

January 14, 2020

ITEM 186-103-C0120

Request for Approval to Establish Intercollegiate Sports Integrity Policy – Prohibited Wagers

THAT

The Board of Regents approves the Intercollegiate Sports Integrity Policy – Prohibited Wagers.

EXPLANATION

In 2019, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill 725, which authorized sports betting through the state lottery. The bill allows for betting on professional and intercollegiate athletics. On November 21, 2019, the state lottery approved rules that limit sports betting to establishments with gambling operator licenses (tavernas and casinos). The state lottery plans to offer betting on athletic events in January 2020.

Current NCAA rules prohibit student athletes, coaches, conference staff, institutional athletics staff, and non-athletics staff who have responsibilities within or over an athletics department from betting on amateur, collegiate, or professional sports. The NCAA also prohibits student athletes and covered staff from sharing information concerning a team or another team that individuals might seek to use for sports betting purposes.

The proposed Board of Regents' Intercollegiate Sports Integrity Policy is consistent with NCAA rules and applies to Board members who are appointed by the Governor, the Commissioner, student athletes (NCAA and NAIA), full and part-time staff members and volunteers who have responsibilities within or over athletic departments, as well as presidents and chancellors. Among other activities, the policy prohibits such individuals from betting on amateur, collegiate, or professional sports in which the NCAA conducts a championship or in any NAIA athletic contests. The NCAA currently allows the head representative (president, chancellor, etc.) of an institution to participate in wagering activities with the head representative of another institution in traditional rivalries.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment # 1: Draft BOR Sports Integrity Policy