



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

May 2008

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

3/1 – 7/31/08 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Men's Basketball –

5/1 – 7/5/08 **Quiet Period**

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

Women's Basketball –

4/23 – 7/5/08 **Quiet Period**

Except: 5/1-5/31 **Hawaii Evaluation Period**

Football –

4/15 – 5/31/08 **Evaluation Period**

Exception *Four weeks (excluding Memorial Day and Sundays) selected at the discretion of the member institution and designed in writing in the compliance office. **All other days are considered a Quiet Period.**

W. Lacrosse –

1/2 – 5/22/08 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

5/23 – 5/25/08 **Dead Period**

Except: Evaluation may occur at one event conducted during the weekend of the NCAA DI Women's Lacrosse Championship, provided the event is conducted within a 100-mile radius of the site of the championship. The evaluation must be on a day in which no championship competition is conducted.

5/26 – 7/31/08 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Volleyball –

5/1 – 5/25/08 **Quiet Period**

5/26 – 7/31/08 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

All Other Sports –

5/1 – 7/31/08 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

REMINDER: INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY

All PSAs currently registered with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse must return to the clearinghouse site 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.

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.

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 the compliance office before any participation occurs.

CHECK-OUT MEETING

Coaches should schedule their check-out meeting sometime in May. Contact Maggie to set up your meeting. Please keep in mind that it will last approximately 45 minutes. All returning student-athletes must attend.

PRECOLLEGE EXPENSES

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 program, 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.

DINING HALL DATES

Cafeteria Closes (Spring Quarter) Friday, June 13 at Lunch

Cafeteria Opens Monday, June 23

Cafeteria Closes Saturday, August 30

RECRUITING SERVICES

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. 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 require that such funds be deposited directly with the member institution, as opposed to being provided directly to an institutional coaching staff member(s).

NUTRITION

Coaches, any nutritional supplements that you wish to purchase must be approved by Jeff Carrico to ensure there are no banned substances and also need to be approved by compliance.

16.5.2 (g) Nutritional Supplements. An institution may provide only nonmuscle-building nutritional supplements to a student-athlete at any time for the purpose of providing additional calories and electrolytes, provided the supplements do not contain any NCAA banned substances. Permissible nonmuscle-building nutritional supplements are identified according to the following classes: Carbohydrate/electrolyte drinks, energy bars, carbohydrate boosters and vitamins and minerals.

DORM DATES

Below are the dates the dorms are closed during the summer and when they open again.

Dorms Close (Spring Quarter) Sat, June 14 at Noon

Dorms Open (Summer Quarter) Sun, June 22, 10 AM

Dorms Close (Summer Quarter) Sat, August 30 at Noon

Dorms Open (Fall Quarter) September 18 – 19

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. 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 SA'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. 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 SA's aid during the period of the award under limited circumstances. Under this bylaw, a SA's aid may be reduced only if:

- The SA renders himself or herself ineligible for intercollegiate competition; or
- Engages in serious misconduct warranting substantial disciplinary penalty; or
- The SA 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 SA'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 SA 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 or 1st practice, whichever is earlier by completing a GIA submittal form.

PAPERWORK REMINDER

Coaches, please answer ALL the questions when completing paperwork for our office. In particular on the academic evaluations, be sure to answer the questions about documented learning disability and if the PSA is being recruited as a potential scholarship recipient. Not answering all questions can slow down the paperwork process as we may need to return it.

SUMMER COMPETITION PRIZES

In order to maintain amateur status and remain eligible for intercollegiate competition, SA cannot receive any type of pay for play, either directly or indirectly.

"Pay" includes any type of salary or compensation (including cash prizes). SA may receive actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses, and apparel and equipment for practice and competition. These expenses may be received only from someone upon whom SA is naturally or legally dependent, a non-University of Cincinnati team, or from an amateur organization or local sports club. Such expenses cannot be based upon the outcome of the competition.

At no time, under any circumstances, can SA receive cash. Any questions about permissible prizes should be directed to the compliance department in advance of the competition. All awards or cash prizes that SA is not allowed to receive under NCAA regulations cannot be given in SA's name to another individual or agency.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

LEADING SCORER SUSPENDED FOR INTERNET AD

Guard Andy Robinson was suspended indefinitely by the University at Buffalo on Thursday for posting an advertisement on the Internet offering to pay someone to write a course paper. Robinson acknowledged he made the offer and has apologized, but remains barred from taking part in any basketball-related activities until a school review determines whether further disciplinary action is necessary, coach Reggie Witherspoon said in a statement.

Robinson led the team in scoring (13.4 points) and 52 steals as a junior last season. "He has since taken corrective steps and is extremely remorseful for his actions, and the appearance of impropriety that this incident has cast on all UB student-athletes," Witherspoon said. Robinson has since completed the paper.

The ad, placed on the Facebook.com marketplace Web site, was first discovered by the university's student newspaper, The Spectrum, in a story published last week. A computer screen picture of the ad, listing Robinson by name, was published in the newspaper, under the heading, "\$40 -- \$10 each page or more!"

According to The Spectrum, the grammatically incorrect ad read: "I am paying anybody who have read the book 'there are no children here' by Alex Kotlowitz \$30-40 which in some classes you have to read at UB (even more money if you have to read the book a little more!!) to write a 3-4 page paper, on a couple of questions which was assigned."

BEARCAT SPIRIT

5/2	BASE	Rutgers	6:30pm
5/3	BASE	Rutgers	4:00pm
5/4	BASE	Rutgers	1:00pm
5/2-5/4	TR	Big East Championship (Villanova, PA)	All Day
5/17	WSO	Alumni Match	1:00pm

Go BEARCATS!!

SPRING FOOTBALL ATTRACTING MORE HIGH SCHOOLERS

The number keeps growing. What was once a trickle of football players graduating from high school a semester early and enrolling in college in time to participate in spring practice has turned into a steady stream that shows no signs of abating. USA TODAY's annual survey of the 66 Bowl Championship Series-affiliated schools found 105 early entrants this year, easily the highest total since the issue began being tracked in 2002.

The schools reported 69 early entrants last year and as recently as 2005 there were 34. USA TODAY found just 15 in 2002. Texas leads this year with nine early graduates; Illinois and Miami (Fla.) have seven each.

It remains to be seen if the number will continue to grow, because the NCAA is about to change its freshman-eligibility standards in Division I. Starting Aug. 1, a student must pass 16 academic core courses in high school to meet the standards, up from 14.

But there can be advantages. "The student-athletes are putting themselves in position to be qualified after seven (high school) semesters, and that's good," said Lennon. Also, players who come into college early can acclimate themselves to college coursework and campus life at a time when the pressures of the season are not weighing them down.

The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

Maggie McKinley

Assistant AD/Compliance

Rebecca Hinkel

Assistant Director of Compliance

Deborah Gray

Coordinator of Eligibility and Financial Aid

Ann Orme

Compliance Administrative Secretary

Mya Pronschinske

Compliance Assistant

The Compliance Staff publishes the Compliance Corner monthly. All comments or questions should be directed to Maggie at 556-3559 or maggie.mckinley@uc.edu or Rebecca at 556-4835 or Rebecca.hinkel@uc.edu.