



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

August 2005

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

8/1 – 8/31 **Contact/Evaluation Period**

Men's Basketball –

8/1 – 9/8 **Quiet Period**

Women's Basketball –

8/1 – 9/15 **Quiet Period**

Football –

8/1 – 11/26 **Quiet Period**

Except **six days** during the months of September, October and through November 26, 2005, selected at the discretion of the institution (an authorized off-campus recruiter may visit a particular educational institution only once during this evaluation period) **Evaluation Period**

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/4 **Contact & Evaluation Period**

Except 11/7 – 11/10 **Dead Period**

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period

FOOTBALL WALK-THROUGHS

The committee confirmed that, in football, an institution that conducts a walk-through during or after the acclimatization period on a day in which no other on-field activities occur (i.e., practice or testing session) must include the walk-through in its limit of 29 on-field practices for the preseason practice period. In addition, if an institution conducts only a walk-through on a particular day during the acclimatization period, that day does not count toward the required five days of acclimatization.

CHECK-IN MEETINGS

Teams should schedule 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:

Football – August 5, 4:00

Women's Soccer – August 9, 3:00

Volleyball – August 11, 2:00

Men's Soccer – August 16, 4:00

Cross Country – August 28, 12:00

Tennis – September 7, 9:00

Golf – September 7, 10:00

Swimming – September 9 & 20

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.

Remind your students to bring their student ID, and information on the make, model, and license plate number of their car!!! This will help with the forms being completed properly and quickly.

RECRUITING COACH LIMITS

The committee confirmed that, pursuant to NCAA Proposal No. 2004-132-B, if the limitation on the number of coaches who are permitted to contact or evaluate prospects off campus at any one time is reached, another coach in that same sport may leave campus to engage in off-campus contacts or evaluations at any time, provided he or she does not begin any off-campus recruiting activity until the coach being replaced has completed his or her recruiting activities. Further, the replaced coach may not engage in additional recruiting activities until after he or she has returned to the institution's campus.

NEW DRUG TESTING REGULATIONS

Changes in the NCAA drug-testing policy will be effective beginning August 1. There will be clarifications of new appeals procedures to aid institutions in determining what circumstances may warrant consideration of a reduced penalty when a student appeals a positive drug-test. Also, students who commit a doping offense outside NCAA competition will not be allowed to participate in NCAA contests while suspended from other national or international competition. If a student-athlete is suspended from a national or international sport's governing body that has adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency code due to a drug offense, the student-athlete will be declared ineligible for NCAA championships and other competition. In addition, student-athletes must reveal the results of a positive drug test by a national or international athletics organization on the NCAA Student-Athlete Statement. There is an exception if the student-athlete tests positive for a drug that the NCAA offers a medical-exception waiver for. The student-athlete could request a review by the Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports medical panel.

PARTICIPATION BEFORE CERTIFICATION WHEN KNOW THAT SA WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE

The Membership Services staff confirmed that once an institution has knowledge that a student-athlete will not meet the applicable initial-eligibility or transfer requirements for practice, the student-athlete cannot practice or continue to practice during a temporary certification period regardless of whether a final status has been rendered by the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse or, in the case of transfer students, the appropriate certifying official.

UNOFFICIAL VISIT DORM COST INCREASE

Effective immediately, the cost for a prospective student athlete to stay in the dorm for an unofficial visit, will increase to \$20 per night. This increase is due to the cost that housing charges for students to stay in the dorm. Per NCAA rules, what we charge for unofficial visits has to be consistent with what housing would charge a non-student athlete to stay in the dorm.

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

Prospects are no longer eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent to attend an institution for the 2005-06 academic year. If you wish to have an incoming prospect receive financial aid during the 2005-06 academic year and they did not sign a National Letter of Intent, you must submit a grant-in-aid form to the compliance office.

PLAYING & PRACTICE SEASON

Reminder to those sports who have not yet submitted their playing and practice season form, they are due ASAP. We need to verify your season and schedule.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Baylor on Probation for Five Years

Baylor was placed on probation for five years and the men's basketball team is banned from non-conference play for a year. The team is eligible to play in the postseason tournament, but it will be difficult to gain enough wins without the non-conference schedule. Intentional violations and attempts to cover up the violations by providing inaccurate information and falsifying documents resulted in a finding of unethical conduct against the former coaches, a lack of institutional control, and failure to monitor its athletics program.

The violations included recruiting academically marginal players as well as better academic players in case the first group failed to make the grades.

Therefore, seven prospects enrolled when only five scholarships were available. The extra two players received more than \$30,000 in tuition, cash, and other benefits from the coaches.

Also, the head coach solicited over \$87,000 in donations from boosters and funneled the money to AAU teams. The prospective student-athletes were members of these teams, and therefore the donations should have been disclosed to the NCAA. The head coach is subject to a show cause procedure for 10 years, one assistant for 7 years, and the two other assistants for 5 years.

Kansas to Lose Scholarships

When Roy Williams was the basketball coach at Kansas, he approved payments to players who had exhausted their eligibility. In addition to these violations, the women's basketball and football programs were involved in violations. Most of the violations included arranging for test preparation and transportation for prospective athletes. The university issued self-imposed sanctions of probation for two years and a reduction of scholarships for football and women's basketball. The men's basketball program will have extra education about rules regarding gifts. The university said three representatives of the university's athletic interests gave cash and clothes to graduating athletes and other athletes who had exhausted their eligibility.

South Carolina Reports Football Violations

South Carolina admitted to 10 violations in its football program, including five major violations. Prospective student-athletes were given impermissible tutoring sessions and off-season workouts from 1999-2002. The school proposed two years of probation, a reduction by six in official visits for football recruits for two years, and a loss of two football scholarships in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The NCAA's Committee on Infractions can now accept, reject or modify the proposed penalties.

Florida A&M Cuts Four Teams

After 200 NCAA rules violations and legal threats by former coaches, Florida A&M has cut the men's golf, men's tennis, and men's and women's swimming and diving programs. This will save about \$600,000 next year. More savings to the budget are expected due to the self-imposed sanctions which include restrictions in recruiting and one-third reduction in scholarship money. Other savings will come from a reduction in travel for the band, a 16 percent reduction in the expenses of the remaining 14 sports, and a 52 percent reduction in support-staff salaries.

NCAA TO KEEP CLOSER EYE ON BETTING LINES

In an effort to increase the antigambling efforts, the NCAA plans to more closely monitor betting lines on games and to start background checks on baseball and hockey officials who work Division I tournaments. The increase in antigambling efforts is due partly to a study performed last year that found 35 percent of male athletes and 10 percent of female athletes gambled on college sports the previous year. Background checks are already performed on men's and women's basketball officials, but hockey and baseball games typically have Las Vegas betting lines too. The increase in monitoring seems to be accepted in Las Vegas as the sports book director of MGM Mirage casino said people want to know they have a 50-50 chance of winning and to ensure confidence in the games being clean.

PRESEASON PRACTICE

The preseason is almost upon us for fall sports, and as coaches begin preparation for the upcoming season, there are a number of distinctions with regard to preseason activities to keep in mind. NCAA Bylaw 17.1.6.3 states that daily and weekly hour limitations do not apply to countable athletically related activities that occur during preseason practice prior to the first day of classes or the first scheduled contest, whichever occurs first. A second distinction specific to the preseason is that institutions are also not required to provide student-athletes with one day off per week during preseason practices that occur before the first day of classes or the first scheduled contest, according to Bylaw 17.1.6.4.3. Even though hourly and weekly limitations do not apply, you still must submit practice logs to the compliance office each week.

Remember, once you declare your practice week (i.e., Monday – Sunday), you are not permitted to change it until the next segment (Championship/Non-Championship).

Scrimmages and exhibition games are also undoubtedly a part of preseason preparation, however, according to Bylaw 17.1.5.5.2, off-campus intrasquad games and publicized practices that are conducted at a site not normally used by the institution are prohibited for all sports. Also, all exhibition games, regardless of location, must be certified by the institution, so before scheduling any exhibitions, be sure to inform the compliance office of these contests.

Please contact the Compliance Office if you have any questions.

PAPERWORK

Please remember you must submit phone logs and contact & evaluation sheets from the summer months. Evaluation logs should include the name of the tournament you attended. If you had a contact with a particular prospective student-athlete, you should note that on the sheet when you submit it to Rebecca Hinkel. Remember, you may not telephone or have in-person, off-campus recruiting contact with a prospect or the prospect's relatives prior to July 1st following the completion of their junior year in high school.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

Many of the incoming student-athletes have received a final certification from the NCAA initial eligibility clearinghouse. If you still have a student listed with a preliminary status and the code H01, this means that their final transcript with proof of graduation has not been received by the clearinghouse. Some students may still have missing documents and this will also be indicated on the weekly reports that each sport receives on Mondays. If you have an incoming student-athlete listed as not registered, this must be done ASAP in order for the student to have a chance at being certified in time for the season.

INCOMING TRANSFERS

Coaches are reminded if you have transfers that intend to enroll for the 2005-06 academic year, you must provide the compliance office with an official transcript from every collegiate institution that student has attended. Transfer students will not be eligible for financial aid, practice, or competition until these transcripts are provided and reviewed.

The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

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