



**RICHARD CORDRAY**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 5, 2010

Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip

Dear Agent:

As Ohio's Attorney General, I represent all of our state's public colleges and universities, which includes 12 NCAA member institutions. It has come to my attention through recent reporting that the NCAA has concerns about a perceived increase in illegal contact between sports agents and student-athletes. The recent string of high-profile investigations into potential illegal agent contact with student-athletes at several major college football programs support this cause for concern. The NCAA has also recently handed down several penalties related to illegal agent activity, including a reduction in scholarships and postseason ban for the University of Southern California football program in connection with illegal payments and other benefits provided by agents to former player Reggie Bush and his family.

Athletes and universities who break NCAA rules should, without doubt, be held accountable. What is not fair, and indeed is very wrong, is the possibility that an agent whose actions precipitated such a rule violation will not be held to similar account. I want to be very clear, on behalf of my clients, that such illegal agent activity will not be tolerated in Ohio.

You should understand that Ohio law provides our higher education institutions a means to recover damages from an agent whose illegal actions result in harm to a school. Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4771 governs the conduct of athlete agents in Ohio. Among other provisions, the law prohibits contact with an athlete, if such contact is prohibited by the NCAA. O.R.C. § 4771.17(H). The law also provides that in the event the NCAA or an athletic conference levies penalties on a student-athlete or school in connection with an agent's actions, that school can recover damages (including compensatory and punitive or exemplary damages), court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees against agents. O.R.C. § 4771.20.

I will not hesitate to enforce these provisions when my clients' interests have been harmed by illegal agent conduct. Nor will I hesitate to refer any such violations for criminal prosecution when I deem it advisable. O.R.C. § 4771.99.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions as to the content of this letter.

Sincerely,



Richard Cordray  
Ohio Attorney General

cc: Ohio NCAA Member Institution Athletic Directors  
Ohio Athletic Commission