



The Interpreter

October 2007

What is the Scoop on Official Visits?

Number of Official Visits Bylaw 13.6.2.2 & Bylaw 13.6.2.6

A prospect can take a maximum of five official visits, with no more than one to a single institution. This restriction applies regardless of the number of sports in which the prospective student-athlete is involved and only for expense paid visits to Divisions I or II institutions. Furthermore, institutions are limited to 56 official visits in football, 12 official visits in basketball and 25 official visits in baseball. Other sports have no limitation on official visits.

First Opportunity to Visit Bylaw 13.6.2.2.1

A prospective student-athlete may not be provided an expense-paid visit earlier than the opening day of classes of the prospective student-athlete's senior year in high school.

Academic Requirements for the Visit Bylaw 13.6.3

The following requirements must be met before an institution may provide an official visit to a prospective student-athlete:

- (a) A high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete must present the institution with a score from a PSAT, SAT, PLAN or ACT taken on a national testing date under national testing conditions, except that a state-administered ACT may be used to meet the requirement. The score must be presented through a testing agency document, on a high school or preparatory school academic transcript (official or unofficial) or through the use of the applicable testing agency's automated-voice system. A foreign prospect who requires a special administration of the PSAT, SAT, PLAN or ACT may present such a score upon the approval of the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet or the Initial-Eligibility Waiver Committee;
- (b) A prospective student-athlete must present this institution with a high school (or college) academic transcript;
- (c) A high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center; and
- (d) A high school or preparatory school prospective student-athlete must be placed on the institution's institutional request list (IRL) with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Length of the Official Visit Bylaw 13.6.4

An official visit to an institution shall not exceed 48 hours. A prospective student-athlete may remain in the locale in which the institution is located after the permissible 48-hour period for reasons unrelated to the official visit, provided that at the completion of the 48-hour visit, the individual departs the institution's campus, and the institution does not pay any expenses thereafter, including the cost of return transportation to the prospective student-athlete's home.

General Restrictions on the Official Visit Bylaw 13.6.7.1

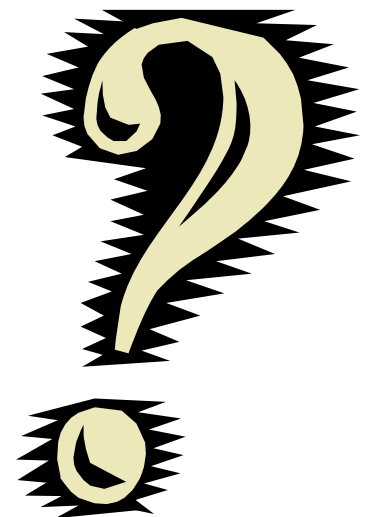
An institution may provide entertainment, which may not be excessive, on the official visit only for a prospective student-athlete and the prospective student-athlete's parents [or legal guardian(s)] or spouse and only within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus. Entertainment and contact by representatives of the institution's athletics interests during the official visit are prohibited. It is not permissible to entertain other relatives or friends (including dates) of a prospective student-athlete at any time at any site. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the entertainment is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be

Continued on page 2

Compliance Corner

What university was penalized in 2004 for improper inducements and unethical conduct when recruiting athletes for its football program?

Answer on page 4





From the Interpretation File



Educational Column -- Use of an Institution's Facilities for Physical Activities by a Group that Includes Prospective Student-Athletes

NCAA Division I institutions should note that, pursuant to Bylaw 13.11.3.2, the use of institutional facilities for physical activities by a group that includes prospective student-athletes is permissible, provided athletics department staff members (including coaches) or representatives of its athletics interests are not involved in the conduct, promotion or administration of the event. Athletics department staff members or representatives of its athletics interests may be involved only in activities that are incidental to supervising the use of the facilities. For example, while it would be permissible for athletics department staff members or representatives of its athletics interests to open and close the facility, prepare the facility for the event, and perform maintenance on the facility, it would not be permissible for athletics department staff members or representatives of its athletics interests to sell apparel, concessions or tickets for the event, advertise the event, or work at the scorer's table. Finally, any involvement by athletics department staff members, student-athletes or boosters that is incidental to supervising the use of the facilities is subject to all applicable NCAA recruiting regulations.

Continued from page 1

affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit.

Student Host Bylaw 13.6.7.5

The student host must be either a current student-athlete or a student designated in a manner consistent with the institution's policy for providing campus visits or tours to prospective students in general. The institution may provide the following to a student host entertaining a prospective student-athlete:

- (a) A maximum of \$30 for each day of the visit to cover all actual costs of entertaining the student host(s) and the prospective student-athlete (and the prospective student-athlete's parents, legal guardians or spouse), excluding the cost of meals and admission to campus athletics events. The cost of entertainment of the institution's athletics department staff members who accompany the prospective student-athlete is also excluded. If an athletics department staff member serves as the prospective student-athlete's host, his or her entertainment costs must be included in the entertainment allowance. The entertainment allowance may not be used for the purchase of souvenirs such as T-shirts or other institutional mementos. It is permissible to provide the student host with an additional \$15 per day for each additional prospective student-athlete the host entertains;
- (b) A complimentary meal, provided the student host is accompanying the prospective student-athlete during the prospective student-athlete's official visit; and
- (c) A complimentary admission to a campus athletics event, provided the ticket is utilized to accompany a prospective student-athlete to that event during the prospective student-athlete's official visit.

Meals on an Official Visit Bylaw 13.6.7.7

The cost of actual meals, not to exceed three per day, on the official visit for a prospective student-athlete and the prospective student-athlete's parents, legal guardian(s), spouse or children need not be included in the \$30-per-day entertainment expense. Meals must be comparable to those provided to student-athletes during the academic year. A reasonable snack (e.g., pizza, hamburger) may be provided in addition to the three meals.

Lodging on a Official Visit Bylaw 13.6.6 & 13.6.9

A prospective student-athlete on an official visit shall be provided lodging and take meals as regular students normally do. Local commercial facilities may be used but at a scale comparable to that of normal student life and only within a 30-mile radius of the institution's campus. Lodging may not include special accessories (e.g., jacuzzis, suites) that are not available generally to all guests residing at the establishment. Additional persons (e.g., prospective student-athlete's brother, sister, friend) may stay in the same room as the prospective student-athlete or parents, spouse or legal guardian(s) of the prospective student-athlete, but the institution shall not pay the costs resulting from the additional occupants. The additional occupants shall not be prospective student-athletes being recruited by the institution. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit.

Post High School Visits Bylaw 13.6.2.3

The one-visit limitation and the limitations on total official visits apply separately to the period in which the prospective student-athlete is in high school and to the period beginning October 15 following the prospective student-athlete's completion of high school. Thus, a prospective student-athlete may be provided a maximum of 10 official visits -- five while in high school and five beginning with the October 15 following the prospective student-athlete's completion of high school. A prospective student-athlete is not required to graduate from high school in order to receive a permissible post-high school visit.



In the News....

NCAA looking at potential rules violations at New Mexico

Associated Press

New Mexico has received notice from the NCAA of four potential rules violations involving three members of the Lobos' football coaching staff.

Athletics director Paul Krebs declined to identify the coaches but said two are no longer on staff. No allegations are directed at head coach Rocky Long.

"We will not tolerate intentional violations of NCAA rules," Krebs said at a news conference. "There is nothing more important to the health and well-being of an athletics department than integrity."

The coaches allegedly helped four prospective student athletes and a student athlete who was enrolled at New Mexico to improperly obtain credits through correspondence courses at Fresno Pacific University, another four-year college.

Only two of the five ever played for the Lobos. No current football players are involved in the allegations, which date from the spring of 2004 and fall of 2005.

The NCAA sent a notice of allegations to university President David Schmidly last week. Krebs said New Mexico will respond in writing by Dec. 7. The school then must attend a hearing before the NCAA infractions committee next spring.

Potential sanctions would be determined by the committee. They could range from lesser penalties such as recruiting restrictions to loss of television broadcasts or a bowl game ban, should committee members deem the violations a major infraction.

Krebs declined to speculate on what the outcome might be but emphasized that an internal investigation will continue. He said New Mexico will self-impose penalties if the investigation shows the allegations are supported.

"We are going to do what we think is right, based on our fact-finding," he said.

New Mexico first learned of the violations in July 2006. Krebs said administrators, including Long, weren't aware of the violations when they occurred.

He noted the NCAA is not alleging that New Mexico failed to exercise institutional control over the football program.

"This involves three individuals who on their own committed what are alleged to be ethical violations," Krebs said.

Long was traveling with the team for Saturday night's game at Arizona and wasn't available for immediate comment.

"Coach Long has been very cooperative" with NCAA investigators, Krebs said. "Like all of us, he wants to get to the bottom of this."

Krebs declined to name the assistant who remains with the team, citing that person's due process rights. He acknowledged there have been conversations with the coach, who could face undetermined penalties.

"The charges are serious," Krebs said. "We don't take it lightly." (ESPN Online, September 14, 2007)

Tar Heels investigate possible violation

Ken Tysiac

North Carolina is conducting a review to determine whether NCAA rules were broken during a basketball recruit's campus visit last weekend.

Guard Iman Shumpert of Oak Park, Ill., told the Charlotte Observer he spoke with and played pickup basketball against NBA players Raymond Felton, Sean May and Marvin Williams during his official visit. All three played for North Carolina's 2005 NCAA championship team.

"They were just using different ways to try and persuade me to go there, especially Sean May," Shumpert told the InsideCarolina Web site, whose report led to the school's review. The Web site is not affiliated with the school.

Felton and May play for the Charlotte Bobcats, Williams the Atlanta Hawks. NCAA rules forbid representatives of a school's athletics interests from making recruiting contacts.

North Carolina assistant athletics director for compliance Amy Herman, who is conducting the review, said the NBA players are considered athletics representatives because they have promoted North Carolina.

NCAA Rule 13.02.3.1 states that once someone is identified as a representative of athletics interests, they retain that identity indefinitely.

May and Williams are enrolled in classes, so Herman said they're allowed to talk to recruits just like any other student. She said the rules for students apply to May and Williams just as they do for students in the Rams Club, the athletics booster group. "If they meet the qualifications of a student, then they're able to have contact," Herman said.

Felton is not enrolled, and Herman said she plans to talk with him to determine the extent of his involvement. In Felton's case, NCAA rules allow only for "unavoidable incidental contact" involving "normal civility."

She also plans to talk with UNC coaches after they return from recruiting out of town.

If a violation occurred, North Carolina would follow normal procedure and self-report it to the NCAA as a secondary violation, Herman said.

"(The three former players said) nothing but good things about North Carolina," he said. "And then talked about how it helped them prepare for playing at that next level (NBA). But they were all pretty considerate about how it was a hard decision for me, and they sort of backed off when it came to that regard."

Shumpert said the players told him he had to make the best decision for himself and his family and not to let anyone pressure him. He also has visits scheduled to Marquette and Georgia Tech and plans to choose between the three schools before his senior basketball season begins.

Herman said previous NCAA rulings do not prohibit prospects from playing in pickup games against former players. UNC sports information director Steve Kirschner said it's not unusual for the school to conduct a review of possible rule violations. (Charlotte Observer Online, September 19, 2007)

Recruiting Calendar

Football		
October 1-31	Quiet	
(Except 6 Evaluation Days for Sept., Oct., & Nov.)		
Men's Basketball		
October 1-5	Cont/Eval	
October 6-31	Evaluation Only	
Women's Basketball		
October 1-6	Cont/Eval	
October 7-31	Evaluation Only	
Baseball		
October 1-31	Cont/Eval	
Softball		
October 1-12	Contact	
October 13-31	Cont/Eval	
Volleyball		
October 1-31	Cont/Eval	
Track and Field		
October 1-31	Cont/Eval	
All Other Sports		
October 1-31	Cont/Eval	

Interpreter On-Line

The Interpreter can be found on-line at www.seminoles.com by clicking onto "NCAA Compliance", in the left column. The Interpreter link can be found towards the bottom of the section. Past issues are archived here.

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

Answer from page 1

Mississippi State was put on probation and not allowed to participate in the post-season for violations of Bylaw 13 and 10.1.

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