



# The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

**February 2003**

## RECRUITING DATES

### **Men's Basketball-**

11/21 - 3/15 **40 Evaluation Days** (Those days during 11/21 through 3/15 not designated above for evaluation purposes are considered a **Quiet Period**)

### **Women's Basketball-**

11/15 - 2/28 **40 Evaluation Days** (Those days during 10/8 through 2/28 not designated above for evaluation purposes are considered a **Quiet Period**)

### **Football-**

2/1 **Contact Period**

2/2 **Quiet Period**

2/3 - 2/6 **Dead Period**

2/7 - 4/14 **Quiet Period**

### **Soccer-**

2/3 - 2/6 **Dead Period**

### **Volleyball-**

1/1 - 2/14 **Quiet Period**

2/15 - 7/31 **Contact/Evaluation**

### **All Other Sports-**

**Contact/Evaluation Period**

## NLI SIGNING DATES

A reminder that the signing period for men's and women's soccer and football begins this month on February 5<sup>th</sup> therefore NLI submittal forms should have been turned in at the end of January.

## PHONE & RECRUITING LOGS

Please remember to continue to submit phone logs on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Also, please submit individual recruiting logs for all NLI signees at the time of National Letter of Intent submittal.

## PARTICIPATION ROSTERS

Please be reminded that participation rosters need to be turned into the compliance office **prior to and following each contest.**

## COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Please be reminded that coaches are not permitted to give their complimentary tickets to student athletes. In addition, boosters are not allowed to give **any** tickets to prospective or enrolled student athletes. Please see the insert for additional important information on complimentary tickets.

## COMPETITION WITH & AGAINST PROSPECTS

Coaches are only permitted to compete against or with prospects in recognized state, regional, national or international training programs or competition. Coaches are not permitted to compete against prospects in recreational leagues or any other competition that does not meet the criteria for state, regional, national, or international competition. (Bylaw 13.12.3.4.2)

## MEAL EXPENSES

NCAA Division I institutions should note that pursuant to Bylaw 16.8.1.2, it is permissible to provide actual and necessary travel expenses (for example, transportation, lodging and meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in uniform for the institution) and is eligible for collegiate competition. In addition, pursuant to Bylaw 16.5.2-(d), all student-athletes are permitted to receive a pregame or postgame meal as a benefit incidental to participation, even if the student-athlete will receive or already has received three meals on that day. Further, an institution, at its discretion, may provide cash, not to exceed \$10, in lieu of either a pre- or postgame meal to student-athletes associated with a contest.

Division I institutions also should note the following rules and interpretations regarding meals:

- Pursuant to an official interpretation, an institution may provide the institution's pregame meal during the evening before a contest that occurs on the following morning, provided the institution does not provide an additional pregame meal on the day of the contest;

- Pursuant to an official interpretation, it is permissible for student-athletes to receive a snack the night before an institution's contest as a benefit incidental to athletics participation;

- Pursuant to an official interpretation, if an institution provides its student-athletes a meal allowance (in lieu of actual meals) on an intercollegiate trip (including postseason trips), it is not permissible for the institution to provide a meal allowance for a particular meal if the student athlete will be receiving that meal (or the equivalent of that meal) from another source (for example, sponsor of the event);

- In accordance with Bylaw 15.2.2.1.7, the cost of meals provided for away-from-home practices and contests and pregame or postgame meals at home contests need not be deducted from the student-athlete's board allowance. Such meals also may be received by a student-athlete who is not receiving athletically related financial aid since they constitute a benefit incidental to athletics participation.

However, pursuant to an official interpretation, an institution is required to adjust the amount of financial aid received by those student-athletes

who receive a meal allowance for off-campus meals when the same meals are provided on campus, with the exception of pre or postgame meals provided to all student-athletes in conjunction with a home athletics contest; and

- In accordance with Bylaw 16.5.2-(d), student-athletes who are not receiving athletically related financial aid (for example, walk-ons) may receive the benefit of a training-table meal during the permissible playing and practice season in those instances in which the student-athlete previously has paid for the same meal (for example, dinner) at an institutional dining facility.

## AWARD SUMMARIES & BANQUETS

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.

For nonseniors, the total value of any participation awards (i.e. letter jacket) may not exceed \$150. For seniors, the total value of their awards (i.e. blanket) may not exceed \$300.

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 \$150.

Be aware that even banquets are not beyond the reach of NCAA legislation. When planning banquets coaches and administrators alike should be aware that parents, friends, or relatives of student-athletes may not receive complimentary admissions or meals at the banquet.



## OPEN EVENTS

NCAA member institutions should note that according to NCAA Bylaws 14.02.6 and 17.02.8, intercollegiate competition occurs when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution:

- (a) Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified (for example, scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice session with another institution's team) or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies;
- (b) Competes in the uniform of the institution or, during the academic year, uses any apparel (excluding apparel no longer used by the institution) or equipment received from the institution that includes institutional identification; or
- (c) Competes and receives expenses (for example, transportation, meals, room or entry fees) from the institution for the competition.

In situations in which a student-athlete is seeking to "redshirt" to avoid using a season of competition (or for an ineligible student-athlete to avoid competing in violation of NCAA regulations and using a season of competition), the student-athlete may not participate in any event that meets the definition of "intercollegiate competition" in Bylaw 14.02.6.

However, a student-athlete seeking to redshirt or an ineligible student-athlete (for example, partial qualifier or nonqualifier serving a year in residence) may compete as an individual in an "open" event involving collegiate and noncollegiate competitors without using a season of competition (including an "open" event in which the collegiate competitors receive expenses from and/or score points for their respective institutions), provided the student-athlete represents only himself or herself, pays all of his or her own travel and competition expenses, does not wear any institutional uniforms or use any institutional equipment and does not score points for the institution.

Therefore, if a student-athlete were to receive expenses from his or her institution to travel to and compete as an individual in an "open" event with the institution's team, the student-athlete would be deemed to have engaged in intercollegiate competition and to have used a season of competition (and, in the case of an ineligible partial qualifier or nonqualifier, to have competed in

violation of NCAA rules), even if the student-athlete did not score points for the institution or wear the institution's uniform.

In order for a competition to be considered an "open" event the competition must be open to noncollegiate competitors and must be organized, publicized and operated as an event that is open to individuals other than collegiate competitors.

Pursuant to an official interpretation, a student-athlete who participates in an open lane as a part of a collegiate competition (for example, a dual swim meet) is considered to be representing the institution against outside competition, regardless of whether the student-athlete's performance is included in the scoring of the competition.

For example, if five institutions competed in an invitational cross country meet or swim meet that was open only to those institutions, the competition would not be considered an "open" event. If a redshirt student-athlete or an ineligible student-athlete from any of the five participating institutions were permitted to compete in the meet (even as an "unattached" participant not scoring points for his or her institution), the student-athlete would be considered to have engaged in intercollegiate competition under Bylaw 14.02.6 and would be charged with the use of a season of competition. In addition, if the student-athlete were an ineligible partial qualifier or nonqualifier, the student-athlete would be considered to have engaged in intercollegiate competition in violation of NCAA rules.

## Q & A

**Q.** When determining the 48-hour departure time, are pre-game/event activities included (e.g. banquet, practice round)?

**A.** No, the 48-hour departure time is based on the date and time of the first competition.

**Q.** A basketball student-athlete transferred to a C-USA institution after his previous coach quit. After sitting a year in residence, he sustained an injury that will keep him out another year. Can he get an extension on his five-year clock?

**A.** No. Waivers of the five-year clock are granted only when the student-athlete misses at least two seasons for reasons beyond his control. Per 30.6.1 sitting out a year due to a transfer is within the student-athlete's control.

## Q & A

**Q.** If two volleyball coaches are recruiting off-campus, is it permissible for the third coach to coach his/her club team at an off-campus site on the same day?

**A.** Yes, provided the club team coach observes only those games in which his club team is participating. Observation of any other games would be considered recruiting activity.

**Q.** A high school prospect has competed in 14 games on a club team. She just discovered that one member of the team receives more than actual and necessary expenses. Can she continue to practice with the team (but not complete) without further affecting her eligibility?

**A.** No, since the prospect has already competed on the team, she must cease all involvement with the team once she discovers that the team is professional. If she had not competed, she could continue to practice with the team per Bylaw 12.2.2 (i.e. no competition, no compensation, no contract).

**Q.** An athletic department staff member has a niece in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In the past she has taken her niece to a basketball game. Can she still do this?

**A.** Yes, but the niece's admissions must be processed through the complimentary admissions list for prospects.

**Q.** Any high school student that visits campus can receive a discounted rate at a local hotel. Since this rate is available to all prospects, can prospective student-athletes get the rate during unofficial visits?

**A.** Yes. Since, the rate is available to all potential prospects, it is permissible for a prospect on an unofficial visit to get the same rate. However, the athletics department should not make the arrangements. Unofficial visit prospects should be referred to the admissions office for information about hotel arrangements.

**Q.** A student-athlete is academically ineligible in the fall semester. The team departs for a game on the day after the last day of exams, can the SA travel with the team to the game?

**A.** Yes, provided (1) he has been certified eligible to compete prior to departure and (2) he is registered for classes for the subsequent semester or completed the previous semester as a full-time student.

## UNOFFICIAL VISITS

All planned unofficial visits need to be reported to the compliance office prior to the prospect's arrival on campus. Below are some guidelines to keep in mind when you have a prospect in on an unofficial visit.

The PSA may stay in an enrolled student-athlete's dorm room only if the PSA pays the regular institutional rate for such lodging. In such instances, a receipt documenting payment must be presented to the compliance office. In NO instance may a PSA on an unofficial visit stay in an off-campus apartment of a student or may a staff member arrange lodging for the PSA.

The PSA may be provided transportation only to view off-campus practice and competition sites in the prospect's sport and other institutional facilities (located within a 30-mile radius of the campus). Any other transportation expenses shall be considered a violation.

The PSA may not have any off-campus contact with an enrolled student-athlete. This includes walking across the street from campus to a fast food restaurant to eat dinner.

Chapter Nine of the Coaches Guide to NCAA Compliance, distributed at the beginning of the year meeting, breaks down the bylaws dealing with unofficial visits.

### The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

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