

**For Immediate Release:
March 8, 2011**

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Ohio State self-reports to NCAA case involving head football coach

Ohio State officials today submitted a self-report to the NCAA that Head Football Coach Jim Tressel violated provisions of NCAA Bylaw 10.1 when he failed to notify the university about information received involving two football student-athletes.

The university became aware of this situation on Jan. 13, while reviewing information on an unrelated legal issue. The university's Office of Legal Affairs notified the appropriate institutional officials and an investigation began immediately. After conducting additional fact finding, including questioning Tressel, the university notified the NCAA on Feb. 3.

"I am disappointed that we find ourselves in this situation. I want to thank the NCAA for being responsive and working collaboratively with us on this case. We ask Buckeye Nation to be patient as we resolve this matter and we thank them for all the support that they provide to our programs," said Athletics Director Gene Smith. "I think everyone knows how I feel about Jim Tressel. There is no better coach at developing young people than Jim."

"I am sorry and disappointed this happened. At the time the situation occurred, I thought I was doing the right thing," Tressel said. "I understand my responsibility to represent Ohio State and the game of football. I apologize to any and all of the people I have let down. I will grow from this experience."

"The university has responded as rapidly as possible and worked with the NCAA to ensure full cooperation," said President E. Gordon Gee. "Coach Tressel has acknowledged he has erred and takes full responsibility for his actions. During the past decade, he has devoted his life to the university, the students on his team, and so many others in the larger community. As an NCAA member school, we are committed to doing everything possible to comply with NCAA rules and bylaws."

As part of its self-report, the university has self-imposed the following sanctions: a public reprimand and apology; a two-game suspension; attendance at a compliance seminar; and a \$250,000 fine.

