



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

November 2005

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

9/9 – 11/6 Contact/Evaluation Period

11/7 – 11/10 Dead Period

11/11 – 2/28/06 Quiet Period except:

Men's Basketball –

10/6 – 3/29/06 Evaluation Period except:

11/7 – 11/10 Dead Period

Women's Basketball –

9/16 – 4/18/06 Evaluation Period except:

Women's basketball staff members shall not exceed

85 recruiting-person days. Days not designated for Evaluation Period: Quiet Period

11/7 – 11/10 Dead 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:

Evaluation Period

11/27 – 1/28/06 Contact Period except for specified Quiet and Dead Periods in December and January. Six in-person off-campus contacts per prospective student-athlete shall be permitted during this time period with not more than one permitted in any one calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) or partial calendar week.

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/4 Contact & Evaluation Period except:

11/7 – 11/10 Dead Period

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period except:

11/7 – 11/10 Dead Period

NON-UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES WORKING CAMPS

As a reminder, any non-UC employee or student-athlete who plans on working a camp must have had a background check within the past year to be permitted to work. If there are questions regarding whether someone has a background check on file, they should email Maggie.

CLEARINGHOUSE REPORTS

We have instituted a new policy for all sports. We will not allow student-athletes to report and/or receive athletic aid until we have received the official certified eligibility status from the NCAA Clearinghouse. Anyone who is not cleared by the Clearinghouse upon their arrival to campus will not receive any amount of athletic aid, including books, until they are certified as a qualifier. Students who would not be able to afford to attend the University without their athletic aid will be discouraged from arriving on campus until they are cleared by the clearinghouse. This will also help encourage prospective student-athletes to register with the clearinghouse early to ensure their information has been received and processed in time for them to arrive on campus.

ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

A new policy has been instituted where academic evaluations will not be approved for official visits unless there is a date specified for the visit. If the date is not known yet, coaches can submit the evaluation to receive comments but must resubmit it and get final approval from compliance when the date has been determined. This will help prevent the possibility of a visit

NLI SIGNING PERIOD

The signing period for all sports other than Football and Soccer begins on November 9th and ends on November 16th. Please note the Dead Period that proceeds the upcoming signing periods begins on November 7th. No in-person, on- or off-campus contact may be made during the Dead Period. However, you may continue to write and telephone prospects during the dead period. In-person, off-campus delivery of a letter of intent by an institutional staff member is prohibited. The presence of any UC personnel during an off-campus signing is strictly prohibited. Signings may be done on campus during an official visit, but NO media may be present. Individuals who sign a letter of intent are still considered prospects; therefore all applicable NCAA recruiting legislation applies.

An institution may release publicity concerning a prospect's commitment to attend an institution only **after** the prospect has signed the NLI or the written offer of admission. There is no limit to the number and content of these publications which may be released to media forums at the institution's discretion. The institution can not purchase or receive commercial advertising to identify a prospect by name or picture. Following the NLI signing, coaches may participate in media activities devoted exclusively to discussing signed prospect(s), provided the institution does not initiate or arrange the media activities.

After a PSA signs an NLI, he or she is subject to the NLI Recruiting Ban and may no longer be recruited by an NLI member institution. This has been modified to clarify the ban is lifted after a student enrolls in the signing institution. NOTE: Students who initially enroll in a junior college or

non-collegiate institution (prep school) remain subject to the Recruiting Ban until the NLI has been fulfilled by junior college graduation; declared null and void; or when the student is released from the NLI obligation.



FINANCIAL AID/EQUIVALENCY COMPUTATIONS

- A student-athlete who is receiving only non-athletically related institutional financial aid may receive an initial award of athletically related institutional financial aid at any point during the period of the non-athletically related award. Also, if a student-athlete in an equivalency sport becomes a counter at any point during the academic year, all countable institutional aid received during that academic year is countable toward the student-athlete's equivalency.
- In equivalency sports, in a situation where a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or voluntarily withdraws from a team and his or her athletically related financial aid is cancelled, if the aid is cancelled **during a term**, all other countable financial aid the student-athlete receives during the remainder of the term is **countable** toward the student-athlete's equivalency for the academic year; however, an institution is not required to count other countable financial aid toward the student-athlete's equivalency during any remaining terms of the academic year. If a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or voluntarily withdraws from a team and his or her athletically related aid is cancelled **at the end of a term**, the institution is **not required to count** other countable financial aid toward the student-athlete's equivalency during any remaining terms of the academic year.

AMATEURISM CLEARINGHOUSE

The new Amateurism Clearinghouse is expected to be available in early 2006, however the class of 2007 will be the first class certified. Since many athletes will be signing NLI's in November and the new clearinghouse will not be available until a few months after that, it is not logical to require these SA's to be approved through this. It will help maintain consistent information about prospective and transfer SA's. Currently, some schools are able to receive more information than others due to financial and staffing resources. It will be operated through an online questionnaire completed by the SA, the information will be reviewed and a determination made whether to certify the SA or not.

DATES THAT COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO PROSPECTS ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE

The WVU football game on Nov. 9 falls during the Dead Period for all sports other than Football and Soccer. No other sports are permitted to provide complimentary admissions to the football game.

Football:

December 19, 2005, through January 1, 2006
January 9-12, 2006
January 30 through February 2, 2006

M. Basketball:

November 7-10, 2005
December 24-26, 2005
March 30-31, 2006
April 1-4, 2006, (noon)
April 10-13, 2006
July 16-21, 2006

W. Basketball:

November 7-10, 2005
December 24-26, 2005
March 31 through April 13, 2006, (12:01 a.m.)

July 16-21, 2006

Baseball:

November 7-10, 2005
January 5 (12:01 a.m.) through January 9, 2006, (12:01 a.m.)
April 10-13, 2006

Volleyball:

November 7-10, 2005
December 14-31, 2005
April 10-13, 2006

Soccer:

January 30, 2006, through February 2, 2006

All Other Sports:

November 7-10, 2005
April 10-13, 2006

No complimentary tickets may be given to any prospects for a UC athletic event during Dead Periods.

CONTACT WITH BOOSTERS

Parents of student-athletes are considered boosters and therefore are prohibited from having recruiting contact with prospective student-athletes. If you have an official visit you should not bring the prospect into any situation where contact with a booster could occur (e.g. team meals with parents).

COMPETING IN OPEN EVENTS

A SA seeking to redshirt or who is ineligible (partial qualifier or nonqualifier serving year in residence) may compete as an individual in an "open" event involving collegiate and noncollegiate competitors without using a season of competition, provided the SA 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 SA

receives money from his or her institution to travel to and compete as an individual in an "open" event with the institution's team, the SA would be considered to have engaged in intercollegiate competition and have used a season of competition, and possibly have competed in violation of NCAA rules, even if the SA did not score points for the institution or wear the uniform.

For the competition to be considered "open" it must be open to noncollegiate competitors, be organized, publicized, and operated as open to individuals other than collegiate competitors.

DISCOUNTS AT RESTAURANTS

A letter was sent to local restaurants to remind them that they are not allowed to offer a discount on food and beverages to University of Cincinnati student-athletes or the athletes' families and friends. This is a VIOLATION of NCAA bylaws and puts the eligibility of those student-athletes receiving a discount in jeopardy. Any student-athlete who receives a discount not offered to the general public will be ineligible for competition until the value of the discount is repaid, they are withheld from a percentage of their games, and are reinstated by the NCAA. This also applies if a patron of the restaurant "picks up the tab" for a student-athlete solely on the basis that the customer is a student-athlete.

semester. In addition, the former football coach was charged with violations on 24 occasions for forcing players to exceed the daily four hour limit and weekly twenty hour limit on practice times and also for two cases of illegal recruiting. Florida A&M has been charged with a lack of institutional control. Florida A&M contends that most of the violations were matters of paperwork and unintentional errors. However, they self-imposed a significant cut in scholarships, as well as a probation period that began this fall and will run through the 2007-2008 school year, with the hope that the NCAA will accept the penalties. The NCAA is reviewing the self-imposed penalties and will make its decision in the next few weeks. The NCAA's Infractions Committee has cleared the way for the former football coach to seek another coaching job when they cleared him of major rule violations alleged by his former employers.

Kentucky's Morris jeopardizes eligibility

A Kentucky basketball player's status remains uncertain following his association with a sports agency. Randolph Morris jeopardized his eligibility this past spring as he prepared to enter the NBA Draft. The sports agency, SFX, arranged a pre-draft workout for Morris, released a statement to the media on his behalf, and was listed as his contact representative. SFX denied that Morris was ever a client, but the NCAA

AROUND THE COUNTRY

FAMU officials go before NCAA

Florida A&M recently self-imposed penalties for more than 200 rules violations that occurred from 1998-2005. More than half of the violations involved allowing dozens of student-athletes to participate in athletics even though they had failed to complete the NCAA Student-Athlete Statement and NCAA Drug-Testing Consent forms. At least 79 athletes were allowed to compete even though they did not meet academic standards for progress towards a degree or not taking the required number of hours per

to gather facts on the alleged relationship, but a final decision regarding Morris' eligibility is not expected to be reached for some time. Morris is allowed to practice with the team and participate in intra-squad scrimmages, but he cannot play against outside competition, including the first exhibition game on November 2.

University of Illinois on one-year probation

The University of Illinois has been placed on a one-year probation due to impermissible

inducements and extra benefits provided by a booster to a football recruit who later was a student-athlete at the university. The prohibited benefits included free lodging at the booster's home on two occasions, and transportation during a visit to the university, impermissible use of a vehicle owned by the booster's company, and getting paid for work at the booster's company that the student-athlete did not do. The use of a vehicle was not provided to similar employees at the booster's company. When the booster, a former Division I football athlete, was questioned by the compliance officer at Illinois the booster denied that he was providing any benefits to the athlete. The student-athlete also lied by saying his parents bought the car for him. The booster ignored a letter the university sent to him indicating that providing a vehicle to a student-athlete is impermissible. The benefits, which were provided over a nine-month period, totaled \$2,348.

The university has disassociated the booster from any school involvement for at least three years and the booster must petition the university for reinstatement if he wants to be a supporter of the university's athletics program in the future. The university is creating a system to track incoming student-athletes and how their pre-enrollment expenses are paid.

The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

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