



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

June 2007

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

4/13 – 8/31/07 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Men's Basketball –

5/1 – 7/5/07 **Quiet Period**

Except: NBA Pre-draft Camp **Evaluation Period**

Women's Basketball –

4/18 – 7/5/07 **Quiet Period**

Football –

6/1 – 7/31/07 **Quiet Period**

W. Lacrosse –

5/28 – 7/31/07 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Volleyball –

5/26 – 7/31/07 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

All Other Sports –

5/1 – 7/31/07 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

SUMMER REMINDERS

*The last meal in the dining hall will be lunch on Friday, June 8.

*The dorms close at noon on Saturday, June 9.

*Coaches and staff members are NOT allowed to provide storage for SA's belongings over the summer.

COACHES PRACTICE TEST

The 2007-2008 Division I practice exam may be accessed at the following link:

<http://web1.ncaa.org/coachesTest/exec/practiceexam?division=1>

2007-08 HOUSING

Please have your final roommate list for the fall to Rebecca by Friday, June 22!!

NCAA GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility for students entering fall 2007 is available online. Please remember that the guide is no longer printed and mailed to NCAA member institutions and conferences. The guide is posted on the NCAA Web site and can be accessed at: www.ncaa.org.

PRECOLLEGE EXPENSES

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaws, an institution or a representative of its athletics interests shall not offer, provide or arrange financial assistance, directly or indirectly, to pay (in whole or in part) the costs of a PSA's educational or other expenses for any period prior to his or her enrollment or so the prospect can obtain a postgraduate education. This prohibition applies to all prospects, including those who have signed a NLI or an institutional offer of financial aid. An institution may not provide funding, directly or through paid advertisements, to benefit a high school athletics program.

It is not permissible for an institution's athletics department, in response to requests from high school (or preparatory school or two-year college) groups, to provide items (e.g., autographed balls, jerseys) to assist in raising money for its programs (athletics or other). If another department of the institution is asked to provide donations to benefit PSA's, such activity is permissible only if the donations are not earmarked specifically for an athletics purpose or used only to provide benefits to PSA's athletics programs. An institution may not donate institutional memorabilia (e.g., jerseys, hats, T-shirts) to any organization for the purpose of being auctioned to raise funds to provide financial assistance to high school students to attend collegiate institutions. An institution (or an institution's coach or representative of its athletics interests) may contribute to a nonathletics organization that includes PSAs and nonprospects (e.g., YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs), provided the assistance is not earmarked for a particular PSA and is offered in conjunction with the organization's regular fund-raising activities.

CONTACT WITH PSA DURING TOURNAMENT OR ROAD TRIP

The membership services staff confirmed that it is permissible for an institution's coach to contact a PSA who is competing in a tournament that is not conducted on consecutive days, and who subsequently will return to compete in the remainder of the tournament, provided the PSA has been released by the appropriate institutional authority and the contact occurs on a day in which there is no further competition. Further, in the case of an extended road trip, a member institution's coach is permitted to contact a PSA at the conclusion of a competition and prior to the commencement of travel to the team's next competition provided the PSA has been released by the appropriate institutional authority and departs the dressing and meeting facility.

REMINDER: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY

All PSAs currently registered with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse must return to the clearinghouse site on or after April 7 to finalize their answers to the amateurism questionnaire. PSAs simply need to log in with their personal identification number and check the box titled "Final Authorization" for amateurism certification. PSAs who initially register with the clearinghouse after April 7, will be able to request a final certification upon completion of the amateurism questionnaire.

Note: Once a PSA requests final certification, he or she can no longer make changes or additions to their amateurism questionnaire. Further, a final certification for amateurism status cannot be rendered without a request for final certification from the prospective student-athlete. All PSAs also must make sure they have selected their sport.

Telephone Calls

The phone call week for everyone is Sunday through Saturday, no matter what you've declared your practice week. In sports other than football and basketball, telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete [or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may not be made before July 1st following the completion of the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school (subject to the exceptions below); thereafter, staff members shall not make such telephone calls more than once per week (Sunday through Saturday).



PROFESSIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS AFTER ENROLLMENT

Pursuant to Bylaw 12.2.1.2 (tryout after enrollment), it is not permissible for an enrolled student-athlete with remaining eligibility to participate in a professional tryout during the academic year, regardless of the location of the tryout. As set forth in Bylaw 12.2.1.4 (professional team representative at college practice), a professional representative can evaluate an enrolled student-athlete participating in an institution's regular practice session, a physical education class, or out-of-season conditioning or skill instruction workouts during the academic year, provided the activities observed are a normal part of, and take place during, a regular practice session, class or conditioning session.

It is permissible for a professional team to conduct a tryout with an enrolled student-athlete on the institution's campus during the summer vacation period, provided the student-athlete does not receive any expenses (e.g., travel, room or board) in conjunction with the tryout. In addition, it would be permissible for the institution to reserve a facility for the student-athlete to participate in the summer tryout; however, NCAA Bylaw 17 restrictions would prohibit coaching staff members from being present at such tryout sessions. It would be permissible for a student-athlete's family members to be present during the tryout as well as other individuals associated with the student-athlete, as long as those individuals are not agents or acting on behalf of agents.

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID TO PSA'S

A common violation processed by the student-athlete reinstatement committee is the provision of athletically related financial aid during the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment while the PSA is enrolled in less than six credit hours. In addition to other regulations, when awarding this summer aid, please remember the PSA shall be admitted to UC in accordance with regular, published entrance requirements, the PSA must be enrolled in at least six credit hours of academic course work, other than physical education activity courses, that is acceptable degree credit toward any of UC's degree programs. Remedial, tutorial, and noncredit courses may be used to satisfy the six-hour requirement, provided the courses are prerequisites for specific courses offered for any degree program and are given the same academic weight as other courses at UC. Refer to Bylaw 15.2.8.1.4 for more information.

CORE CURRICULUM TIME LIMITATION ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Interpretation: The NCAA Division I Board of Directors adopted NCAA Proposal No. 2006-65-A during its April 2007 meeting. This proposal amends NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1, by adding Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1.1. The amended bylaw specifies that a PSA must complete his or her core-curriculum requirements not later than the high school graduation date of the PSA's class [as determined by the first year of enrollment in high school (ninth grade) or the international equivalent as specified in the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility]. If the PSA graduates from high school within the described time-frame, he or she may use one core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year), but not later than the end of the academic year immediately after the high school graduation date of the PSA's class.

Below are some commonly asked questions along with some example scenarios that may assist in the application of this legislation:

Question: What is the effective date of proposal No. 2006-65-A?

August 1, 2007, for all PSA first entering a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2007.

Question: How does this Proposal affect PSAs whose expected date of graduation was prior to or during 2006?

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse* will conduct "business as usual" for PSAs whose expected date of graduation was prior to or during 2006. That is, the clearinghouse will accept post-eighth semester coursework for these individuals, subject to review if inconsistencies or irregularities are discovered. Institutions will not be required to request a waiver for these courses to be considered in a PSA's final certification. However, if a PSA still does not meet initial-eligibility standards after consideration of the post-eighth semester coursework, institutions will be able to seek relief through the initial-eligibility waiver process. Beginning with the 2008-09 academic year, the new legislation will apply to all PSAs regardless of their year of expected graduation.

*NOTE: As of October 29, 2007, the NCAA Eligibility Center will conduct all initial-eligibility certifications for PSAs.

Question: If an individual completes a core course after his or her expected date of graduation, may it be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process?

Only those individuals who graduate within the appropriate timeframe (eight semesters) may take advantage of the additional core course considered in the initial-eligibility certification process.

PSAs who do not graduate in eight semesters with their class may not use any courses taken after eight semesters, unless they have a documented and approved disability.

Question: Will the amended legislation affect PSAs whose expected date of graduation is in 2007?

Yes. PSAs whose expected date of graduation is with the 2007 class, but failed to meet graduation requirements, will not be able to use coursework completed after the 2006-07 academic year.

Question: What if a PSA repeats a grade during his or her high school career?

This legislation is designed to encourage PSA to take academic courses each year of high school to ensure timely graduation, and to discourage prospective SA's from intentionally delaying high school graduation solely to meet NCAA eligibility requirements while not preparing for the academic rigors of college. Thus, if a PSA repeats a grade during his or her high school career, the application of this legislation will impact his or her ability to use core courses. In other words, the PSA will still be required to complete core-curriculum requirements prior to the graduation date of their class at the time they entered ninth grade.

The NCAA recognizes there will be legitimate instances where SAs repeat a grade or do not graduate in a four-year period. The initial-eligibility waiver process will continue to address these situations.

Question: May an initial-eligibility waiver be filed for a SA who does not meet the requirements?

Yes. The initial-eligibility waiver process is available for situations in which a PSA is required to repeat a grade which results in an inability to meet the requirements. These waivers will be considered by the eligibility center and governance committees. The NCAA will also continue to monitor these instances to ensure that no unintended consequences result from the adopted rules.

Question: Does the one additional course have to be completed at the same high school from which the PSA graduated?

No. The course may be taken at any high school, through any nontraditional program or at any post-secondary institution. However, the course must meet the legislated definition of a core course.

Question: What if the high school's graduation date is June 1, but the PSA does not graduate until July 1? May a summer school course be used?

No. A PSA must graduate on time with his or her class in order for the additional core course to be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process.

Question: What if a PSA meets requirements for graduation, but proof of graduation does not appear on the high school transcript?

The PSA must graduate on time with his or her class and have proof of graduation on the high school transcript in order for the additional core course to be considered in the initial-eligibility certification process. (See the above question regarding potential waiver opportunities.)

AROUND THE COUNTRY

NCAA Violation Allegations A Joke To Saban

Recent allegations of potential NCAA violations seem to humor new Alabama football coach Nick Saban. Reports from the Miami Herald and canesports.com said that Saban had conversations with three south Florida junior prospects. The reports say that these conversations have exceeded NCAA rules limiting face to face contact with recruits. There is an NCAA rule in place that allows only for "exchange of a greeting" between a coach and potential recruits between April 15 and May 31. Coaches are allowed to evaluate high school players at their schools during that period. Saban's only comment was that he thought it was funny that the reports came from Miami. The university would not comment on the reports. If the allegations are proven true then it will likely result in secondary violations and not significant penalties.

NCAA Penalizes West Virginia University

The NCAA has penalized West Virginia University for major and secondary violations in the men's soccer program, including an unethical conduct violation against the former head coach. Penalties for the violations included a four-year show cause penalty for the former coach, two years of university probation and reduced recruiting contact, among other sanctions. The case involved three allegations of major violations in the men's soccer program. The first allegation centered around the former head coach's summer employment by an outside amateur team, during which he coached current men's soccer student-athletes from the university and prospective student-athletes. The committee found that the former head coach encouraged nine prospects to become members of, or practice with, this outside team. These practices and games constituted impermissible try-out activities and in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts in excess of the number allowed under NCAA rules. The former head coach also violated NCAA rules prohibiting contacts with prospects on the day of competition. He also arranged for transportation from the airport and approximately 10 days of free housing for one of these prospective student-athletes involved with the outside team. In addition, the former head coach allowed two student-athletes to practice with the outside team even though neither was a member.

New Questions About Toledo Point Shaving

Allegations of point shaving schemes involving both the University of Toledo football and basketball team came to light at the end of March. New questions have been raised as to how soon some members of the university knew about the issue. There are currently no charges pending, but a federal investigation is ongoing. Toledo football player, Harvey "Scooter" McDougle, Jr., had his charge of conspiring to bribe to affect the outcome of a sporting event dismissed by a federal judge. He is now being asked by the government to help in their investigation. The key game in question is a football game played last season between Toledo against Kent State. Three days before that game last fall, school officials said the NCAA's point person on gambling activities, Rachel Newman-Baker, discussed the situation during a nearly three-hour session with Toledo football coach Tom Amstutz, athletics director Mike O'Brien and athletics faculty representative James Kline. University President Lloyd Jacobs says that the university was given a clean bill of health at that time. Jacobs is now the central focus as to how early the point shaving issue was known to the university. The FBI is leading the investigation.

Go BEARCATS!!

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