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## Disciplinary Action

The following is a description of an incident that took place during the UC Santa Cruz (UCSC) vs. UC Merced game on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**INCIDENT:** On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:59pm EST, Vice President of Baseball Operations Christian Smith received an email from the President of the UC Merced Club Baseball Team with a subject of “URGENT! DRINKING DURING UC MERCED V. UC SANTA CRUZ SERIES.”

The following was the contents of the email:

*“During our game today March 15th against UC Santa Cruz, the players on the Santa Cruz team were drinking. We were unaware of this fact until the conclusion of the game, when a handful of their player's confronted me asking for ice for their beers. This is completely unacceptable as it is against NCBA rules as well as puts our players, our team, and our university at risk. We use High School facilities that we have fought hard to be able to play on this year and we do not want to lose them over this. Had I been aware of it sooner I would have put an end to it.*

*If need be, we have photographic evidence of their trash, as well as being confronted by a member of the janitorial staff at the high school who found their empty containers when the game concluded. NCBA rules state that this ends in a forfeit by the other team. We would like the necessary actions to be taken ensuring the Santa Cruz players are aware this is against the rules and not only makes us look irresponsible, but also creates a bad image for the NCBA.*

*Sorry for the inconvenience. Let me know of any further actions that need to be taken.”*

After reviewing the disturbing allegations reported by UC Merced, Christian Smith and the NCBA deemed that this should be investigated further and began an investigation into the incident.

The NCBA’s stance is on alcohol is listed in NCBA rule 21.03.1: “By signing the liability waiver each player agrees that the use of drugs, alcohol, or any other substances that could cause danger or detrimental effects upon the participant’s performance as a member of this organization is strictly prohibited during NCBA Sanctioned Competition.”

The next morning, Christian Smith emailed the UCSC club baseball team along with their advisor about the reported allegations. The below response was from the UCSC Advisor, Kevin Givens and was sent to Smith reporting that UCSC had already been notified by UC Merced administration of the allegations, and were conducting an internal investigation.

*“Hi Christian. I received a report from the UC Merced Sports Administration indicating that our UCSC team was drinking beer in the dugout during their game yesterday at a Merced High School. I expect a more full report later today from UC Merced. I have initiated an investigation into these allegations which I hope to conclude very soon. Currently, all Club Baseball activities have been suspended until a determination has been made.”*

With UCSC confirming they received a similar report, the NCBA allowed the UCSC administration to conduct an internal investigation and notify the NCBA of their findings. The NCBA has a set precedence of disciplinary



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action regarding drinking and notified UCSC Administration on what information they needed in order to penalize the UCSC team, should the allegations be factual.

UCSC Advisor, Kevin Givens supplied the NCBA with all the email exchanges between Givens and the UC Merced Administration. The NCBA also forwarded an email on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, from UCSC Advisor, Kevin Givens which he received from the UCSC Club Baseball President, Nick Settevendemie stating the fact that there was drinking during the game and also the specific information needed by the NCBA.

The following was determined:

- UCSC President, Nick Settevendemie was not present at any game of the series between UCSC and UC Merced.
- The alcohol consumption was taking place during the game
- The highest ranking officer during the time of the incident was INDIVIDUAL #1
- Two UCSC Players (INDIVIDUAL #2 & INDIVIDUAL #3) were drinking during the game
- INDIVIDUAL #3 participated in the game under the influence of alcohol
- The alcohol consumption took place on a high school facility

Disciplinary Action:

After reviewing the facts as well as the disciplinary precedent set forth by the Iowa State University incident on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and the Southern Illinois University - Carbondale incident on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, the NCBA is issuing the following penalties:

- UC Santa Cruz Club Baseball will be placed on Probation for the remainder of the 2014-15 season in addition to the entire 2015-16 season for conduct of their baseball operations in a manner which is VERY much unacceptable by NCBA standards.
- UC Santa Cruz Club Baseball will be eligible for post-season play, but will be INELGIBLE for the at-large bid selection for the 2014-15 season as well as the 2015-16 season.
- The NCBA will conduct evaluation at the end of the year to see if UCSC should be moved down to the NCBA Division II.
- INDIVIDUAL #1 will receive a lifetime ban from the NCBA. All remaining player eligibility with the NCBA is forfeited and he will not be recognized as an officer/coach/advisor of any team in the NCBA. INDIVIDUAL #1 was the highest ranking officer present during this incident and allowed alcohol consumption during the competition.
- INDIVIDUAL #3 will be suspended for the remainder of the 2014-15 season and through the conclusion of half (50%) of the officially scheduled conference games next season. During the 14-15 season and half of the 2015-16 season he may not compete in any NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games as a player, coach, or manager nor will he be allowed to be on the field or in the dugout. For 2015-16, should the Conference Schedule be a total of 15 games, he will be suspended through the completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> conference game. INDIVIDUAL #3 not only consumed alcohol, but also participated in the competition under the influence of alcohol.



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-INDIVIDUAL #2 will be suspended for the remainder of the 2014-15 season but will be eligible to compete during the 2015-16 season. During the 14-15 season he may not compete in any NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games as a player, coach, or manager. He will also not be allowed to be in the dugout or on the field during the suspension.

-Nick Settevendemie will not receive any disciplinary action as he was not present during any of the games where the incident took place.

Lastly, as a reminder to all reading this, the NCBA also wants the final note that was stated by the Commissioner of the NCBA, Sandy Sanderson in the previous incident where drinking was taking place to be a reminder that actions like these are not acceptable and will be punished severely.

**“The NCBA has worked exceptionally hard to raise both the level of play as well as the public persona regarding the validity of collegiate club baseball. When the NCBA first started in 2000, the term “club” was often confused with the term “intramural” which brought about public images of “pickup” or “sandlot” baseball. Thus the NCBA expects its member teams and participants to conduct themselves with a minimal level of common sense which protects the integrity and image of the NCBA and the game of baseball itself. When NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Games are treated like “Beer League Softball”, the credibility of the NCBA as a legitimate collegiate baseball league is tarnished. The NCBA is proud of the fact that we are able to facilitate the opportunity for college students to play competitive baseball. More so, we are proud of the growth in reputation that collegiate club baseball has achieved since the NCBA’s inception, and we will not allow one team or one individual to jeopardize that reputation. We owe it to all our member teams and participants to protect it for both club baseball players now and in the future.”**

**NCBA President and Commissioner, Sandy Sanderson.**

Christian Smith  
Vice President of Baseball Operations  
National Club Baseball Association