



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

December 2004

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

11/12 – 2/28 **Quiet Period except:**

1/6 (12:01 a.m.) – 1/10 (12:01 a.m.) **Dead Period**

Men's Basketball –

11/18 – 3/15 **Evaluation Period**

40 Evaluation days selected at the discretion of the institution; institutional staff members shall not visit a prospect's educational institution on more than one day per week during this period

The remainder of this Evaluation period beyond the 40 days is a **Quiet Period**

Women's Basketball –

10/8 – 2/28 **Evaluation Period**

40 Evaluation days selected at the discretion of the institution; institutional staff members shall not visit a prospect's educational institution on more than one day per week during this period

The remainder of this Evaluation period beyond the 40 days is a **Quiet Period**

Football –

11/28 – 1/29 **Contact Period** (with some quiet and dead periods in Dec. and Jan.): 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. **Exceptions:**

12/19 **Quiet Period**

12/20 – 1/1 **Dead Period**

JUCO –

12/12 **Quiet Period**

12/13 – 12/16 **Dead Period**

12/17 **Quiet Period**

Volleyball –

8/1 – 12/5 **Contact/Evaluation Period**
(80 Evaluation days)

12/6 – 12/14 **Quiet Period**

12/15 – 12/31 **Dead Period except:**

Coaches attending the AVCA annual awards banquet may have incidental contact with two-year college prospects being honored at the banquet. (Bylaw 13.02.4.4.1).

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period

TRIATHLON PARTICIPANT

An individual becomes a professional in all three of the sports involved in a triathlon if the individual accepts a cash prize as an award for participating in such an event.

NEW SAT FORMAT

Starting with the SAT offered in March 2005 a new format will be used. In addition to the verbal and math parts, a writing component will be added for a maximum point value of 2400. The writing section is mandatory and will be given first. Also, Algebra II topics will be on the new test but analogies will be eliminated. As of now, the NCAA Clearinghouse will not be using the writing score for initial-eligibility evaluations. The NCAA does not yet know if it will be able to combine subscores from the current test and the new test. SAT officials have said that the score on the current test will directly relate to the score on the new test. For example, a current score of 450 on the verbal section will equal a verbal score of 450 on the new test.

The ACT is also adding a writing component to the test, but it is optional. The ACT scoring will remain the same.

COUNTING EVALUATIONS AT TOURNAMENTS

The evaluation of prospects in each contest in a tournament held during the academic year counts as a separate evaluation except that (a) evaluation of multiple contests in a tournament that occurs on consecutive days (and normally at the same site) shall count as a single evaluation; and (b) evaluation of multiple contests in a single tier of a tournament (e.g., sectional, district, regional) shall count as a single observation. However, if a particular tier of a tournament is subdivided into identifiable segments (e.g., conducted on different weekends), evaluation of contests in each identifiable segment counts as a separate evaluation. For example, if a sectional tier of a high-school tournament is conducted on consecutive weekends, the observation of prospects on both weekends would count as two evaluations. If a tournament does not occur on consecutive days and each tier of the tournament occurs on different days, neither of the two exceptions apply. Therefore, the evaluation of prospects during nonconsecutive days of such a tournament must count as separate evaluations. For example, if a tournament is formatted such that preliminary contests occur on Wednesday, semifinal contests on Friday and the final contest on Saturday (no contest on Thursday), and a coach evaluates on each day of the tournament, two separate evaluations must be counted (i.e., one evaluation for Wednesday and one evaluation for the two consecutive days of Friday and Saturday).

In basketball, institutional staff members may visit a prospect's educational institution on not more than one occasion during a particular week within a contact period or an evaluation period that occurs during the academic year. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.1.5.1.3.1 (tournament exception), visiting a prospect's educational institution on consecutive days during a particular week to observe a tournament or tier of a tournament shall count as a single visit. However, if a tournament that occurs at a prospect's educational institution does not occur on consecutive days, such as in the example above, institutional coaching staff members may only visit the institution on either the single day (Wednesday) or during the consecutive day portion of the tournament (Friday and Saturday).

WNBA PRACTICE PLAYERS

It is becoming a common practice for WNBA players to practice on an almost daily basis with their former college teams after the WNBA season is over. The college practice is not a forum for a pro player to stay in shape in the off-season and it also is not a forum for trying to gain a competitive advantage by organizing former players to return. It should be more of a spontaneous activity that occurs on an infrequent basis. It is permissible for an alumnus of an institution (e.g., former student-athlete) to participate in an occasional practice session with a member institution's intercollegiate athletics team. "Occasional" does not mean almost every day.

AWARDS

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 16.1.4.1.

For nonseniors, the total value of any participation awards (i.e. letter jacket) may not exceed \$175. For seniors, the total value of their awards (i.e. blanket) may not exceed \$325.

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 \$175. Even banquets are not beyond the reach of NCAA legislation. When planning a banquet, coaches and administrators should be aware that parents, friends, or relatives of student-athletes may not receive complimentary admissions or meals at the banquet.



AROUND THE COUNTRY

Washington probation extended two years

The University of Washington's probationary period has been extended two years for violations of gambling and recruiting in the football program and the institution's failure to monitor itself. The current probation was imposed due to violations by the men's basketball program.

The current violations stem mostly from the former head football coach and other members of the athletic department who took part in auctions and betting pools during the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship. Also involved were recruiting violations of impermissible contacts between a representative of the university's athletics interests and prospective football student-athletes. The former compliance director sent two emails that indicated it was permissible for athletic employees to participate in basketball pools. The emails did not define pools or exclude other forms of gambling. It was not found that the former head coach did not rely on the emails before he took part in the auction and that reliance on the emails would mitigate the nature of the violation. Therefore, the committee found a violation of the gambling bylaw, but under the unique circumstances it was not a violation of NCAA ethical conduct by the former head coach. The former head coach had winnings over \$11,000. The impermissible contacts involved rides on a representative's yacht from the campus to the former head coach's home, during which the representative had contact with the PSAs and their parents. Also, the university did not charge a proper amount for the boat ride during the official visits. These major violations constituted a failure to monitor by the institution, specifically failing to ensure the appropriate staff members understood and followed NCAA legislation about gambling, failing to properly apply NCAA recruiting legislation, even after the correct information was given to them, and failing to acknowledge and prevent contacts between a booster and PSAs who were transported on the booster's boat. Penalties included a limit of 48 paid official visits for two years, instead of the allowable 56 visits; the football coach was terminated; the probation was extended two years; and the university can not use water craft for transportation or entertainment for recruits for two years.

Missouri, Columbia on probation

The University of Missouri, Columbia was placed on probation for three years due to recruiting violations, impermissible extra benefits, and failure to monitor the men's basketball program. The men's basketball program "took risks" on a junior college athlete who had a troubled past and while attending Missouri he was arrested and convicted of battery. After being dismissed from the team, he made "highly-publicized" allegations that the men's basketball program violated NCAA rules. The former associate head coach was not honest in providing information when completing expense vouchers. He bought meals for ten people associated with AAU and other non-scholastic basketball teams for a total of over \$5,000. If the coach had correctly identified the people on the expense reports the compliance office would have recognized that it was a violation to provide meals to them. The coach also provided transportation for two prospects and their coach on a visit to campus; and had impermissible contacts with a prospect and a prospect's father at AAU events and with two other prospects after they attended a practice. There were impermissible phone calls to a number of recruits, including a recruit at a four year institution before receiving permission to call him. There were arrangements for the two-year college prospect to stay with a student-athlete for free for two weeks. After the athlete enrolled at Missouri, the extra benefits continued, including clothing valued at approximately \$485, meals at the head coach's home in violation of the occasional-meal legislation, facilitating the collection of money from basketball student-athletes to pay the \$1,000 bond after being arrested for battery, providing lodging and transportation for a close friend of the athlete while the friend was visiting, and the athletics department tutor/mentor provided transportation for the athlete while the athlete was on probation. In addition, men's basketball student-athletes received meals at restaurants during official visits, even though they were not designated as the host. The penalties include three years of probation, all men's basketball coaching staff members are prohibited from any type of off-campus recruiting events for one year, a reduction in scholarships for two years, and a reduction in the number of official visits for two years.

AROUND THE COUNTRY, CON'T.

Washington basketball players suspended 1 game
Four Washington men's basketball players were suspended for the first game of the season for participation in unsanctioned summer basketball.

St. John's imposes own penalties

After discovering that a former player received \$300 each month from a member of the basketball staff, the school imposed a postseason ban for this year and the loss of a scholarship this season and next. The player, who was one of six players suspended over a curfew-breaking trip to a strip club, made the allegation a month after the suspension. The investigation revealed the allegation was true but that it involves no current players, coaches, or athletic staff members. It is believed that the money was given with a humanitarian intent but it is still inappropriate and unacceptable. The NCAA is continuing to investigate and will determine if further penalties are necessary.

Mississippi State on four year probation

Due to recruiting violations, Mississippi State's football program is on a 4 year probation, lost 8 scholarships over 2 years, and is banned from postseason play this year. The violations included recruits being reimbursed for recruiting trips, giving recruits and their families money for hotel rooms and rental cars, an assistant coach paying for a recruit's summer school classes he needed to become eligible, and a booster providing free lodging at a hotel for two recruits.

VEHICLES ON OFFICIAL VISITS

It is permissible to use athletic department vehicles (e.g., vans or buses without additional amenities like TV's, DVD's, etc.) in transporting PSAs around and on campus during visits even if our admissions office does not use that method of transportation for prospective students in general.

FINAL OFFICIAL VISIT POLICY

The final versions of the new recruiting visit policy and itinerary form have been distributed. There are some changes from the preliminary policy so all old copies should be thrown away. Be sure to read the new policy for the changes and inform your athletes about the modifications.

ITINERARY

Coaches, be sure to turn in your post-visit itinerary within 24 hours after the visit concludes.

DORM STAY ON UNOFFICIAL VISIT

If you have a PSA staying in a dorm during an unofficial visit, the payment for the room should be given to Bruce or Maggie **before** the PSA stays, not after the visit. The cost is \$15 per night.

BEARCAT PRIDE

Show your Bearcat spirit by supporting our teams!

Dec. 4	W. Basketball	2:00
Dec.3-5	Swimming (@ Miami-Oxford)	
Dec. 9	M. Basketball	8:00
Dec. 11	W. Basketball	2:00
Dec. 11	M. Basketball	7:00
Dec. 21	W. Basketball	7:00
Dec. 27	M. Basketball (@U.S. Bank Arena)	8:00

The University Of Cincinnati Compliance Staff

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