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Disciplinary Action:

Investigation:

With the University of Arizona scheduled to play a Conference Series during Week 12 (2/21-2/22) of the 2015 Season, against CSU Fullerton, their academic eligibility letter arrived from the Arizona Club Baseball President via email to VP of Baseball Operations, Christian Smith on 2/20/15 at 2:28 pm EST. After reviewing academic eligibility letter and in light of the recent events of another NCBA team forging an academic eligibility letter, Christian Smith became suspicious of the signature at the bottom of the eligibility letter. The signature was that of Arizona's Assistant Director of Club Sports & Game Operations, Brendan Gail. The signature was suspicious due to the fact that it didn't seem as though it was authentic. The signature was so suspicious that Christian Smith responded to the email on 2/20/15 at 2:38 pm EST asking the Arizona Club President if it would be ok if he could confirm the signature was in fact from Mr. Gail. While Mr. Smith waited for a response from the Arizona Club Baseball President, he took action and looked up Mr. Gail on the University of Arizona Club Sports website. Mr. Gail's email address and phone number were listed. Mr. Smith called the office line and sent an email with the academic eligibility letter that had the suspicious signature of Mr. Gail's on it directly to Mr. Gail for confirmation of signature on 2/20/15 at 2:46pm EST. While he was waiting for Mr. Gail to confirm or deny the signature the Arizona Club Baseball President, Mr. Smith received an email from Arizona's Club Baseball's President at 2:56 pm EST stating that he had no issue with Mr. Smith contacting Mr. Gail and even provided Mr. Smith with a phone number and email address for Mr. Gail. It is to be noted that neither the email address or phone number that was provided in the email from Arizona's President at 2:56 pm EST were the same email address or phone number listed on the University of Arizona website. With the end of the day quickly approaching and Arizona needing a eligible roster, Mr. Smith decided to call the other number that the Arizona Club Baseball President provided since it was different from the phone number Mr. Smith called earlier thinking it may be a cell phone number. Mr. Smith called and the phone was answered. Mr. Smith asked if the person on the other end of the line was Brendan Gail, which was confirmed then asked if he signed the Club Baseball Team's academic eligibility letter. The person on the phone did in fact say that he did sign off on the academic eligibility letter. After getting confirmation, Mr. Smith activated the Arizona roster to the NCBA website. The Arizona Club Baseball President even followed up with Mr. Smith via email at 3:07pm EST asking if he had been able to reach Mr. Gail. Mr. Smith confirmed that he had spoke with Mr. Gail and had activated their roster. Later on in the night of 2/20/15 at 7:34pm EST, Mr. Smith received an email directly from Mr. Gail saying that he had never signed the academic eligibility letter and the signature that was featured on the letter was not his and that they need to send it to the registrar to have them verify the grades.

After receipt of this email, Mr. Smith immediately emailed Mr. Gail to question him as Mr. Smith had received verbal confirmation over the phone that Mr. Gail did sign off on the form. Mr. Gail responded that he had never spoke with Mr. Smith on the phone before.

On Monday Morning, Mr. Smith had a phone call with Mr. Gail and he did confirm that the signature was not his and that it was forged. He also had a phone interview with the Arizona Club Baseball President in which the Arizona Club Baseball President verified that he did in fact forge Mr. Gail's signature.

General Information to all NCBA Teams:

Please keep in mind that forgery is a VERY serious offense that Universities take very seriously. Any Academic Eligibility Letters that are deemed suspicious by the NCBA will be investigated. So, take note that forgery is not acceptable! Forging a University Officials signature can mean very serious consequences within the University.

Conclusion:

With all the information laid out above, the NCBA has decided on the following disciplinary actions due to a precedence set before in a similar situation where an academic eligibility letter was forged.



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-With no eligible roster at the time of the CSU Fullerton series, any wins that the University of Arizona achieved will be forfeited. This is directly from NCBA Rule 6.02.2 and not a direct result of this of the discipline set fourth for forging an academic eligibility letter.

-The current University of Arizona Club Baseball Team President will NEVER be able to hold "Officer" status with any club baseball program in the NCBA from this point forward.

-The University of Arizona Club Baseball Team will be placed on Probation for the remainder of the 2015 season and the entire 2016 season.

Christian Smith
VP of Baseball Operations