



This tip sheet is intended to provide a summary of NCAA rules related to phone or e-mail correspondence. More specifically, it is intended to address calling/e-mailing coaches in order to express interest in prospects who are not yet "of age" for the purposes of recruiting legislation. Please remember to contact the Office of Compliance Services if you have any questions as the applicable NCAA, Southeastern Conference and University rules change over time.

GENERAL RULE

Often times college coaches have conversations with high school or club coaches regarding prospects who are not yet of age for recruiting purposes. As a general rule, college coaches may not suggest – expressly or implicitly – that the high school/club coach pass or convey specific information to a prospect based on their discussion about a specific prospect that is not yet of age for recruiting purposes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Question:

Is it permissible for a college coach to initiate a phone call/e-mail to a high school or club coach to invite a PSA who is not "of age" to attend a college game?

Answer:

No. Please see NCAA interpretation below.

NCAA Bylaw Interpretation - - Contacting a High-School Coach to Invite a Prospect to Attend Institutional Contest Prior to His or Her Junior Year in High School - - Date Issued: November 29, 1994 :

Inasmuch as an institution may not correspond with a prospect for purposes of recruitment prior to September 1 at the beginning of the prospect's junior year in high school, an institution's coach may not contact a prospect's coach for the purpose of inviting a specific prospect (who has yet to begin his or her junior year in high school) to visit an institution's campus, even if the institution does not intend to provide the prospect with a complimentary admission to attend a home contest.

Question:

Is it permissible for a college coach to call/e-mail a high school or club coach for the sole purpose of getting information to or a response from a PSA who is not "of age"?

Answer:

No. If the sole intent of the call is to circumvent rules associated with phone calls, general correspondence/e-mail/letters and/or contacts, the call would be an NCAA violation.

Question:

Is it permissible for a PSA who is not "of age" to initiate a phone call to a college coach?

Answer:

Yes. As long as the PSA was NOT DIRECTED to do so by a college coach through the PSA's high school or club coach.

Question:

If a PSA who is not "of age" initiates a phone call to a college coach, is content during the conversation restricted at all?

Answer:

No. If a PSA who is not "of age" initiates a phone call to a college coach, WITHOUT HAVING BEEN DIRECTED to do so by the college coach, the content of the conversation can entail anything.

Question:

Is it permissible for a college coach to call/e-mail a high school or club coach to specifically inquire (e.g., gather information) about a 10th grader, 9th grader, 8th grader, or younger?

Answer:

Yes.



QUESTIONS THAT COACHES SHOULD CONSIDER

- 1) Is the high school/club coach providing the information to the prospect on his/her own initiative?
- 2) Are you affirmatively suggesting that the information be passed along to the prospect?
- 3) Is the prospect calling the college coach or visiting campus on his own initiative?
- 4) Is the prospect calling the college coach or visiting campus because the college coach has affirmatively suggested that a prospect call/visit?

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE:

Gathering Information

- For example: "What can you tell me about that Gary Gamecock kid?"

Providing Information

- For example: "Gary could compete for playing time right now, we'd have a scholarship for him."

A general, open invitation for an entire team

- For example: "If you or any of your kids want to come out to a game, just let me know, and we'll take care of you."

Answering Questions

- For example: Q: "How does the recruiting process work since Gary is only a freshman?"

A: "Well, I can't write him until... call or contact him off campus until... but, he can call me as much as he wants, visit us any time except dead periods, etc..."

Q: "Would you like me to tell Gary to call you?"

A: "You're free to tell him whatever you'd like, but I can't ask you to relay messages for me."

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WOULD BE IMPERMISSIBLE:

Asking a coach to be a conduit for information

- For example: You can't say, "I can't write or call Bobby, but please make sure he sees this flyer regarding our big recruiting day this spring."

You also couldn't say, "Please tell Gary that we'll have a scholarship for him, and that he can visit any time he wants."