

# The Interpreter

## ***Computer Recruiting Presentations***

July 2007

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., pre-game 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 non-coaching 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.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Compliance Corner

### **Compliance Flashback...**

**In what year was Grambling State University penalized and put on probation for violations including out-of-season athletically related activities (17.11.6) and dead or quiet periods for other sports (30.11.9)?**



# NCAA BYLAW OF THE MONTH

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## Summer Practice

### Bylaw 17.2.6.1

Practice that is organized or financially supported by a member institution shall be prohibited during the summer unless specifically authorized in the bylaws (e.g., foreign tour) or through official interpretations approved by the Management Council. An institution may pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities in their sport. (*Adopted: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, Revised: 4/28/05*)

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## From the Interpretation File

### Educational Column -- Competition Against Prospective Student-Athletes

NCAA Division I institutions should note that pursuant to NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.11.1.2, an institution's varsity intercollegiate athletics team may compete against a two-year college team, but may not compete against a high school or preparatory school team. Additionally, an institution's varsity intercollegiate athletics team may not participate in a contest against an outside team (e.g., non-scholastic team) that includes high school prospective student-athletes, except for permissible contests while on a foreign tour, exempted contests against a foreign team in the United States and the United States national team. This legislation addresses the membership's concern regarding prospective student-athletes competing against student-athletes as a means of evaluating whether the prospective student-athletes should be recruited.

It is important to note that at its April 17, 2007, meeting, the NCAA Division I Management Council modified a December 12, 2006, official interpretation regarding competition against prospective student-athletes in individual sports. That interpretation, which has now been archived, stated that in individual sports, it was impermissible for an institution's varsity team members to compete directly (e.g., in the same heat, flight, pairing) against high school prospective student-athletes who are representing an outside team. Instead, the Management Council issued an official interpretation dated April 17, 2007, stating 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. Therefore, under these conditions, it would be permissible in individual sports for members of an institution's varsity team to compete directly (e.g., in the same heat, flight, pairing) against high school prospective student-athletes who are representing an outside team.

Bylaw 13.11.1.2 does not prevent members of an institution's varsity intercollegiate athletics team from competing in established national championship events (including junior national championships) or in Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup or World University Games qualifying competition against an outside team that includes high school prospective student-athletes. Further, in accordance with Bylaw 16.8.1.3, institutions may provide student-athletes actual and necessary expenses to participate in these activities.

Effective August 1, 2007, Bylaw 16.8.1.3 will permit institutions to provide actual and necessary expenses to student-athletes to participate in the following activities:

1. Established national championship events (including junior national championships);
2. Specific competition (e.g., Olympic Trials) from which participants may directly qualify for the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup and World University Games; and
3. One national team tryout competition event from which participants are selected for the national team that will participate in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup or World University Games although national team participants may be selected from multiple tryout events for a particular listed competitive event, an institution may provide expenses for only one such tryout event for each of the listed competitive events.

Therefore, effective August 1, 2007, members of an institution's varsity intercollegiate athletics team would be permitted to compete against an outside team that includes high school prospective student-athletes in any of these specified activities.

[References: Bylaws 13.11.1.2 (competition against prospective student-athletes), 16.8.1.3 (other competition) and 17.02.8.1 (exempted events); official interpretations: (4/17/2007, Item Ref. 15-b) and (12/12/06, Item Ref. 9) which has been archived; and a staff interpretation (2/7/2007, Item Ref. 1).]



# In the News....

## Oklahoma Penalized for Major Violations

The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has penalized the University of Oklahoma for major violations in its football program.

The violations involve three football student-athletes receiving payment for work not performed at a Norman, Oklahoma, automobile dealership. The impermissible benefits totaled about \$17,000 in unearned wages and led to the committee finding that the institution failed to monitor the employment of football student-athletes.

Penalties for the violations include adding two years to the university's current probationary period, a reduction in allowable financial aid, and a vacation of records for the 2005 season, including a bowl game victory.

In finding that the university demonstrated a failure to monitor, the committee noted the university failed to follow established procedures for the monitoring of student-athletes' employment when it did not timely collect gross earnings statements for 12 student-athletes who notified the university of their employment at the auto dealership during the 2005 summer vacation period. The university also failed to detect that football student-athletes worked at the auto dealership during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 fall and spring academic terms.

The institution permanently dismissed two student-athletes from the football team at the point when it determined they had knowingly and willfully been involved in receiving payment for work not performed. The third student-athlete had been previously dismissed for violations of team rules (self-imposed by the university). (The NCAA News, July, 2007) (The NCAA News, July, 2007)

## Board to Re-examine Baseball Proposal

Recent adoption of a proposal increasing the minimum amount of financial aid as well as limiting the number of counters in baseball will be reconsidered by the NCAA Board of Directors. The Board passed the changes in April with the hopes of raising APR numbers. Acting upon the recommendations of the Division I Baseball Academic Enhancement Working Group, the Board has since received more than the minimum 30 requests to override the legislation. Via the override requests, many institutions cited that requiring at least 33 percent in athletics aid would put a vice grip on schools with fewer resources and others with a higher cost of attendance.

The Board of Directors will meet on August 9th to vote on the matter. They could reaffirm the legislation or come up with a new proposal. If the Board reaffirms the proposal, the issue would be finalized by a vote at the 2008 Convention in January. However, if new legislation is proposed and passed, then another override period would begin. (The NCAA News, June, 2007)



### *Continued from Page 1*

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:** If there is a non-athletics (e.g., virtual tour of campus) video on the institution's Web site, would it be permissible to include a hyperlink to the non-athletics video in the computer recruiting presentation so that it may be shown during the presentation? In addition, could the institution insert the actual non-athletics video directly into the computer recruiting presentation?

**A:** It is permissible to include a hyperlink to a non-athletics 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 non-athletics 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).

## July

## Interpreter

## COMPLIANCE STAFF

### Football

July 1-31

Quiet

The Interpreter can be found on-line at [www.seminoles.com](http://www.seminoles.com) by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance", in the left column. The Interpreter icon is under the "What's New??" section. Past issues are also archived here.

**Mr. Bob Minnix**

Senior Associate AD

### Men's Basketball

July 1-5

Quiet

July 6-15; 22-31

Evaluation

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July 16-21

Dead

*The Interpreter* is published by the Compliance Staff. All comments should be directed to **The Interpreter**, P.O. Drawer 2195, Tallahassee, FL 32316, phone (850) 644-0963.

**Mr. Brian Battle**

Associate AD for  
Compliance

### Women's Basketball

July 1-5

Quiet

July 6-15; 22-31

Evaluation

tion

### Compliance Corner

Answer from page 1

The year was 1997 and the involved sports were Men's Basketball, Football and Women's Basketball.

**Ms. Elizabeth**

**Bookwalter**

Compliance Coordinator

**Florida State  
University**

Athletic Compliance

## July 2007

