

## If you worked as a Volunteer Coach in an NCAA Division I athletics program in a sport other than baseball between 2019-2023, your rights may be affected by a class action lawsuit.

*A federal court authorized this Notice. It is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

- A class action lawsuit has been filed against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) (“Defendant”).
- The lawsuit claims that certain NCAA rules that prohibited schools from paying wages, salaries, or benefits to Division I athletics coaches in sports other than baseball who were designated as “volunteer coaches” were anticompetitive.
- You may be included in the lawsuit if you worked as a “volunteer coach” for any NCAA Division I sports program other than baseball, any time between March 17, 2019 to June 30, 2023.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS	
<b>DO NOTHING</b>	If you do nothing, you are choosing to stay in the lawsuit. You will be eligible to share in any money that may be obtained through continued litigation or settlement. You will be bound by past and any future court rulings on, or settlement of, the claims against Defendant, and you will not be able to pursue these claims in a separate action.
<b>EXCLUDE YOURSELF</b>	If you exclude yourself from the lawsuit ( <i>i.e.</i> opt out), you will not be able to share in any money that may be obtained in this case through continued litigation or settlement. You will not be bound by any past or future rulings against Defendant. You may pursue your own claims against Defendant at your own cost, if you choose to do so.

- These rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this Notice.
- Your legal rights are affected whether you act or not. Please read this entire Notice carefully.

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## BASIC INFORMATION

### 1. Why was this Notice issued?

This Notice was issued because the Court has decided this lawsuit may proceed as a class action. This Notice explains the lawsuit, who is included, and your legal rights and options.

Judge William B. Shubb of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California is overseeing this lawsuit. The case is titled *Ray v. NCAA*, Case No. 1:23-cv-00425 (originally filed under the title *Colon v. NCAA*). The people who initiated this case are called the Plaintiffs. The entity the Plaintiffs sued is called the Defendant. The Defendant in this case is the NCAA.

### 2. What is a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called Class Representatives (in this case, Shannon Ray, Khala Taylor, Peter Robinson, Katherine Sebbane, and Rudy Barajas) sue on behalf of people who have similar claims. Together, the Class Representatives and the people represented by them are called a Class or Class Members. One court resolves the claims of all Class Members, except for those who exclude themselves from the litigation.

### 3. Why is this lawsuit a class action?

The Court decided that this lawsuit can be a class action because it meets the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3), which governs class actions in federal courts. Specifically, the Court found that:

- There are thousands of volunteer coaches affected by the litigation;
- There are questions of law and fact that are common to all of them;
- The Class Representatives' claims are typical of the claims of the rest of the Class;
- The Class Representatives, and the lawyers representing the Class, will fairly and adequately represent the Class's interests;
- The common factual and legal questions predominate over questions that affect only individuals; and
- This class action will be more efficient than having many individual lawsuits.

## THE CLAIMS IN THE LAWSUIT

### 4. What is this lawsuit about?

Plaintiffs allege that the NCAA and member schools agreed, in the form of an NCAA bylaw, to prohibit the payment of compensation or benefits to a category of coaches in sports other than baseball, designated under the bylaws as "volunteer coaches." Plaintiffs claim that this prohibition was an illegal wage-fixing conspiracy under Section 1 of the Sherman Act and that the persons who worked in that position during the class period were injured by that alleged conspiracy. Plaintiffs seek damages on behalf of the Class measured by what the coaches' compensation would have been in the absence of the alleged illegal agreement.

A copy of the Second Amended Complaint is available at [www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com](http://www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com). The NCAA's motion to dismiss the case was denied by the Court on July 27, 2023.

### 5. How does the Defendant answer?

The NCAA denies that the challenged bylaws violated the federal antitrust laws and denies that this case is properly brought as a class action. The NCAA also denies that members of the class were injured by the challenged bylaws.

Copies of Defendant's Answer as filed by the Defendant are available at [www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com](http://www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com).

## **6. Has the Court decided who is right?**

No, the Court has not decided whether the Class Representatives or Defendant are correct about whether Defendant violated the law. By deciding that this lawsuit may proceed as a class action and issuing this Notice, the Court is not suggesting that the Class Representatives will win or lose the case—only that the case may proceed as a class action. The Class Representatives must prove their claims at a trial.

## **7. What are the Class Representatives asking for on behalf of the Class?**

The Class Representatives are asking for money damages on behalf of themselves and all members of the Class for the compensation they allege that they would have received if the NCAA and member schools had not fixed their wages at \$0.

There is no money available now and no guarantee there ever will be.

## **WHO IS INCLUDED?**

## **8. How do I know if I am included in the lawsuit?**

The lawsuit includes all persons who, for any period of time between March 17, 2019, and June 30, 2023, worked for a NCAA Division I sports program other than baseball in the position of “volunteer coach,” as designated by NCAA Bylaws.

## **YOUR RIGHTS & OPTIONS**

## **9. What are my options?**

You have two options:

- Do nothing, remain in the lawsuit, and await the outcome, or
- Exclude yourself (*i.e.* opt out) from the lawsuit.

## **10. What happens if I do nothing?**

If you do nothing you are choosing to remain in the lawsuit. You will keep the right to share in any money or benefits that may come from a trial or settlement of this lawsuit. However, you will give up your right to start another lawsuit, continue another lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendant about the facts, events and legal issues raised or that could have been raised in this case. All of the Court’s orders in the case will apply to you and legally bind you. You will also be bound by any judgment in the lawsuit.

## **11. What happens if I ask to be excluded?**

If you ask to be excluded or “opt-out” of the lawsuit, then you will not get any money or benefits from this lawsuit even if Plaintiffs obtain them as a result of trial or from any settlement. However, you will not be legally bound by any of the Court’s orders in this class action or any judgment or release entered in this lawsuit. You will keep your right to start another lawsuit, continue another lawsuit, or be part of another lawsuit against Defendant in the future about the facts, events and legal issues in this case. If you exclude yourself so that you can start, or continue, your own lawsuit against Defendant, you should consider talking to your own lawyer before making that decision, because your claims may be subject to a statute of limitations defense, which means your individual claims may be subject to expiration.

## 12. How do I opt out?

To exclude yourself you must send a letter to the Class Certification Notice Administrator (“Notice Administrator”) stating that you want to be excluded from the Class in *Ray v. NCAA*, Case No. 1:23-cv-00425. Your letter must include your name, address, telephone number, and your signature.

You must mail your exclusion request to the Notice Administrator, so it is postmarked by **October 1, 2025** to:

*NCAA Volunteer Coaches Lawsuit*

EXCLUSION

PO Box 173001

Milwaukee, WI 53217

## 13. How do I stay up to date on the status of the lawsuit?

If you would like to be provided with updates about the lawsuit, including any compensation that may become available, go to [www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com](http://www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com) and enter your contact information. The information you provide will be used to send you updates as they become available.

## THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

### 14. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

If you remain in the Class, yes, the Court has already appointed attorneys from the law firms Gustafson Gluek, Kirby McInerney, and Fairmark Partners to represent you and other Class Members. These law firms are called Co-Lead Counsel for the Class. More information about these law firms and lawyers can be found at <https://gustafsongluek.com>, <https://www.kmlp.com>, and <https://fairmarklaw.com>. You can contact Dennis Stewart of Gustafson Gluek at [dstewart@gustafsongluek.com](mailto:dstewart@gustafsongluek.com). You can contact Bob Gralewski of Kirby McInerney at [bgralewski@kmlp.com](mailto:bgralewski@kmlp.com). You can contact Michael Lieberman of Fairmark Partners at [michael@fairmarklaw.com](mailto:michael@fairmarklaw.com).

### 15. Should I get my own lawyer?

You do not need to hire your own lawyer because the Court has appointed Co-Lead Counsel to represent the Class. However, if you wish to do so, you may hire your own lawyer at your own expense.

### 16. How will the lawyers be paid?

If Co-Lead Counsel obtains money or benefits for the Class, they will ask the Court to award them reasonable attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses. If the Court grants Co-Lead Counsel’s request, these fees and expenses would either be deducted from any money obtained for the Classes or be paid separately by the Defendant.

## THE TRIAL

### 17. How and when will I find out who is right?

At the present time, a trial is scheduled to begin in June 2026 at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, 501 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814. During the trial, a jury or the Judge will hear all of the evidence to reach a decision about whether the Class or Defendant are right about the claims in the lawsuit. The Court may also be presented with motions prior to the trial which could have an impact on the determination of the case.

### 18. Do I have to come to the trial?

No, you do not need to attend the trial. Co-Lead Counsel will present the case for the Class, and Counsel for the Defendant will present the defenses. You or your own lawyers are welcome to come at your own expense.

#### **19. Will I get money after the trial?**

If the Co-Lead Counsel obtains money or benefits as a result of the trial or a settlement, a new Notice will be issued.

### **GETTING MORE INFORMATION**

#### **20. How do I get more information?**

More information is available at [www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com](http://www.ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com), by sending an email to [info@ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com](mailto:info@ncaavolunteercoachlawsuit.com), by calling 877-390-3148 or by writing to *NCAA Volunteer Coaches Lawsuit* Notice Administrator, PO Box 173059, Milwaukee, WI 53217.

Complete copies of public pleadings, Court rulings, and other filings are also available by accessing the Court docket for this case, for a fee, through the Court's PACER system at <https://ecf.caed.uscourts.gov> or visiting the Clerk of the Court at the address listed above between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays.