

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS REACHES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ATHLETE AGENT AND COMPANY

Columbia, SC..... In a settlement reached last month, a Florida athlete agent and his company have voluntarily agreed to cease engaging in violations of the South Carolina *Uniform Athlete Agents Act*. The company has provided remittance and has agreed to submit monthly reports of agent activity to the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) if issued a registration. The agent and company, regulated under the provisions of the South Carolina *Uniform Athlete Agents Act*, failed to obtain a certificate of registration from SCDCA, as the Act stipulates.

“While athlete agents do provide valuable services to their clients, the Department will maintain a ‘watchful eye’ on their activities. Regulating this profession protects the interests of student athletes and academic institutions, which is the Department’s highest priority,” said SCDCA Administrator Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston.

According to SCDCA staff attorney Carri Grube Lybarker, regulation of the athlete agent industry is necessary to protect colleges, universities and more importantly, student athletes. “The percentage of student athletes who make it to the professional level is very small, but an athlete’s judgment can be easily clouded when promises of fame and fortune are made. In the blink of an eye, the student athlete can lose collegiate eligibility and an education, all for naught,” she said.

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sconsumer.gov.

The settlement brought an end to SCDCA's 19-month investigation of the agent and company. For more information on athlete agents, contact the public information division at SCDCA at 803.734.4190, or toll free in South Carolina, 1.800.922.1594, or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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