

THE BAYLOR BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the Office of Athletics Compliance



NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

November-December 2007

The 2007-2008 fall National Letter of Intent (NLI) signing period begins November 14, 2007 and ends November 21, 2007. This signing period applies to all Baylor sports **except** football, soccer and men's and women's track.

The purpose of the NLI is to provide certainty in the recruiting process. A fully and properly executed NLI binds an institution and prospective student-athlete for one academic year. Specifically, the college or university agrees to provide the prospect with an athletic scholarship for the upcoming academic year and the prospect agrees to attend the particular college for the same period of time.

A student that does not attend the signing institution for at least one academic year will be penalized. He or she must serve one academic year in residence and forgo one season of eligibility in all sports upon enrollment at any other NLI-member institution. This penalty applies unless the student secures a "complete release" from the signing institution. If the signing institution opts not grant a "complete release," the student may appeal to the NLI Steering Committee for relief.

One of the most important conditions of the NLI participation is the agreement by member institutions to discontinue their recruitment of a prospective student-athlete once that individual signs an NLI with another NLI-member institution. This principle supports the overarching goal of the letter of intent program to bring a measure of stability and certainty to the recruitment process.

Prior to signing day, Baylor University may not comment publicly on a prospective student-athlete except to confirm its recruitment of the prospect. Only after Baylor is in receipt of a valid, signed NLI can the university issued a media release concerning the prospective student-athlete's written commitment to attend Baylor. This information may be released to media outlets an unlimited number of times however an institution may not purchase or receive commercial advertisement for this purpose.

According to NCAA Rules, an individual remains a prospect even after he or she signs a National Letter of Intent. Therefore, off-campus contact with a signee is only

permitted by certified off-campus recruiters (i.e., no booster contact) and the prohibition against contact with a prospect before and during a competition remains in effect. (Note: coaches may have contact with a signee's relatives at the competition site.)

There are however two key differences in the recruitment of signee's as compared to prospects that have not yet signed an NLI with Baylor. First, there is no limit on the number of telephone calls that may be made to a Baylor signee. Second, there is no limit on the number of contacts that may be made with a Baylor signee provided no contact occurs during a dead period and, in the sports of football and basketball, contact at the prospect's school occurs only during a permissible contact period and does not exceed one visit per week.

For more information about the National Letter of Intent Program, visit the NLI website at: www.nationalletter.org.