

UNC Facing Serious Allegations

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Wednesday, 22 June 2011 17:10

The NCAA has alleged nine major violations against the University of North Carolina football program.

The 42-page notice that was received on Tuesday is the latest step by the NCAA into an investigate of serious violations concerning impermissible benefits and academic misconduct. Last season, 14 UNC players were suspended for one game, and seven others were suspended for the entire 2010 season because of these allegations.

The Tar Heels have 90 days to respond. The alleged violations include the failure to monitor the program, academic fraud involving a tutor, the failure to follow up in 2009 and 2010 on tips related to improper benefits and a former associate head coach, who was on an agent's payroll, who was swaying players to sign with that agent.

Following UNC's response to these allegations, the NCAA Committee of Infractions will rule on whether the violations did occur, and then it will determine penalties against the program. UNC has asked to be present at the meeting October 28 in Indianapolis, IN., and Chancellor Holden Thorp, Athletics Director Dick Baddour and football coach Butch Davis were requested to attend the meeting by the NCAA.

Tuesday's notification did not include any possible penalties for these violations, but penalties in similar high-profile cases in football and basketball have led to the loss of scholarships, a ban from postseason play and forfeiting games involving the use of any ineligible players. The NCAA, however, has said that each case is different, and that no standard guidelines for punishment does exist.