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Disciplinary Action:

Investigation:

With the University of Southern California (USC) scheduled to play Non-Conference Games during Week 11 (2/14-2/15) of the 2015 Season, their academic eligibility letter arrived from the USC Club Baseball President via email to VP of Baseball Operations, Christian Smith on 2/12/15 at 2:56 am EST. After reviewing academic eligibility letter in the morning of 2/12/15, Christian Smith became suspicious of the signature at the bottom of the eligibility letter. The signature was that of USC's Director of Recreational Sports and Programs, Gabe Valenzuela. The signature was suspicious due to the fact that it didn't seem as though it was an authentic signature as it was cursive writing. The signature was so suspicious that Christian Smith responded to the email with on 2/12/15 at 9:44 am EST asking the USC Club President if Mr. Valenzuela did in fact sign the academic eligibility letter. No response was received and on 2/12/15 at 4:24pm EST, Christian Smith again emailed not only the USC Club Baseball Team President, but the two other USC Club Baseball Team officers asking that signature confirmation from Mr. Valenzuela would be needed before their roster could be activated.

Later on the night of 2/12/15, specifically 6:51pm EST, VP of Baseball Operations did in fact receive via email an academic eligibility letter from Gabe Valenzuela. After reviewing the signature listed at the bottom of the form that was sent from Mr. Valenzuela, it was completely different from the signature that was received from the USC Club Baseball President earlier in the day.

The next morning, Christian Smith received a phone call from USC's Club Baseball President that he did in fact forge the academic eligibility letter that was originally sent in. Before speaking on the phone with Christian Smith, USC's Club President had a meeting with Gabe Valenzuela letting him know that he did forge his signature and the reasoning's behind why he did what he did.

Both Christian Smith and Gabe Valenzuela did speak on the phone after all information was collected and both were on the same page as far as disciplinary action goes. All information including email exchanges were handed over to Gabe Valenzuela in order for USC to have all information if they deemed it necessary to hand out any supplemental discipline in house.

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.

-The current University of Southern California 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 Southern California 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