

CASE SUMMARY

Fordham failed to monitor its men's basketball program

Additional sports betting violations committed by assistant football coach

Fordham failed to monitor its men's basketball program when eight prospects were provided impermissible benefits during official visits and the program violated publicity-before-signing rules with 24 prospects. As a result, Trevonn Morton, director of men's basketball operations, and Keith Urgo, then the men's basketball head coach, violated ethical conduct rules, and Urgo violated head coach responsibility rules. The case was processed via negotiated resolution and was approved by the Division I Committee on Infractions.

Additional violations occurred when Fordham football assistant coach James Lenahan engaged in sports betting activities. Lenahan's case was resolved separately via negotiated resolution in December 2024.

The parties agreed that over the course of two years, the basketball program provided approximately \$10,736 in entertainment during official visits for eight men's basketball prospects and their families, in excess of the allowable entertainment expenses. Those expenses included: Jet Ski rentals, tickets to New York Knicks games, tickets to the U.S. Open Tennis Championships and suite tickets for a New York Giants game (including an on-field meet-and-greet with high-profile team alumni) and a Brooklyn Nets game. Former athletics director Ed Kull agreed he was involved in the provision of impermissible benefits associated with the Giants game.

As a result of the impermissible benefits, two of the prospects went on to compete while ineligible after their enrollment.

The parties also agreed that over the course of approximately 18 months, the basketball program violated publicity-before-signing rules when it arranged professional photo shoots in Times Square for prospects and provided team-issued gear for them to wear in the photos.

The parties agreed that although impermissible expenses were submitted to the athletics department business office and there was some interaction with compliance staff about recruiting rules, the school did not have systems in place to detect the violations. Additionally, the school detected violations for one of the circumstances but failed to conduct a timely investigation and report it to the enforcement staff. Because the school did not establish systems of compliance to detect the recruiting violations, the parties agreed that Fordham failed to monitor its men's basketball program.

The parties also agreed that Morton and Urgo both violated ethical conduct rules when they knowingly provided impermissible recruiting benefits. Morton also failed to cooperate

when he knowingly provided false or misleading information during an interview with the NCAA enforcement staff about his involvement in the violations. Finally, Urgo did not rebut the presumption of head coach responsibility due to his involvement in the violations and failure to report potential issues to the compliance staff.

During the course of the enforcement investigation, the school uncovered that Lenahan had engaged in sports betting activities when he placed a total of 123 bets — 63 on professional sports and 60 on college sports — totaling \$21,253. None of the bets involved Football Championship Subdivision games. Lenahan agreed to his violations and associated penalties, which he began serving in December after the Committee on Infractions approved the negotiated resolution for his portion of the case.

The violations were classified as Level II-Standard for Fordham and Urgo, Level II-Mitigated for Kull, and Level II-Aggravated for Morton. Lenahan's case was classified as Level II-Standard.

The following penalties apply:

- Three years of probation.
- A fine of \$35,000 plus 2% of the men's basketball program budget.
- Reduction of two men's basketball official visits during the 2024-25 year (self-imposed).
- A one-week ban on off-campus recruiting activities during the July 2025 recruiting period.
- An eight-week ban on recruiting communications with prospects during the 2024-25 year (self-imposed).
- A 10% reduction in recruiting-person days during the 2023-24 season (self-imposed).
- A two-year show-cause order for Urgo, including a suspension from 12% of the men's basketball regular-season contests (or four games).
- A one-year show-cause order for Kull, including a prohibition against meeting with men's basketball prospects during official visits during the show-cause period.
- A three-year show-cause order for Morton, including a two-week suspension from all athletically related activities.
- Vacation of team wins and records over the course of the two seasons in which the ineligible players competed.
- A two-year show-cause order for Lenahan, which he began serving in December when the committee approved the negotiated resolution for his portion of the case.
- A two-game suspension for Lenahan, which he served during the 2024-25 season.

Members of the Committee on Infractions are drawn from the NCAA membership and public. The panel members who reviewed this case are:

- Jeremy Jordan, dean of the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics at Syracuse.
- Kay Norton, chief hearing officer and president emerita of Northern Colorado, chair of the Committee on Infractions.
- Mary Schutten, former executive vice president and provost at Central Michigan.