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The following is the result of the investigation by the NCBA into Idaho State University Club Baseball using a player that was ineligible to compete in the NCBA.

Investigation:

The NCBA was sent an anonymous on email on April 17th stating that a recently selected NCBA National Player of the Week award winner was ineligible to compete by NCBA rules. The email suggested that the player had already exhausted his eligibility within the NCBA. After reviewing the email, the NCBA's VP of Baseball Operations, Christian Smith looked into the player's online registration that was filled out. After review, the information provided on the online player registration deemed the player in fact eligible to compete in the NCBA.

The online player registration that was submitted by the player stated that his date of initial full time college enrollment was September 2010 at Campbellsville University. He attended Campbellsville University from September 2010 through September 2012. He then enrolled at Idaho State University in January of 2013 and was a member of the Idaho State Club Baseball Team in the Spring of 2013, 2014 and 2015. His online registration also listed that he did in fact play Varsity Baseball at Campbellsville University for two seasons in the Spring of 2011 and Spring of 2012. With all the information provided on the online registration, the player was in fact eligible to complete in accordance to all NCBA eligibility rules. The Spring 2015 season would have been his last year of eligibility with the NCBA.

However, more specific information not detailed in the player's online registration was provided in the anonymous email sent to the NCBA. Those details were also investigated by the NCBA. NCBA rules mandate that all participants of the NCBA meet specific eligibility requirements. Regarding this player's case, the following eligibility requirements were investigated.

NCBA Rule Number 7.09.0:

“Each student athlete shall complete his five seasons of participation in intercollegiate baseball within six calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government being excepted.”

NCBA Rule Number 7.10.0:

For a player to participate using his fifth year of eligibility, that player must NOT have exhausted four years of eligibility at the Varsity level.”

In the anonymous email, it was suggested that the player actually played varsity baseball at another university prior to playing at Campbellsville University. This information was never mentioned in his online registration. The email suggested that he played varsity baseball at Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC).

While there was no formal roster from past seasons on TVCC Baseball Website showing that the player did indeed play for TVCC, several articles online did in fact implicate that he played baseball for TVCC prior to Campbellsville University. If this information was deemed accurate, not only would the player not be eligible to compete in the NCBA, but it would also implicate that there was intent to falsify information on the online player registration.



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After gathering all information, the player was contacted to discuss his eligibility. The player cooperated completely and gave all information that the NCBA requested. A statement was provided to the NCBA from the player which confirmed that the information provided on the online player registration was not accurate. Most notably that he graduated high school in June of 2008 and enrolled at TVCC in September of 2008 where he participated on the Varsity program in the Spring of 2009 and 2010. After TVCC he enrolled at Campbellsville University in September of 2010 and played on the Varsity program in the Spring of 2011 and 2012. He then enrolled at Idaho State in the Fall of 2012 where he participated on the club baseball team in the Spring of 2013, 2014 and 2015. Therefore, due to NCBA rule 7.09.0 and 7.10.0, the player was never eligible to compete at Idaho State University since he had already exhausted his four years at the varsity level.

The player was 100% upfront in stating that he had no intention of deceiving the NCBA regarding his eligibility and until he was contacted by the NCBA had thought that he was eligible to compete. After asking why he made no mention of Treasure Valley Community College on his online registration, he stated that until this past Spring, the online player registrations were completed by the ISU assistant coach who was no longer with the team. This meant that no ISU players had in fact filled out their own online player registration prior to the Spring 2015 season. The NCBA reached out to the Assistant Coach, but did not receive cooperation.

The NCBA wants to be very explicit in stating that every single participant in the NCBA MUST fill out their own online player registration. If it is found that any individual is filling out online player registration(s) for anyone other than themselves, disciplinary action will be taken.

Conclusion:

With this information the NCBA has laid out the following disciplinary action for Idaho State University.

- The players eligibility has expired so therefore will never be eligible to compete in the NCBA.
- The Assistant Coach will NEVER be eligible to compete in the NCBA nor will he be able to hold "Officer" or "Coach" status with any club baseball program in the NCBA from this point forward.
- Idaho State University forfeited all victories achieved (6) that the player participated in. Scores have been changed to 7-0 or 9-0 forfeit victories and stats from these games have been removed.
- Idaho State University club baseball team will be placed on Probation for the entire 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons.
- Idaho State University club baseball team WILL BE post-season eligible for the 2015-16 season, but they will be INELIGIBLE to receive an At-Large bid for the 2015-16 season.

Christian Smith
National Club Baseball Association
Vice President of Baseball Operations