

Eagles Lose Nearly Five Scholarships

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Georgia Southern University football team will lose 4.47 scholarships this season.

The team's Academic Progress Rate was below the NCAA standard score of 925. The APR measures the classroom performance of a team over a four-year period. The new scores reflect the 2006-07 through 2009-10 school years.

Those hit the hardest were Idaho State, Southern University and Jackson State, who have been deemed ineligible for post-season play in the Football Championship Sub-Division this fall.

Southern and Jackson State are members of the Southwestern Athletic Conference. That league plays a championship game between its two division winners. The teams that don't play in the title game are eligible for possible at-large bids in the FCS playoffs.

Idaho State will lose 2.98 scholarships; Jackson State will lose 6.3; Southern will lose 1.67.

North Carolina A&T, which was facing a post-season ban, was granted a conditional waiver by the NCAA for this coming season. Which means they must demonstrated academic improvement, active presidential involvement, meeting certain APR benchmarks and implementation of an APR improvement plan.

In all, 14 schools failed to meet APR criteria and lost 48 scholarships combined for 2011-12. And teams can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships if their four-year APR score falls below the 925 standard, or if they have a student-athlete leave school that is academically ineligible.

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