



# NCAA Division I Infractions 2019-20 Annual Report

The NCAA's enforcement staff and hearing operation staff, along with the Division I Committee on Infractions and Division I Infractions Appeals Committee, are committed to preserving fairness and credibility within college sports. The peer-review process has benefited from the addition of tools such as importation and noncooperation penalties, as well as the negotiated resolution path. For the small subset of complex cases, the new Independent Accountability Resolution Process offers an alternate path for resolutions of infractions matters. In all, the infractions process is better equipped now than ever before to promote fairness and integrity throughout college sports.

## Snapshots of 2019

**700+**  
Tips Received

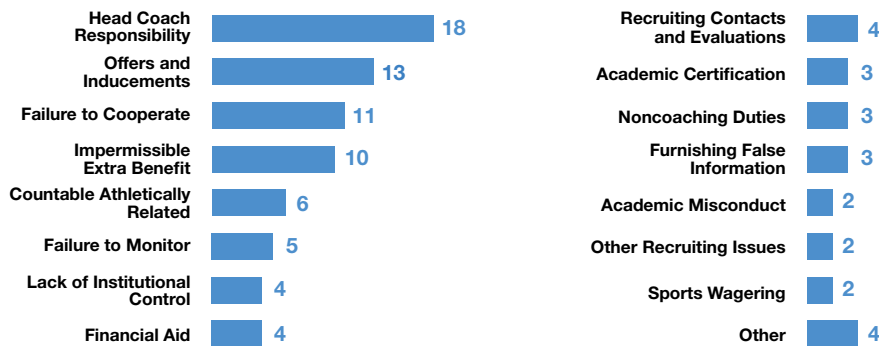
Pieces of information reported to the NCAA enforcement staff, which decides if information is credible or specific enough to open an investigation.

**250**  
Leads Developed

Number of those initial tips the enforcement staff received that are investigated further at Division I programs.

**94**  
Allegations

Number of allegations made by the enforcement staff in Division I alone — the enforcement staff also investigates and processes cases in Divisions II and III. Other reports were either not substantiated, did not constitute violations, were processed as Level III or were handled through other NCAA procedures.



**19**  
Decisions

Number of cases processed by the Division I Committee on Infractions.

**6** Hearings  
Average processing time:  
**56 days**

**3** Summary Dispositions  
Average processing time:  
**25 days**

**3** Summary Dispositions with Expedited Hearings  
Average processing time:  
**36 days**

**7** Negotiated Resolutions  
Average processing time:  
**7 days\***

Number of cases processed by the Division I Infractions Appeals Committee.

**4** Total Penalties Appealed

**4** Total Penalties Affirmed

\*Average number of days between final review and release in negotiated resolution cases

## Meet the Vice President of Hearing Operations



**Naima Stevenson Starks**

In June 2019, the NCAA turned to a proven internal senior leader with deep experience in legal and regulatory affairs to serve as the Association's first vice president of hearing operations.

Naima Stevenson Starks, a Harvard Law School graduate who has been with the NCAA since 2006 after a career as an attorney in private practice, serves as a liaison to the NCAA Committees on Infractions

and Infractions Appeals Committees in all three divisions and oversees the staffs that support these committees.

In her new role, Stevenson Starks provides strategic coordination for the NCAA's new Independent Accountability Resolution Process. The creation of the new process directly stemmed from recommendations made by the Commission on College Basketball, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to bring more outside voices and expertise into the NCAA's infractions process.

Specifically, the former NCAA deputy general counsel and managing director of academic and membership affairs now serves as the Association's primary liaison with the new Independent Accountability Oversight Committee, Infractions Referral Committee and Independent Resolution Panel.

## Changes to the Peer-Review Process

### INCREASED PENALTIES

To deter future violations, presidents, chancellors, coaches and athletics staff have stronger, clearer accountability expectations and face significant penalties if they break the rules. Those who violate the rules face more severe penalties, including longer postseason bans, longer head coach suspensions, increased recruiting restrictions, loss of all postseason revenue sharing, up to a lifetime ban, head coach fines and other additional fines. The penalty structure is identical in both the peer-review process and independent process.

### VACATION OF RECORDS

The emphasis to increase penalties continued into 2020, as the Committee on Infractions proposed new legislation that would make vacation of records a core penalty, instead of its current status of an additional penalty. If adopted, in every case in which a panel finds that an ineligible student-athlete competed, the penalty of vacation of records shall be prescribed for the contests in which the ineligible student-athlete competed. However, the Committee on Infractions has the ability to deviate from core penalties if extenuating circumstances exist.

### NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION

In its first year in the infractions process, the negotiated resolution option proved to be an attractive and efficient path for parties who are all in full agreement on the violations, the level of violations and penalties. More than 35% of cases that reached the Division I Committee on Infractions in 2019 were resolved via the negotiated resolution path.

### NEW TOOLS

Recent additions to the infractions process have enhanced its ability to promote fairness. These new tools include importation, which allows the enforcement staff, Committee on Infractions or Independent Resolution Panel to bring information in from outside proceedings, such as court cases. Noncooperation penalties have also been added. The chair of the Division I Committee on Infractions or the Independent Resolution Panel can impose immediate penalties when schools or individuals do not cooperate (including loss of revenue or postseason opportunities). These bodies can consider lack of cooperation as admission of a violation.

## Contacts

Have questions, concerns or complaints? Or would you simply like to connect with the NCAA staff that helps oversee this member-driven process?

**Jon Duncan**

*Vice president,  
NCAA Enforcement*  
[jduncan@ncaa.org](mailto:jduncan@ncaa.org)

**Naima Stevenson Starks**

*Vice president,  
Hearing Operations*  
[nstevenson@ncaa.org](mailto:nstevenson@ncaa.org)

**Joel McGormley**

*Managing director, NCAA Office of  
the Committees on Infractions*  
[jmcgormley@ncaa.org](mailto:jmcgormley@ncaa.org)

**Wendy Walters**

*Managing director, NCAA Infractions  
Appeals Committees Office*  
[wwalters@ncaa.org](mailto:wwalters@ncaa.org)