



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

May 2006

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

3/1 – 7/31 Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Basketball –

5/1 – 7/5 Quiet period except:

NBA Predraft camp Evaluation period

Women's Basketball –

4/19 – 7/5 Quiet Period

Football –

4/15 – 5/31 **Evaluation Period** (4 designated weeks) Days not designated for Evaluation Period: **Quiet Period**

Volleyball –

1/1 – 7/31 Contact & Evaluation Period

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period

RECRUITING SERVICES

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaws, all funds for the recruitment of PSAs shall be deposited directly with the member institution, which shall be exclusively and entirely responsible for the manner in which such funds are expended. Therefore, institutions should note that it is not permissible for any outside organization or individual (e.g., recruiting or scouting service, event operator) to provide institutional coaching staff members with expenses (e.g., travel, lodging) to attend any event for recruiting purposes. Such expenses are considered funds donated for recruiting purposes and NCAA rules

PRECOLLEGE EXPENSES

with the member institution, as opposed to being provided directly to an institutional coaching staff member(s).

An institution's athletics department staff member (e.g., coach) may not provide any financial contributions to a high school (or preparatory school or two-year college) athletics program through participation in a fund-raising event (e.g., paying greens fees to participate in a golf outing when any portion of the greens fees will go to benefit an athletics program). Bylaw 13.15.1 also prohibits an institution from sponsoring a table, providing memorabilia or otherwise providing institutional support in conjunction with a banquet or other function that will directly or indirectly benefit PSAs (e.g., awards banquet conducted by a sports foundation or high school). Therefore, if a sports foundation provides benefits to PSAs (e.g., scholarships, donations to high school athletics programs), it would not be permissible for an institution to provide memorabilia or sponsor a table at any of the foundation's functions because at a minimum, it would indirectly benefit PSAs. Subject to applicable recruiting calendar restrictions, athletics department staff members are not precluded from individually purchasing admission to attend events (e.g., athletics banquets or meetings, competitions) where funds from the admission fee ultimately will benefit PSAs, provided the primary purpose of the event is not to raise funds for PSAs. In addition, an institution's coach may participate in activities to raise funds to be donated to a foundation that will distribute the funds to high school (or preparatory school or two-year college) athletics programs, provided the request to participate in the activity is initiated by the foundation, the coach does not make actual

financial contributions to the foundation, and the coach or the institution is not involved in selecting the educational institutions that are to receive the financial assistance

Once an institution has made a countable call in a week, it would not be permissible to initiate another telephone call in that week, even if no direct contact occurs (e.g. coach may not call again to leave a

NCAA BYLAW 13.1.3– TELEPHONE CALLS TO PROSPECTS

General Rules

In sports other than football and basketball, telephone calls to a PSA [or PSA's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may not be made before July 1 following the completion of the PSA'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. Bylaw 13.1.3.1

Calls made to a PSA's home in which the coach is informed the PSA is not available will not be counted against the one call per week rule, so long as the conversation is no longer than a greeting and no recruitment takes place.

Enrolled SAs or other students shall not make or participate in telephone calls to PSAs at the direction of a coaching staff member or financed by the institution or a representative of its athletics interests; however, they may receive telephone calls at the expense of the PSA subsequent to July 1 following the completion of the PSA's junior year in high school. Bylaw 13.1.3.5.2

Telephone calls made by enrolled students (excluding SAs) pursuant to an institution's regular admissions program directed at all prospective students shall be permissible. Bylaw 13.1.3.5.2.1

Staff members may receive calls from PSAs at the expense of the PSA at any time, including before July 1 following the PSA's junior year in high school. There are no restrictions on the content of the conversation. Bylaw 13.1.3.2.2

An institution may use a conference call as the once per week telephone contact.

When an institution's coaching staff member makes arrangements for a PSA to make a telephone call to the coach while the coach is on the prospect's campus, such a call is considered to be initiated by the institution's coach. Thus, it is not permissible for such a telephone call to occur prior to the time period during which PSAs may receive calls from institutional staff members. Official Interpretation [6/22/95]

Interpretation [12/13/05]

Institution is permitted to contact a high school coach who is the father of a student-athlete without the call being counted against the one call per week rule provided the conversation relates only to evaluation activities and does not solicit the PSA's enrollment. Staff Interpretation [11/27/91]

The host family of a foreign PSA is deemed to be the PSA's legal guardian for purposes of this rule. Staff Interpretation [6/12/02]

A violation of Bylaw 13.1.3.1 and its subsections involving the first occasion when a staff member exceeds the permissible number of telephone calls during a given week (when it is otherwise permissible to call) shall be considered an institutional violation and shall not affect the PSA's eligibility. Bylaw 13.1.3.1.5

It is not permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to have a toll-free telephone line established at his or her residence for the purpose of receiving telephone calls initiated by prospects. Official Interpretation [9/6/01]

A coaching staff member may not contact, telephone or send written correspondence to an individual (including an individual who has not started classes for the ninth grade) prior to the time period designated for such activity in accordance with NCAA recruiting regulations. A coaching staff member may observe an individual participating in an athletically related activity prior to the ninth grade, inasmuch as there are no prescribed dates in which it is permissible to engage in evaluation activity. All recruiting restrictions continue to apply to any individual who has entered the ninth grade or has attained PSA status in accordance with Bylaw 13.02.10. Official Interpretation [7/18/01]

Telephone calls to a PSA [or the PSA's relatives or legal guardian(s)] may not be made during the conduct of any of the institution's intercollegiate athletics contests in that sport until the competition has concluded and the team has been dismissed by the

Exceptions to General Rules

TOLL-FREE CALLS FROM PROSPECTS-

Institutions may utilize a toll-free number to receive telephone calls from PSAs as long as the calls are placed subsequent to July 1st, following the PSAs junior year of high school. Bylaw 13.1.3.6

COLLECT AND TOLL-FREE CALLS ON CELL

PHONE- A coach may receive collect and/or toll-free calls via his or her institutionally issued cellular phone, provided the institution establishes appropriate oversight procedures to monitor the phone activity (i.e., receives and reviews billing information). Official Interpretation [10/17/01]

COLLECT AND TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE CALLS FROM HIGH-SCHOOL COACHES AND COUNSELORS:

It is permissible to accept collect and toll-free telephone calls from high-school coaches and counselors. Staff Interpretation [4/1/94]

OFF-CAMPUS CONTACT- Institutional staff members may make unlimited telephone calls to a PSA on the day a permissible in-person off-campus

college transfer), there shall be no limit on the number of phone calls to a PSA, the PSA's parents or legal guardian(s), by that institution subsequent to the calendar day on which the PSA signs acceptance of that institution's written offer of financial aid. Bylaw 13.1.3.3.4

UNLIMITED TELEPHONE CALLS DURING PORTION OF WEEK-

Under circumstances in which a portion of the week (measured Sunday through Saturday) occurs during a period in which an institution may make unlimited telephone calls to a PSA, the institution is permitted an additional telephone call during the remaining portion of that week during which one telephone call per week is permitted to the PSA. Official Interpretation [3/3/94]

IA & IAA Football

One telephone call may be made during the month of May of the PSA's junior year of high school.

NCAA BYLAW 13.1.3– TELEPHONE CALLS TO PROSPECTS, CONTINUED

OFFICIAL VISIT- Institutional staff members may make unlimited telephone calls to a PSA during the five days immediately preceding the PSA's official visit (per bylaw 13.6) to that institution. If more than one call per

week occurs under this exception and a scheduled official visit is subsequently cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the PSA or the institution (e.g., trip is cancelled by the PSA, inclement weather conditions), there shall be no institutional violations nor shall it affect the PSA's eligibility. However, the institution shall submit a report to the conference office noting the cancellation of the official visit and the reasons for such cancellation. Bylaw 13.1.3.3.2

NLI- Institutional staff members may make unlimited telephone calls to a PSA on the initial date for the signing of the NLI and during the two days immediately following the initial signing date. Bylaw 13.1.3.3.3

FOOTBALL NLI- Institutional staff members may make unlimited telephone calls to PSAs during the period 48 hours before and 48 hours after 7am on the initial signing date for the NLI. Bylaw 13.1.3.3.3.1

SUBSEQUENT TO SIGNING NLI- Subsequent to the calendar day on which a PSA signs an NLI, there shall be no limit on the number of telephone calls by the institution with which the PSA has signed. For a PSA who is not eligible to sign a NLI (e.g., four year

Sept. 1 or the beginning of the PSA's senior year in high school; thereafter, such telephone contact is limited to once per week outside of a contact period. During a contact period, such telephone contact may be made at the institution's discretion. Bylaw 13.1.3.1.1

Men's Basketball

Institution is permitted to make one telephone call per month to a PSA [or the PSA's parents or legal guardian(s)] on or after June 15 of the PSA's sophomore

year in high school through July 31 of the PSA's junior year in high school. An institution is permitted to make two telephone calls per week to a PSA [or the PSA's relatives or legal guardian(s)] beginning August 1 prior to the PSA's senior year in high school. An institution is permitted to make one telephone call per week to a two-year or four-year college PSA [or the PSA's parents or legal guardian(s)]. Bylaw 13.1.3.1.2

Institutional staff members may accept collect telephone calls placed by PSAs, provided the calls are placed not earlier than the conclusion of the PSA's sophomore year in high school. The institution may use a toll-free number to receive such calls from PSAs, PSA's parents or legal guardian(s). Bylaw 13.1.3.3.1

Women's Basketball

One telephone call to a PSA [or the PSA's relatives

or legal guardian(s)] may be made during each of the months of April and May of the PSA's junior year in high school. One call may be made on or after June 1 through June 20 and one call may be made on or after June 21 through June 30 of the PSA's junior year in high school. In addition, only three telephone calls to a PSA [or the PSA's parents or legal guardian(s)] may be made during the month of July following the PSA's junior year in high school, with no more than one telephone call per week; thereafter, staff members shall not make such telephone calls more than once per week. An institution may not have any additional communication with a parent or legal guardian of a PSA who serves on the staff of his or her daughter's non-scholastic team unless the parent or legal guardian also serves as a head coach of his or her daughter's scholastic team and the additional communication is unrelated to recruitment of his or her daughter. Bylaw 13.1.3.1.3

During the July evaluation periods, all communication with a PSA, the PSA's relatives or legal guardians, the PSA's coach or any individual associated with the PSA as a result of the PSA's participation in basketball, directly or indirectly, is prohibited. Bylaw 13.1.3.1.3.1

OFFICIAL VISIT RULES

Coaches, be sure that you are sending a copy of the official visit rules to your PSA's before they come on their visit. There are copies by our mailboxes on the 4th floor or Rebecca Hinkel can send it to you.

PARTICIPATION ON OUTSIDE TEAMS

Volleyball and soccer athletes' participation on outside teams can not begin until May 1. All other athletes can not participate on outside teams until after the school year is over. ~~ALL participation must be approved by~~

FINANCIAL AID: NEW AWARD, INCREASE AND CANCELLATIONS

In the midst of Spring Quarter, there is a flurry of coaches requesting changes to the financial aid awards of their student-athletes. There are many reasons for the change in aid amounts, but it is important to remember that NCAA rules restrict the ways we can change a student-athlete's award. 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. 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 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/reducing aid during award period

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; or
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty or

- The student-athlete fraudulently misrepresents any information on an application, letter of intent, or financial aid agreement; 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 the following year. Aid can be increased up to the 1st day of class by completing a Grant-In-Aid submittal form.

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