

The Irish Interpreter



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Notre Dame Athletics Compliance Office

National Letter of Intent Early Signing Period

The National Letter of Intent early signing period for sports other than Football, Men's and Women's Soccer and Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country began on November 14, 2007 and continued through November 21, 2007. A prospective student-athlete who signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI) during the early signing period agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year. In turn, the participating institutions agree to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year to the student-athlete, provided he/she is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. After the prospective student-athlete signs an NLI, a recruiting prohibition is applied, requiring institutions to cease recruitment of the prospective student-athlete. For all sports other than Football, Soccer, Track and Field/Cross Country and Basketball, the regular signing period will begin on April 9, 2008. Football, Soccer and Track and Field/Cross Country have one signing period that begins on February 6, 2008 and Basketball's regular signing period begins on April 16, 2008.

For more information on the NLI program, visit the NLI website at <http://www.national-letter.org>

Recruiting Regulations Subsequent to Signing the NLI

After a prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI), he/she remains a prospective student-athlete and does so until he/she officially registers, enrolls and attends classes full-time at the institution or participates in regular season practice/competition that occurs before the beginning of the term. **Only coaching staff members may contact prospective student-athletes, including those who have signed an NLI.** Boosters may not telephone, have written correspondence (including emails) or have on- or off-campus contact with a prospect. Boosters may not provide or arrange financial assistance, directly or indirectly, to pay a prospect's expenses (educational or otherwise) for any period prior to or after his/her college enrollment. Prospective student-athletes and their family

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NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions Case

October 25, 2007 — The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has penalized University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for major violations in its men's track and field program. This case involved several violations of NCAA recruiting rules committed by one former assistant coach and one prospective student-athlete, including unethical conduct by the former coach and an admitted failure to monitor by the university.

Penalties for the violations involve vacating the men's track and field records including two national championships; placing the university on probation for three years; accepting the reduction of the number of men's track and field scholarships; and placing the former coach on a two-year show-cause order. Under this show-cause penalty, if the former coach seeks athletically related employment with another NCAA member school during the next two years, he and the hiring institution must appear before the Committee on Infractions to determine whether his duties should be limited. The committee stated in its report that while each of the recruiting violations alone were not egregious, they together formed an interrelated series of violations involving a highly recruited world-class track student-athlete and in the aggregate constituted major violations.

The recruiting violations took place during various points during July through September 2003. Specifically, the committee found that the former coach and his wife provided unallowable transportation, and that the former coach arranged for the prospective student-athlete to live cost-free with another student-athlete for approximately three weeks. The former coach also facilitated the registration and receipt of course materials for a college algebra correspondence course for the prospective student-athlete, who needed the course to meet eligibility standards upon enrollment. On 10 to 15 occasions, the former coach made arrangements through his wife for his sister-in-law to tutor the prospective student-athlete. For each tutoring session, the prospective student-athlete was provided transportation between his apartment and the sister-in-law's home. Further, the correspondence course required online submission of the answers to 17 unit lessons. Either the former assistant coach's wife or his sister-in-law obtained the answer sheets from the prospect for the unit lessons and entered them online. Finally, the former coach arranged for two individuals to serve as proctors for mid-term and final examinations in the algebra correspondence course taken by the prospective student-athlete. The former coach arranged transportation to the exam sites and the prospective student-athlete received lodging for one night and at least one meal at the home of the parents of the former coach's wife in conjunction with one of these exams.

The committee found that the former coach's actions were deliberate and in violation of fundamental recruiting rules and that his knowing involvement in arranging or providing recruiting inducements to the prospective student-athlete collectively rose to the level of unethical conduct.

Definition to know... Coach, Head or Assistant

A head or assistant coach is any coach who is designated by the institution's athletics department to perform coaching duties and who serves in that capacity on a volunteer or paid basis.

Definition to know... Coach, Graduate Assistant

Any coach who has received a baccalaureate degree and qualifies for appointment as a graduate assistant under the policies of the institution. The individual shall be enrolled in at least 50% of the institution's minimum regular graduate program of studies.

[2007 University of Notre Dame Graduation Success Rate report](#)

[2007 University of Notre Dame Federal Graduation Rate report](#)

Fighting Irish Athletes Top Latest NCAA Graduation Ratings

The University of Notre Dame ranks number one in the country in terms of graduating its student-athletes, according to statistics released recently by the NCAA.

Whether measured by the federal government in its Department of Education report or by the NCAA through its newer Graduation Success Rate (GSR) numbers, graduation rates for Notre Dame student-athletes also rank among the national leaders in all major categories among all major football-playing colleges and universities.

Notre Dame led the nation in the GSR ratings for all student-athletes (at 98, tied with Northwestern and the United States Naval Academy), while also ranking first in both the GSR and federal standings for female student-athletes (100 GSR, 94 federal).

Both the federal graduation-rate figures and the GSR numbers for Notre Dame student-athletes found the Irish ranked eighth or better nationally in five major categories among the 119 football-playing institutions in the NCAA Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A).

The federally-mandated NCAA Graduation-Rates Report, the 17th such survey issued by the association, covers students who enrolled between 1997 and 2000 at all Division I institutions. The federal graduation rates are based on the raw percentage of student-athletes who entered an institution and graduated within six years. Students who leave or transfer, regardless of academic standing, are considered non-graduates. All those receiving athletics aid are included in the statistics. All military academies are exempt from the federal survey because they do not offer grants-in-aid to student-athletes. The GSR was created to more accurately reflect actual graduation rates by including transfer data in the calculation. College and university presidents asked the NCAA to develop a new methodology that takes into account the mobility among students in today's higher education environment. Research indicates that approximately 60 percent of all new bachelor's degree recipients are attending more than one undergraduate institution during their collegiate careers.

In calculations listing all student-athletes in all sports, Notre Dame tied for first among the Bowl Subdivision football schools in the GSR figures, which were initiated three years ago by the NCAA. The University's 98 percent GSR for all its student-athletes matched those for the U.S. Naval Academy and Northwestern. Using the federal formula, Notre Dame graduated a four-year average of 89 percent of its student-athletes, just behind Duke at 91 percent and Stanford at 90 percent.

Notre Dame graduated 94 percent of all women competing in varsity athletics, to rank first among its peer institutions based on the federal calculations. Among men, Notre Dame's 85 percent rate was third, behind only Stanford's 90 percent rate and Duke at 89.

Notre Dame graduated 75 percent of its black student-athletes, ranking eighth nationally based on the federal rate, and Irish football players graduated at a 79 percent rate, to rank sixth.

In the GSR standings, in addition to its number-one ranking for all student-athletes, Notre Dame finished tied for first among female student athletes at 100 (Vanderbilt and the U.S. Naval Academy also finished at 100), second among male student-athletes at 97 percent (behind the Naval Academy at 98), tied for third with Boston College among football players at 93 percent (behind the Naval Academy at 95 and Northwestern at 94), and fourth among black student-athletes at 91 percent (behind the Naval Academy at 96, and Northwestern and Wake Forest at 93).

December Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

December 1-31: Quiet Period

Men's Basketball

December 1-23: Evaluation Period

December 24-26: Dead Period

December 27-31: Evaluation Period

Women's Basketball

December 1-23: Evaluation Period

December 24-26: Dead Period

December 27-31: Evaluation Period

Women's Lacrosse

December 1-31: Quiet Period

Volleyball

December 1-2: Contact Period

December 3-11: Quiet Period

December 12-31: Dead Period

Football

December 1-15: Contact Period

December 16: Quiet Period

December 17-31: Dead Period

Softball

December 1-2: Dead Period

December 3-31: Quiet Period

Men's Lacrosse

December 1-23: Quiet Period

December 24-31: Dead Period

Cross Country/Track and Field

December 1-9: Contact Period

December 10-15: Quiet Period

December 16-20: Dead Period

December 21-31: Quiet Period

Alumni Functions

It is permissible for a bona fide Notre Dame alumni organization to sponsor luncheons or dinners at which prospective students (athletes and non-athletes) of the immediate locale are guests. However, there are a few NCAA rules regarding what an alumni group can and cannot do in conjunction with the prospect's attendance at the alumni event.

- The primary purpose of the function can not relate to the institution's athletics program;
- There is no athletics recruiting presentation made in conjunction with the function; and
- Alumni do not have any direct contact with any prospect regarding his or her interest in attending the institution to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Invitations must be given in the same manner that they would be given to all students participating in the function. Invitations may be sent to high schools or advertised in the newspaper in the area indicating what the invitation entails. If all students invited to the function are receiving a complimentary meal, it would be permissible for prospects to receive a complimentary meal as well. However, prospects must be treated in the same manner that all other students are treated.

Prospects may attend alumni functions that are open to the general public as long as the prospects pay for their own meal and entertainment and provide their own transportation to attend. The same restrictions still apply after a prospect commits to Notre Dame or signs a National Letter of Intent with Notre Dame. A signee must be treated the same as any other high school student.

Please keep in mind, it is not permissible for an alumni organization to single out a prospective student-athlete and announce or introduce the prospect's attendance at the function

Recruiting Regulations (continued from page 1)

and friends may not receive extra benefits from institutional staff members nor boosters, including after they have signed an NLI.

Subsequent to the calendar day on which a prospective student-athlete signs an NLI, there is no limit on the number of telephone calls placed by the coaching staff of the institution with which the prospective student-athlete has signed. The restrictions on the number of contacts and evaluations a coach is permitted to have per prospective student-athlete also become less restrictive once the prospect signs an NLI.

If you have any questions regarding signed prospects please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate coaching staff or the Athletic Compliance Office.