# Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Hot Topics and Public & Media Relations Issues

Jennifer Henderson and Danielle Ghiloni Student-Athlete Reinstatement

Stacey Osburn, Michelle Hosick, Emily James and Chris Radford

Public and Media Relations

## **Session Overview**

- Student-Athlete Reinstatement (SAR) team: By the Numbers.
- How Public and Media Relations can help.
- · Case Study and Discussion.
- · Key Takeaways.

### **Cases Processed by SAR**

- SA was involved in a violation that affects eligibility and requires reinstatement.
  - Student-athlete reinstatement request.
- SA was unable to compete in four seasons in a five-year period.
- Extension of eligibility waiver.
- Athletics activity waiver.
- SA was unable to complete a season due to extenuating circumstances or medical hardship.
  - Hardship waiver (independent institutions).
  - Hardship waiver appeal.
- · Season-of-competition waiver.

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### **Division I SAR Cases 2013-14**

• Reinstatement requests: 774

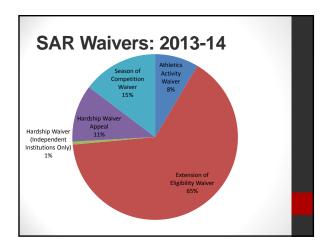
• Urgent: 313 (40%)

SAR waivers: 322Urgent: 24 (7%)

• Amateurism certification decisions: 28

• Total Division I cases: 1,137

• Total cases (all divisions): 1,787



# **SAR Analysis**

- Facts.
- Mitigation.
- SA culpability.
- Institutional involvement.
- Committee guidelines.
- Case precedent.
- Totality of circumstances.



# Intersection of PMR and Reinstatement

- NCAA public and media relations SAR team:
  - Stacey Osburn
  - Michelle Hosick
  - Emily James
  - Chris Radford
- What does NCAA public and media relations do?
- Educate and inform about college sports issues.
- Tell the benefits of athletics in higher education.
- Collaborate with national office staff, the membership and others
- Use clear and concise language in all communications.

# Intersection of PMR and Reinstatement (cont.)

- How does PMR collaborate with SAR?
  - Work with SAR and member schools before issues break, during the review and through the decision.
  - · Monitor media stories and social media.
  - · Correct inaccurate information.
  - Assist in the development of communication strategy surrounding decision.
    - Proactive
    - Reactive

# Reaction Video

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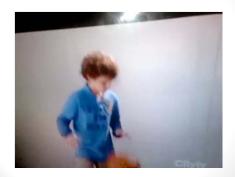
# Before posting the video...

- What's the communication strategy?
- Are there any ramifications to posting? Confidential information?
- Have you notified the student that it will post?
   What about others at the school and the NCAA?
- Do the viewers understand the process/what's going on?

# Communications best practices

- Consult with university relations, athletics communications and NCAA PMR.
- Have a clear media strategy, communication plan.
- Monitor issues via social media sites, local, national outlets, etc.
- Beware of leaks.
- Include all relevant facts of the case (excluding confidential information).

# Case Study: Phil Dunphy



# **Media Inquiry to School**

- ZMT Celebrity News contacts school about a video they plan to post their web site.
- ZMT is seeking to find out if the NCAA is investigating Dunphy for signing autographs.
- ZMT also claims it has a photo that was tweeted out by a Memorabilia Collector showing the Collector and Dunphy at a local restaurant.
- · What do you do?

### **Facts**

- Dunphy participated in four autograph sessions during his first two years at Basketball U.
- Dunphy received \$3,000 in exchange for his participation in autograph sessions.
- Gil Thorpe, a sports memorabilia collector, contacted Dunphy directly and offered to pay him \$500 per hour for signing items.

### **Guidelines and Case Precedent**

- Bylaw 12 guideline.
- Value of benefit greater than \$700 = withholding of 30 percent and repayment.
- · Case precedent.
- Mitigation Discussion.

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- In lieu of repayment only.
- Three-tier approach.
- Calculation.
- Time frame to complete community service.
- Community service plans and institution's responsibility.
- Charitable organization.

# **Decision and Rationale**

- Approved.
- Withholding?
- Repayment and/or community service?
- Rationale?

# **Communications Next Steps**

- Contact your athletics communications or university relations teams to discuss media strategy.
- Contact NCAA PMR staff to discuss media strategy.
- Monitor social media and other statements made by involved individuals, including student-athletes, coaches, third parties, etc.

# **Key Takeaways**

- Communicate with NCAA from onset of process, especially if URGENT competition is pending.
- Determine relevant facts and mitigation, don't rely on unreliable sources.
- Review Division I Committee on SAR Guidelines.
- Include appropriate institutional staff members in process.
- Media strategy, communication plan.

# Questions

