

The Interpreter

October 2003



Official Visits



The beginning of the academic year signals the time of year when high school seniors start to finalize their college plans. To help them in their selection, the NCAA permits institutions to provide seniors paid trips to their institutions, known as official visits.

Number of Official Visits

Bylaw 13.7.1.2 states that a prospect can take a maximum of five official visits, with no more than one to a single institution.

According to **Bylaw 13.7.1.6**, 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 the number of official visits.

First Opportunity to Visit

Bylaw 13.7.1.2.2, men's basketball prospects can be provided with a paid visit no earlier than January 1 of the prospect's junior year in high school, with no visits occurring in the summer between the junior and senior years in high school. In all other sports, prospects may not be provided an expense-paid visit earlier than the opening day of classes of the prospect's senior year in high school.

Written Notification

Per **Bylaw 13.7.1.2.1**, each institution will notify the prospect in writing, at the time of the invitation but prior to the visit.

Academic Requirements for the Visit

Prospects must present the institution with a high school academic transcript (**Bylaw 13.7.1.2.3.2**) and a score from the PSAT, SAT, PLAN or ACT exam taken on a national testing date (**Bylaw 13.7.1.2.3.1**).

Length of the Official Visit

Bylaw 13.7.2 states that an official visit to an institution shall not exceed 48 hours. The 48 hour period begins when the prospect first arrives on campus, rather than with the initiation of the prospect's transportation by a parent or the time of the prospect's arrival at the airport or elsewhere in the community.

Entertainment on the Official Visit

According to **Bylaw 13.7.5.1**, an institution may provide entertainment, which may not

be excessive, for a prospect, the prospect's parents or legal guardians or spouse only within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus.

An entertainment option open to coaches is a maximum of three complimentary admissions to a campus athletic event. These admissions must be issued on a pass list, on an individual game basis. The seating at these contests must be in the general seating area (**Bylaw 13.7.5.2**).

Student Host

Per **Bylaw 13.7.5.5**, a student serving as a host may be provided a maximum of \$30 per day of the visit to cover actual cost of entertaining the prospect, the prospect's parents or spouse. These funds may not be used to purchase souvenirs. The student host is permitted to receive an additional \$15 per day for additional prospect he or she entertains. A student host is also permitted to receive a complimentary meal and a complimentary admission to a campus athletic event, provided the host is accompanying the prospect during the official visit.

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Official Visits

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Sportsmanship is Focus of NCAA

Meals on an Official Visit

Bylaw 13.7.5.7 states that the cost of actual meals on the official visit for a prospect, the prospect's parents or legal guardians or spouse need not be included in the \$30 per day entertainment expense. A dessert or after-dinner snack at the coach's residence also may be excluded from the \$30 per day entertainment expense. The meals are not to exceed three per day.

Lodging on an Official Visit

A prospect 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 campus, as stated in **Bylaw 13.7.4**.

In addition, **Bylaw 13.7.7** states additional persons (e.g., prospect's brother, sister, friend) may stay in the same room as the prospect or parents, but the institution shall not pay the additional costs resulting from the additional occupants. The additional occupants shall not be prospects being recruited by the institution.



A compilation of "best practices" regarding sportsmanship and fan behavior at college sports contests have been distributed to college and university presidents and chancellors.

The report was created at a February summit in Dallas at which more than 150 leaders in intercollegiate athletics, higher education and government gathered to discuss ways to prevent or at least reduce incidences of unsportsmanlike behavior before, during and after athletic contests.

The report provides a comprehensive collection of suggested policies and procedures for athletic staff, community leaders and other key constituents to effectively discourage hostile or inappropriate behavior. The report addresses five areas: institutional game management; campus environment and community relations; student/fan behavior and alcohol abuse; coach and player behavior; and the role and responsibility of the media.



From the Interpretation File



Contacts With a Prospect Who Has Signed a National Letter of Intent at a Summer-Certified Event.

In basketball, it is not permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to communicate in any way with a prospect who is participating in a summer-certified event under any circumstances, including contact with a prospect who has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI). It would be permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to communicate with such a prospect who is in attendance at a summer-certified event only if the prospect is not participating in the event and is not associated with any team participating in the event.

Progress Towards Degree Requirements—Six Hour Requirement.

Bylaw 14.4.3.1.5 requires credit hours used to meet the progress toward degree requirements be degree-applicable hours. Therefore, a student-athlete who has designated a degree program must satisfactorily compete six hours of academic credit that are applicable toward the student-athlete's degree program for each term of full-time enrollment. Student-athletes who are in their first two years of enrollment and have not designated a degree program may use credit hour acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs to meet the six hour requirement.

Bylaw 12.02.4 and Participation on Club Teams.

A club team that provides any team member with more than actual and necessary expenses would be considered a professional team pursuant to Bylaw 12.02.4. Therefore, in individual sports where an individual represents a club team in competition that includes team scoring and the club team pays any team member more than actual and necessary expenses that individual would have competed on a professional team. Conversely, an individual would not be considered to have competed on a professional team if he or she participates as an individual and the individual's points were not applied to a team score.



In the News....

2003-04

NLI Signing Dates

Basketball

Early Period

Nov 12, 2003-Nov 19, 2003

Late Period

April 14, 2004-May 19, 2004

Football

Midyear JC Transfers

Dec 17, 2003-Jan 15, 2004

Regular Period

Feb 4, 2004-April 1, 2004

Soccer

Feb 4, 2004-Aug 1, 2004

All Other Sports

Early Period

Nov 12, 2003-Nov 19, 2003

Late Period

April 14, 2004-Aug 1, 2004

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A National Letter of Intent cannot be signed prior to 7:00 am (local time) on the following dates or after the final signing date listed for each sport.

## Fresno State on Probation

Fresno State was put on four years probation by the NCAA for violations including academic fraud.

The probation is retroactive to December 2002, when Fresno State penalized itself, including banning the men's basketball team from postseason play last season and cutting three scholarships.

The men's basketball team's showing in the 2000 NCAA tournament will be wiped from the record book, and the team will have to return 90% of the money it received for that appearance.

The NCAA ruled that an academic advisor and statistician prepared course work in 2000 for two men's basketball players in their last semesters of eligibility and for a prospective student-athlete.

## Prospect's Mother Lied

A prep star named in an NCAA investigation into the Auburn basketball program was never offered a scholarship and never given gifts to encourage him to sign with the Tigers as his mother claims, the *Mobile Register* reported.

The newspaper said the mother of Huntsville prep star Chadd Moore wanted her son to play at Auburn.

But the school never offered Moore a scholarship and the relationship between Auburn and the Moores quickly soured, leading Clara Moore to falsely claim that Auburn offered her son money and a car to play for the Tigers.

The NCAA has also charged Auburn with another major violation in the recruitment of Jackie Butler, who signed with Mississippi State.

## The Clarett Saga Continues

Maurice Clarett won't play football this year—at Ohio State or anywhere else. Ohio State suspended the running back for the season for accepting "thousands of dollars" in illicit extra benefits and lying to investigators. These findings would follow Clarett to any school if he decides to transfer.

Even though the infractions date back to 2002 the school is not in jeopardy of having its national title stripped.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger said Clarett would be required to make a donation to a charity of his choice equal to the amount he received in benefits, which Geiger termed as "thousands of dollars," if he wants to be reinstated.

Ohio State can appeal for Clarett's reinstatement after the year suspension is complete.

If Clarett transfers, then the NCAA requires the new school to declare him ineligible, then seek his reinstatement through the NCAA. He would have to sit out a year in addition to any suspension or ineligibility handed down by the NCAA in order to play at another Division I-A school. Clarett could play immediately in a smaller division after he is reinstated by the NCAA.

Clarett's attorney, Alan Milstein, has sent a letter to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue and NFL's Players' Association Representative Gene Upshaw requesting that Clarett be allowed to declare for the next college draft and play next year in the NFL. The NFL rule prohibits players from joining the league until at least three years after graduation from high school.

Milstein hopes to have a meeting with the NFL to present Clarett's case for inclusion into the draft and said that his client is "keeping all of his options open."

## October Recruiting Calendar



## Interpreter On-Line

## COMPLIANCE STAFF 644-4272

|                                                            |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Football</b><br>Oct 1-31                                | Eval/Quiet          |
| <b>Men's Basketball</b><br>Sept 9-Oct 5<br>Oct 6-Oct 31    | Contact<br>Quiet    |
| <b>Women's Basketball</b><br>Sept 30-Oct 7<br>Oct 8-Oct 31 | Quiet<br>Quiet/Eval |
| <b>Baseball</b><br>Sept 12- Nov 9                          | Cont/Eval           |
| <b>Softball</b><br>Oct 1-Oct 31                            | Cont/Eval           |
| <b>Volleyball</b><br>Oct 1-Oct 31                          | Cont/Eval           |

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 archived here and contain more detailed information than space prohibits in the newsletter form.

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