

NCAA Rule of the Month

March 2012

Sports Wagering Activities

All CU athletic department staff members, student-athletes and those nonathletics staff members who have responsibility within or over the athletics department (e.g., FAR, Chancellor, President) are prohibited from participating in sports wagering/gambling. This includes any sport sponsored by the NCAA, at any level (professional, collegiate, amateur).

What is Gambling? It's easy to remember. Risk + Reward = Gambling. To further spell it out, if any individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (cash, shirt, dinner) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value, it is considered a wager.

What about online Fantasy Leagues? Online fantasy leagues that include an entry fee are considered to be sports wagering. If there is no entry fee to participate, then it is a permissible activity.

What about pools or brackets? A sports pool or bracket with an entry fee is considered sports wagering. If someone in the office is having a baby pool (select the day the baby is born), this is permissible as it does not involve sports!

A few more notes:

- It is also not permissible to provide information to someone who is going to be placing a sports wager on a CU game.
- The type of information that you should not provide to gamblers can vary from injuries and starting line up to team morale.
- Another form of sports wagering is point shaving. Typically those involved in point shaving schemes are subject to criminal investigation.
- Gambling restrictions are not applicable to traditional wagers between institutions (rivalry games) or in conjunction with particular contests (bowl games). Items wagered must be representative of the involved institutions or the states in which they are located (i.e., Centennial Cup from the Rocky Mountain Showdown).

What are the penalties? The penalties differ based on the value of the wager and if the wager involves CU. If a student-athlete is found to have participated in point shaving at CU, that student-athlete permanently loses all eligibility in all sports. If a student-athlete participates in other forms of sports wagering through the internet, a bookmaker or a parlay card, they are ineligible for one calendar year and also lose a year of eligibility. If the student-athlete is found to have participated in sports wagering a second time, they will permanently lose all remaining eligibility in all sports. Staff members who participate in sports wagering could have penalties ranging from a letter of admonishment, suspension for a time period without pay or termination. Don't Bet On It!

If you have any questions regarding sports wagering, please feel free to contact compliance.