

With football and soccer signing dates in February and other sports signing in early April, it is important to remember the issues related to NLI signings.

Per Bylaw 13.2.2 (offers and inducements - specific prohibitions) it is not permissible for an institution to loan a jersey or equipment (e.g., helmet) to a prospect for use during the individual's press conference to announce his or her acceptance of the institution's letter of intent (2-10-89 staff).

### **PUBLICITY of SIGNEES**

Warning - Do not release the names of your signees until you are positive the NLIs are valid. A violation will result if an institution announces a signee and his or her NLI is later determined to be invalid - or the NLI is invalid at the time of release (e.g., lacking parent's signature or wrong date listed for signing). We have procedures in place to address this matter. All press releases related to signees must have compliance approval prior to being released to the media.

1. Bylaw 13.11.3 (radio/TV show) is not set aside once a prospect signs an NLI. Therefore, it is not permissible for an institution's coach to participate on a show (e.g., be interviewed) in which a prospect is involved in any manner.
2. It is permissible for a booster group to hold a party to celebrate signing day, and coaches may be present at the party to discuss signees, provided the institution has previously released the names of the signees to its normal media outlets and the media are not present at the function (1-27-98 official). It is only permissible to have media (those outlets normally used by the institution) present at the booster group's party if the party is held on-campus and serves as the one-time exception per 13.11.8.2.1 (one-time exception - announcement of all signings) (3-24-98 official).
3. A coach may participate in media activities (e.g., interview) devoted exclusively to discussing signed prospect(s), provided the institution does not initiate or arrange the media activity. It is not permissible for a coach to make any comment on a prospect who has not signed a National Letter of Intent or a written offer of admission and/or financial aid with the institution (3-7-01 official).
4. An institution may issue a press release with information related to a signee ONE TIME to its normal media outlets. Thereafter, that signee's name and previously released information may appear in subsequent releases announcing additional signees. However, no new information related to previous signees may be released. For example, an institution may release its early basketball signees in the fall. During the spring, the institution may release its late basketball signees and include the previously released information on the early signees - but new information (e.g., updated high school stats) on the early signees may not be included.
5. The standard set forth in No. 6 also holds true for multisport prospects. For example, an institution may release information related to a high school football signee after the February signing date. If that signee will also run track, he cannot be "re-released" with the track signees in April if that release includes previously unreleased information on that signee (i.e., track stats previously not released in the football release). It is permissible to release information related to his football and track participation in the football release...then the track release would simply be duplicative of previously released information.
6. Media game notes and game programs are considered normal media outlets and, therefore, information from the one-time press release may be re-released in these items (2-7-01 official).
7. Booster clubs or other "friends" of the program are generally not considered normal media outlets. Therefore, it is not permissible to send copies of press releases with information regarding signees to these individuals (e.g., via email distribution lists). It is permissible to provide these groups the institutional website address at which information regarding signees can be found.

Please contact the compliance office if you have questions related to this information.