



March 4, 2011

Mr. Mike Slive  
Commissioner  
Southeastern Conference  
2201 Richard Arrington Boulevard  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1103

Dear Commissioner Slive:

The University of Georgia (UGA) is reporting an institutional violation of NCAA Bylaws 13.1.2.1-General Rule, 13.1.2.2 (g)-General Exceptions/Unavoidable Incidental Contact, 13.1.2.4 (d)-Other Restrictions, Athletics Representatives/Visiting Prospective Student-Athlete's Institution, 13.1.2.5-Off-Campus Contacts or Evaluations and 13.10.2-Comments Before Signing within our football program. The violation involves prospective student-athlete (PSA), Mr. Ray Drew and two former football letter winners who appear to be representatives of the University's athletics interests per NCAA Constitution 6.4.2 (e).<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, on January 28, 2011, the two former football letter winners attended and spoke on the PSA's behalf at the PSA's college announcement ceremony at his high school. UGA became aware of the issue shortly after the decision was announced and articles of the decision with pictures of the announcement were posted on the *Atlanta Journal Constitution's* website. Immediately after viewing the article, UGA began to investigate the potential violation.

Subsequent to the violation, the PSA, a teacher from the PSA's high school, the two former letter winners and UGA football coaching staff were interviewed to determine how this violation occurred. As a result of those interviews, it has been determined that the PSA and PSA's teacher arranged for the two former letter winners to attend the announcement without the knowledge of UGA's football staff.

Below is a summary of the details from the interviews. The PSA's high school is a unique facility which has a self-contained radio/television media center used for teaching broadcast journalism to the students. The PSA is an active student in the high school's program and intends to major in broadcast journalism in college. The PSA and his teacher stated that when Mr. Drew decided to make a public

<sup>1</sup> Neither former letter winner is or has been a member of a UGA athletics booster organization; has financially supported UGA athletics; has been asked by UGA athletics department staff to assist in recruiting; nor has provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes. However, after being asked by PSA Drew and his high school broadcast journalism teacher to participate in the announcement of Drew's verbal commitment to UGA, both made statements promoting UGA's football program after Drew made his announcement. Per NCAA Constitution 6.4.2. (e), an individual who "promotes" the institution's athletics program is considered a representative of that institution's athletics interests.

announcement of his college choice, they wanted the announcement to take place "on a grand scale" and decided to invite students, faculty, media and people who the PSA considered to be friends and community leaders to the school's media center.

The PSA originally invited Mr. Michael Strahan from ESPN who he considers to be his mentor; however, Mr. Strahan could not attend. As a result, the PSA's high school teacher contacted a former letter winner who is a local ESPN analyst and Atlanta radio talk show host to invite him to attend the announcement. The former letter winner agreed to attend. Since the former letter winner works at an Atlanta radio station, he had previously heard an interview of the PSA the station conducted (not involving the former letter winner) and was impressed. After the former letter winner agreed to attend the announcement, the PSA telephoned the former letter winner to thank him for participating. Both the PSA and former letter winner declared that they had not met each other previously and met for the first time at the PSA's announcement. The former letter winner believed he could attend the announcement as a media representative.

Additionally, the PSA called and invited the second letter winner to attend his announcement. It has been determined through interviews that the PSA and the second letter winner met through a series of incidental contacts that began on December 16, 2010. The second letter winner is from a neighboring county from where the PSA lives and is well-known in the area for his community work and speaking activities. The former letter winner is heavily involved in FCA and has spoken frequently throughout the State of Georgia.

The first incidental contact between the two occurred at an award ceremony in which the former letter winner was a guest speaker and award presenter for the "In the Game" Award Presentation on December 16, 2010. The PSA was selected to receive an award and attended the ceremony. The two sat at separate tables and only had a brief exchange as a result of the awards presentation. The second incidental contact between the two occurred at a High School Basketball Tournament that the former letter winner organizes in his hometown of Valdosta, Georgia, on December 18, 2010. PSA's high school team competed in the tournament. The PSA described that he initiated contact with the former letter winner and that the communication was limited to a greeting.

The third incidental contact occurred at another basketball tournament on December 27, 2010 in which the PSA's high school was participating and the former letter winner attended with a friend to watch the friend's child participate. The PSA stated that he approached the former letter winner and exchanged greetings and asked for the former letter winner's cell phone number, which the former letter winner gave him. The two stated that in January, the PSA called the former letter winner to invite him to attend his announcement. The former letter winner told the PSA he would attend if his schedule permitted. The former letter winner did attend the announcement ceremony.

As a result of the PSA's and PSA's high school teacher's invitations, both the former letter winners attended and spoke at the PSA's announcement. The PSA and second letter winner both confirmed that the brief discussions rarely exceeded a

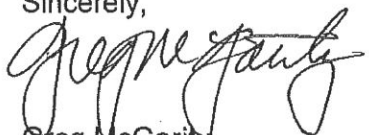
casual greeting and the two did not engage in recruiting or football discussions. The former letter winners did not think to check with the UGA Compliance Office prior to their participation in the announcement.

It should also be noted that the PSA invited the UGA football staff to attend the announcement; however, the staff told the PSA they were unable to attend because NCAA rules precluded them from doing so. Further, the coaching staff was unaware the PSA invited the two former letter winners, nor did they ask who was invited since they could not attend the announcement.

UGA regrets that this violation occurred but believes this was an isolated/one-time incident with some unusual and atypical circumstances as explained above. It is very important to note again that the PSA and PSA's school facilitated and arranged the announcement and attendance of the former letter winners. Further, neither former letter winner was a representative of the University's athletics interests until they agreed to participate in the PSA's announcement, and neither realized at the time that their participation created a violation of NCAA rules for UGA. UGA is very proactive in its rules education of boosters who are season ticket holders and who donate to the Athletic Association; however, the violation showed a gap in our education efforts for our former letter winners who are not ticket holders or members of a UGA booster group. To rectify this, UGA will send a letter and booster brochure to all former letter winners, especially football, detailing permissible/non-permissible activities and interactions between PSA's and former letter winners. Further, a letter will be sent to both former letter winners to not participate in these activities again and to check with the UGA Compliance Office about any possible PSA interactions.

Thank you for your review of this matter. If you have any further questions, please contact Associate Athletics Director for Compliance, Mr. Eric Baumgartner, at 706.542.9103 or my office.

Sincerely,



Greg McGarity  
Director of Athletics

cc: President Michael F. Adams  
Mr. Eric Baumgartner, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance  
Mr. Josh Brooks, Assistant Athletics Director  
Mr. Mark Richt, Head Football Coach  
Mr. David Shipley, Faculty Athletics Representative  
Dr. Carla Green-Williams, Executive Associate Athletics Director