

Donnie Tyndall's Basketball Career Comes to an End

On Friday, April 8, 2016, The National Collegiate Athletic Association effectively ended Donnie Tyndall's career as a college basketball coach. The NCAA's [investigation states](#) the former University of Southern Mississippi men's basketball coach, Donnie Tyndall, "acted unethically and failed to promote an atmosphere for compliance when he directed his staff to engage in academic misconduct."

The NCAA's report states that Tyndall "directed members of his staff to complete fraudulent coursework for seven prospects so they could be immediately eligible to compete." According to the NCAA report the conduct began within six weeks of Tyndall's becoming head coach.

As a consequence, the NCAA imposed a 10-year show-cause order on Donnie Tyndall. This order makes Tyndall effectively unemployable at an NCAA institution. Until April 7, 2026, any NCAA institution that hires Tyndall, must suspend him from all coaching duties. Even 10 years suspension was not enough punishment for the NCAA to assess against Tyndall. Once the 10 years are up, Tyndall must be suspended for the first 50 percent of the first season he is employed by any NCAA school.

According to [ESPN](#), Tyndall has filed an appeal of the decision: "Tyndall confirmed Wednesday he was seeking a 'full overturning or reversal' of the penalty and that he would take the case to court if the appeal isn't granted." ESPN further reports that "Tyndall said he should have received nothing more than a nine-game suspension, the penalties Syracuse's Jim Boeheim and SMU's Larry Brown received after NCAA investigations of their programs. 'I should have never lost my job at Tennessee,' Tyndall said. 'It should have been just what Jim Boeheim and Larry Brown got. We want a full overturning or reversal of the decision, and that's what it should be.'

ESPN reports that Tyndall says "much of the NCAA's case depends on the testimony of Adam Howard, a former assistant coach on his staff. He also says Howard had changed his story after originally indicating no knowledge that Tyndall had been involved in academic fraud. Howard worked with Tyndall's staff at Southern Mississippi and followed him to Tennessee before resigning in November 2014 for what the school described at the time as personal reasons. Howard's departure came less than three weeks after Southern Mississippi announced the NCAA was reviewing its program. "That's not what our country is about," Tyndall said. "There's nobody who should lose their job and career based on what one person says with no proof or evidence. It's that simple. So I'm going to fight for the next group of coaches. Hopefully they never have to go through something like this."