



# Academic Misconduct training: Compliance Officers

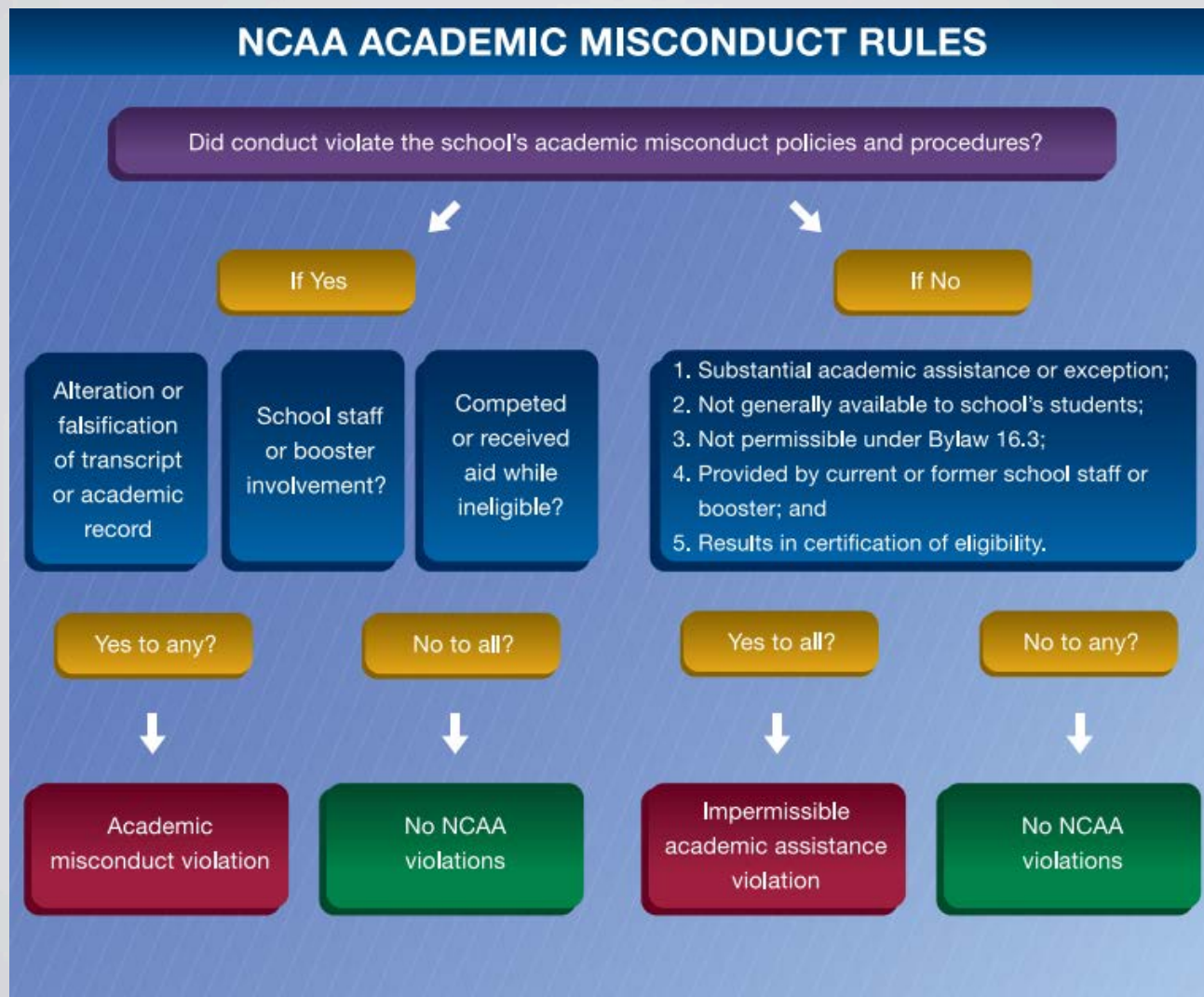
# Training Road Map

- ▶ Institutional policy.
- ▶ NCAA policy.
- ▶ What does this mean for you?
  - ▶ Knowledge of policies.
  - ▶ Departmental policy.
  - ▶ Education.
- ▶ Transfer student-athletes.
  - ▶ Potential academic misconduct red flags.
  - ▶ Potential academic misconduct screening measures.

# 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 the athletics department staff 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.

# NCAA Policy



# What Does This Mean for You?

- ▶ Athletics compliance officers are often the individuals to whom the alleged academic misconduct is reported.
- ▶ Its important that you understand how the academic misconduct policy works on your campus.
- ▶ Knowledge of the NCAA academic misconduct legislation.
  - ▶ It is important for compliance to have a good understanding of when the academic misconduct becomes an NCAA issue or when it is solely an institutional issue.
- ▶ If you can, have a departmental policy that provides what steps the compliance office should take in the event potential academic misconduct is discovered/reported. Policy should include:
  - ▶ Defined roles and reporting channels for FAR, director of athletics, compliance office and athletic academic staff.
  - ▶ Procedures/guidelines for athletics department staff members on how the potential misconduct should be reported to campus academic misconduct officials as well as within the athletics department.
  - ▶ A process for campus reporting of academic misconduct of student-athletes to compliance.
  - ▶ Procedure/guidelines for a review to determine if the academic misconduct is an NCAA issue and a plan for how the possible violation is reported to the NCAA.

# What Does This Mean for You?

- ▶ Provide education as a preventative measure and information on university/department policies to:
  - ▶ Student-athletes;
  - ▶ Coaches;
  - ▶ Athletics department staff;
  - ▶ FAR; and
  - ▶ Campus personnel:
    - Registrar;
    - Campus academic misconduct officials; and
    - Campus personnel involved in transfer credit evaluation and eligibility.

# Transfer Student-Athletes

## (Potential Academic Misconduct Red Flags)

- ▶ 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 (almost always an English, Math or Science 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.

# Transfer Student-Athletes (Potential Academic Misconduct Screening Measures)

- ▶ Below are suggestions for actions that the compliance office or the athletics department staff can take to evaluate if there might be a possible academic misconduct issue in regard to transfer student-athletes.
- ▶ It's hard for some compliance offices to do an investigation into each transfer student-athlete that the red flags may implicate.
  - ▶ A suggestion is to have an evaluation form that lists the potential red flags and create an internal policy that defines how many red flags your department believes it would take in order to do a review of the student-athlete and the coursework in question.
- ▶ Do a review of the institution in question.
  - ▶ Look to see if this is an established institution or if there have been prior instances of academic misconduct concerning the courses at the institution previously.

# Transfer Student-Athletes (Potential Academic Misconduct Screening Measures)

- ▶ Request payment records for the course in question.
  - ▶ Some institutions may require a release signed by the student-athlete in order to release this information.
- ▶ Student-athlete form.
  - ▶ Have the student-athlete sign an institutional form that requires them to certify that they paid for the course and/or completed all work on their own.
- ▶ Interview the student-athlete.
  - ▶ Hold a formal or informal interview with the student-athlete to ask basic questions about the course(s) (e.g., instructor name, number of assignments, content of the course).
    - Note: the student-athlete's narrative will most likely not be 100 percent accurate, but you are looking to see if they know enough about the course to presumably be enrolled and completing the course work.
    - It is recommended that you provide a Bylaw 10.1 admonishment to the student-athlete prior to the interview.
- ▶ Work with the institution where the course was taken to see what information they might provide you (e.g., IP addresses, copies of assignments, etc.).

**THANK YOU**