

The Interpreter



Official Visits



October 2004

Complimentary Admissions

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 13.7.1.2.1 states that 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

Although the NCAA bylaw that written notification be provided to the prospect prior to the official visit that this would be considered one of the prospect's five official visits was eliminated, Florida State University still requires the notification to be sent.

Academic Requirements for the Visit

Prospects must present the institution with a high school transcript, which may be an unofficial transcript or a copy of an unofficial transcript per **Bylaw 13.7.1.2.2.2** and a score from the PSAT, SAT, ACT or PLAN exam taken on a national testing date per **Bylaw 13.7.2.2.1**.

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 stated in **Bylaw 13.7.5.2**.

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As set forth in Bylaw 16.2.1.1, an institution may provide up to four complimentary admissions per home or away contest to a student-athlete in the sport in which he or she participates (either practices or competes).

Bylaw 16.2.1.1.2 states that an institution may provide each student-athlete who participates in or is a member of a team participating in a conference championship, NCAA championship or bowl game with six complimentary admissions.

Complimentary admissions will be issued through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. The individual utilizing the complimentary admission must present identification at the pass gate.

Student-athletes may not receive payment or any other item of value for his or her complimentary admission.



Official Visits (Continued from page one)

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 each 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.

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.

A change to the NCAA legislation now permits a volunteer coach to receive a complimentary meal during a prospect's official visit, provided the volunteer coach dines with the prospect. This can be seen in **Bylaw 11.01.5 (c)**.

Lodging on an Official Visit

A prospect on an official visit shall be provided lodging and take meals as general 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.

Other changes to official visits have been put in place nationwide due to the recruiting reform by the NCAA. Some of the changes include:

- * Campuses must have written policies that specifically prohibit inappropriate or illegal behavior in recruiting.
- * Student hosts must be current student-athletes or students who conduct visits or tours as part of the admissions process.
- * Institutions cannot use personalized recruiting aides (such as jerseys or scoreboard presentations) or game-day simulations during campus visits. Prospects can visit the locker room before or after a game or stand on the sidelines during pre-game activities under this measure.



From the Interpretation File



Sending Recruiting Material to Prospects and Coaches within the Fifty United States

Recruiting material (other than the NLI or other written admissions and/or financial aid commitment to attend the institution) may only be sent to prospects, coaches of prospects and any other individual responsible for teaching or directing any activity in which a prospect is involved, who reside in the fifty United States, by first-class mail or a lesser rate service (e.g., parcel post) and with no extra services (e.g., certified mail, delivery confirmation). Pursuant to the United States Postal Service guidelines for letters and small packages weighing over a specified amount, priority mail is equivalent to first-class mail. (Official, 9/1/04)

Replacement of a Football Assistant Coach

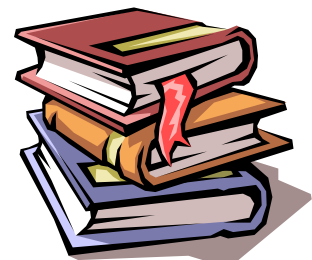
Only a head coach may replace an assistant coach at any time during a week, provided no more than a total of seven coaches are engaging in off-campus recruiting at any one time during a particular week. (Official, 8/25/04)

Recruited Football Student-Athlete who Practices during the Preseason by does not Enroll in the Fall

A recruited football student-athlete who practices during the preseason and does not enroll as a full-time student in the fall term, but later receives athletically related financial aid (for the first time) during the same academic year shall be an initial counter for that year. (Official, 8/11/04)

Student-Athlete Writing, Publishing and Promoting a Book under Pseudonym

A student-athlete who writes a book under a pseudonym may also use the pseudonym in the promotion and sale of the book, provided the student-athlete's name does not appear in the book or in any promotional material and the student-athlete is not involved in any in-person activities related to the promotion or sale of the book. (Official, 8/11/04)





In the News....



Tech Reports Violations

Georgia Tech recently acknowledged having certified 17 student-athletes as eligible when they had not met the NCAA's academic requirements.

The school asserts the violations are errors of omission and have put corrective measures in place to prevent further oversight. The explicit nature of the violations have not been reported but all the student-athletes except one earned the sufficient number of credit hours with acceptable GPA's.

Georgia Tech views the violations as secondary and has offered to penalize itself. (Atlanta-AP)



USC's Mike Williams Will Not Play

On August 26, 2004, the NCAA released the decision regarding the eligibility of USC football player Mike Williams. Williams was deemed ineligible to play based on evidence relating to academic deficiencies and on evidence relating to amateurism and sports agents.

Kevin Lennon, NCAA Vice-President for Membership Services stated, "There were two obstacles facing Mike for eligibility [academics and amateurism/sports agents]. Either one was sufficient to prohibit participation in competition. In this case, neither obstacle could be cleared." (NCAA News Release, August 26, 2004)

Division I Legislative Proposals Tally 131

As of September 26, 2004, 131 Division I proposals had been submitted by the member conferences, the two Division I cabinets as well as the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Proposals are reviewed by the Cabinet in September and will then await discussion and initial Management Council review at the NCAA Convention in January. (NCAA News)

NCAA Inquiry by House Judiciary Committee

A press release dated September 8, 2004, from the Office of Congressman Spencer Bachus of the 6th District of Alabama has announced that the House Judiciary Committee has officially scheduled an oversight hearing regarding the NCAA. The hearing, entitled "Due Process and the NCAA", was set for September 24, 2004.

Congressman Bachus stated, "the NCAA exercises a state-like authority over college athletics in this country, yet routinely denies procedural due process to those under investigation. With the incredibly high stakes involved in college athletics today, it is critical that the NCAA respect the basic rights of all those involved in its investigations."

A Montgomery attorney made the original demand for congressional hearings in January 2003, after the University of Alabama was placed on probation by the NCAA stemming from recruiting violations involving rogue boosters in Memphis and North Alabama.

Former Coach Sues UK, SEC & NCAA

Claude Bassett, Kentucky's former recruiting coordinator for football—the central figure in an NCAA investigation that led to major sanctions—has sued the university's Athletic Association, the NCAA and the Southeastern Conference for \$50 million, claiming they conspired to keep him from landing another college job.

Bassett resigned in November 2000, shortly before the NCAA began investigating allegations of wrongdoing in Kentucky's program. In 2002, the NCAA placed Kentucky on probation for more than three dozen recruiting violations committed between 1998 and 2000. It banned the Wildcats from a bowl game for one season and ordered the forfeiture of 19 scholarships over a three year period.

Bassett, who worked for coach Hal Mumme, was found in violation of NCAA ethical conduct bylaws and effectively was banned from working for any NCAA school for eight years. At the time, Bassett acknowledged breaking NCAA recruiting rules.

Bassett is now the athletic director and football coach at a high school in Robstown, Texas.

In the suit, Bassett asks the court to find that the three defendants violated federal antitrust laws by banning him from coaching. (Lexington-AP)





October Recruiting Calendar

Football

Oct 1-30 Quiet
except for 6 evaluation days

Men's Basketball

Sept 9-Oct 5 Contact
Oct 6-31 Quiet

Women's Basketball

Sept 30-Oct 7 Quiet
Oct 8-31 Quiet
except for 40 evaluation days

Baseball

Oct 1-31 Cont/Eval

Softball

Oct 1-31 Cont/Eval

Volleyball

Oct 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 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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