

Barta, Ferentz respond to SI/CBS article addressing 18 charges

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After an article published by Sports Illustrated/CBS News released Wednesday [revealed how Iowa was tied for the second-most number of players charged with offenses nationally among preseason top 25 teams from last year](#), a response has come from the UI.

In a release sent Wednesday afternoon featuring comments from both Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and Iowa athletics director Gary Barta, the UI made mention of how all 18 charged offenses since 2007 were deemed misdemeanors, with 15 of the 18 being alcohol-related.

“Each incident involving a student-athlete is taken seriously and handled according to our student-athlete code of conduct,” Barta said in the statement. “Some football student-athletes who have had an incident while a participant in our program have successfully graduated, others are still with us, and others are no longer a part of the program.”

The article also makes mention of how schools like TCU, the only one listed with zero players being charged with any offenses, conduct legal background checks, but don’t look at juvenile records.

In this release, Iowa acknowledges that no official background checks are done, but that “extensive conversation” is done with many of those associated with potential recruits such as players’ parents and coaches.

“For 12 years, we have dealt promptly, firmly, consistently, and within the student-athlete code of conduct when we have incidents involving members of our football program,” Ferentz said in a statement. “My staff and I will continue to work to ensure our student-athletes are successful as a student, as an athlete, and as a citizen of the Iowa City community.”