



# The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

May 2003

## RECRUITING DATES

### Men's Basketball-

5/1 – 7/7 **Quiet Period**

### Women's Basketball-

4/18 – 7/7 **Quiet Period**

### Football-

4/15 – 5/31 **Evaluation Period** (Four weeks selected at the discretion of the member institution and designated in writing in the office of the director of athletics)

Those days not designated for evaluation – **Quiet Period**

### Volleyball-

2/15 – 7/31 **Contact/Evaluation**

### All Other Sports-

**Contact/Evaluation Period**

## RECRUITING LOGS

Individual recruiting logs are due ASAP on all National Letter of Intent signees. The individual recruiting log form can be found in the back of the Coaches Guide to NCAA Compliance 2002-03 edition. There are three types of the individual recruiting logs – one each for football, basketball, and all sports other than football and basketball. If you have misplaced the coaches guide that was provided to all coaches at the September 5<sup>th</sup> certification of compliance meeting, please let me know and I will send you another.

Also, please submit your monthly phone logs immediately. Many sports have fallen months behind. We must have these at the end of each month.

## GRANT-IN-AID RENEWALS

This upcoming year, we have created two different forms, one for renewals at the same grant-in-aid amount as the previous year and one for changes in the previous year's GIA (e.g., non-renewals, reductions, increases). The "same amount" GIA renewal form will be pink this year and will have less required signature lines. The change in GIA form will be green and be the same as in the past. A memo detailing these facts will be sent to each head coach the beginning of the month. Along with this will be a copy of your 2002-03 squad list and pink and green forms. If you prefer to have the forms emailed to you so that you may do them on the computer and print them on the correct color paper, let me know so that I can do so and just supply your sport with blank pink and green paper.

To summarize, we are requiring that a pink form be filled out for each returning student-athlete that is being renewed. A green form should be filled out for any returning student-athlete who is receiving an award for the first time, being reduced or not being renewed for the 2003-2004 academic year. If a student-athlete is being reduced or non-renewed, please explain the reason on the line provided. The forms are due by **Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**.



## AROUND THE COUNTRY

### Arkansas - Fayetteville on Probation

The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville was placed on three years probation by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions, for impermissible employment and overpayment of student-athletes. In addition to the probation and self-imposed sanctions, which included the loss of eight football scholarships over four years, the Committee on Infractions added the loss of two more scholarships for one more year and required the school to give up six of its 56 permitted paid recruiting visits over the next school year.

The NCAA found that Arkansas committed major violations which included overpayments to student-athletes, supplemental pay by boosters to a school-disciplined athletic trainer and failure to properly use a booster monitoring program.

The impermissible employment occurred at a trucking company and a material management service which was owned and primarily operated by a well-known representative of the university's athletics interests. The employment of the student-athletes by the company violated five NCAA bylaws concerning recruiting, financial aid, employment and extra benefits. Recruiting violations occurred when two of the 20 athletes involved were hired by the company prior to their enrollment at Arkansas. The financial violations resulted when wages earned by student-athletes from impermissible employment during the academic school year were added to the individual grant-in-aid totals, creating excesses beyond the allowed limits. The extra benefits violations occurred when student-athletes were overcompensated, or paid for work not performed at the company.

In addition to the major violations committed by Arkansas, the NCAA also found a secondary violations which occurred when two student-athletes received free gasoline from the trucking company's storage tank on one or two occasions.

This is the third time that Arkansas has been involved in major violations. Probation for Arkansas ends in April of 2006. If Arkansas commits a major violation prior to April 16, 2008, the school could be subject to repeat-violator sanctions, the most severe of which is the death penalty for the sport involved.

## NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

The spring signing period for Men's and Women's Basketball draws to a close on **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. The signing period continues until **August 1** for all sports other than Football and Men's and Women's Basketball. Please remember that a prospective student-athlete must sign the National Letter of Intent within 14 days of the date printed on the NLI. Also, in order for the NLI to be valid, the conference office must receive a copy of the signed NLI and Grant-In-Aid form within 21 days of the prospect's signing of the NLI. If you receive a signed NLI back in the mail please take it to the compliance office ASAP. In some instances, signees do not complete the NLI correctly, which can make it invalid. If this is caught in a timely fashion, it can be corrected by the signee without having to reissue another National Letter of Intent and delay the announcement of a signing. All announcements of signings must be cleared through the compliance office before they are made.

Subsequent to the calendar day on which a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent, there shall be no limit on the number of contacts by the institution with which the prospect has signed. **However**, the following conditions continue to apply:

- (a) Any contact at the prospect's educational institution in football and basketball shall be confined to the permissible contact period and shall not exceed one visit per week;
- (b) No in-person, on- or off-campus contact may be made during a "dead period;"
- (c) No in-person, on- or off-campus contact may be made with a nonqualifier enrolled in the first year of a two-year college;
- (d) No on- or off-campus contact (including correspondence and telephone calls) may be made by a representative of the institution's athletics interests except those involving permissible pre-enrollment activities (e.g., a discussion of summer employment arrangements); and
- (e) Contact at the site of a prospect's competition shall continue to be governed by the provisions of Bylaw 13.1.7.2. Note: contact with the prospect's relatives or legal guardians at the site of the prospect's competition shall be permitted.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

## Financial Aid: New Award, Increase and Cancellations

While in the midst of Spring Quarter, there tends to be a flurry of coaches requesting changes to the financial aid awards of their student-athletes.

There may be many reasons for the change in aid amounts, but it is important to remember that NCAA rules restrict the ways that we can change a student-athlete's aid award.

For starters, remember that athletics aid is usually awarded on a one-year basis but can be awarded quarter by quarter. Therefore, the period of the award runs from the first day of fall quarter to the last day of spring quarter. As discussed below, there are different guidelines for changing a student-athlete's aid during the period of the award than there are once the period of the award has expired.

In addition, remember that coaches cannot increase, decrease or cancel student-athlete's financial aid based on athletic ability during the period of the award. Consistent with principles of institutional control, all financial aid is administered by the UC Office of Financial Aid. A coach may only recommend that a student's aid be adjusted. This is done by submitting the green Grant In Aid submittal form. The guidelines for awarding aid, increasing aid, and canceling aid are discussed separately below.

### **Renewals/Nonrenewals/Reductions at end of period**

At the end of the academic year or period of award, coaches may recommend that a student-athlete's aid be renewed, reduced or not renewed at all. In such cases, NCAA rules mandate that the student be notified before July 1 prior to the next academic year or at the completion of each term if the aid is awarded on a quarter by quarter basis. If the aid is not renewed or is reduced, the student-athlete is entitled to an appeal. Therefore a coach must always give a reason and appropriate documentation for reducing or canceling aid.

### **Canceling or reducing aid during the period of award**

NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.1 allows an institution to reduce or cancel a student athlete's aid during the period of the award under limited circumstances. Under this bylaw, a student-athlete's aid may be reduced only if

- The student-athlete renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition;
- The student-athlete fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter, of intent, or financial aid agreement; or
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; or
- Voluntarily withdraws from the sport at any time for personal reasons.

NCAA Bylaw 15.3.4.3 provides that an institution may NOT cancel athletics aid during the period of award based on any athletics reason including injury or poor performance in practice or competition. Any recommendation by a coach to reduce or cancel aid is subject to review by an Associate Athletic Director.

### **Increasing aid during the period of award**

Under bylaw 15.3.4.2, it is permissible to increase a student-athlete's athletic aid during the period of award only if the coach can demonstrate that the increase in aid is completely unrelated to athletics. In most cases, this will require documentation (i.e., a letter written at the time of the original award promising the student an increase in his or her aid based on academic performance). In some instances, such as family financial hardship, prior documentation is not necessary. In cases like this there must be some evidence to prove the financial hardship such as a written statement from the student-athlete's parent or guardian. If the athletics aid increase is a one-time award that will not be renewed at the same level for the following academic year, it is important to remember that a student has a right to appeal any reduction of his or her aid. For this reason, it is important that the student sign a written statement that they understand the aid may not be renewed at the same level for the following year. Aid can be increased up to the first day of classes by completing a green Grant-In-Aid submittal form.

## NEW LEGISLATION

The following proposals were adopted by The Board during the April meeting and are effective **immediately**:

### **Contacts – Women’s Basketball**

**Intent:** In women’s basketball, to prohibit institutional staff members in attendance at non-scholastic certified events from having any communication with a prospect’s coach or any other individual associated with the prospect as a result of the prospect’s participation in basketball during the time period in which the prospect is participating in the certified event. 2002-45-1 amended the effective date of 2002-45 from August 1, 2003 to “immediately”.

### **Permissible Benefits – Pre-Season Meals**

**Intent:** To permit an institution to provide an additional meal to student-athletes during the preseason practice period prior to the start of the academic year.

### **Complimentary Admissions – Official and Unofficial Visits**

**Intent:** To permit an institution to conduct an official visit at an off-campus location within a 30-mile radius of the campus; further for official and unofficial visits, to permit an institution to provide three complimentary admissions to a prospect for any regular-season home contest that has been scheduled at an off-campus facility, provided the facility is located within a 30-mile radius of the institution.

### **Unofficial Visits – Complimentary Admissions**

**Intent:** To permit an institution to provide any prospective student-athlete on an unofficial visit three complimentary admissions to any regular-season home contest at an off-campus facility.

The following proposals were adopted by the Board during the April meeting and are effective **August 1, 2003**:

### **Fulfillment of Credit Hour Requirement Six Credit Hours**

**Intent:** To specify that a student-athlete shall be required to successfully complete six-semester or quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term in which the student-athlete has been enrolled at any collegiate institution. *Applicable to hours earned during the Fall of 2003 and thereafter.*

### **Regulations – Recruiting Calendar – Baseball**

**Intent:** To establish a recruiting calendar in the sport of baseball.

### **Permissible Benefits – Miscellaneous Benefits**

**Intent:** To permit a student-athlete to retain frequent flyer points and/or miles earned during team travel.

### **Awards and Benefits – Team Entertainment – Vacation Periods**

**Intent:** To permit an institution to pay reasonable entertainment costs associated with required practice during vacation periods (e.g., preseason period), provided such entertainment occurs within a 30-mile radius of the institution’s campus or practice site and classes are not in session.

### **Recruiting Materials**

**Intent:** To specify that camp brochures are not restricted in content or design, but are restricted to a single two-sided sheet, not to exceed 17” X 22” when opened in full.

The following proposal was adopted by The Board during the April meeting and is effective **August 1, 2008**:

### **2003-26 Core-Course Units and Index**

**Intent:** To increase the total number of required core-course units for initial eligibility from 14 to 16; further, to specify that the two additional core-course units shall include one unit of math and one unit in any core area.

### **The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff**

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