



For Your Interpretation.....

University of Missouri Athletics Compliance Office

Mizzou Arena, Suite 200, 1 Champions Drive, Columbia, Missouri 65211, Fax: (573) 884-5743

University of Missouri

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Prospective Student-Athletes Using an Institution's Facilities

In this issue...

PSAs Using an Institution's Facilities.....1

Social Media.....1

March 2014 Recruiting Calendar.....1

From the Interpretation Files.....2

MU Compliance Staff.....2

March 2014 Recruiting Calendars

Men's Basketball-

March 1-31—Recruiting Period

Women's Basketball-

March 1-31—Contact Period

Football-

March 1-31—Quiet Period

Baseball-

March 1-31—Contact Period

Softball-

March 1-31—Contact Period

Volleyball-

March 1-31—Contact Period

Track and Field-

March 1-13—Contact Period

March 14(12:01am)-16(12:01am)-Dead Period

March 16(12:02am)-31—Contact Period

All other Sports-

March 1-31—Contact Period

A group that includes prospective student-athletes may use an institution's facilities for physical activities without the activities being considered a tryout, provided the institution's athletic department staff members with sport specific responsibilities are not involved in the conduct, promotion or administration of the activity. In such a case, noncoaching staff members without sport-specific responsibilities and representatives of an institution's athletics interests may perform their regular job responsibilities incidental to supervising the use of the facilities. In contrast, staff members with sport specific responsibilities may not supervise the use of the institution's facilities, regardless of the nature of his or her regular job responsibilities during such event.

Social Media

Institutional staff members are permitted to initiate or accept a "friend" or "follow" request with a prospective student-athlete through a social networking site at any time, including prior to the first permissible date to send electronic correspondence. If the request is prior to the first permissible date of electronic correspondence, the staff member may not modify the automatically generated electronic notification or include any additional communication. Once connected, all limitations governing recruiting correspondence, electronic communication and publicity remain in effect (no public communication) until the prospective student-athlete has signed a NLI or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or the institution has received his or her financial deposit in response to its offer of admission. If the prospective student-athlete is of contactable age, private messages are allowed.

In the sport of basketball, institutional staff members are allowed to connect with prospective student-athletes via SnapChat. All other sports (except football, track, and swimming) will be permitted to use SnapChat starting August 1st. While using SnapChat, staff members are not allowed to edit pictures or create personalized messages to send to prospective student-athletes. Communication is limited to prospective student-athletes of contactable age.

Note that an athletics department staff member shall not publically promote or endorse (mention on twitter) a prospective student-athlete's team or coach, or an athletics facility that is primarily used by prospective student-athletes.



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From the Interpretations Files...



Question: During a recent trip, our table tennis team stayed with the family of one of its student-athletes. In exchange for hosting the team, the coaches would like to provide a shirt to the student-athlete's parents, which is the standard "Thank You" gift they provide to host families. Since the host family is related to a current student-athlete, would this be permissible?

Answer: Yes. While there are limits on the types of benefits that may be provided to student-athletes and their families, it is permissible to provide a gift of nominal value to the parents of a student-athlete who have provided a service to the team. In this instance, the family allowing the team to stay at their home would be considered a service rendered, so, in turn, a token of appreciation may be provided.

Question: Is it permissible for volunteer coaches or student managers to make telephone calls to prospect's coaches to acquire information about prospects (i.e., statistics regarding performances, etc.)?

Answer: No. It would not be permissible for a volunteer coach or a student manager to make telephone calls to a prospect's coach. Making calls to a prospect, the prospect's parents or legal guardians, or the prospect's coach is considered a recruiting coordination function which must be performed by a head or assistant coach who counts against the sport's coaching limits.

Question: An SEC institution is evaluating a two-year prospect who would be a 2-2-2-4 transfer should they enroll in the fall. The prospective student-athlete spent the 2011-12 academic year at the first 2-year school, Fall 2012 at the second 2-year school, and has been at their current 2-year institution since Spring 2013. The prospective student-athlete was full-time enrolled for all previous academic terms but is currently enrolled part-time for Spring 2014. SEC Bylaw 14.5.4.2 requires 3 full-time terms of enrollment at the degree awarding institution and immediately prior to transfer, is there any exception to this, for instance, if the prospect was enrolled in all of the courses needed to graduate? If not, would it be possible for this prospect to add a class for the second 8 weeks of the term and thereby be considered fulltime?

Answer: Gil Grimes, SEC, has stated that no exception exists which would permit a non-qualifier to be enrolled for less than three consecutive full-time terms prior to graduation, regardless of whether or not he or she is enrolled in all of the courses needed to graduate during the last term at the two-year institution. A waiver would be required to pursue such an exception. That said, for SEC bylaw purposes, unlike for NCAA transfer rule purposes, it would be permissible for this prospect to enroll in additional coursework at any time during the semester, pursuant to the two-year institution's policies, and be considered full-time enrolled.

Question: The squash team is participating in several tournaments this spring that are hosted by entities other than a university. These events also are not held on a collegiate campus. Since these are "neutral site" events, would it be permissible to provide complimentary admissions to prospects and/or coaches of prospects?

Answer: No. Though there is an exception, by interpretation, permitting the designated home team to provide complimentary admission to prospect for a neutral site, off-campus event, tournaments are legislatively precluded from this exception. It would, on the other hand, be permissible to provide complimentary admission to a prospect for a regular season game held off-campus at a neutral site.

Please note that it is only permissible to provide complimentary admission to a prospect's coach or teacher for an event that occurs at a facility within 30 miles of campus.



MU Athletics Compliance Office Staff:

Sr. Assoc. Athletics Director -Compliance:

*Mary Ann Austin * 882-0706 * AustinM@missouri.edu*

Assoc. Athletics Director - Compliance:

*Mitzi Clayton * 882-2284 * ClaytonMR@missouri.edu*

Asst. Director of Compliance for Eligibility & Recruiting:

*Andrea Benna * 884-2960 * BennaA@missouri.edu*

Asst. Director of Compliance for Financial Aid:

*Charlie Brunette * 882-3240 * BrunetteC@missouri.edu*

Compliance Specialist:

*Bob Nolte * 882-2076 * NolteRob@missouri.edu*

Recruiting and Education GA:

*Matt Willingham * 882-3349 * Mjwg28@mail.missouri.edu*

Financial Aid and Practice and Playing Seasons GA:

*Nathan McCormick * 882-6416 * Nlmv2@mail.missouri.edu*