

NOVEMBER IS NLI SIGNING MONTH!

The National Letter of Intent early signing period is quickly approaching – November 14-21. Simply because prospective student-athletes sign NLIs does not change their status to that of student-athletes. Thus, signees should still be treated as prospects. As a result, some things to keep in mind once a prospect signs an NLI:

Jerseys and Helmets

It is impermissible for an institution to loan a jersey or equipment to a prospect for use during a prospect's press conference to announce his/her acceptance of the institution's offer of an athletic scholarship.

Radio and TV Interviews

It is impermissible for a coach to participate on a radio/TV show in which a prospect is involved in any manner. However, a coach may participate on a show devoted exclusively to discussing signees provided the institution does not initiate or arrange the media activity.

Video Clips

An institution may show video clips of its signees through its normal media outlets during its announcement. Unsigned prospects may appear in the clip, but the focus of the clip must be related to the prospect committed to the institution. An institution may not make arrangements for the clip to appear on TV, though the media may choose whether or not to use the clip in its broadcast.

Booster Parties

A booster group may hold a party to celebrate national 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 the normal media outlets and the media are not present at the function. However, media may be present at a booster group party if the party is held on campus and serves as the one-time press-conference to the media. Prospects and their families may not attend.

Highlight Films

An institution may produce a single highlight film (per sport) that includes all of its signed prospects to show its boosters at a booster function.

Press Releases

An institution may issue a press release regarding a signee only after the prospect signs an acceptance of the institution's offer of financial aid. There are no limits on the number of occasions that such information may be released, but information may not be used in advertising of any sort (i.e., print, media, billboards).

STUDENT-ATHLETE PROMOTIONAL APPEARANCES

Student-athletes are often asked to make appearances at schools and at charitable functions. NCAA Bylaw 12.5.1.1 requires student-athletes to get pre-approval prior to participating in any such events.

Student-athletes may make promotional appearances for charitable organizations at commercial locations only if the commercial location is not a cosponsor of the event and the student-athlete does not promote any commercial products. The commercial establishment cannot advertise the presence of student-athletes or be involved directly or indirectly in promoting the activity.

HELPFUL HINTS TO STAY COMPLIANT

- Q. We know we cannot hang a prospect's jersey or a sign welcoming a prospect for an official or unofficial visit, but is it permissible to show a prospect a 5" x 7" photo of the prospect superimposed into a Boilermaker uniform?
- A. No. Under new NCAA rules, even a 5" x 7" photo of the prospect would be considered a personalized recruiting aid that is not permitted on official or unofficial visits.
- Q. Is it permissible for a coach to travel on the last day of the dead period to watch a prospect compete on the day following the dead period?
- A. Yes. This is permissible provided no recruiting activity takes place until after the dead period.
- Q. May a student-athlete receive prize money for placing at an outside competition as long as the prize money does not exceed expenses?
- A. No. Once student-athletes enroll in college, they may not receive any type of prize money (cash, gift certificate, etc.) and may not forward any prize money to other parties (friends, teammates, charities, etc.).
- Q. When may a coach observe an individual who has not yet entered the 9th grade?
- A. Evaluation activities related to individuals who have yet to enroll in classes for the 9th grade may only occur during contact or evaluation periods when it is permissible to evaluate prospective student-athletes.

SKILL INSTRUCTION – SPORTS OTHER THAN FOOTBALL

Skill instruction is permitted outside the playing season from the first day of class to one week prior to the beginning of the spring final exam period.

More than four student-athletes may be involved in skill-related instruction with the coaches from September 15 through April 15. Prior to September 15 and after April 15, no more than four student-athletes from the same team may be involved in skill-related instruction with their coach(es) at any one time in any facility.

When male practice players are involved during skill instruction activities, they must count in the limits of permissible student-athletes. Therefore, during times when only four student-athletes can be involved in skill instruction at once, if male practice players are participating, they must count in that limit of four.

GRADUATION RATES/BANNED DRUG LIST

Per NCAA legislation, coaches must provide to prospects and their parents or guardians the institution's NCAA graduation rates and the NCAA's banned drug list.

Graduation rates should be provided at the earliest opportunity after the first arranged contact with the prospect. However, all prospects must be provided this information no later than the day before signing a National Letter of Intent.

The NCAA banned drug list should also be given to prospects at the earliest opportunity after the first arranged contact with the prospect. For those prospects whose recruitment initiates after July 1st, the banned drug list must be provided at the earliest opportunity.

"REDSHIRTS" AND "MEDICAL REDSHIRTS"

• Is it too late to "redshirt"? What constitutes a "season of competition"?

Any competition against another team, regardless of time, during an intercollegiate athletics season counts as a season of competition in that sport. Even if a student-athlete participates for one minute of competition, it will count as one of their four seasons of competition. (Bylaw 14.2.3.1)

- **First-Year Exception:** Student-athletes in their initial year of enrollment may compete in preseason exhibition contests and preseason practice scrimmages (as permitted in their sport) without counting as a season of competition. (Bylaw 14.2.3.1.3)

• What is a Medical Hardship Waiver (i.e., a "Medical Redshirt")?

A student-athlete may be granted an additional year of competition if he/she suffers an incapacitating injury or illness and the injury/illness occurs:

- During one of the four seasons of intercollegiate competition or subsequent to the first day of class during the student-athlete's senior year of high school;
- Prior to the completion of the first half of the playing season that concludes with the NCAA championship and results in incapacity for remainder of the season; and
- The student-athlete has not participated in more than three contests or dates of competition or 30% (whichever number is greater) of the scheduled or completed contests/dates of competition. (Bylaw 14.2.4)

• What is a Medical Non-Counter?

A student-athlete on scholarship (i.e., a "counter") who becomes injured/ill to the point that he/she will never again be able to participate in intercollegiate athletic competition may still receive his/her athletics scholarship, but the scholarship will not "count" toward the team scholarship limits, beginning with the academic year following the injury. (Bylaw 15.5.1.3) If the injury/illness occurs prior to any athletics participation, the student-athlete's scholarship will not count for the current and subsequent years.

****TIP: Athletic trainers and coaches should ensure that all injuries are documented properly and medical records are retained.**

CONDITIONS FOR REDUCTION OR CANCELLATION OF ATHLETICALLY RELATED FINANCIAL AID DURING THE PERIOD OF THE AWARD

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that, in addition to the legislated conditions by which a student-athlete's financial aid may be reduced or cancelled during the period of the award, an institution may include other nonathletically related conditions (e.g., compliance with academic policies or standards, compliance with athletics department rules or policies) in its financial aid agreements. The committee noted that regardless of the reason for reduction or cancellation, the student-athlete must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before the aid is reduced or cancelled.

PROVISION OF REQUIRED COURSE SUPPLIES BASED ON WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Interpretation:

The committee determined that an institution may provide required course supplies to a student-athlete for a course (even if the supplies are not specified in the institution's catalog or course syllabus), provided the supplies are required of all students in the course and the course instructor indicates in writing that the supplies are required.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION INCLUDES ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that in order for a prospective student-athlete to meet the high school graduation requirement for initial-eligibility purposes, the prospect must meet all graduation requirements, including academic and nonacademic (e.g., state exit exams, community service, senior project) requirements, as defined for all students by the prospect's high school.

CONTACT AT A SUMMER-CERTIFIED EVENT WITH A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE WHO HAS SIGNED A NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that in men's basketball, it is not permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to communicate in any manner at the event site with any prospect who is participating in a summer-certified event, including contact with a prospect who has signed a NLI. The committee noted that it would be permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to communicate with a prospect who has signed an NLI only if the prospect is not participating in the event and is not associated with any team participating in the event (e.g., prospect travels to event at his or her own expense, prospect is not under the authority of the coach at any time, prospect does not participate in team functions).

OFFICIAL VISIT DOCUMENTATION

A reminder to all coaches that a valid standardized test score must be presented to the compliance office prior to the prospect arriving to campus. If there is a question about the availability of the test results you must go to the testing service website and that information will be available. Even though a prospect has taken the test, but the results are not yet accessed, it is a NCAA violation to bring the prospect to campus for an official visit.

COUNTING CONTESTS OR DATES OF COMPETITION FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING HARDSHIP WAIVER

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that in those sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition throughout the season (e.g., golf, tennis, ice hockey), the hardship waiver legislation must be applied on the basis of competition over the course of the entire season (e.g., nonchampionship and championship segments). Further, in those sports in which the playing season may be divided into two segments, but championship selection is based on competition during only one segment of the season (e.g., spring baseball, fall soccer), the hardship waiver legislation must be applied on the basis of competition conducted during only the championship segment.

COMPLIANCE QUIZ

Answers to the quiz may be found on page 6 of the newsletter.

1. When must an institution provide its graduation rate data to all prospective student-athletes and their parents or legal guardians?
 - a. The earliest opportunity once an in-person contact has been made.
 - b. Upon the request of the prospective student-athlete.
 - c. Not later than the day prior to the prospective student-athlete's signed acceptance of the National Letter of Intent or signed acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid.
 - d. All of the above.
2. A group of prospective student-athletes are visiting campus for an official visit. The institution hosting the prospective student-athletes would like to take them to the institution's home athletics contest at an off-campus site, within a 30-mile radius of campus. It is permissible for the institution to provide the prospective student-athletes transportation to the competition.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
3. A QUALIFIER has completed which of the following requirements?
 - a. A corresponding ACT or SAT score and core course grade-point average.
 - b. Completion of minimum number of core courses in specified subject areas.
 - c. Submitted a record of courses and course grades certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center using official high school transcripts.
 - d. All of the above.
4. A prospective student-athlete signed a National Letter of Intent (or written offer of admission and/or financial aid for those institutions that do not subscribe to the National Letter of Intent) with Purdue University. If the prospective student-athlete enrolls in the summer term at Purdue University prior to the prospective student-athlete's initial full-time enrollment, the institution may provide:
 - a. Access to academic services.
 - b. Use of the institution's training-room facilities.
 - c. Transportation to a summer job when no other employees receive transportation.
 - d. a and b only.

5. For a nonqualifier (with no previous collegiate attendance) to be eligible to practice, compete or receive athletically-related financial aid, he or she must first serve an academic year in residence at the certifying institution.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

6. During an official visit to an institution, the coaching staff informed the visiting prospective student-athlete, who has not signed a National Letter of Intent or written offer of financial aid, that a medical examination may be provided at the expense of the institution. If the prospective student-athlete agrees to the medical examination, it is permissible for the institution's head athletic trainer, who is not a physician, to conduct the medical exam.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.

Signing Dates for the 2008-09 Academic Year

Do not sign prior to 7:00 a.m. (local time) on the following dates or after the final signing date listed for each sport.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Initial Signing Date</u>	<u>Final Signing Date</u>
Basketball (Early Period)	November 14, 2007	November 21, 2007
Basketball (Late Period)	April 16, 2008	May 21, 2008
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 19, 2007	January 15, 2008
Football (Regular Period)	February 6, 2008	April 1, 2008
Soccer	February 6, 2008	August 1, 2008
All Other Sports (Early Period)	November 14, 2007	August 1, 2008
All Other Sports (Late Period)	April 9, 2008	August 1, 2008

Answers to the quiz on page 5:

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| 1. d. (13.3.1.2) | 2. a. (13.6.6.2; 13.5.1) | 3. d. (14.3.1.1) |
| 4. d. (13.2.7) | 5. a. (14.3.4) | 6. b. (13.11.2.5.1) |