



# The Irish Interpreter

A monthly publication from the Athletic Compliance Office

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## University of Notre Dame Athletic Compliance Office

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## The Recruiting Process – Who Can Recruit

In general, all in-person, on- and off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardian(s) shall be made only by authorized institutional staff members. Only head and assistant coaches permitted to recruit off campus may contact prospective student-athletes off campus. Institutional staff members (e.g., faculty members) may contact prospective student-athletes for recruiting purposes in all sports, on campus, or within 30 miles of campus during the prospective student-athlete's official visit.

There are a few exceptions to this general rule:

- **Admissions Program.** Off-campus recruiting contacts made by an institution's regular admissions program representative and directed at all prospective students including non-athletes is permissible.
- **Coach Who Is Prospective Student-Athlete's Parent or Legal Guardian.** Recruiting contact and evaluation limitations do not apply to a coaching staff member who is the parent (or legal guardian) of a participant in any activity being observed (e.g., practices, contests or camps), provided the attendance by the coaching staff member at such activity does not involve any personal contact with any other participating prospective student-athlete.
- **Spouse of Prospective Student-Athlete's Coach.** Recruiting contact and evaluation limitations do not apply to a coaching staff member observing a contest that involves prospective student-athletes coached by his or her spouse, provided the attendance by the coaching staff member at such a contest does not involve any personal contact with any prospective student-athlete participating in the contest.
- **Established Family Friend/Neighbor.** Contacts made with a prospective student-athlete by an established family friend or neighbor are permissible, it being understood that such contacts are not made for recruiting purposes and are not initiated by a member of an institution's coaching staff.
- **Spouse of Staff Member**
  - **On Campus.** A spouse of an institutional staff member may have contact with prospective student-athlete and/or their relatives while the prospect is on campus.
  - **Off Campus during Official Visit.** A spouse of an athletics department staff member may have contact with a prospective student-athlete during the prospective student-athlete's official visit and within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus during the prospective student-athlete's official visit.

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**The Recruiting Process, continued from page 1**

- **Unavoidable Incidental Contact.** An unavoidable incidental contact made with a prospective student-athlete by representatives of the institution's
- athletics interests is permissible, provided:
  - the contact is not prearranged by the representative or an athletics department staff member,
  - does not take place on the grounds of the prospective student-athlete's educational institution or at the sites of organized competition and practice involving the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's team,
  - is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospective student-athlete, and
  - involves only normal civility.
- **Permissible Pre-enrollment Activities.** Contacts between a prospective student-athlete and an athletics representative regarding permissible pre-enrollment activities (e.g., a discussion of summer-employment arrangements that occurs after the prospective student-athlete's signing of the National Letter of Intent) are permissible.

## Test Your Knowledge

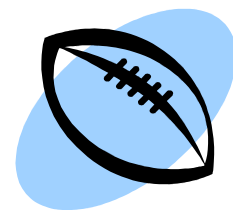
Double Dribble is a senior prospective student-athlete that is being recruited by State College to play basketball. Double will be visiting State College's campus next month on an official visit. The coaches at State College really want to impress Double during his visit, so they have a jersey made with his name on the back and hang it in the locker-room.

Is this permissible?

No. [NCAA Educational Column- \[8/15/07\]- 2007 Educational Column -- Activities during Official and Unofficial Visits \(I\)](#)- states that NCAA Division I institutions should note that in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 13.6.7.9, 13.7.3 and 13.10.5, an institution may not arrange miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aids (e.g., personalized jerseys, personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations) nor may an institution permit a prospective student-athlete to engage in any game-day simulations during an official or unofficial visit. Further, prospective student-athletes may not participate in team activities that would make the public or media aware of the prospective student-athlete's visit to the institution.

Impermissible game-day simulations involving prospective student-athletes include running onto the field during pre-game introductions, participating in pre-game team walks to the competition facility, riding with the team on the bus to the competition facility and/or participating in pre-game on-field traditions. For example, if an institution's team normally participates in a pre-game walk to the stadium on game day, prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits would not be permitted to use the same route to the stadium during the time period when the public can reasonably be expected to be assembled to witness the team's arrival at the stadium. Another example to illustrate the application of the legislation would be if an institution's team normally rides on a bus to the competition facility with a police escort or takes a route occupied by fans, the prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits would not be permitted to ride with the team on the bus to the competition facility. Instead, under either of these circumstances, an institution should make arrangements for prospective student-athletes who are on campus for official or unofficial visits to arrive at the stadium using a different route than the team.

While game-day activities vary by institution and by sport, institutions are reminded to review institutional official- and unofficial-visit policies to ensure all activities surrounding official or unofficial visits are not personalized or conducted in a manner that appears to publicize the prospective student-athlete's visit.



## Compliance Reminders for Football Season

1. **Per NCAA Bylaw 16.2.2.3, an institution may not provide a special arrangement to sell a student-athlete (or their parents/guardians/relatives) ticket(s) to an athletics event. Tickets shall be available for purchase by student-athletes according to the same purchasing procedures used for other students.** All University faculty, staff and departments (including regional development offices off-campus) must be reminded that you may not give or sell your personal or business allotment tickets to a student-athlete or their families or friends. In order to obtain tickets to any athletic event, student-athletes, their relatives and their friends, must go through the process that is in place for the general public to purchase tickets.

As you are aware, typically, football tickets are not available for purchase by the general public. However, the Alumni Association does, on occasion, sell returned football tickets through a public sale when they are available. The process is any tickets that are not being used by alumni may be turned in to the Alumni Association which are then offered for public sale through that office. Therefore, if a student-athlete or their parent calls you to obtain tickets, the best way to handle the request is to **put them in contact with the Alumni Association.**

You **may not give or sell** your personal or business allotment tickets to a student-athlete or their families or friends. To obtain tickets, they must go through the process that is in place for the general public to purchase their tickets and the only way to do this at this point in the year is to contact the ticket office. Therefore, if a student-athlete or their parent calls you to obtain tickets, the best way to handle the request is to **put them in contact with the ticket office.**

2. Please note that the football game programs for every game include a poster. Per NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.1, a game program that includes a poster may not be provided to a prospective student-athlete. Therefore, **if you are providing game programs to prospects on official and unofficial visits, you must first remove the posters.**
3. There are numerous prospective student-athletes visiting campus this weekend on both official and unofficial visits. NCAA rules prohibit representatives of Notre Dame's athletics interests (boosters) from making in-person, on- or off-campus contact with a prospect, the prospect's parents/guardians, or relatives. Contact should be avoided during all aspects of the official/unofficial visits – while walking around campus and athletics facilities, while watching pre-game from the sidelines, while tailgating, etc.

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NCAA PRESS RELEASE 8/22/07 --- The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions has penalized Purdue University for major and secondary violations in its women's basketball program.

The committee noted that the case was narrow in scope, but serious in nature, finding that a former assistant coach and former student-athlete violated the principles of ethical conduct. It was found that the former assistant coach committed academic fraud with the full knowledge and complicity of the student-athlete. It was also found that the former assistant coach and former student-athlete provided false and misleading information to the university regarding the violations. The same coach also made impermissible telephone calls in violation of NCAA recruiting rules and provided extra benefits to student-athletes.

Penalties for the violations include placing the university on two years of probation, a reduction in women's basketball scholarships, permanent ineligibility for the involved student-athlete and a three-year show-cause penalty for the former assistant coach. Under this show-cause penalty, if the former assistant coach seeks athletically related employment with another NCAA member school during the next three years, she and the hiring institution must appear before the Committee on Infractions to determine whether her duties should be limited.

The former assistant coach admitted to conducting research and reading a text book in an effort to assist a

## September Recruiting Calendar

### Baseball

- September 1 – September 13: Quiet Period
- September 14 – September 30: Contact Period

### Men's Basketball

- September 1 – September 8: Quiet Period
- September 9 – September 30: Contact Period (no evaluations at sites other than the prospective student-athlete's educational institution)

### Women's Basketball

- September 1 – September 15: Quiet Period
- September 16 – September 30: Contact Period

### Cross Country/Track and Field

- September 1 - September 30: Contact Period

### Men's Lacrosse

- September 1 – September 30: Contact Period

### Women's Lacrosse

- September 1 – September 30: Contact Period

### Football

- Evaluation Period: Six days during the months of September, October and through the last Saturday in November selected at the discretion of the institution

### Softball

- September 1 – 3: Contact Period
- September 4 – September 30: Contacts only (no evaluations)

### Volleyball

- September 1 – September 30: Contact Period



### In the News, continued from page 3...

former women's basketball student-athlete with an assigned paper but denied committing academic fraud. She also admitted typing, correcting and making revisions to the paper, which led the university to conclude in an independent assessment that the paper was partially plagiarized and thus constituted academic fraud.

In addition, it was found that both the former assistant coach and involved student-athlete provided false and misleading information to the university's athletics compliance staff in an attempt to conceal the academic fraud violations.

Although the former head women's basketball coach was not in violation of NCAA rules, the committee stated in its report that it was troubled that the former head coach was made aware that the former assistant coach may have committed academic fraud but dismissed the allegations as not credible after conducting her own inquiry. Members of the women's basketball staff brought the issue forward to the former head coach in November 2005 and again in early January 2006. The coach's dismissal of the information was in direct conflict with the university policy, which states that possible NCAA violations should be reported immediately to the director of athletics, the respective sports administrator or the director of compliance. However, the information was not brought to the attention of one of these university officials until February 2006.

It was also found during the university's investigation that the former assistant coach made a total of 105 impermissible telephone calls to two prospective student-athletes. The university did not believe the violations constituted a major infraction due to a perceived lack of a significant recruiting advantage. The committee, however, concluded that because the impermissible calls were neither isolated nor inadvertent, they did not fit the definition of a secondary violation and must be considered a major infraction, regardless of the level of recruiting advantage.

This case also involved three secondary violations.