

APPENDIX

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1. Iowa State will submit a written notification to USA Wrestling detailing the violations.
2. Iowa State will require Head Wrestling Coach 2 to attend the 2027-28 Regional Rules Seminar.
3. Iowa State will provide a letter of admonishment to Head Wrestling Coach 2.