



The University of Cincinnati Bearcat Compliance Corner



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

February 2005

RECRUITING DATES

Baseball –

11/12 – 2/28 **Quiet 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 –

1/31 – 2/3 **Dead Period**

2/4 – 4/14 **Quiet Period**

Volleyball –

1/1 – 2/18 **Quiet Period**

2/19 – 7/31 **Contact & Evaluation Period except:**

4/11 – 4/14 **Dead Period**

5/1 – 5/27 **Quiet Period**

All Other Sports –

Contact & Evaluation Period

ITEMIZED RECEIPTS

Be sure you are turning in itemized receipts for official visits when requesting reimbursement. The credit card slip is NOT enough. Many of the receipts we receive from Kingsgate and Vernon Manor are not itemized so please double check them.

CORRECT DATES

When turning in reimbursement requests, contact and evaluation logs, and all other paperwork, make sure the dates are correct. Discrepancies in dates delay the processing of the paperwork. Also make sure that you and the student-athletes date ALL documents when requested.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Coaches are not allowed to award incentives for specialized performances in a single contest or during a limited time period, e.g., player of the game or player of the week. The player's picture can be posted, but no item can be given to the player. Even if these award amounts are added in the end of the year awards it is NOT permissible to distribute them. Only the conference or outside organization can provide a player of the game or player of the week award, and it can only be a certificate, medal, or plaque with a maximum value of \$80. (Figure 16-3). Remember, there is an institutional policy to inform the compliance office before any awards are given.

PARTICIPATION ROSTERS

Coaches, be sure you are turning in your participation rosters after every competition!

PHONE LOGS

Please remember that phone logs are due the first of every month. If you did not place any recruiting calls for a particular month, you must still submit a phone log indicating this to the compliance office. Individual recruiting logs are due to the compliance office for all Football and Soccer signees if you have not done so already.

TRAINING TABLE

An institution may provide only one training-table meal per day to a student-athlete during the academic year on those days when regular institutional dining facilities are open. 16.5.2(c) A student-athlete who is not receiving athletically related financial aid that includes board (e.g., walk-on) may receive training table meals only under the following circumstances:

- (1) The student-athlete has previously paid for all meals through a regular institutional meal plan and misses a meal due to practice activities (i.e., the meal is available in the dining hall only during the time practice is in session);
- (2) The student-athlete pays for the training table meal at the regular price;
- (3) The student-athlete is on an institutional meal plan and pays the difference in the cost between the two meals, provided the student-athlete could not use the unused meal under the regular institutional meal plan at a later date; or
- (4) The student-athlete reports on call and becomes involved in activities related to a home competition. [References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 16.5.2-(d) (meals incidental to participation) and 16.8.1.2 (competition while representing institution) and a 5/12/93 staff interpretation, item c, which has been archived.]

Other than the above circumstances, non-scholarship athletes can only receive an occasional meal. An occasional meal can not be provided every week. You can provide up to two meals per week for the scholarship athletes because they are allowed 21 meals per week and the meal plan and off-campus stipend only gives them 19 meals per week. When providing an occasional meal, you must fill out the form prior to providing the meal.

GAMBLING

With the Superbowl and NCAA basketball tournament occurring in the next few months, please remember that NCAA Bylaw 10.3 strictly precludes **ALL** athletic staff from placing wagers of any kind on the Superbowl and NCAA Men's or Women's basketball championships (or any other collegiate sporting event for that matter). Staff members are not allowed to participate in completing tournament brackets where the winner receives **ANY** type of prize or item, even if the contest is free to enter. While certain gambling activities may seem innocent or fun, an individual may lose his/her job in intercollegiate athletics and a student-athlete may lose a season of competition and may permanently lose all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports by being involved in such activity.

It is not permissible to bet the shirt, the house, the farm or dinner on an intercollegiate contest.

Specifically, it is not permissible to:

1. Provide information to individuals associated with organized gambling;
2. Solicit a bet on an intercollegiate team;
3. Accept a bet on any team representing an institution;
4. Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., shirt, cash, dinner) that has tangible value;
5. Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics **OR** professional athletics by using a **bookmaker, parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling.**

Gambling activities in intercollegiate athletics by those who are considered employed or participants are prohibited even if they are considered legal activities under state or federal law (e.g., student-athletes cannot place bets on college or pro games in Las Vegas).

Remember:

1. **No "Dorm Pools", "Office Pools", or "Neighborhood Pools"** that involve an entry fee or tangible benefit
2. **No Internet Sports Wagers**
3. **No "Friendly Wagers"**
4. **No bets through "800" numbers**
5. **No participation in Fantasy Leagues** that involve an entry fee or tangible benefit or payments
6. Do not provide individuals (including those involved with Tout Services) involved with organized gambling with information about intercollegiate athletic teams

NLI INFORMATION

General Rule – Announcement of Signing (Bylaw 13.11.8) – An institution may not release publicity concerning a prospect's commitment to attend the institution until the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI), a written offer of admission and/or financial aid. An institution should make sure that the documents are valid prior to releasing information about a prospect in order to avoid NCAA violations.

- Such communication (with no limit on number or content) may be released to media outlets at the institution's discretion except as limited by Bylaw 13.11.8.2. However, an institution is prohibited from purchasing or receiving commercial advertising (e.g., print, media, or billboard) to be used to identify a prospect by name or picture.

Press Release Content (Bylaw 13.11.8.5) – After a prospect has committed to an institution by signing a NLI, a written offer of admission and/or financial aid, then an institution may release a press release. The contents of a press release may be determined by the institution and may include comments by its coaching staff members about the abilities of the prospect (including but not limited to statistical information or possible contributions to the team).

Video Clips (Bylaw 13.11.8.1) – After a prospect has committed to an institution by signing a NLI written offer of admission and/or financial aid, then an institution may show video clips of a prospect through hits normal media outlets (e.g., television, web sites) during its announcement of the prospect's signing. Other prospects may appear in the video clips, provided the focus of the clips is related to the prospect that committed to the institution.

Press Conferences – One Time Exception (Bylaws 13.11.8.2 and 13.11.8.2.1) – Institutional press conferences, receptions, dinners and similar meetings held to make announcements about signings are prohibited, except for a one time announcement on the institution's campus for the sole purpose of presenting to the media the names of all prospects in a particular sport who have officially accepted written offers of admission and/or athletically related aid. No prospects (or their friends or relatives) may be in attendance for this!

Signings on Campus (Bylaw 13.11.8.4) – An institution is responsible for signings on its campus (whether involving an individual or a group of prospects). Any contact by the media with prospects on campus during the time the prospect signs a NLI or financial aid agreement shall be prohibited.

Media Activities (Interviews) with Coaches – After receipt of a prospect's NLI, written offer of admission and/or financial aid, a coach may participate in media activities (e.g., interview) devoted exclusively to discussing the prospect(s), provided the institution does not initiate or arrange the media activity.

Booster Party and One-Time Announcement Simultaneous (Combined in the same facility) –

- Must be on campus;
- Must meet the requirements specified per Bylaw 13.11.8.2.1 One-Time Exception;
- The function/activity may not be held in conjunction (simultaneously) with an announcement to the public of the prospect's signing commitment;
- An institution may produce a single highlight film (one per sport), which includes video clips of all prospects who have signed a NLI or accepted a written offer of admission and/or financial aid from the institution, to show at this event (13.11.8.2.3); and
- Working media may be present.

Booster Party Subsequent and Separate from the One-Time Announcement –

- Institution must have previously released information about prospects that have committed to the institution to media outlets normally used by the institution and by the educational institutions currently and formerly attended by the prospect;
- The function/activity may not be held in conjunction (simultaneously) with an announcement to the public of the prospect's signing commitment;
- An institution may produce a single highlight film (one per sport), which includes video clips of all prospects who have signed a NLI or accepted a written offer of admission and/or financial aid from the institution, to show to its boosters in conjunction with booster club functions (13.11.8.2.3); and
- The function/activity is closed to the working media.



AROUND THE COUNTRY

Ohio State's Smith accepts money from booster

Sources say that Troy Smith accepted money from a booster to pay an overdue phone bill for Maurice Clarett. Mrs. Smith obtained the phone for Clarett who is a friend of Troy. Troy was suspended from Ohio State's bowl game for disciplinary reasons but Ohio State did not specify what improper benefits Troy might have received.

Former University of Oregon coach sues University for sexual discrimination

The former track and field coach filed a lawsuit against the university alleging that the athletic department sexually discriminated against her when she was terminated last year. The coach was the women's throwing assistant coach for the past 18 years and was fired last year when the men's and women's track programs were consolidated. The men's volunteer throwing coach since 2002 was hired to coach the combined program even though he had limited volunteer coaching experience and no paid Division I experience. The lawsuit alleges the university had a pattern of discriminating against women student-athletes and athletic department employees, involving pay and benefits. In July 2002, the women's coach learned a new men's assistant coach was making almost \$15,000 more than her and even though she later received a raise, she still earned less than the new coach.

The University of Georgia loses scholarship and has recruiting restricted

The University of Georgia's gymnastics team lost a scholarship and the head coach's recruiting has been restricted. The coach gave a free two-night trip to New York City to six gymnasts who had completed their eligibility. The trip is considered an extra benefit and therefore a violation of NCAA rules. The infraction would normally be regarded as secondary, but because of recent rules violations of the Georgia men's basketball team, it was treated as a major violation by the SEC commissioner. Academic fraud and improper benefits to the players was found in the men's basketball program which caused the entire athletic program to be on probation for four years. The cost of the trip must be paid back by the former-athletes to a charity of their choice. However, since their eligibility is exhausted Georgia

nor the NCAA can enforce this. The coach must attend a NCAA rules seminar and is banned from off-campus recruiting in August. The coach did not realize it was a violation since the gymnasts were no longer competing, however she has coached there for 20 years so she should have known the rule.

DEFINITION OF "RECRUITED"

Effective August 1, 2005, the issuance of a NLI or an institution's written offer of athletically related financial aid will cause a prospective student-athlete to be considered recruited. (Proposal 2003-90-B, amendment to Bylaw 13.02.10.1).

OFF-CAMPUS RECRUITING

If your team is at the limit of coaches on the road, a coach can not leave until another coach comes back. For example, if you are allowed two coaches off-campus at one time, one coach must return before the third coach leaves. This includes NO overlapping flights. When scheduling flights, allow for a reasonable amount of time between the one coach returning to campus and the other coach leaving campus.

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