

The Irish Interpreter

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Athletic Compliance Office

Publicity and Recruiting

Publicity during the recruiting process is regulated by NCAA rules. Prior to a prospect signing a National Letter of Intent with an institution, the institution is extremely limited in the amount of publicity it may generate as it relates to recruiting that prospect. Once the prospect signs the NLI however, the rules change.

Publicity Prior to Signing a National Letter of Intent

Before the signing of a prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent, a member institution may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming its recruitment of the prospect. The institution may not comment generally about the prospect's ability or the contribution that the prospect might make to the team, nor may the institution comment as to the likelihood of the prospect signing with that institution.

Publicity After Signing a National Letter of Intent

Publicity released by an institution concerning a prospective student-athlete's commitment to attend the institution can only occur after the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent (or after the prospect has signed an acceptance of the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid).

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Gambling Reminder

As the New York Giants and the New England Patriots prepare to face off in Sunday's Super Bowl XLII, the Athletic Compliance Office would like to remind you that the NCAA prohibits athletics department staff members, nonathletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department and student-athletes from wagering on athletics events. Betting on the game can jeopardize student-athlete eligibility to compete in NCAA athletics and detrimentally impact an athletics department staff member's ability to be employed at an NCAA member institution. Sometimes even

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Gambling Reminder, cont.

the friendliest wager is a violation – keep in mind that nothing of material value can change hands as the result of a wager (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner). Even participating in a “squares pool” at your Super Bowl party is prohibited by NCAA legislation.

NCAA position on gambling:

The NCAA opposes ALL forms of illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community. Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by a mes-

sage that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of “sport.” Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student athletes, coaches, and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition.



National Letter of Intent Signing Period

The National Letter of Intent Signing Period begins for Football, Men’s and Women’s Soccer, Men’s and Women’s Track and Field and Cross Country (as well as non-Notre Dame sponsored sports Field Hockey and Men’s Water Polo) on **Wednesday, February 6, 2008**. Football’s signing period ends on April 1, 2008 and the other sports signing period ends on August 1, 2008.



www.national-letter.org

Publicity, cont.

There is no limit on the number or content of such communications. Institutional press conferences, receptions, dinners and similar meetings held for the purpose of making an announcement of signings are expressly prohibited. However, an institution may conduct one formal press conference on the institution’s campus for the purpose of presenting the names of all prospective student-athletes in a sport who have signed a Na-

tional Letter of Intent or accepted written offers of admission and/or financial aid from the institution, with the understanding that no prospective student-athletes (or their friends or relatives) may be in attendance at such an announcement.

Press conferences to announce a signing may be arranged independently by the prospect (or the prospect’s family), provided there is no arrangement or involvement whatsoever by the

institution or representatives of its athletics interests.

With the NLI signing period set to begin on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 for football, men’s and women’s soccer and men’s and women’s track and field and cross country, you will most likely see press releases and press conferences regarding prospective student-athletes’ written commitments to institutions around the country.

NCAA News Release: NCAA Reinstates USC Basketball Student-Athlete O.J. Mayo

INDIANAPOLIS—The NCAA student-athlete reinstatement staff has reinstated the eligibility of University of Southern California basketball student-athlete OJ Mayo. It was found that Mayo violated the NCAA preferential treatment rule by accepting two tickets to a professional basketball game.

The acceptance of the game tickets is a violation of NCAA rules given the relationship between the ticket giver and Mayo grew out of athletics, as well as the fact that there was no previous pattern of benefits between the two parties prior to the student-athlete gaining attention for his athletic abilities.

Mayo, a freshman at University of Southern

California, will be required to repay \$460, the value of the two tickets, to a charity of his choice as a condition of his immediate reinstatement. Based on case precedent and the totality of the circumstances, the student-athlete will not be held from competition.

Normal reinstatement guidelines call for a withholding condition of 20 percent of competition based on the dollar value of this benefit. However, when determining the specifics of this individual case, the NCAA staff determined that repayment without withholding from competition was warranted since the university provided information that the student-athlete first asked his coach if he could ac-

cept the tickets offered to him and was told it would be permissible.

During the reinstatement process, the NCAA reinstatement staff considers a number of factors including guidelines established by the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee, any relevant case precedent, the student-athlete's responsibility for the violation, as well as any mitigating factors presented by the university.

The university can appeal the decision to the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee, an independent committee comprised of representatives from NCAA member colleges, universities and athletic conferences.

Definition to Know...

Extra Benefit: An extra benefit is any special arrangement by an institutional employee or a representative of the institution's athletics interests to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relative or friend a benefit not expressly authorized by NCAA legislation. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students or their relatives or friends or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., foreign students, minority students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.

Test Your Knowledge

Free Style is a swimming prospective student-athlete that signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) with State College in November. Free still needs to submit a few documents to complete her admissions and housing applications for

fall 2008 enrollment. The coaches would like to send Free a text message to remind her of these important deadlines.

Is it permissible for the coaches at State College to send Free text messages?

Yes. With the adoption of NCAA Proposal 2007-47, coaches are permitted to send text messages to prospective student-athletes that have signed NLIs with their institutions. The legislation is effective immediately.



Katie Carroll concluded her Notre Dame career in 2007 as one of the most decorated swimmers in program history.

- Photo by Matt Cashore

Our Athletic Compliance Office is prepared to assist you with your questions and concerns regarding NCAA regulations. Please contact us at: 574-631-8090

Remember: Ask Before You Act!

Go Fighting Irish!

Newly Adopted Legislation

Proposal 2007-18

To permit a noncoaching staff member to make telephone calls to or receive telephone calls from a prospective student-athlete (or the prospective student-athlete's parents, legal guardians or coaches) and prepare general recruiting correspondence (including electronic correspondence) to a prospective student-athlete (or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians), provided the prospective student-athlete has signed a National Letter of Intent or, for those institutions not using the National Letter of Intent in a particular sport or for a prospective-student-athlete who is not eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent (e.g., four-year college transfer), the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid.
Effective Date: August 1, 2008.

February Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

February 1-29: Quiet Period

Men's Basketball

February 1-29: Evaluation Period

Women's Basketball

February 1-29: Evaluation Period

Cross Country/Track and Field

February 1-3: Contact Period

February 4-7: Dead Period

February 8-29: Contact Period

Football

February 1-2: Contact Period

February 3: Quiet Period

February 4-7: Dead Period

February 8-29: Quiet Period

Men's Lacrosse

February 1-29: Contact Period

Women's Lacrosse

February 1-29: Contact Period

Men's and Women's Soccer

February 4-7: Dead Period—soccer does not typically have specified recruiting periods, with the exception of one dead period a year due to the National Letter of Intent signing day (February 6, 2008)

Softball

February 1-29: Contact Period

Women's Volleyball

February 1-29: Contact Period

Definitions

Contact period - permissible for authorized athletic department staff members to make in-person, off-campus recruiting

contacts and evaluations

Dead period - not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or permit official or unofficial visits

Evaluation period - permissible for authorized athletics department staff to be involved in off-campus activities to assess academic qualifications and playing abilities; no in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete are permitted

Quiet period - permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on the member institution's campus