



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

December 2005

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

11/11 – 2/28/06 Quiet Period except:
1/1 – 1/9 Dead Period

Men's Basketball –

10/6 – 3/29/06 Evaluation Period except:
12/24 – 12/26 Dead Period

Women's Basketball –

9/16 – 4/18/06 Evaluation Period except:
Women's basketball staff members shall not exceed
85 recruiting-person days. Days not designated
for Evaluation Period: Quiet Period
12/24 – 12/26 Dead Period

Football –

11/27 – 1/28/06 Contact Period except:
12/18 Quiet Period
12/19 – 1/1 Dead Period

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/4 Contact & Evaluation Period
12/5 – 12/13 Quiet Period
12/14 – 12/31 Dead Period

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period



PSA'S GRADUATION DATES

Coaches, do not rely on information you receive from scouting services or other sources for PSA's graduation dates. Sometimes there are mistakes on these which will result in you contacting the PSA too early and committing a violation. If you send correspondence before the permissible date, you will receive a letter of admonishment. If it continues to happen, additional punishment may occur.

OFFICIAL VISIT ITINERARIES

Coaches, please remember to turn in official visit itineraries before all official visits. After the visit, turn in an updated itinerary with any changes made. If there were no changes, mark no changes on the first sheet and turn in with the signatures from the last sheet of the itinerary.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All international student-athletes must check in with the International Student Services Office

before they are permitted to practice. If student-athletes do not do this, they risk being deported.

NEW SAT FORMAT

The new SAT format includes a writing section. The Clearinghouse is not using the writing section in determining eligibility. The writing section may be used by certain universities in the admissions process but there is no change in how we calculate the score for eligibility purposes.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Fresno State imposes postseason ban for recruiting violations

Fresno State, already under probation for infractions under a previous coach involving academic fraud, has extended the probation for a year, will not play in postseason games next year, and has reduced its recruitment efforts involving phone calls to recruits and official visits. These sanctions came after discovering that the former basketball coach and his staff made hundreds of impermissible phone calls to recruits. The NCAA may increase the sanctions, including loss of scholarships, longer probation, or a longer postseason ban. There is a slight possibility that they could temporarily shut down the basketball program, but that is not very likely.

Georgia Tech on probation for ineligible athletes

Georgia Tech is on two years of probation, has reduced football and men's and women's track scholarships, and has vacated athletic results in which the ineligible students participated. Seventeen academically ineligible athletes participated in four sports, including 11 football athletes. Six athletes were allowed to count grades of D for satisfactory progress even though their majors required grades of C or better. Four were allowed to continue participating even though they lacked the necessary percentage of degree requirements.

The Committee on Infractions said the school displayed a lack of institutional control by failing to properly train academic officials and not conducting a thorough investigation into possible rule violations. The committee also noted that the ineligible athletes provided a substantial

competitive advantage, as some of the athletes received all-conference or all-American honors. The football team has six less scholarships for this year and next year. Men's track scholarships were reduced by 3.9 and women's was reduced by 2 for this year and next year. Any contests in the sports between 1998-99 and 2004-05 in which any of the ineligible athletes participated will be vacated. The football wins will be forfeited and the team scores in the track and swimming meets will be reconfigured after deleting the points that the

ineligible athletes scored. There was a violation in the women's swimming program but she was not on scholarship so there was no reduction for that team.

Kansas basketball player suspended for receiving extra benefits

A Kansas University basketball player was suspended for 30% of the season for receiving \$5,000 worth of transportation, meals, lodging, gifts and a personal loan from a booster over a 2 ½ year period. The athlete may practice with the team during this time, but may not travel, and must repay the full value of the benefits. The relationship between the athlete and booster started when the athlete was still in high school. The athletic department was not aware of the relationship until they received an anonymous tip in June. The booster's relationship with the university has been severed.

South Carolina on probation for academic fraud

South Carolina is on probation for three years for major violations in the football program and also has restrictions on its recruiting and football scholarships. The two major violations occurred when a former senior associate athletics director told a tutor to give academic help to two football players the university was recruiting and a dean reinstated a suspended athlete without going through the proper procedure. These violations created a lack of institutional control. In the first case, the tutor thought the help to the recruits was against NCAA rules but the employee told her it was okay. The associate athletic director then discouraged the tutor and others involved from

admitting to the violation. The two recruits played in two games before the school reported the violation. The second violation occurred when a football player that was academically suspended for the second time sought reinstatement to the university. The policy after a second suspension is that reinstatement is allowed only after approval by a committee of the college in which the student wants to enroll. The policy says reinstatements are “unlikely” to be granted. In this case, the dean personally reinstated him instead of going to the

reduction in permissible off-campus recruiters, and the university disassociated two student-athletes from its athletic programs and booster clubs.

Bradley basketball players suspended for employment violations

Two Bradley men’s basketball players were suspended for getting paid for work they didn’t perform on their summer jobs. Two other players were required to repay the money for work they

AROUND THE COUNTRY, CONTINUED

Texas Christian on probation for academic fraud

Texas Christian University was placed on two years probation for academic fraud, extra benefits, unethical conduct and failure to monitor its track program. The former head track coach directed several former assistant coaches to help student-athletes with their school work. One assistant coach took a final exam and wrote a paper for an athlete and also purchased essays from someone to be turned in by two other athletes. Another coach helped a prospect complete an online algebra course that was needed to complete an associates degree to gain eligibility to compete at TCU. Other assistants were instructed to help prospects write their entrance essays for admission to TCU. Extra benefits provided included \$100 monthly payments from the coaching staff to enrolled international student-athletes to help them pay federal taxes and payments to help athletes move into off-campus housing ranging from \$109-\$700. Inducements to prospects included thousands of dollars in cash, educational expenses, merchandise, entertainment and airline tickets. The recruits high school coaches were also provided with much of the same inducements and in one case with new furniture. The former head coach and one athlete were also charged with unethical conduct for failing to cooperate with the investigation. There were 22 athletes that were involved in the violations.

In addition to the probation, results of contests in which ten of the athletes participated ineligibility will be vacated. Postseason competition is banned for three years, a reduction in men’s track scholarships by 20% for three years, a reduction in official visits by men’s track prospects, a

suspended for eight games, received a total of \$1,100 for work he did not do. He was paid \$400 a week for eight weeks regardless of if he actually worked or not. The other player that was suspended for six games was paid more than \$40 an hour for a job that normally pays \$12 an hour. The other two players’ infractions were considered less serious and were only required to repay the money.

Arizona State on probation for impermissible aid

Arizona State is on a two-year probation for providing impermissible financial aid and a lack of institutional control. This penalty is from extra benefits received by a former football player from the former compliance department assistant. The former employee provided use of her car, her personal charge account, and impermissible aid for summer classes he did not take. The player was also allowed to take textbooks from the employees office to sell for money. The university must audit all aspects of its financial aid and textbook distribution for the next two years. Changes have already been made to the accounting and textbook return procedures.

GRADUATION RATES

The NCAA has a new method for calculating graduation rates which will give a more accurate idea of how college athletes are performing. The new measurement will account for athletes who transfer into and out of a school. The federal graduation rate is used now and does not count for transfer students. About 30% of Division I men’s

basketball players and 40% of baseball players transfer so this new rate will give a more accurate account of graduation rates. The federal rate penalizes institutions for students who had valid reasons for leaving even if they were 4.0 students.

EMPLOYMENT

Please remind your student-athletes if they are working over the break and have not completed an employment form in the compliance office

DATES THAT COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO PROSPECTS ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE

Football:

December 19, 2005, through January 1, 2006

January 9-12, 2006

January 30 through February 2, 2006

M. Basketball:

December 24-26, 2005

March 30-31, 2006

April 1-4, 2006, (noon)

April 10-13, 2006

July 16-21, 2006

W. Basketball:

December 24-26, 2005

March 31 through April 13, 2006, (12:01 a.m.)

July 16-21, 2006

Baseball:

January 5 (12:01 a.m.) through January

9, 2006, (12:01 a.m.)

April 10-13, 2006

Volleyball:

December 14-31, 2005

April 10-13, 2006

Soccer:

January 30, 2006, through February 2, 2006

All Other Sports:

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No complimentary tickets may be given to any prospects for a UC athletic event during Dead Periods in your sport.

PAPERWORK

Coaches, please encourage any student-athletes that are working to follow up with their employers to ensure that their employment forms are completed and returned to our office by December 9.

Also, please encourage any student-athletes living off-campus to follow up with their landlords to be sure the landlord completes the landlord

AWARDS

It is institutional policy for sports to submit a list of awards and their values to the compliance office prior to postseason banquets. This is required to ensure that the maximum value of participation, championship, and special achievement awards is not exceeded and will not result in a violation of NCAA rules.

It is permissible to present student-athletes with annual awards to recognize participation and achievement. There are limits on these awards, as provided in NCAA Bylaw 16.1.4.1.

For nonseniors, the total value of any participation awards (i.e. letter jacket) may not exceed \$175. For seniors, the total value of their awards (i.e. blanket) may not exceed \$325.

In addition to the annual participation awards, student-athletes may receive awards for special attainments (i.e. scholar-athlete, most improved) but the value of such an award may not exceed \$175. Even banquets are not beyond the reach of NCAA legislation. When planning a banquet, coaches and administrators should be aware that parents, friends, or relatives of student-athletes may not receive complimentary admissions or meals at the banquet.

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