



The Irish Interpreter

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University of Notre Dame Athletic Compliance Office

Mike Karwoski,
Associate Athletic
Director
(574)631-4107

Lisa Deibler,
Assistant Athletic
Director
(574)631-3248

Nina King,
Director of Rules
Education
(574)631-3041

Allen Greene,
Coordinator of
Compliance
Information
(574)631-7358

Joyce Center
Notre Dame, IN 46556

FAX (574)631-9961

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Athletics Department Recruiting Policy

Fall is a time of year when a lot of prospective student-athletes come to campus for official and unofficial visits. Notre Dame endeavors to maintain a highly competitive athletics program consistent with its tradition, heritage, and overall mission as a Catholic University. It will attempt to excel in intercollegiate athletics, but always in conformity with its primary role as an educator and moral guide. Notre Dame will conduct its intercollegiate athletics program so as to support the University's commitment to education, as well as the letter and spirit of the policies and procedures of the University, its conferences, and the NCAA.

The University of Notre Dame is committed to operating the Athletics program with the highest standards of behavior and practices in all areas, including recruiting. The University will conduct all recruiting activities in accordance with this commitment and in compliance with all applicable NCAA regulations. In order to guide the staff, coaches, student hosts, visiting recruits, and their parents/legal guardians, the University has established this policy to clearly state the University's expectations for recruiting visits, to establish a procedure for staff and students to report concerns about recruiting practices, to state the University's intention to deal with any inappropriate recruiting activities swiftly, and to establish education and training in relevant areas to assist staff and students to adhere to these high standards. The University seeks to prevent recruiting abuses by these actions.

Screening of Recruits

- Coaches are responsible for evaluating a recruit's character and citizenship and for recruiting individuals who will share the University's commitment to the highest standards of behavior and attitude.
- Coaches are expected to communicate to recruits their expectations in terms of behavior and attitude prior to the official visit.
- If a coach receives information that a recruit has any incidents in his/her background, such as arrests, citations, or any other potentially embarrassing incidents or incidents that would indicate a lack of character, the coach is to make the Athletics Director and Assistant Provost /Admissions aware of those issues so that a joint decision can be made on whether or not to continue recruitment.

Activities during Official and Unofficial Visits

- Coaches are responsible to select responsible student hosts who will follow the coaches' instructions and avoid inappropriate behaviors.
- Coaches are responsible to instruct the student hosts about what types of behavior and activities are appropriate and inappropriate. While good judgment is expected of student-athletes, and all possible activities cannot be listed, following are some examples of inappropriate activities:
 - Extravagant meals
 - Provision of alcohol to recruits

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Recruiting Policy (continued)

- Provision of excessive transportation, such as limousines
- Attendance at adult entertainment facilities or the use of escort services, exotic dancers, or any other similar services
- Participation in any unethical or illegal activity, such as the provision of drugs, gambling activities, or activities at any location that may cause a perception of impropriety
- Coaches are responsible to ask the student host what free time or social activities are planned for the recruit and to ask after the visit what activities occurred.
- Coaches are responsible to inform the student host that providing alcohol to any prospective student-athlete either directly or indirectly will not be tolerated.
- Coaches are not permitted to use student groups or students other than current student-athletes on that particular team for planned activities with recruits without prior approval of the Athletics Director or sport administrator. In all cases, such use will not be approved unless the group or individuals report to an office outside of Athletics and perform the same duties for all prospective students.
- Recruits utilizing air transportation to visit campus will use coach class commercial airfare.
- For on campus transportation, only the following vehicles will be used: any vehicles normally used by the University to transport prospective students during campus visits, personal vehicles of student-athletes, and personal or courtesy vehicles of coaches.
- All recruits and their parents/guardians will be housed in standard lodging available to all guests at that hotel (no upgrades/suites shall be permitted).
- All meals provided to recruits and their parents/guardians will be comparable to meals provided to student athletes during the academic year.
- No personalized recruiting aides, such as personalized jerseys, personalized audio or video scoreboard presentations, etc., may be used. Also, no game-day simulations may be implemented.
- Student hosts are required to read and sign a Student Host Statement form prior to receiving host money.
- The recruit is asked to read and sign a Prospect Acknowledgement form at the beginning of his/her visit.

Oversight, Monitoring, and Enforcement

While the control of the Athletics program rests with the President and the Athletics Director, others at the University have important roles to play in preventing and reporting recruiting abuses.

- The responsibilities of the head coach are clearly stated above.
- Each sport administrator is responsible for monitoring recruiting activities to be sure the coach is fulfilling his/her responsibilities as noted above.
- The compliance office will ensure that the coaches have reviewed this policy and that the coaches have reviewed these policies with their teams.
- The compliance office will ensure that the following documents are submitted with each Travel and Business Expense Report after each official visit: a complete itinerary and Official or Unofficial Visit Report, including methods of transportation, documentation of individuals present at all meals, a signed Student Host Statement form, and a signed Prospect Acknowledgement form.
- Staff, coaches, and student-athletes will be informed that any potential violations regarding the recruiting policy should be reported to the Associate Athletics Director for Compliance and Student Welfare and Development, who will in turn inform the Athletics Director, so that appropriate action can be taken. In cases of potential NCAA infractions, institutional policy will be followed, including informing the Faculty Athletics Representative and Office of General Counsel. If as a result of investigations further actions are needed, such as corrective actions or filing of an NCAA self-report, swift and appropriate action will be taken.
- Staff or coaches found to be in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action which may include termination of employment. Student-athletes found to be in violation of these policies may be subject to cancellation of athletics aid or termination/reduction of playing time and may also be referred to the Office of Residential Life/Housing.
- Violations of these recruiting policies involving prospective student-athletes will be referred to the Athletics Director and the Assistant Provost/Admissions to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Official Visits vs. Unofficial Visit

An **official visit** is a visit to campus by a prospective student-athlete that is paid for by the institution. A prospective student-athlete may take a maximum of five expense-paid visits with no more than one permitted to any single institution. The first opportunity for a prospective student-athlete to take his/her five official visits is the first day of classes of their senior year in high school.

Expenses that the institution may pay include transportation to and from campus, room and meals while visiting, and reasonable entertainment expenses including three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest. Institutions must use **commercial air transportation** at coach-class airfare to transport a prospect to and from an official visit. This rule is designed to minimize expectations created by the use of private or chartered airplanes in the recruitment process. Institutions must use **standard vehicles** to transport prospects and those accompanying them on official visits. The vehicles must be the same as those used to transport any prospective student. This measure is intended to prohibit the use of specialized vehicles, such as those with special decor or modified with televisions, which could create a sense of entitlement for prospective student-athletes. Prospects and their parents or legal guardians must be housed in **standard lodging** without special accessories and be offered **standard meals** comparable to those offered on campus. This proposal is intended to help institutions establish an environment during an official visit that resembles normal campus life for student-athletes.

Institutions cannot develop personalized recruiting aides, such as personalized jerseys and personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations, or engage in any game-day simulations during a prospect's official or unofficial visit. This measure does not prohibit prospective student-athletes from visiting the locker room before or after a game, or standing on the sidelines during pre-game activities before being seated in regular seats during the competition.

An official visit to campus is limited to a 48-hour period that begins when the prospective student-athlete arrives on the institution's campus.

Prior to coming on an official visit, a prospective student-athlete needs to provide the institution with a PSAT, SAT, PLAN, or ACT score and a high school transcript as well as be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

An **unofficial visit** is a visit to campus by a prospective student-athlete that is at his or her own expense. A prospective student-athlete may take an unlimited number of unofficial visits to an unlimited number of institutions and may do so before his or her senior year in high school.

During an unofficial visit, the institution may not pay any expenses or provide any entertainment except a maximum of three complimentary admissions to a home athletics context.

Neither official nor unofficial visits may be taken during a dead period. A dead period is defined as the period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus.

Complimentary Admissions for Prospective Student-Athletes

During an official visit or unofficial visit, a maximum of three complimentary admissions to a home athletics event may be provided to a prospective student-athlete. Such complimentary admissions are for the exclusive use of the prospective student-athlete and those persons accompanying the prospective student-athlete on the visit and must be issued only through a pass list on an individual-game basis. Such admissions may provide seating only in the general seating area of the facility used for conducting the event. Providing seating during the conduct of the event (including intermission) for the prospective student-athlete or those persons accompanying the prospective student-athlete in the facility's press box, special seating box(es) or bench area is specifically prohibited.

The provision of complimentary admissions to prospective student-athletes for conference tournaments, NCAA Championships (all rounds) or other postseason contests (e.g., bowl game, NIT Championship) is prohibited. The prospective student-athlete may purchase tickets only in the same manner as any other member of the general public.

August Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

- August 1 – August 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Basketball

- August 1 – August 31: Quiet Period

Women's Basketball

- August 1 – August 31: Quiet Period

Cross Country/Track and Field

- August 1 – August 11: Quiet Period
- August 12 – August 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Lacrosse

- August 1 – August 17: Contact/Evaluation Period
- August 18 – August 31: Quiet Period

Women's Lacrosse

- August 1-31: Seven contact days selected at the discretion of the institution and designated in writing; those days not designated are in a Quiet Period

Football

- August 1 – August 31: Quiet Period

Softball

- August 1 – August 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Volleyball

- August 1 – August 31: Contact/Evaluation Period

Contact Period: A contact period is that period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations.

Evaluation Period: An evaluation period is that period of time when it is permissible for authorized athletics department staff members to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospective student-athletes. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall be made with the prospective student-athlete during an evaluation period.

Quiet Period: A quiet period is that period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution's campus. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during the quiet period.

Dead Period: A dead period is that period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospective student-athletes to the institution's campus. During such a dead period, a coaching staff member may not visit the prospective student-athletes' educational institutions. It remains permissible, however, for an institutional staff member to write or telephone prospective student-athletes during such a dead period.

INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL

Institutional control of athletics is a fundamental requirement of NCAA legislation. Specifically, the NCAA constitution provides that each institution shall be responsible for:

- Controlling its intercollegiate athletics program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
- Monitoring its program to ensure compliance with identifying and reporting to the Association instances in which compliance has not been achieved and taking appropriate corrective action.
- Ensuring that members of the institution's staff, student-athletes and other individuals or groups representing the institution's athletics interest comply with all applicable Association rules.