

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Policy and Procedures Manual

SUBJECT: ATHLETICS

Policy 1203 – Intercollegiate Sports Integrity Policy – Prohibited Wagers

Effective: January 14, 2020

I. Introduction

Under longstanding and current NCAA rules, student athletes, coaches, conference office staff members, institutional athletics staff members, and non-athletics department institutional staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports), are prohibited from betting on any amateur, collegiate, or professional sports in which the NCAA conducts a championship, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women. Additionally, student athletes and covered staff are prohibited from sharing information that individuals involved in sports betting activities might seek and use concerning their team or any other team, including but not limited to practice attendance, injuries, morale, mental or physical health, or disciplinary action.

This NCAA prohibition applies to all athletic contests that are legal in Montana and offered by the Montana Lottery through passage of legalized sports gaming by the 66th Montana Legislature in 2019.

II. Board Policy

The Montana Board of Regents requires all of its voting members appointed by the Governor, the Commissioner of Higher Education, student athletes who represent Montana University System institutions in NCAA and NAIA intercollegiate sports, full-time and part-time staff members and volunteers who have responsibilities within or over the athletics departments, and Presidents and Chancellors to carry out their responsibilities with high standards of integrity by never knowingly:

- A. Soliciting, accepting, or betting money, or anything else of value on amateur, collegiate, or professional sports in which the NCAA conducts a championship or any NAIA athletic contests.
- B. Participating in any gambling activity involving intercollegiate sports or professional athletics sponsored in any way by the NCAA through any informal or organized gambling method or any NAIA athletic contests.
- C. Sharing information about student athlete mental or physical health, attendance at practices, or discipline, or about the student athlete or coaches that could be used by individuals involved or associated with sports wagering activities.
- D. Engaging in any conduct that attempts to manipulate the outcome of an event in order to benefit sports wagering on a game.

The descriptions of prohibited conduct above shall be interpreted as broadly as consistent with other applicable policies and laws.

History:

Effective January 14, 2020 per Item 183-103-C0120

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III. Campus Policies and Procedures:

The Montana Board of Regents requires educational institutions with NCAA and NAIA athletic programs to be vigilant in protecting the integrity of sporting events by:

- A. Adequately publishing notices and posting policies on prohibited sports wagering on campus, as well as information about where to directly report violations;
- B. Educating all student athletes and covered employees about prohibited sports wagering activities and having these individuals annually sign and date an acknowledgement form attached to a handbook or training material documenting that they have received, reviewed, and had an opportunity to ask questions about the restrictions that they must follow.
- C. Ensuring that campus procedures exist to remedy violations of any applicable policies and handbooks and state or federal laws on sports wagering and providing appropriate discipline for students such as suspension or dismissal from the athletic program or disciplinary action for employees up to and including suspension or termination of employment. Depending on the facts, additional consequences for violations include but are not limited to prosecution by local, state or federal law enforcement or action by the NCAA such as suspension or the elimination of a campus sport from a division or revocation of wins, championships, or individual awards.

History:

Effective January 14, 2020 per Item 183-103-C0120