

# Compliance Corner

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## IT'S MARCH MADNESS!!!

RISK + REWARD + BETTING ON AN NCAA SPORT = NCAA VIOLATION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I'm on the golf course. Can I bet my friends dinner based on who plays the best? What about when I'm bowling or playing pickup basketball?
2. Under NCAA rules, can I place a bet on NASCAR or the Kentucky Derby?
3. Can I play fantasy NFL football?
4. A friend of mine plays on a team that's in the NCAA Tournament. Can I give information about his or her injury (team morale, etc.) to a friend who bets on basketball?
5. Can I participate in a March Madness pool?
6. Who must follow these rules? Just student-athletes?

### ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

### FBI AND NCAA INVESTIGATING AUBURN MEN'S BASKETBALL SA FOR POINT SHAVING

"AUBURN, Ala. -- Federal authorities are investigating suspended Auburn point guard Varez Ward for alleged point-shaving involving at least two games this season, Yahoo! Sports reported Thursday. The report, citing anonymous sources, said the **FBI began an investigation in late February**, centering on the Tigers' losses to Alabama on Feb. 7 and to Arkansas on Jan. 25. Ward has confided that he spoke with federal authorities and denied the allegations, according to a source familiar with Ward's side of the story, al.com reported. Ward also said federal investigators confiscated his phone under court order and had him take a lie-detector test, the source said, according to the report. NCAA officials said they are "very concerned" by the allegations and have been in contact with the school and federal investigators since the issue arose last month. **"The NCAA takes any allegation of point-shaving very seriously because sports wagering threatens two of our core principles -- the well-being of student-athletes and the very integrity of intercollegiate sport," the NCAA said in a written statement Thursday. "As allegations of point-shaving, if proven, are also potential federal crimes, the NCAA will defer action until any process with the FBI has concluded."** Ward and guard Chris Denson were suspended before a Feb. 25 game against Arkansas, but Denson returned for the next game. Denson was questioned and cleared of involvement in point-shaving, the Yahoo! Sports report said. "Auburn officials were made aware of a rumor regarding an allegation two weeks ago and immediately reported it to the FBI, the NCAA and the SEC," Auburn said in a statement Thursday. "Because of the nature of the allegation, Auburn is not in a position to make any further comment on the situation."

Full [article](#) available in [espn.go.com's college men's basketball headlines](#).



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**ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!!!!**

**RECRUIT. RETAIN. GRADUATE CHAMPIONS.**

## Sports Wagering FAQs Answered....

I'm on the golf course. Can I bet my friends dinner based on who plays the best? What about when I'm bowling or playing pickup basketball?

NO. Golf, bowling, and basketball are all NCAA sports. That means that any bet, regardless of how small, cannot be made, even if it's among friends and just for fun.

Under NCAA rules, can I place a bet on NASCAR or the Kentucky Derby?

NCAA rules do not prohibit bets on non-NCAA sports (like NASCAR and horse racing). However, student-athletes are at an increased risk for problem gambling behaviors. If you do choose to gamble, do so in a legal manner and make sure you consider it an entertainment source, NOT an income source.

Can I play fantasy NFL football?

Maybe. Do not pay an entry fee, and do not accept prizes. It is also best to avoid publicizing this behavior. (For example: Don't post your selected teams online for all to see.)

A friend of mine plays on a team that's in the NCAA Tournament. Can I give information about his or her injury (team morale, etc.) to a friend who bets on basketball?

NO. It is against NCAA legislation to provide information for others to use in sports wagering.

Can I participate in an March Madness pool?

Not if there's an entry fee or a prize at the end. Remember, risk + reward + NCAA sports = violation.

Who must follow these rules? Just student-athletes?

Anyone involved in college athletics, from the NCAA president to a part-time manager.