

CASE SUMMARY

Former North Carolina A&T men's basketball assistant coach violated sports betting rules

According to an agreement released by a Division I Committee on Infractions hearing panel, sports betting violations occurred at North Carolina A&T when former men's basketball assistant coach Patrick Herron participated in impermissible sports betting activity. The activity involved bets on both professional and collegiate games.

While employed at North Carolina A&T, Herron placed at least \$4,000 in bets on professional and college sports through a bookmaker who was a childhood friend. He also distributed parlay sheets to other friends on that bookmaker's behalf, receiving a 20% commission on the generated bets. None of the bets involved North Carolina A&T games in any sport.

Herron self-reported his violations to the men's basketball head coach to seek help for a gambling addiction. However, he declined to participate in the processing of his case.

The hearing panel approved the following Level I-standard penalties for Herron:

- A four-year show-cause order for Herron in which any employing member school must restrict him from all athletically related activity with the men's basketball team for the first two years of the show-cause period and provide gambling education during the fourth year.
- A 10-game (30% of the season) suspension from all athletically related activity if Herron is hired by another NCAA school during the third year of the show-cause period.

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

- Doug Archie, senior associate athletics director for compliance at Ohio State.
- Rich Ensor, former commissioner of the conference now called the Metro Conference.
- Jill Redmond, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference and chief hearing officer for the panel.

NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION¹

NCAA Member Institutions – Case No.020416

September 15, 2026

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.2.1 and NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 4-7-1-2-2, Patrick Herron (Herron), former North Carolina A&T State University (North Carolina A&T) assistant men's basketball coach, is included in the negotiated resolution as a nonparticipating party. The NCAA enforcement staff believes a hearing panel of the Committee on Infractions could conclude violations occurred and prescribe penalties pursuant to Bylaws 19.4.6, 19.7.2 and 19.7.5.3. The enforcement staff believes this case should be processed as Level I – Standard for Herron.²

On November 23, 2024, the North Carolina A&T head men's basketball coach notified the director of athletics of prohibited sports betting by a member of his staff. Specifically, the head coach reported that Herron informed him he participated in sports betting with a bookmaker. Herron also admitted he assisted the bookmaker by distributing parlay betting sheets for a 20% commission on the generated bets. Herron self-reported the activity to get help for a gambling addiction that caused him financial difficulty.

On December 4, 2024, the institution, through its Office of Compliance Services and Human Resource department, began an internal investigation, and Herron admitted to the sports betting violations. On December 8, 2024, North Carolina A&T reported prohibited bettor sports betting violations to the enforcement staff, and the parties started a collaborative investigation. The enforcement staff requested bank records from and an interview with Herron. North Carolina A&T placed Herron on administrative leave and eventually terminated Herron from his position in February 2025.

On February 10, 2025, the enforcement staff interviewed Herron, who detailed the bookmaker's operation. Specifically, Herron explained that the bookmaker, who was a childhood friend, sent Herron daily texts with potential bets on various competitions, including NFL, NBA and college games. The bookmaker also texted Herron parlay sheets listing upcoming games,

¹ In reviewing this agreement, the hearing panel made editorial revisions pursuant to NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions (COI) Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 4-7-1-2. These modifications did not affect the substance of the agreement.

² The hearing panel notes that the conduct in this case involved both impermissible sports betting activity *and* Herron's coordination with a bookmaker for whom he distributed parlay sheets in exchange for a commission on generated bets. Although many previous cases involving institutional staff members who placed impermissible bets on professional and collegiate sports have been processed as Level II, Herron's coordination with and actions on behalf of the bookmaker elevate his violation to Level I. In light of this coordination, the hearing panel also considered whether Bylaw 19.12.3.2-(c), *Violations were premeditated, deliberate or committed after substantial planning*, could apply as an aggravating factor for Herron. Because classification is a function of both weight and number of aggravating and mitigating factors, the addition of this factor would not have a significant material impact on the classification of Herron's case or the associated penalties. Thus, mindful of the standard of review, the panel defers to the factors presented in the negotiated resolution.

which Herron forwarded to four other childhood friends. Herron then texted the bookmaker with the games and bet amounts for the parlay sheets. Herron paid the bookmaker via Zelle weekly.

Because of the nature of the bets, the institution and enforcement staff cannot be certain of the total dollar amount wagered. However, based on Herron's bank records and information reported by Herron, the estimated amount wagered is \$4,000.

North Carolina A&T provided education on sports betting and Herron was aware of the rules. Herron did not share the parlay sheets with any coaches or staff at North Carolina A&T, and nobody at the institution was aware of Herron's gambling issues. Herron did not bet on any North Carolina A&T games.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT, VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION AND VIOLATION LEVELS³

1. [NCAA Division I Bylaws 10.01.1 and 10.3 (2023-24 and 2024-25)] (Level I)

From December 4, 2023, through November 23, 2024, Herron violated the principles of honesty and sportsmanship when he knowingly participated in sports betting activities. Specifically, Herron placed bets totaling at least \$4,000 via a bookmaker on professional and intercollegiate sports competitions and also assisted that individual by distributing parlay betting sheets for a 20% commission on the generated bets. Herron did not place any bets on the institution's sports teams.

III. AGGRAVATING AND MITIGATING FACTORS

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.3-(e), the enforcement staff identified the aggravating and mitigating factors below, assessed the factors by weight and number, and believe this case should be properly resolved as Level I – Standard.

Involved Individual (Herron):

a. Aggravating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.3.2]

(1) Conduct intended to generate pecuniary gain for the individual.

(2) Intentional, willful or blatant disregard for NCAA bylaws.

b. Mitigating factors. [NCAA Bylaw 19.12.4.2]

³ Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.1.1.1, the institution's portion of the case was processed separately as a Level III violation

(1) Prompt acknowledgement and acceptance of responsibility for the violations.

(2) The absence of prior conclusions of Level I, Level II or major violations.

IV. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIATED; NOT ALLEGED

None.

V. REVIEW OF OTHER ISSUES

None.

VI. PENALTIES⁴

All penalties agreed upon in this case are independent and supplemental to any action that has been or may be taken by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics through its assessment of postseason ineligibility, historical penalties or other penalties.

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.3-(e), the enforcement staff believes the following penalties are in accordance with those prescribed in Bylaws 19.12.7, 19.12.8, 19.12.9 and 19.12.10 and Figure 19-1.

Core Penalties for Level I – Standard Violations (Bylaw 19.12.7)

1. Show-cause order: Herron violated the principles of honesty and sportsmanship when he knowingly participated in sports betting activities. Therefore, Herron shall be subject to a four-year show-cause order from **September 15, 2026, through September 14, 2030**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.7.4 and Committee on Infractions Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 5-15-5, any employing member institution shall (a) restrict Herron from all athletically-related duties for the first two years of the show-cause period, (b) restrict Herron from all athletically-related activity with the men's basketball team during the period set forth in Section V.2 (Suspension) and (c) require Herron to attend gambling education provided by the institution during year four of the show-cause period. Any institution that employs Herron in an athletically related position during the four-year show-cause period shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the Office of the

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 Committee on Infractions aware of the impossibility and must complete the penalty at the next available opportunity.

Committees on Infractions (OCOI) to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.

2. Suspension: Bylaw 19.12.7.5 and Figure 19-1 penalty guidelines contemplate suspensions. Therefore, during year three of the show-cause period, any employing institution shall suspend Herron from all athletically duties for 30% of the men's basketball regular season. This suspension corresponds with 10 regular season contests. The provisions of the suspension require that Herron not be present with and not have contact or communication with any athletics staff members, coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The prohibition includes all athletics activities for each week of the suspension, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Herron may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. Any employing institution may not utilize Bylaw 11.02.2.1 to replace Herron on a temporary basis during the period of suspension. The results of those contests from which Herron is suspended shall not count toward the coach's career record if he is in the role of a head coach at the time of suspension.

Additional Penalties for Level I – Standard Violations (Bylaw 19.12.9)

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

VII. AGREEMENTS⁵

The enforcement staff believes this case can be processed through the NCAA negotiated resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 19.10. Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.2.1 and Committee on Infractions IOP 4-7-1-2-2, a hearing panel comprised of members of the Committee on Infractions will review the negotiated resolution. If a hearing panel approves the negotiated resolution, Herron must take every precaution to ensure that the terms of the penalties are observed, imposed and follow the penalties contained within the negotiated resolution. All penalties are in accordance with those prescribed in Bylaws 19.12.7, 19.12.8, 19.12.9 and 19.12.10.

The enforcement staff notified the involved nonparticipating party of the following:

- The negotiated resolution contains findings of fact of NCAA violations based on information available at this time.

⁵ Pursuant to Committee on Infractions IOP 4-7-1-2-2, after appropriate notice from the enforcement staff, a party who knowingly chooses not to participate in the negotiated resolution process, and who does not contest or otherwise respond to the allegations, shall be in default and their non-participation shall be viewed as acceptance of the terms of the agreement. The hearing panel may approve the negotiated resolution in the defaulting party's absence.

- Nothing in this resolution precludes the enforcement staff from investigating additional information about potential rules violations.
- Pursuant to Bylaw 19.1.3, the violations identified in this agreement occurred and should be classified as Level I – Standard.
- The OCOI will monitor the penalties during their effective periods.
- Any action by Herron 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 Herron was aware or becomes aware of information that materially alters the factual information on which this negotiated resolution is based.
- The hearing panel, subsequent to its review of the negotiated resolution, may reject the negotiated resolution.
- Should the hearing panel reject the negotiated resolution, the hearing panel will issue instructions for processing of the case pursuant to hearing resolution (Bylaw 19.8) or limited resolution (Bylaw 19.9) and prior agreed-upon terms of the rejected negotiated resolution will not be binding.
- Should a hearing panel approve the negotiated resolution, the parties agree that they waive NCAA hearing and appellate opportunities.

VIII. DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS APPROVAL

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.1, the panel approves the parties' negotiated resolution agreement. The panel's review of this agreement is limited. Panels may only reject a negotiated resolution agreement if the agreement is not in the best interests of the Association or if the agreed-upon penalties are manifestly unreasonable. *See* Bylaw 19.10.4. In this case, the panel determines the uncontested facts, violations, aggravating and mitigating factors, and classifications are appropriate for this process. Further, this case is classified as Level I-Standard for Herron. The uncontested penalties align with the ranges identified for core penalties for Level I-Standard cases in Figure 19-1 and Bylaw 19.12.7 and the additional penalties under Bylaw 19.12.9. Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.6, this negotiated resolution has no precedential value.

The COI advises that Herron should take every precaution to ensure that he observes the terms of the penalties. Any action by Herron 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 COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS PANEL

Richard Ensor

Douglas Archie

Jill Redmond, chief hearing officer