

TIMING ACTIVITIES AT INSTITUTIONAL FOOTBALL CAMPS (I)**Interpretation:**

NCAA Division I institutions should note that in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 13.12.1.1.1, an institution's football camp or clinic must be one that;

- a) Places special emphasis on a particular sport or sports and provides specialized instruction or practice and may include competition;
- b) Involves activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the sport; or
- c) Offers a diversified experience without emphasis on instruction, practice or competition in any particular sport.

An institution may not engage in activities devoted to measuring agility, flexibility, speed or strength for the purpose of evaluating prospective student-athletes during the institutional camp or clinic. An institution's coaching staff member may; however, engage (at an institutional camp or clinic) in activities devoted to agility, flexibility, speed or strength tests (e.g., timing of the 40- yard dash), provided the timing activity is performed in an instructional context. For example, at the start of a camp, an institution's coach would like to measure the distance each camper can throw a football in order to determine the prospect's arm strength prior to receiving instruction from the camp coaching staff. Throughout the week, each camper would then learn activities and drills that help increase arm strength and improve their throwing motion of the football. An institution's coach would then like to again measure the distance of passes at the conclusion of the camp to determine how much each camper improved over the course of the camp. This would be permissible because the testing activities being performed are instructional in nature.

It is not permissible for an institution's coach to engage in activities devoted to agility, flexibility, speed or strength tests that go beyond the appropriate instructional context. Further, an institution may not engage in such testing that will then be used or recorded for purposes of evaluating the abilities of prospective student-athletes for recruiting purposes. For example, an institution's football coach records times for all campers for the purpose of documenting the campers' performance. The coach would then like to identify the top performers in specified categories and send recruiting correspondence to these prospects. This would not be permissible because the purpose of the testing activities was not instructional in nature.

RECRUITING -- PRINTED RECRUITING MATERIALS -- NCAA BYLAW 13.4.1.1**Institutional Note Cards (I)****Interpretation:**

Effective August 1, 2007, institutional note cards that are provided to prospective student-athletes may not exceed 8-1/2 by 11 inches when opened in full. In addition, such cards may contain only the institution's name and logo or an athletics logo on the outside and may not include any preprinted information on the inside of the note card.

Below are some commonly asked questions and answers designed to assist the membership in applying this bylaw.

Q: Is it permissible to include multiple logos on the outside of the note card?

A: No. Each card may only include the institution's name and either a single institutional logo or a single athletics logo.

Q: Is it permissible to use a sport-specific logo and have sport-specific note cards?

A: It is permissible to use sport-specific logos and note cards. These logos do not have to be registered trademarks, but an institution must be able to demonstrate that what is printed on the note card is an official logo for that sport (e.g., logo is used on other materials and/or merchandise).

- Q: Is it permissible to use color ink, foil ink and/or embossing on the outside of the card?
- A: Yes. The legislation limits the type of information that may be included on the outside of the card, but not the printing mechanism or technique used to present the information. Institutions should note that a note card may include a solid color border around the outside edge; however, that border may not include pictures of any items (e.g., golf balls, basketballs).
- Q: Is it permissible to use color paper or color stock for the note card?
- A: Yes. The legislation limits the total size of the note card, but not the color or type of paper that is used to make the note card.
- Q: How does the legislation apply to cards that are not rectangular in shape?
- A: The legislation does not limit the shape of the note card. However, regardless of the shape of an institutional note card, when opened in full, it must fit within the area of a rectangle that measures 8-1/2 by 11 inches.
- Q: What would constitute "preprinted information?"
- A: The inside of the note cards must be blank when received from the publisher or printer that produces the cards. Therefore, any printing on the inside would constitute "preprinted information."
- Q: Is it permissible to print a message on the inside of the note card through a printer or copier?
- A: The NCAA Division I Legislative Review/Interpretations Committee reviewed this issue and determined that only handwritten information may be added to the inside of the note card.
- Q: Is it permissible to modify the note cards (e.g., cut slits cut into the note card or create a folder flap on the inside of the note card) to hold any other materials such as business cards or camp brochures?
- A: No. The legislation does not permit preprinted material on the inside of the card and the outside of the card is restricted to the institution's name and logo or sport-specific logo. Therefore, attaching other materials (e.g., business cards) to the note card is not permissible.
- Q: How does the proposal apply to cards that are not folded or that are not folded in half?
- A: Even if an institutional note card is not folded, one side must be considered the outside and the other must be considered the inside. If a card is not folded in half (e.g., tri-fold), when the card is opened in full, one complete side must be considered the outside and the other must be considered the inside. Note that a card mailed without an envelope is considered a postcard and, therefore, must be a blank card issued by the U.S. postal service.

RECRUITING VIDEO/AUDIO MATERIALS – NCAA BYLAW 13.4.2.4

Computer Recruiting Presentations (I)

Interpretation:

NCAA Division I institutions should note that pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 13.4.2.4, an institution may produce a computer recruiting presentation (e.g., using presentation software) to show to a prospective student-athlete during an in-home visit or during an official or unofficial visit. The presentations may not include any video/audio component except for a highlight film/videotape/audio tape (as permitted by Bylaw 13.4.2.1) and any features (e.g., sound effects, animation) that are included with the presentation software program. Therefore, any highlight film/videotape/audio tape incorporated into the recruiting presentation may include only clips of actual athletics contests and activities that occur on the day of the contest that are directly related to the contest (e.g., pregame player introductions, half-time band and cheerleader performances, locker-room talks, crowd reactions, sideline coaching staff activities, post game on-field award presentations). The highlight film may not include clips of other activities that are only indirectly related to the contests (e.g., team travel, team meals, entertainment activities, practice activities, institutional facilities). However, it is permissible to include still photographs of activities not directly related to a contest in the recruiting presentation. Lastly, a computer recruiting presentation may not be created by an entity outside the institution.

The following questions and answers will assist in the application of Bylaw 13.4.2.4.

- Q: The legislation states that computer recruiting presentations cannot be created by an entity outside the institution. Who may produce the computer recruiting presentation at the institution?
- A: Any institutional employee may produce the computer recruiting presentation, including Noncoaching athletics department staff members (e.g., academic advisor, life-skills coordinator). The development of the computer recruiting presentation was not intended to place additional costs on the institution. As such, the institution should not arrange for an outside entity to prepare the presentation as a gift-in-kind to the institution as this would be contrary to the legislation.
- Q: The legislation states that computer recruiting presentations may be shown during in-home visits and official and unofficial visits. Is it permissible to also show this presentation at other locations (e.g., prospect's educational institution)?
- A: Based on the current legislation, it is not permissible to show the computer recruiting presentation at locations other than during in-home visits and official and unofficial visits.
- Q: May the computer recruiting presentation be placed on the institution's Web site?
- A: It is not permissible to include a computer recruiting presentation on an institution's Web site. The legislation states it is only permissible to produce a presentation to show prospects during in-home visits and official and unofficial visits. However, an institution may include on its Web site a hyperlink to permissible video/audio materials as outlined in Bylaw 13.4.2 or to general informational video content related to an institution's athletics programs, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public and is not created for recruiting purposes.
- Q: May the computer recruiting presentation be sent to a prospect?
- A: It is not permissible to send a computer recruiting presentation to a prospect since it would be considered an attachment to general correspondence. Such attachments may include only information that is not created for recruiting purposes.
- Q: If there is a nonathletics (e.g., virtual tour of campus) video on the institution's Web site, would it be permissible to include a hyperlink to the nonathletics video in the computer recruiting presentation so that it may be shown during the presentation? In addition, could the institution insert the actual nonathletics video directly into the computer recruiting presentation?
- A: It is permissible to include a hyperlink to a nonathletics video that is posted on an institution's Web site provided it meets one of the legislated exceptions of Bylaw 13.4.2 (e.g., official academic admissions and student services information produced by the institution and available to all students). In addition, it is permissible to include a hyperlink to general informational video content related to an institution's athletics programs, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public and is not created for recruiting purposes.
- It is not permissible to insert actual nonathletics video/audio information into the computer recruiting presentation given that Bylaw 13.4.2.4 only permits video/audio components as outlined in Bylaw 13.4.2.1 to be included in a computer recruiting presentation.
- Q: May the computer recruiting presentation include a permissible highlight film?
- A: It would be permissible to insert an actual highlight film (or video/audio tape) into a computer recruiting presentation provided it meets the parameters for a highlight film/video/audiotape outlined in Bylaw 13.4.2.1. However, as noted above, it is not permissible to insert any other video/audio tape into the computer recruiting presentation (e.g., clips from video analysis software).
- Q: Is it permissible to use features (e.g., sound effects, animation) that are included with the presentation software program in the computer recruiting presentation?
- A: It is permissible to use only those features that are included with the presentation software program. It is not permissible to insert any additional items that alter the features of the program to personalize it for the institution or prospect. For example, it is permissible to include animated clip art or noise effects that are part of the software program. However, it is not permissible to insert an animated version of the institution's mascot or a sound clip of the institution's fight song into the computer recruiting presentation.

Q: Is it permissible for a prospect to view the computer recruiting presentation on a television or monitor?

A: It is permissible to connect the computer to a television or monitor for viewing. You also may show the computer presentation in a classroom setting with a projector/projection screen for unofficial and official visits or on the wall of the prospect's home. When considering how to show the presentation using different devices (e.g., television, projection screen), it is important to note a computer must be used both to create the presentation and serve as the source of the presentation when shown.

NCAA BYLAW 12.4.2.1.2 – EXCEPTION FOR INSURANCE AGAINST DISABLING INJURY OR ILLNESS (I)

Interpretation:

NCAA Division I institutions should note that pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 12.1.2.4.2, a student-athlete may borrow against his or her future earnings potential from an established, accredited commercial lending institution exclusively for the purpose of purchasing insurance (with no cash surrender value) against a disabling injury or illness that would prevent the student-athlete from pursuing a chosen career, provided a third party (including a member institution's athletics department staff members, its professional sports counseling panel or representatives of its athletics interests) is not involved in arrangements for securing the loan.

Although an institution's athletics department staff members or its professional sports counseling panel may not be involved in arrangements for securing a loan for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury or illness, a professional sports counseling panel or head coach may:

- a) Advise a student-athlete about a future professional career;
- b) Provide direction on securing a loan for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury;
- c) Review a proposed professional sports contract;
- d) Meet with the student-athlete and representatives of professional teams; and
- e) Visit with player agents or representatives of professional athletics teams to assist the student-athlete in determining his or her market value (e.g., potential salary, draft status).

In addition, a student-athlete may request information about professional market value without affecting his or her amateur status. Further, the student-athlete, his or her legal guardians or the institution's professional sports counseling panel may enter into negotiations with a professional sports organization without the loss of the individual's amateur status. However, a student-athlete loses his or her amateur status if he or she agrees to be represented by an agent.

Discussions related to determining a student-athlete's market value may also include information regarding the value of possible endorsement contracts. The value of such contracts may be considered when a student-athlete seeks to borrow against his or her future earnings potential for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury or illness. Finally, institutions should note that if a student-athlete secures such a loan or purchases disability insurance, he or she must report all such transactions and provide copies of any loan documents associated with the insurance to the institution, regardless of the source of the collateral for the loan. The student-athlete also must provide copies of the insurance policy to the institution, regardless of whether a loan is secured to purchase the insurance policy.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT COMPETITION INVOLVING AN INSTITUTION'S VARSITY TEAM AND AN OUTSIDE TEAM THAT INCLUDES HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES (I)

Interpretation:

The NCAA Division I Management Council determined that in individual sports, it is permissible for an institution's varsity team and an outside team that includes prospective student-athletes to participate in the same open event, provided the event either involves no team scoring or the event uses team scoring such that the institution's varsity team and the outside team are in separate scoring categories.

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL AID DURING TEMPORARY CERTIFICATION PERIOD (I)

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that an institution may not provide athletically related financial aid to a student-athlete while his or her initial or transfer eligibility certification is pending during either the 14 day temporary certification period for recruited student-athletes or 45 day temporary certification period for nonrecruited student-athletes.

COUNTING RECRUITING-PERSON DAYS SUBSEQUENT TO NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING OR OTHER WRITTEN COMMITMENT – MEN'S BASKETBALL (I)

Interpretation:

The committee determined that, in men's basketball, off-campus recruiting activities involving a prospective student-athlete who has signed a National Letter of Intent (or signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid) must count toward the institution's recruiting-person days limit.

CONTENT OF ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS' PERSONAL WEB SITES AND NONATHLETICS INSTITUTIONAL WEBSITES (I)

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that it is permissible for a institution's Web site or an athletics department staff member's personal Web site (or personal page on any site) to include information related to the institution's athletics programs, subject to the restrictions applicable to an institution's athletics Web site. For example, in order to include any recruiting material, highlight videos or information related to prospects on an athletics department staff member's personal site, it must be permissible to include such material and information on the institution's athletics Web site. Further, it is not permissible for an institution's Web site or an athletics department staff member's personal Web site (or personal page on any site) to include a hyperlink to the Web site of a recruiting/scouting service or a noninstitutional publication that reports primarily on the institution's athletics program. Finally, it is permissible for general informational video content related to an institution's athletics programs to appear on institutional Web sites (athletics and nonathletics) and personal Web sites of athletics department staff members, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public (e.g., not included in a separate recruiting section) and is not created for recruiting purposes.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PRACTICE AFTER A FINAL NOT CERTIFIED AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION DECISION IS RENDERED (I)

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that after a final not certified decision is rendered pursuant to the amateurism certification process, a student-athlete may continue to practice with an institution's team, provided the institution has submitted a notice of appeal. At the point in which all appeal opportunities have been exhausted and no eligibility has been granted, the student-athlete may no longer participate in practice activities.

PROVIDING PREENROLLMENT INFORMATION TO INCOMING STUDENT-ATHLETES

The NCAA has once again changed its position with regard to sending preenrollment information to prospects. Last summer the NCAA stated that it was no longer permissible to send some information. After hearing complaints all year, the NCAA determined last week that it is once again permissible to send preenrollment information (including information in video format) regarding orientation, weightlifting and conditioning, academics, and practice activities. These materials may be provided to prospects who have signed NLIs or financial aid agreements, or those who have been officially accepted for enrollment at the university.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Student-athletes are permitted to be employed during the summer, but must follow the following guidelines (which also apply to camps):

- May only be paid for work actually performed.
- Must be paid the "going rate" for similar jobs in that locale.
- May not be paid based on the value student-athlete brings to an employer for publicity or reputation based on athletics ability.
- If giving private lessons, must follow the NCAA "fee for lesson" rules.

SUMMER CAMPS

Student-athletes are also allowed to be involved in summer camps hosted by institutional staff members. Some important camp related reminders include:

- If employed, student-athlete duties must be generally supervisory – coaching cannot be more than half of the student-athlete's work time.
- Student-athletes who only lecture or demonstrate skills at a camp MAY NOT receive any compensation for their participation at the camp.
- Prospects, including transfers, may not be employed at summer camps.

BASKETBALL ONLY SUMMER LEAGUES

A student-athlete may compete during the official summer vacation period on a team in a league approved by the NCAA, provided the student-athlete has received **PRIOR** written permission from the institution's athletics director.

FEE-FOR-LESSONS

A student-athlete may receive compensation for teaching or coaching sport skills or techniques in his or her sport on a fee-for-lesson basis, provided:

1. Institutional facilities are not used;
2. Playing lessons shall not be permitted;
3. The institution obtains and keeps on file documentation of the recipient of the lesson(s) and the fee for the lesson(s) provided during any time of the year; and
4. The compensation is paid by the lesson recipient (or the recipient's family) and not another individual or entity.