



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

September 2004

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

9/1 – 9/9 **Quiet Period**

9/10 – 11/7 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Men's Basketball –

8/1 – 9 /8 **Quiet Period**

9/9 – 10/5 **Contact Period**

Women's Basketball –

8/1 – 9 /8 **Quiet Period**

9/9 – 9/29 **Contact Period**

9/30 – 10/7 **Quiet Period**

Football –

8/1 – 11/27 **Quiet Period except:**

6 Evaluation Days during the months of September, October & through the last Saturday in November selected at the discretion of the institution (off-campus recruiter may visit an educational institution only once during this **Evaluation Period**)

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/5 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

(80 Evaluation days)

except 11/8 – 11/11 **Dead Period**

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period

PAPERWORK

Please remember to turn in your practice logs every Monday (or the day following the end of your designated practice week).

Also, remember to turn in participation rosters after each contest.

ROSTERS

Rosters for all fall sports are due to the compliance office ASAP. We must be notified in writing of any new additions or deletions during the preseason as soon as they happen. All new walk-ons must be certified by compliance, academic services, and sports medicine before they receive equipment or practice.

INCOMING TRANSFERS

Coaches are reminded that if you have transfers that intend to enroll for the 2004-2005 academic year, you must provide the compliance office with an official transcript from every collegiate institution that the student has attended. Transfer students will not be eligible for financial aid, practice, or competition until these transcripts are provided and reviewed.

PHONE CALLS

Coaches, please remember when calling prospective student-athletes that if you talk to a prospective student-athlete's parent, guardian, or other relative, that conversation, if more than just leaving a message for the prospect, counts as your one phone call for the week to that prospect. If your conversation with the person was just a mere greeting that does not count as your one phone call for the week. Also, if you leave a message and the prospect returns your call, that does not count as your call for the week.

CHECK-IN MEETINGS

Teams may begin scheduling their check-in meetings for the upcoming academic year. Please keep in mind that the check-in meeting will last approximately one hour so plan accordingly. All student-athletes must complete the student-athlete statement and drug-testing consent form prior to participating in practice activities. Below is a list of meetings that have already been scheduled.

Swimming – September 7th, 10AM; Sept. 20th, TBA

Men's & Women's Golf – September 8th, 10 AM

Tennis – September 13th, 9AM

Rowing – September 17th, 3 PM

Baseball – September 22nd, 4 PM

All student-athletes should be prepared to furnish their local address and phone number, permanent address and phone number, automobile information, including that of any automobiles that they have frequent use of but may not own (i.e. license #, color, make and model of the car) and any employment held over the summer or will hold during the school year.

The NCAA membership services staff noted that in Division I fall sports other than football, it is permissible to designate a single date for issuing equipment and for taking squad pictures on the day prior to the beginning of preseason practice. The staff confirmed that it is permissible for an institution to begin providing preseason practice expenses to student-athletes on the evening prior to the designated equipment and squad picture day (i.e., lodging and an evening meal). The staff further confirmed that an institution may conduct other nonathletically related meetings (e.g., to sign compliance forms, to administer medical examinations) prior to the first permissible date of preseason practice.

No student-athlete may practice until he or she completes the student-athlete statement and drug testing consent form! These will be available at the check-in meetings.



COUNTING CONTACTS & EVALUATIONS

In sports other than football, contacts and evaluations are limited by the permissible number of recruiting opportunities (five in basketball, seven in other sports). Evaluations that occur during the academic year count against the permissible number of recruiting opportunities. Outside of the academic year, evaluations do not count against the annual number of recruiting opportunities. Contacts that occur with a prospect count against the permissible number of total recruiting opportunities regardless of the time period (e.g., academic year or outside the academic year). All contacts and evaluations are subject to recruiting calendar restrictions. (Bylaw 13.1.6.5.)

Contact and evaluation logs still need to be turned in throughout the year, stating your location and the dates, even if no countable contacts were made.

DONATION REQUESTS

It is common for coaches and staff members to receive requests from organizations requesting donations of memorabilia or tickets. Requests are often made for tickets, jerseys, hats, balls, posters, media guides, autographs, and other items. Remember, there are rules that restrict which organizations can receive donated items. Essentially, UC cannot donate tickets, equipment, or memorabilia to any organization that will use the donation to raise funds for high school students to attend college. It is irrelevant whether the funds go to athletes or non-athletes. Memorabilia can never be donated to benefit scholarship funds for high school students. Also, donations can never be used to raise money for high school athletic programs through raffles or other types of fundraising activities.

The compliance office must approve all requests for donations and an "Institutional Memorabilia Record" must be completed before the donation is made. DO NOT promise anything without prior approval from the compliance office.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

University of Georgia on Four-Year Probation

The NCAA placed the University of Georgia on probation for four years for recruiting inducements, unethical conduct, academic fraud and extra benefits in the men's basketball program. The violations included ineligible players participating in games, the assistant coach sending \$300 to a prospective student-athlete, conducting a class in such a way that constituted academic fraud, providing an extra benefit to the student-athletes in his class, and encouraging athletes to provide misleading information to the NCAA investigators. The basketball players in the assistant coach's class were not required to take the final exam, received course credit and an "A" based on their basketball games and practices, and did not attend class regularly. Shortly after the assistant coach was interviewed by the NCAA investigators, he called the players and described a grading system he told them to tell the investigators was used in the class. The athletes had not heard of the system before and it was not on the syllabus.

These violations occurred within five years of the penalties associated with Georgia's football infractions so Georgia is now a repeat-violator and subject to repeat-violation penalties. Included in the penalties are four years of probation, reduction of grants-in-aid by one during the three academic years of 2005-2007, vacating wins during the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons when the ineligible players played, and the coach and the rest of the men's basketball staff was terminated or their contracts were not renewed.

Nicholls State coaches fired over academic fraud allegations

Nicholls State head football coach and an unnamed assistant coach were fired over allegations of academic fraud involving players and the assistant coach. The head coach was not implicated, but the investigation found he failed to "maintain proper controls" of the assistant and therefore was held accountable. The fraud involved attempts to transfer summer credits from other institutions.

SA Ineligible for entering endorsement contracts

The University of Colorado, Boulder's, Jeremy Bloom is permanently ineligible for intercollegiate athletics because he endorsed products, which is not allowed within the principle of amateurism. Mr. Bloom was a receiver and kick returner for Colorado's football team and is also an Olympic skier. Twice, Mr. Bloom asked if he could accept the endorsements and the NCAA told him both times that it was prohibited if he wanted to retain his eligibility. Mr. Bloom then asked the Colorado court system to set aside the NCAA rules, which the court refused to do. The University asked the NCAA to reinstate Mr. Bloom and the NCAA refused because he willfully violated NCAA rules. The University appealed to the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee. The Committee determined his eligibility should not be reinstated. The Committee based the decision on the amateurism principle which separates college sports from professionals and therefore prohibits endorsements by college athletes. Due to the severity of the violation, the importance of amateurism, and the level of culpability, it would have violated NCAA principles to reinstate him.

USC's Mike Williams ineligible after signing with agent

After a court ruled that Maurice Claret was eligible to play in the NFL, Mike Williams left USC, hired an agent, and said he was turning pro. Hiring an agent made him lose his amateur status and consequently was ineligible for college play under bylaw 12.1.1 (g). A few months later, an appeals court overturned the ruling and said that the NFL could continue to bar players that have not been out of high school for at least three years. Williams had not been out of high school for more than three years, so he immediately severed ties with his agent, took summer classes, claimed he reimbursed his agent for all benefits and endorsements, and applied to the NCAA for reinstatement. The NCAA denied his request for reinstatement. A NFL spokesman said Williams was told that if the NFL prevailed in court, he would be ineligible for this year's draft.

RECRUITMENT RULES CHANGE

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors adopted new rules to reform the recruitment process. The purpose of the new rules is to stop the celebrity atmosphere around the recruiting visit. It was stressed that alcohol, drugs, sex, and other inappropriate/illegal behavior in recruiting won't be tolerated. All schools are required to implement an official visit policy. The coaches have notified of UC's policy. These rules take effect immediately:

- Schools must develop written recruiting policies that specifically prohibit inappropriate or illegal behavior.
- Private or chartered airplanes can not be used when transporting prospects. Commercial air travel at coach-class fares must be used.
- Standard vehicles must be used to transport prospects and those accompanying them on official visits. Coaching staff members' or student hosts' personal vehicles can be used to transport prospects around campus on an official visit.
- Prospects and those accompanying them must be housed in standard lodging without special accessories (e.g. jacuzzis, suites) that are not available generally to all guests residing at the establishment.
- Prospects and those accompanying them must be given standard meals similar to those offered on campus to the student-athletes during the academic year.
- Prospects, and their parents or guardians, may be given a reasonable snack (e.g. pizza, hamburger) in addition to the three meals.
- Student hosts must be current student-athletes or students who conduct visits or tours as part of the general admissions process. Gender-specific groups are only allowed if they are organized consistent with an overall campus visit program.
- Personalized recruiting aids (such as jerseys or scoreboard presentations) or game-day simulations during campus visits (official and unofficial) are prohibited. Prospects can visit the locker room before or after a game or stand on the sidelines during pre-game activities.

PARTIAL QUALIFIERS

A current student-athlete who initially enrolled as a partial qualifier prior to August 1, 2003, may participate in a fourth season of competition, provided the student-athlete could have been certified as a qualifier under the initial eligibility standards applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2005, and the institution can certify that the student-athlete has satisfied all of the progress-toward-degree requirements (e.g., credit hour, percentage of degree, grade-point average) applicable to student-athletes who initially enroll in a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2003, during each year of enrollment.

OUTSIDE FINANCIAL AID

Please be sure that your student-athletes inform the compliance office of any outside financial aid that they are receiving.

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