

CASE SUMMARY

Violations occurred in Mississippi Christian (formerly Mississippi College) men's basketball program

Violations occurred in the Mississippi Christian (formerly Mississippi College) men's basketball program when former men's basketball assistant coach Sam Newman arranged for two prospects to arrive to campus prior to their enrollment and arranged for impermissible benefits to those two student-athletes, according to an agreement released by the Division II Committee on Infractions. The violations demonstrated that the former men's basketball head coach Randy Bolden failed to monitor his staff.

The school, enforcement staff and coaches agreed that the violations occurred when two incoming prospects were encouraged to arrive to the Mississippi Christian campus several weeks prior to their anticipated enrollment date. During that time, Newman arranged for the prospects to live with current men's basketball student-athletes and receive meals from a graduate assistant. Newman also instructed the prospects to "lay low" while on campus during business hours. Approximately three weeks after they arrived on campus, the prospects were instructed by Bolden to leave campus immediately.

Because Newman arranged housing and meals before the prospects were formally enrolled, those benefits violated NCAA rules. In total, the two prospects received \$904 in impermissible benefits from Newman during those three weeks while they were on campus.

The school, enforcement staff and Bolden agreed that he is responsible for the violations because he did not adequately monitor the activities of the assistant coach and did not address red flags regarding those two prospects being present on campus before their enrollment.

The parties agreed that the violations in this case are major and agreed to the following penalties:

- One year of probation.
- A \$1,808 fine (equivalent to double the value of the impermissible benefits provided).
- A two-week ban on men's basketball recruiting during the 2026-27 academic year.
- A one-year show-cause order for Bolden, during which any employing NCAA member school will suspend him from all athletically related responsibilities. If he should be employed by a member school during that time, he will be suspended from 10% of the men's basketball regular season (three games).
- A one-year show-cause order for Newman, during which time any employing NCAA school will suspend him from all athletically related responsibilities. If he should be

employed by a member school during that time, he will be suspended from 20% of the men's basketball regular season (five games).

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

- Piper Brewster, associate commissioner for governance and senior woman administrator at the Pacific West Conference.
- Amber Feldman, deputy commissioner of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
- Jennifer Flowers, athletics director at Winona State.
- David Hansburg, director of athletics at the Colorado School of Mines.
- Richard Loosbrock, faculty athletics representative at Adams State and chair of the committee.
- Brooke Marie Parsons, attorney in private practice.
- Jason Sobolik, associate athletics director of internal affairs and compliance at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION¹

Mississippi College – Case No. 020445

September 25, 2026

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Mississippi College; Randy Bolden (Bolden), then head men's basketball coach; Sam Newman (Newman), then assistant men's basketball coach; and the NCAA enforcement staff agree with the violations and penalties detailed below. The institution and enforcement staff also agree that the institution fully cooperated with the investigation and worked collaboratively with the enforcement staff to bring the matter to a timely resolution.

On November 25, 2024, men's basketball Prospective Student-Athlete 1 emailed the president and director of athletics of Mississippi College regarding the treatment he and Prospective Student-Athlete 2 received from Bolden and Newman while visiting the institution's campus. Prospective Student-Athlete 1 stated that the men's basketball staff asked him and Prospective Student-Athlete 2 to come to campus a month before their expected enrollment date at the institution and promised to take care of them during this time. However, approximately three weeks after Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 arrived, both were told by Bolden to leave campus immediately.

After receiving Prospective Student-Athlete 1's email, the institution conducted an internal investigation and determined that Newman asked Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 to arrive on campus prior to their expected enrollment date of December 15, 2024. Additionally, the institution's investigation discovered that Newman arranged for Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 to live with men's basketball student-athletes and receive meals from a men's basketball graduate assistant while in the institution's locale. Further, Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 reported that Newman instructed them to "lay low" while on campus during business hours.

After the institution self-reported the violations to the enforcement staff, the enforcement staff requested and reviewed relevant documents and interviewed eight individuals, including Bolden and Newman. This investigation confirmed that Newman asked Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 to arrive on campus before their expected enrollment date, arranged their receipt of cost-free housing and meals, instructed them to avoid accessing campus facilities during business hours and abruptly sent them home in late November.

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

II. PARTIES' AGREEMENTS

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

1. [NCAA Division II Bylaws 13.2.1, 13.2.3.1 and 13.2.3.1-(e) (2024-25)] (Major)

From November 2 through November 25, 2024, Newman provided approximately \$904 in impermissible benefits in the form of cost-free housing and meals to Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2. Specifically, Newman arranged for Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2 to live off campus with men's basketball student-athletes before their expected arrival date, and Newman directed a men's basketball graduate assistant coach to provide meals to both men's basketball prospective student-athletes.

2. [NCAA Division II Bylaw 11.1.2.1 (2024-25)] (Major)

From November 2 through November 25, 2024, Bolden failed to monitor his staff within the men's basketball program when he failed to adequately address red flags regarding Prospective Student-Athletes 1 and 2's extended presence on campus.

III. OTHER VIOLATIONS OF NCAA LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIATED; NOT ALLEGED

None.

IV. REVIEW OF OTHER ISSUES

None.

V. PARTIES' AGREED-UPON PENALTIES²

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.10.3-(e), the following penalties apply:

Penalties for Major Violations (Bylaw 19.12.4)

² 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 II 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. One year probation from **September 25, 2026**, through **September 24, 2027**.³
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 arranging, providing and/or monitoring prospective student-athletes who are initially enrolling at the institution.
 - b. Submit a preliminary report to the Office of the Committees on Infractions (OCOI) by **October 31, 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 **August 1st**, during each year of probation. Particular emphasis shall be placed on rules education and monitoring related to recruitment of prospective student-athletes.
 - d. Inform prospects in the men's basketball program in writing that the institution is on probation for one year and detail the violations committed. If a prospect takes an official paid visit, the information regarding violations, penalties and terms of probation must be provided in advance of the visit. Otherwise, the information must be provided before a prospect signs a written offer of admission and/or financial aid and no later than when the NCAA Eligibility Center provides a prospective student-athlete with the institution's academic data.
 - 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 men's basketball 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: (1) clearly describe the infractions; (2) include the length of the

³ Institutions must serve probation during the prescribed penalty period.

probationary period associated with the case; and (3) 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.

4. Recruiting restrictions: The institution shall prohibit all recruiting activity in the men's basketball program for a two-week period during the 2026-27 academic year.
5. Financial penalty: The institution shall pay a fine of \$1,808 to the NCAA.⁴
6. Show-cause order: Bolden failed to monitor his staff and adequately address red flags regarding two prospective student-athletes' extended presence on campus. Therefore, Bolden shall be subject to a one-year show-cause order from **September 25, 2026**, through **September 24, 2027**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.4.1 and Committee on Infractions Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) 5-17-1, any employing member institution shall restrict Bolden from all athletically related activity during the show-cause period. Any member institution that employs Bolden in an athletically related position during the one-year show-cause period, shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the OCOI to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.
7. Suspension: Bylaws 19.12.4-(o) and 19.12.4.3 contemplate suspensions. Therefore, any member institution that employs Bolden in an athletically related position shall suspend Bolden from 10% of the men's basketball regular season contests during the 2026-27 season of employment within the show-cause period. This suspension corresponds with three regular season contests. The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Bolden not be present with or have contact or communication with men's basketball coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled contest for which Bolden is employed. The prohibition includes all coaching activities for the suspension period that begins at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Bolden may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. The results of those contests from which Bolden 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.
8. Show-cause order: Newman was personally involved in the impermissible benefits violations. Therefore, Newman shall be subject to a one-year show-cause order

⁴ The financial penalty is equivalent to twice the value of the impermissible inducements detailed in Agreed-Upon Finding of Fact No. 1.

from **September 25, 2026**, through **September 24, 2027**. In accordance with Bylaw 19.12.4.1 and Committee on Infractions IOP 5-17-1, any employing member institution shall restrict Newman from all athletically related activity during the show-cause period. Any member institution that employs Newman in an athletically related position during the one-year show-cause period shall abide by the terms of the show-cause order unless it contacts the OCOI to make arrangements to show cause why the terms of the order should not apply.

9. Suspension: Bylaws 19.12.4-(o) and 19.12.4.3 contemplate suspensions. Therefore, any member institution that employs Newman in an athletically related position shall suspend Newman from 20% of the men's basketball regular season contests during the 2026-27 season. This suspension corresponds with five regular-season contests. The provisions of this suspension apply to all athletically related duties and require that Newman not be present with or have contact or communication with men's basketball coaching staff members or student-athletes during the suspension period. The suspension begins on the date of the first scheduled contest for which Newman is employed. The prohibition includes all coaching activities for the suspension period that begins at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the first contest and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the last contest. During the suspension period, Newman may not participate in any coaching activities, including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings. The results of those contests from which Newman 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.
10. 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 Committee on Infractions affirming that the institution's current athletics policies and practices conform to all requirements of NCAA regulations.

VI. OTHER AGREEMENTS

The enforcement staff and participating parties believe that this case will be processed through the NCAA negotiated resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 19.10. The enforcement staff notified, and the participating parties agree with and/or acknowledge, 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 19.1.3, 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 19.12.
- 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 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 19.8) or limited resolution (Bylaw 19.9) 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 II COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS APPROVAL

Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.6, 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 19.10.4. 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 19.12 and with past case guidance. Pursuant to Bylaw 19.10.6, this negotiated resolution has no precedential value.

The COI advises Mississippi College, Bolden and Newman that they should take every precaution to ensure that they observe 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, Bolden or Newman 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 II COMMITTEE ON INFRACTIONS

Piper Brewster
Amber Feldman
Jennifer Flowers
David Hansburg
Richard Loosbrock, chair
Brooke Parsons
Jason Sobolik