



Academic Misconduct training: FARs

Training Road Map

- ▶ The role of the FAR.
- ▶ NCAA academic misconduct legislation.
- ▶ Institutional policy.
 - ▶ The importance of knowing it and following it.
- ▶ Signs of academic misconduct.
 - ▶ Miraculous recoveries.
 - ▶ Overzealous coaches.
 - ▶ Lack of knowledge about course materials (online).
 - ▶ Friends of the program.
 - ▶ Proctoring.
- ▶ Transfer Student-athletes.

The Role of the FAR

- ▶ FARs are often the individuals on campus who discover or help work through alleged academic misconduct involving a student-athlete.
- ▶ It can be discovered through several ways:
 - ▶ When checking grade changes (if part of your FAR responsibilities).
 - ▶ Contact directly from a faculty person.
 - Some faculty members feel more comfortable contacting another faculty member.
 - ▶ Involvement with the institution's academic misconduct policy.
 - Some FARs serve as the athletics department's liaison.
 - ▶ Information from other campus officials (Dean's office, campus advising).
 - ▶ Involvement by athletics in a potential academic misconduct investigation.
- ▶ It is important that FARs are knowledgeable about both NCAA legislation and the institution's policy concerning academic misconduct.
- ▶ If possible, codify the role of the FAR in academic misconduct cases involving student-athletes.
- ▶ Work with department deans to discuss the importance of reporting academic misconduct involving student-athletes to athletics because of potential impact on eligibility.

NCAA Legislation



Institutional Academic Misconduct 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.
- ▶ Its always important that FARs 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.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

▶ Miraculous recoveries.

- ▶ Student-athlete has consistently performed poorly in class, then manages to score extraordinarily well on subsequent assignments/tests. This is done without corresponding tutoring or other academic assistance.
- ▶ Possible preventative steps: visit with the enrolled student-athlete to determine how they are achieving these results. Remind them of the possible ramifications of an academic misconduct violation.

▶ Overzealous coaches.

- ▶ Coaches who become increasingly demanding of athletics academic advisors and do not feel the advisor is “doing enough.” Coaches who go around the appropriate individuals and speak directly to campus personnel and/or professors.
- ▶ Possible solution: make it clear to all coaches that academics is best left to the experts. It's impossible for coaches to be viewed neutrally by campus when they are advocating for their student-athletes. If you can, have a no-contact policy between professors and coaches concerning their student-athletes.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

- ▶ Lack of knowledge of course materials.
 - ▶ Particularly in online courses, student-athletes do not know how to sign on to the course page, do not know how many assignments they have or when exams are, yet they have been making progress in the course.
 - ▶ Possible preventative measures: athletics academic advising should be involved in the registration and monitoring of online courses. Have an institutional policy concerning what is expected of student-athletes enrolled in online courses and how a failure to follow this policy could restrict their ability to enroll in these courses in the future.
- ▶ Friends of program.
 - ▶ Campus individuals (professors, administrators) who are particularly close to a sport program(s) and are interested in helping student-athletes. They take the assistance too far and engage in academic misconduct.
 - ▶ Possible preventative measures: for friends who are known to athletics, take the time to educate them on what is appropriate academic assistance and what is not. It is helpful for FARs to help in educating campus officials (professors, Deans) to the extent possible.

Signs of Potential Academic Misconduct and Best Practices

▶ Proctoring.

- ▶ Student-athletes who are traveling take an exam on the road and the proctor, usually an athletics department staff person, allows the student-athlete to use outside materials for the exam, or worse, helps them complete the exam.
- ▶ Possible preventative measures: try to use the FAR at the institution you are traveling to for proctoring exams. If that is not possible, have a proctoring policy that those administering the exam must follow.

Transfer Student-Athletes

- ▶ The NCAA has seen a rise in the amount of academic misconduct involving transfer student-athletes.
 - ▶ Having FARs involved in the initial review of transcripts is helpful.
- ▶ 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:
 - ▶ 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.
- ▶ In these circumstances, institutions should think about reviewing the course. Work with compliance if this is the case.
- ▶ 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 (e.g. coach or athletics department staff).



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