



# The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



**The Official Newsletter of the UC Compliance Office  
For coaches and athletic staff**

**August 2006**

## **RECRUITING DATES**

**Baseball –**

**8/1 – 8/31 Contact/Evaluation Period**

**Men's Basketball –**

**8/1 – 9/8 Quiet Period**

**Women's Basketball –**

**8/1 – 9/15 Quiet Period**

**Football –**

**8/1 – 11/25 Quiet Period (with exceptions)**

**Volleyball –**

**8/1 – 12/3 Contact/Evaluation Period (with exception)**

**All Other Sports –**

**Contact/Evaluation Period**

## **SKILL INSTRUCTION – OTHER THAN FOOTBALL – 17.1.5.2.2**

Participation by student-athletes in individual skill-related instruction in sports other than football is permitted outside the institution's declared playing season, from the institution's first day of classes of the academic year or September 15, whichever occurs earlier, to one week prior to the beginning of the institution's final examination period at the conclusion of the academic year [see Bylaw 17.1.5.2-(a)]. More than four student-athletes from the team may be involved in skill-related instruction with their coaches from September 15 through April 15. Prior to September 15 and after April 15, no more than four student-athletes from the same team may be involved in skill-related instruction with their coach(es) at any one time in any facility. It has also been confirmed by the

NCAA that if September 15<sup>th</sup> is prior to the first day of classes at your institution, you are permitted to provide actual and necessary expenses for any student-athlete required to be on campus during this time period.

## **INITIAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS TO ALL PSA'S**

Coaches, per the new Bylaw 13.3.3 (see below) the NCAA initial eligibility standards must be sent to all PSA's at the earliest possible date of their recruitment. We recommend you send them in your initial recruiting letter.

“Member institutions shall provide to high school PSAs and their parents or legal guardians information regarding the initial-eligibility standards contained in Bylaw 14.3. The information shall be provided at the earliest opportunity after the institution begins recruiting the PSA, but not later than the day prior to the PSA's signed acceptance of the NLI or institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. An institution may provide the information in hard copy or electronic form (e.g., electronic mail, link to Web site).”

## **CHECK-IN MEETINGS**

Teams should schedule their check-in meetings for the upcoming academic year with Maggie. Please keep in mind that the check-in meeting will last approximately 1 ½ hours. All student-athletes must complete the SA statement and drug-testing consent form prior to participating in practice activities.

The ones already scheduled are:

**Football Aug. 6, 4:00**

**Volleyball** Aug. 7, 2:00  
**Women's Soccer** Aug. 8, 1:00  
**Men's Soccer** Aug. 8, 4:00  
**Cross Country** Aug. 28, 8:00 a.m.  
**Tennis & Swimming** Sept. 8, 4:00  
**Rowing** Sept. 10, 3:30  
**Swimming** Sept. 18 TBA  
**Women's Track** Sept. 18, 4:00

It is also important to note that with the adoption of Proposal No. 2005-77-B, the exceptions noted in Bylaw 13.1.3.4.1.1, which permitted noncoaching institutional staff members to make telephone calls to PSA's in football under specified conditions, now apply to all sports. The following institutional staff members may continue to make telephone calls

## RECRUITING COORDINATION FUNCTIONS

Effective August 1, 2006, all recruiting coordination functions (except routine clerical tasks) must be performed by a coach who counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches (Bylaw 11.7.4) in all sports. Such functions include:

1. Activities involving athletics evaluation and/or selection of PSA's.
2. Telephone calls to PSA's (or PSA's parents, legal guardians or coaches).
3. Preparation of general recruiting correspondence to PSA's (or PSA's parents or legal guardians).

Further, inasmuch as telephone calls are a recruiting-coordination activity, it is not permissible for athletics department staff members (other than a coach who counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches or other specific staff members pursuant to legislated exceptions), including volunteer coaches (Bylaw 11.01.5), to make calls to or receive calls from prospects (or the prospects' parents, legal guardians, or coaches) that may involve conversations related to the recruitment of the prospects. In Division I-A football and women's rowing, such telephone calls also may be made by the graduate assistant coach, provided the coach has successfully completed the coaches' certification examination per Bylaw 11.5.1.1.

1. President or chancellor/director of athletics. It is permissible for an institution's president or chancellor and director of athletics to return (as opposed to initiate) telephone calls from PSA's (or the PSA's parents or legal guardian). Under

such circumstances, there are no restrictions on the content of the conversation that may occur during the call; however, any return call is subject to any applicable limitations on the number of telephone calls that an institution may place to PSA's.

2. Academic advisors. It is permissible for academic advisors to make calls to or receive calls from PSA's (or the PSA's parents or legal guardians) related to admissions or academic issues, subject to any applicable limitation on the number of telephone calls an institution may place to PSA's.
3. Compliance coordinators. It is permissible for a compliance coordinator to return telephone calls from PSA's with no limit on the timing or number of such telephone calls, provided the calls relate only to compliance issues. It is permissible for a compliance coordinator to initiate telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete, provided the calls relate only to compliance issues and such calls occur subsequent to the PSA's signing a

NLI with that institution (or, for those institutions not subscribing to the NLI, subsequent to the PSA's signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid).

4. Noncoaching staff members with sport specific responsibilities. It is permissible for a noncoaching staff member with sport specific responsibilities to initiate and receive telephone calls from PSA's, provided the calls relate only to general pre-enrollment administrative issues and such calls occur subsequent to the prospective student-athlete's signing a NLI with that institution (or, for those institutions not subscribing to the NLI, subsequent to the PSA's signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid).

Finally, electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., electronic mail, instant messenger, facsimiles, pages, text messaging) must be prepared by a coach who counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches (Bylaw 11.7.4). It is permissible for an individual other than a coach who

### RECRUITING COORDINATION FUNCTIONS, CON'T

counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches to send the correspondence; however, this individual may neither respond to correspondence from nor prepare correspondence to prospects. For example, a coach who counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches composes a message to be sent to a large group of PSA's. Such a message may be provided to a staff member that is not a countable coach (e.g., administrative assistant, graduate assistant, director of operations, volunteer coach) and that individual may coordinate and engage in the act of sending the message to the intended recipients. In this manner, while the

institutional staff member who is not included in the numerical coaching limitations actually sent the correspondence, the coach who counts toward the numerical limitations of head or assistant coaches prepared the content and, thus, satisfied the provisions of Bylaw 11.7.1.2.

### NLI SIGNING DATES

As you are planning for the upcoming school year, the signing dates for the 2007-08 national letter of intent signing period are as follows:

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Initial Signing Date</b>	<b>Final Signing Date</b>
Basketball (Early Period)	November 8, 2006	November 15, 2006
Basketball (Late Period)	April 11, 2007	May 16, 2007
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 20, 2006	January 15, 2007
Football (Regular Period)	February 7, 2007	April 1, 2007
Soccer	February 7, 2007	August 1, 2007
All Other Sports(Early Period)	November 8, 2006	November 15, 2006
All Other Sports(Late Period)	April 11, 2007	August 1, 2007

### MYSPACE.COM & COACHES

The Big East has received several questions regarding mspace.com. Specifically, the questions were regarding whether or not it was permissible for a coach to have an account for recruiting purposes. Although it is permissible for a coaching staff member to have an account, the same rules would apply here as they do for other personal websites [see interp below].

Coaches, if you do have an account with mspace.com, you CANNOT have any pictures/comments from PSAs appearing on your personal webpage. It is strongly

recommended that coaches do not allow PSAs to become friends/ comment on their personal pages. We have been informed by the NCAA that if any coaches do have PSAs pictures/comments on their personal pages, it is a secondary violation.

September 30, 1999 Web Site Information Interp  
Web Site Information. (I) It is permissible for an institution's web site or an athletics department staff member's personal web site to include information related to the institution's athletics programs and a hyperlink to the institution's athletics web site, provided neither the institution's web site nor the athletics department staff member's personal web site contains: (1) **information regarding prospective student-athletes**, except as permitted under Bylaw 13.11.8; (2) any hyperlink to the web site of a recruiting/scouting service or a noninstitutional publication that reports primarily on the institution's athletics program; (3) recruiting videos or other audio/video materials, except as permitted under Bylaw 13.4.2.1. [References: Bylaws 13.4.1 (printed recruiting materials) and 13.4.2.1 (highlight film/videotape/audio tape)].

## ACT/SAT SCORES

Bylaw 14.3.4.3.4 requires that the minimum SAT or ACT score(s) used for initial-eligibility purposes must be provided to the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse by the appropriate testing agency through an official test-score report. The score on a PSA's official high school transcript will no longer be acceptable for the clearinghouse.

## AROUND THE COUNTRY

Duke player suspended for plagiarism

Duke's quarterback is on academic suspension for plagiarism for the 2006-07 school year. He will be able to return in the summer of 2007.

UK fans web posts create violation

UK fans posted comments on a top prospect's personal webpage on myspace.com. There were between 20-25 postings that were recruiting pitches for UK. These postings are similar to a booster have face-to-face contact or a phone conversation with a prospect. The university is reporting this as a secondary violation and is keeping an eye on the website.

TCU Tennis coach admits phone call violations

TCU tennis coach has admitted to excessively calling international recruits beyond the permissible number of times the NCAA allows. This has been a trend across the country lately as Fresno State and Oklahoma have also been found in violation of the rule of permissible number of phone calls to recruits. The penalties at Oklahoma ranged from loss of scholarships, reduced number of official visits and reduced number of phone calls to recruits. The former coach is not at Indiana University and is prohibited from making recruiting phone calls for one year and can not perform any off-campus recruiting duties. Coaches, please be sure you are communicating with your staff to ensure that only one phone call per week is being made to a recruit.

University of Delaware reports text message violation

University of Delaware men's basketball coach sent an impermissible text message to high school recruit before the permissible date. The recruit mentioned the text message on an ESPN show and then the school reported the violation.

## COMPLIANCE STAFF ADDITION

Please welcome the compliance department's newest staff member, Deborah Rise. She will be monitoring much of the recruiting paperwork and practice and participation logs. She will also be preparing NLI's and transfer release requests.

## CLEARINGHOUSE

Remember, that those students first enrolling in a 4-year college (including JUCO transfers) in 2007-08 school year will be registering with both the initial-eligibility clearinghouse and the amateurism clearinghouse. They are both through the same application process, but additional questions about their amateurism status will be asked.

There is also a proposal that PSA's may have to register with the clearinghouse before they come to campus on a visit. We will keep you updated on this issue.

## FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

Incoming freshmen need to send their final transcripts and test scores to the clearinghouse ASAP. The longer they wait to send them, the closer to the school year until they are evaluated. **International students will not be issued an I-20 until they are a final qualifier.** The International Student Services Office will not issue it until the student is eligible to receive financial aid. In order to be eligible they need to be a final qualifier.

### The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

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