

Standard Penalties for Level III Violations in Division I

(Updated December 2024)

This information is meant to provide guidance to institutions when self-imposing penalties in response to certain Level III violations. It is not exclusive and not representative of all violations that may occur or all penalties that may be imposed. Each Level III case is decided on its own merits, and penalties in a particular case may deviate from those listed below. Inclusion on this list does not establish a particular violation as Level III.

NCAA Bylaw 11.5.1 violations – *Annual Rules Education Requirement* – The institution should reduce the off-campus recruiting activities for the entire coaching staff of the involved sport program by twice the number of days of the impermissible recruiting.

NCAA Bylaw 11.7 violations – *Limitation on the Number and Duties of Coaches and Noncoaching Staff Members* – For violations that are isolated or limited in scope, the institution should reduce the number of coaches who may recruit off campus for twice the number of days of the impermissible recruiting.

NCAA Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3 violations – *Amateurism Certification Process* – For violations of Bylaw 12.1.1.1.3 in which a student-athlete competes prior to having amateurism certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center, the institution should pay a fine in the amount of \$500 for each contest in which a noncertified student-athlete competed, and \$500 for each noncertified student-athlete who competed, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000 per incident. Please note that other penalties may apply as well. The fine may be paid by credit card online within Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO) or by check payable to the NCAA and include the RSRO Level III case number. Checks should be submitted to:

NCAA
P.O. Box 540014
Atlanta, GA 30353-0014

If the institution is requesting an invoice, please use the Generate Invoice link found on the decision page for the specific self-report and an invoice will be provided via email from the NCAA Accounting Department.

NCAA Bylaw 12.6 violations – *Financial Donations from Outside Organizations* – Any impermissible financial donations received from a professional sports organization should be deposited in the institution's general scholarship fund. Any impermissible financial donations from a nonprofessional sports organization should be returned to the organization.

NCAA Bylaw 13 violations – *Recruiting* – Most Bylaw 13 recruiting violations result in a 2-for-1 penalty. For example, if a coach has an impermissible in-person, off-campus contact with a prospect (or during a dead, quiet or evaluation period), the institution should count the impermissible contact as one of the permissible off-campus contact opportunities with that prospect and reduce the remaining number of permissible off-campus contacts with that prospect by one. Please note that recruiting violations in football and basketball may result in more

significant (e.g., 4-for-1) or other penalties as well. Violations of Bylaw 13.1.1.4 are significant and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if they can be processed Level III. Further, violations of Bylaw 13.1.1.4 impact the eligibility of the involved prospect.

NCAA Bylaw 13.1.3 violations – *Telephone Calls to Prospects* – For each impermissible call, institutions should preclude the entire coaching staff of the involved sport from utilizing the next two permissible calling opportunities with that prospect. In situations where there are unlimited calls, the institution should preclude the entire coaching staff of the involved sport from calling the prospect for a period of two weeks. If recruitment of the specific prospect has ceased or the prospect has signed the institution's written offer of admission/financial aid or deposited the institution should preclude the entire coaching staff of the involved sport from calling all prospects for a period of one week (even if two or more calls are permissible during that week) for each impermissible call that is made.

NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1 violations – *Recruiting Materials and Electronic Correspondence* – For each impermissible mailing (or electronic correspondence) prior to the date it becomes permissible to send recruiting materials (or electronic correspondence), the institution should preclude the involved sport program from sending any recruiting materials/correspondence (written, electronic, etc.) to the prospect(s) for a period of two weeks once it otherwise becomes permissible to send such recruiting materials. If recruitment of the specific prospect has ceased or the prospect has signed, the institution should preclude the entire coaching staff of the involved sport from sending any recruiting materials/correspondence to any prospects for a period of one week for each impermissible mailing or electronic correspondence.

NCAA Bylaw 13.10.1.1 violations – *Publicity Before Commitment – Social Media* – For each impermissible comment or post, the institution should require the removal of the impermissible comment or post and provide rules education to the involved institutional staff member or student-athlete.

Note: Some publicity/social media violations may also result in a recruiting materials and correspondence penalty if the communication is directed at the prospect and in view of the public (e.g., prospect tagged in the post or a retweet with comment).

NCAA Bylaw 14 violations – *Eligibility Requirements* – For violations of Bylaw 14 in which a student-athlete competes prior to being certified by the Eligibility Center (Bylaw 14.3) or institution (Bylaws 12.10.1 and 14.01.1), or in which a student-athlete competes while ineligible (no eligibility remaining, doesn't meet progress toward degree requirements, doesn't meet transfer requirements, etc.), the institution should pay a fine in the amount of \$500 for each contest in which a noncertified or ineligible student-athlete competed, and \$500 for each noncertified or ineligible student-athlete who competed, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000 per incident.

Please note that other penalties may apply as well. The fine may be paid by credit card online within RSRO or by check (payable to the NCAA and include the RSRO Level III case number). Checks should be submitted to:

NCAA
P.O. Box 540014
Atlanta, GA 30353-0014

If the institution is requesting an invoice, please use the Generate Invoice link found on the decision page for the specific self-report and an invoice will be provided via email from the NCAA Accounting Department.

NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3 violations – *Equivalency Sports* – For violations in which the amount of the overage is less than 20% of the team financial aid limit, the institution should reduce the involved sport program's maximum team financial aid limit by twice the amount of the overage for the next academic year.

NCAA Bylaw 16 violations – *Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes* – For Bylaw 16 violations in which the value of the impermissible benefit is \$200 or less, the involved student-athlete(s) must donate the value of the impermissible benefit to a charity prior to competing in the next contest (except for Bylaw 16.8.1 violations, which are de minimis and do not require repayment). Documentation of such repayment should be kept on file by the institution. Any Bylaw 16 violations for which the institution would like to request eligibility be reinstated without repayment, or for which there is no monetary value, also should be sent to student-athlete reinstatement (SAR) through RSRO.

NCAA Bylaw 17 violations – *Playing and Practice Seasons* – All Bylaw 17 violations should result in a 2-for-1 reduction in countable athletically related activities (CARA) (e.g., exceeding the 20 hour per week limit on practice activities by two hours should result in a four-hour reduction in practice activities the following week), except (1) Bylaw 17.1.5 (Mandatory Medical Examination) and (2) Bylaw 17.__.3 (First Date of Competition), which should result in a letter of admonishment to the involved individual(s).

Note: Posting/re-posting of voluntary athletically related activities on the coaching staff/team social media account(s) should result in a minimum 30-minute CARA reduction for the entire team.