Policy

UNIVERSITY POLICY AT-2.01-09/26

TO: The University of West Florida Community

FROM: Mr. Manny Diaz, Jr., President

SUBJECT: Review and Reporting of NCAA Violations

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: Intercollegiate Athletics

I. Purpose:

The University of West Florida is affiliated with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I and is a member of Conferences as a full multi-sport member and football-playing member. All suspected or alleged violations of NCAA and/or Conference rules must be investigated.

This policy establishes investigatory and reporting requirements for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. All athletic department staff members, student-athletes, University employees, boosters, and community members are expected to comply with this policy.

II. Definitions:

Level I Violation. A Level I violation is a violation that seriously undermines or threatens the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model, as set forth in the bylaws, including any violation that provides or is intended to provide a substantial or extensive recruiting, competitive or other advantage, or a substantial or extensive impermissible benefit. Among other examples, the following, in appropriate circumstances, may constitute a Level I violation: (a) Lack of institutional control; (b) Academic integrity violations; (c) Failure to cooperate in an NCAA enforcement investigation; (d) Providing or attempting to influence others to provide false or misleading information, regardless of whether the underlying institutional violations are considered Level I; (e) Application of Bylaw 11.1.1.1 (Responsibility of Head Coach) based on an underlying Level I violation; (f) Cash payment or other benefits provided by a coach, administrator or representative of the institution's athletics interests intended to secure, or which resulted in, enrollment of a prospective student-athlete; (g) Third-party involvement in recruiting violations in which institutional staff members knew or should have known about the involvement; (h) Intentional violations or reckless indifference to NCAA bylaws; or (i) Collective Level II and/or Level III violations.

Level II Violation. A Level II violation is a violation that provides or is intended to provide more than a minimal but less than a substantial or extensive recruiting, competitive or other advantage; includes more than a minimal but less than a substantial or extensive impermissible benefit; or

involves conduct that may compromise the integrity of the NCAA Collegiate Model as set forth in the bylaws. Among other examples, the following may constitute a Level II violation: (a) Violations that do not rise to the level of Level I violations and are more serious than Level III violations; (b) Failure to monitor (such violations will be presumed Level II but may be deemed to be of a Level I nature if the failure is substantial or egregious); (c) Systemic violations that do not amount to a lack of institutional control; (d) Multiple recruiting, financial aid, or eligibility violations that do not amount to a lack of institutional control; (e) Application of Bylaw 11.1.1.1 (Responsibility of Head Coach) based on an underlying Level II violation; (f) A violation of Bylaw 13.1.1.4 (Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes) as it relates to contact with a prospective student-athlete; or (g) Collective Level III violations.

Level III Violation. A Level III violation is a violation that is isolated or limited in nature; provides no more than a minimal recruiting, competitive or other advantage; and provides no more than a minimal impermissible benefit. Among other examples, the following may constitute a Level III violation: (a) Inadvertent violations that are isolated or limited in nature; or (b) Extra-benefit, financial aid, academic eligibility and recruiting violations, provided they do not create more than minimal advantages.

III. Policy:

A. Each individual (e.g. athletic department staff member, student-athlete, University employee, booster, or member of the community) involved in the operation of the athletics program is obligated to immediately report to the Director of Athletics or the Senior Compliance Administrator any alleged, rumored or suspected violation of NCAA, Conference, or University rules of which he or she is aware. Reports may be made verbally or in writing and may also be made anonymously.

B. All suspected or alleged violations of NCAA and/or conference rules shall be investigated by the University's Senior Compliance Administrator. After initial notification, the Senior Compliance Administrator will conduct a preliminary investigation in order to ascertain whether or not there has been a violation, and to determine the nature and scope of the possible violation. Specifically, it must be determined if the alleged violation is a Level I, Level II, or Level III Violation. An emphasis is placed on executing this process in as timely a manner as possible. The Senior Compliance Administrator will confer with the Director of Athletics when needed to determine if there appears to have been an NCAA or Conference violation.

C. Findings regarding violations shall be reported to the Director of Athletics, the Faculty Athletic Representative, and the President of the University. In the event that a violation is substantiated, a formal written report will be submitted to the appropriate NCAA and Conference offices. The NCAA or Conference will make final determination on any reported violations and will impose and enforce sanctions as appropriate. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will comply with sanctions and procedures and practices will be adjusted as necessary to avoid future violations. Disciplinary action may be taken, as provided for in the applicable University

regulation, policy, or collective bargaining agreement, against staff and/or student athletes by the University if appropriate. Any willful violation of an NCAA, Conference,, or University regulation regarding intercollegiate athletics may subject a coach, administrative staff member, or other University official to immediate disciplinary action or termination of employment.

D. The Director of Athletics and the Senior Compliance Administrator will be responsible for developing, maintaining, and publicizing procedures for implementing this policy. These procedures must, at minimum, describe the actions to be taken by the Senior Compliance Administrator to investigate, document, and report findings to the NCAA, Conference,, Athletic Administration, Faculty Athletic Representative, and University President. The Athletic Compliance Staff will keep a written record of alleged violations/preliminary investigations. The University will keep a permanent file of all reported violations.

E. The Senior Compliance Administrator will annually review procedures with the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee (IACC) and will effect changes to procedures as appropriate. All athletic program staff members, student athletes, and University employees are expected to be knowledgeable of current procedures.

Approved by: _____ **Date:** 9/30/26
President Manny Diaz, Jr.

Authority: Florida BOG Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties, NCAA Bylaws

Cross Ref.:

History: SA-34.01-02/15, renamed and revised, AT-02.01-08/26

Last Review: September, 2026