CASE SUMMARY

Loras violated financial aid rules

Violations occurred when Loras awarded four international baseball student-athletes nearly $215,000 in financial aid funded by a donor during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, according to an agreement released by the Division III Committee on Infractions.

The school and the NCAA enforcement staff agreed that during a visit to Colombia, members of the school's Board of Regents met with the donor in question, who expressed interest in supporting the school by financially assisting Colombian students who enrolled there. When the donor later visited Loras, he met with the same Board of Regents members, the then-president of the university, and the baseball head and assistant coaches, during which he indicated his interest in financially supporting Colombian students he knew through his involvement with a youth baseball charitable organization.

After that meeting, four baseball prospects associated with that organization applied to Loras and were admitted, despite the fact that the school — including the baseball coaches — did not recruit them or communicate with them prior to their arrival on campus. Later that summer, the then-president and then-vice president of advancement worked with the donor to create the private award for male students in good academic standing from a specific location in Colombia. That scholarship — valuing at least $24,800 — was awarded for two academic years to only the four baseball student-athletes.

Loras also gave the students a permissible $28,000 scholarship offered to international students. When combined with the private award, the scholarships equated to approximately 97% of the school's full cost of attendance.

Donors are not permitted to contribute funds to provide financial aid to student-athletes. Further, because the financial award from the donor was significantly more than what all other students at the university received and was provided only to baseball student-athletes, the scholarships violated fundamental Division III financial rules, since the division does not award athletics scholarships.

As a result of the violations, the parties also agreed that the school failed to monitor its financial aid process because it did not educate all departments responsible for creating financial aid awards about NCAA rules.

The agreed-upon penalties include:

- Two years of probation.
- A $2,500 fine.
- A Level II review by the Financial Aid Committee.
- A requirement that institutional staff must complete educational programming.

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

- Angela Givens Williams, member of the public.

- Ellen O'Brien, deputy director of athletics and senior woman administrator at Marymount (Virginia).
- Thomas Simmons, director of athletics at Ohio Northern.
- Matt Tanney, associate vice president and director of athletics at Denison and chair of the committee.

NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION[1]

Loras College – Case No. 020567

September 4, 2026

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Loras College (Loras) and the NCAA enforcement staff agree with the violations and penalties detailed below.

Origin of the case.

On March 2, 2026, as part of the 2025-26 Division III Financial Aid Reporting Program, the NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee notified the institution of its distinguishable pattern of awarding financial aid for the 2024-25 academic year which resulted in an advantage for student-athletes and referred the case to the enforcement staff for additional review. Specifically, the Financial Aid Committee flagged a private award in amounts ranging from $24,821 to $24,891 given only to four baseball student-athletes. The private award combined with the institution's $28,000 international student award equated to 97% of the $54,733 cost of attendance for each of the four-baseball student-athletes. Additionally, the Financial Aid Committee noted concerns with a donor's potential involvement in determining which individuals would receive the private award. On March 25, 2026, the enforcement staff contacted the institution and began a collaborative investigation.

Origin of the violations.

In early 2024, during a visit to Colombia due to shared industry ties, members of the institution's Board of Regents met with the representative of the institution's athletics interests (representative), who expressed interest in potentially supporting the small Catholic college by financially assisting Colombian students enrolling at the institution.[2] The Board of Regents members subsequently spoke with the institution's then president about the representative's interest in the school. In April of 2024, the representative visited Loras. During the visit, the representative met with the then president, Board of Regents members and institutional staff, including the head and associate baseball coaches. The representative told the then president he was interested in financially supporting Colombian students he knew through his work with a

[1] In reviewing this agreement, the committee made editorial revisions pursuant to NCAA Division III Committee on Infractions (COI) Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 4-8-1-2. These modifications did not affect the substance of the agreement.

[2] In the fall of 2024, the donor became a representative of the institution's athletics interests when he donated money to the institution for the private award which was awarded to the four student-athletes. The representative, a business owner in the United States, lives in Colombia and also owns and operates businesses in Colombia. Other than attending a summer camp at Loras when he was young, he never attended the school nor had a previous affiliation with the institution.

youth baseball charitable organization in attending Loras.[3] In May and June 2024, four baseball prospective student-athletes associated with the charitable organization applied to Loras and were admitted. The institution did not recruit the four prospective student-athletes, and the prospective student-athletes had not communicated with the baseball coaching staff prior to their arrival on campus.

In July and August 2024, the then president and then vice president of advancement worked with the representative to create the private award for male students in good academic standing and from a specific locale in Colombia. The institution determined the recipients of the award and administered the funds donated by the representative. The institution awarded the private award to the same four baseball student-athletes for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years.

In the absence of NCAA rules education or established policies and procedures for departments responsible for creating financial aid awards, the institution did not recognize the private awards resulted in financial aid violations.

II. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS

Agreed-upon findings of fact and violations of NCAA legislation.

1. [NCAA Division III Bylaws 15.3.1-(c) (2024-25), 14.10.1 and 15.01.6 (2024-25 and 2025-26) and 16.8.1.2 (2025-26)] (Major)

   During the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, the institution impermissibly permitted a representative to contribute approximately $214,558 to provide financial aid for four international baseball student-athletes that was clearly distinguishable from the general pattern of all financial aid for all recipients at the institution. Specifically, the representative met the student-athletes through a charitable organization that supports youth baseball teams in Colombia, and, in August 2024, the institution and the representative created a private award for male students in good academic standing and from a specific locale in Colombia. When the institution awarded the private award to four international baseball student-athletes for the 2024-25 academic year, the financial gift aid was significantly more than all student-athletes and other students at the institution. As a result, four baseball student-athletes competed in six junior varsity games and received actual and necessary expenses while ineligible.

[3] Because the representative's relationship with the four student-athletes developed as a result of their interactions with the charitable organization that supports youth baseball teams, the representative could not provide funds for the student-athletes to attend the institution. *See* January 29, 2001, Official Interpretation.

2. [NCAA Division III Bylaw 20.15.2 (2024-25 and 2025-26)] (Major)

   During the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years, the scope and nature of the violations detailed in Agreed-Upon Findings of Fact No. 1 demonstrate that the institution failed to adequately monitor the awarding of financial aid to ensure compliance with NCAA financial aid legislation. Specifically, the institution did not provide rules education or establish policies and procedures for the departments responsible for the creation of financial aid awards.

III. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIATED; NOT ALLEGED

None.

IV. REVIEW OF OTHER ISSUES

The institution and enforcement staff agree vacation of records for regular season and NCAA championships competition is not appropriate because the ineligible competition only involved a limited number of junior varsity contests.

Additionally, the institution and enforcement staff believe that disassociation of the representative is not appropriate in this case for the following reasons: (a) the representative and his family had not previously attended or made financial contributions to the institution; (b) the representative and his family never promoted or participated in an organization that promoted the institution's athletics programs; (c) the representative worked with the institution's administration to establish and facilitate the award with no consideration of athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance as a criterion and (d) the institution did not recruit the student-athletes receiving the award nor did the student-athletes participate in any varsity regular and/or post season competition.

V. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON PENALTIES[4]

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 32.9.3-(e), the following penalties apply:

Penalties for Major Violations (Bylaw 19.5.2)

[4] All penalties must be completed during the time periods identified in this decision. If completion of a penalty is impossible during the prescribed period, the institution shall make the NCAA Division III Committee on Infractions aware of the impossibility and must complete the penalty at the next available opportunity.

1. Public reprimand and censure through the public release of the negotiated resolution agreement.

2. Probation: Two years of probation from **September 4, 2026, through September 3, 2028**.[5]

3. During this period of probation, the institution shall:

   a. Continue to develop and implement a comprehensive educational program on NCAA legislation to instruct coaches, the faculty athletics representative, all athletics department personnel and all institutional staff members with responsibility for creating and awarding financial aid;

   b. Submit a preliminary report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) by **October 15, 2026**, setting forth a schedule for establishing this compliance and educational program;

   c. File with the OCOI annual compliance reports indicating the progress made with this program by **July 1st** during each year of probation. Particular emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring related to financial aid;

   d. Inform prospects in the baseball program in writing that the institution is on probation for two years and detail the violations committed. The information shall be provided as soon as practicable after the prospect is recruited pursuant to Bylaw 13.02.8 and, in all instances before the prospect signs a financial aid agreement or initially enrolls at the institution, whichever is earlier;

   e. Publicize specific and understandable information concerning the nature of the infractions by providing, at a minimum, a statement to include the types of violations and the affected sport programs and a direct, conspicuous link to the public infractions decision located on the athletics department's main website "landing page" and in the media guides for the baseball program. Permissible website posting locations include the main navigation menu or a sidebar menu. The link may not be housed under a drop-down menu. Further, the link to the posting (i.e., the icon or the text) must be titled "NCAA Infractions Case." With regard to the content of the posting, the institution's statement must: (i) clearly describe the infractions; (ii) include the length of the probationary period associated with the case; and (iii) give members of the general public a clear indication of what happened in the case to allow the public (particularly prospects and their families) to make informed, knowledgeable decisions. A statement that refers only to the probationary period with nothing more is not sufficient.

[5] Institutions must serve probation during the prescribed penalty period.

4. During the period of probation, the institution shall request a Level II review from the Financial Aid Committee and shall abide by any recommendations made by the reviewer. The results of the review and steps taken to implement and abide by recommendations shall be included in the institution's annual compliance reports.

5. The institution shall pay a fine of $2,500 to the NCAA.

6. During the period of probation, the vice president of enrollment management and marketing, vice president for institutional advancement, director of financial aid and institutional staff members responsible for creating and/or awarding financial aid must complete compliance education programming with the NCAA staff.

7. Following the receipt of the final compliance report and prior to the conclusion of probation, the institution's president shall provide a letter to the NCAA Division III Committee on Infractions affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

VI. OTHER AGREEMENTS

The institution and enforcement staff believe that this case will be processed through the NCAA negotiated resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 32.9.

The enforcement staff notified the institution, and the institution agrees with the following:

- The negotiated resolution contains findings of fact of NCAA violations based on information available at this time.
- Nothing in this resolution precludes the enforcement staff from investigating additional information about potential rules violations.
- Pursuant to Bylaw 19.02.2.3, the violations identified in this agreement occurred and should be classified as Major.
- If the Committee on Infractions approves the negotiated resolution, the involved parties will take every precaution to ensure that the terms of the penalties are observed.
- The involved parties acknowledge that they have or will impose and follow the penalties contained within the negotiated resolution, and these penalties are in accordance with those prescribed in Bylaw 19.5.
- The OCOI will monitor the penalties during their effective periods.
- Any action by the involved parties contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations may be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties or may result in additional allegations and violations.

* This negotiated resolution may be voidable by the Committee on Infractions if any of the involved parties were aware of or become aware of information that materially alters the factual information on which this negotiated resolution is based.
* The Committee on Infractions, subsequent to its review of the negotiated resolution, may reject the negotiated resolution.
* Should the Committee on Infractions reject the negotiated resolution, the Committee on Infractions will issue instructions for processing of the case pursuant to hearing resolution (Bylaw 32.10) or summary disposition (Bylaw 32.8) and prior agreed-upon terms of the rejected negotiated resolution will not be binding.
* Should the Committee on Infractions approve the negotiated resolution, there are no additional NCAA hearing and appellate opportunities.

VII. DIVISION III COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS APPROVAL

Pursuant to Bylaw 32.9.6, the COI approves the parties' negotiated resolution agreement. The COI's review of this agreement is limited. The COI may reject a negotiated resolution agreement only if the agreement is not in the best interests of the Association or if the agreed-upon penalties are manifestly unreasonable. *See* Bylaw 32.9.7. In this case, the COI determines that the agreed-upon facts, violations, and type of violations are appropriate for this process. The agreed-upon penalties align with the penalties available under Bylaw 32.9 and with past case guidance. Pursuant to Bylaw 32.9.6, this negotiated resolution has no precedential value.

The COI advises Loras that it should take every precaution to ensure that it observes the terms of the penalties. The COI will monitor the institution while it is on probation to ensure compliance with the penalties and terms of probation and may extend the probationary period, among other action, if the institution does not comply or commits additional violations. Likewise, any action by the institution contrary to the terms of any of the penalties or any additional violations shall be considered grounds for prescribing more severe penalties and/or may result in additional allegations and violations.

NCAA DIVISION III COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS

Ellen O'Brien
Thomas Simmons
Matthew Tanney, chair
Angela Givens-Williams