

The Irish Interpreter

Volume 4, Issue 3 November 2009
Notre Dame Athletics Compliance Office

Booster Briefing

Is it Permissible for a Notre Dame Coach to Speak at a Luncheon or Meeting of my Local Alumni Club or Charity?

It is well-known that Notre Dame Alumni and Boosters are widely involved with alumni clubs and charitable and community service groups throughout the country. Under NCAA Rules, what involvement can Notre Dame coaches have in similar functions?

A potential scenario follows: A Notre Dame Alumna has invited one of Notre Dame's basketball coaches to speak at her local charity's monthly luncheon during the November dead period.

Is it permissible for the coach to accept the invitation and speak at the event?

Possibly yes.

Provided no prospective student-athletes (PSAs) will be in attendance at the luncheon, it would be permissible for the coach to accept the invitation. However, because NCAA Bylaw 13.2.4.4 bars a coaching staff member from speaking at a meeting or banquet during a dead period at which prospective student-athletes are in attendance, accepting such an invitation carries risk. Given the potential risk, it would be prudent for the coach to work in conjunction with the Compliance Office before accepting such an invitation and speaking at the luncheon.

A Booster is any individual or entity who:

- Has ever been a member of an organization promoting Irish Athletics
- Has ever made a financial contribution to Notre Dame Athletics
- Has ever been involved in the recruitment of a prospect
- Has ever provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes
- Has ever been otherwise involved in promoting Notre Dame Athletics

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Athletics Compliance Office Staff:

Jill Bodensteiner, Associate Athletics Director	(574) 631-6721
jbodenst@nd.edu	
Jen Vining-Smith, Assistant Athletics Director	(574) 631-3248
jvinings@nd.edu	
Brent Moberg, Director of Compliance	(574) 631-3041
bmoberg1@nd.edu	
Tom Timmermans, Compliance Coordinator	(574) 631-2237
ttimmerm@nd.edu	
Cyndi Sykes, Administrative Assistant	(574) 631-9647
crissman@nd.edu	

Around the Country

On-Campus Contact During a Dead Period

During the spring 2009 semester, an institution's head women's tennis coach had impermissible in-person, on-campus contact with a PSA during a dead period. The PSA was on campus completing institutional placement testing and stopped by the coach's office unannounced, visiting with the coach for five minutes. The violation was discovered when the compliance officer asked the coach who was in the office.

The institution issued a verbal reprimand to the head coach and conducted a rules education session with all staff regarding the dead period legislation. The head coach was also precluded from in-person contacts with any PSAs for a period of two weeks.

Off-Campus Contact During a Dead Period

An institution's head and assistant men's soccer coaches conducted an off-campus evaluation of a PSA during a recruiting dead period. The coaches were present in the area for a banquet and chose to attend the PSA's practice at a facility near the banquet's site. Both coaches failed to remember that the dead period surrounding the NLI signing period was still in effect. The violation was discovered during the compliance office's review of the coaches' contact and evaluation summary forms.

The institution issued a letter of admonishment to both coaches. The compliance office also provided an additional rules education session to the men's soccer staff regarding the recruiting dead period. The soccer staff also was required to count the impermissible evaluation and reduce the overall number of permissible evaluations by one for 2008-2009.

Recruiting Calls During the NLI Signing Period

During the fall 2008 semester, an institution's head women's volleyball coach called a PSA three times during the same week, calling once on November 10, 2008 and twice on November 11, 2008. The coach mistakenly believed that he was making permissible unlimited calls on the NLI initial signing date. However, the initial signing date was actually November 12, 2008.

The institution issued a letter of admonishment to the head coach. The compliance office conducted additional rules education with the volleyball staff and sport administrator. The coaches were also prohibited from making calls to any PSA for a period of one week. The NCAA Enforcement Staff expanded this restriction on recruiting calls to a period of two weeks.

NLI Signing Day and Boosters

During the spring 2009 semester, several of an institution's boosters had in-person, off-campus contact with a PSA when they were involved in the PSA's NLI signing announcement party. A judge who was a long-time family friend held the party in his office. The judge, who was not a booster, invited his clerk and clerk's wife, both boosters. The Clerk's wife also brought a friend who is an alumnus and booster. No gifts or refreshments were provided to the PSA or the PSA's family during the event. The judge, boosters, and PSA were not educated on NCAA rules regarding the event. The institution had no prior knowledge of the event.

Boosters attending the event were sent a letter of reprimand. The institution will also provide educational material regarding recruiting to booster club members in the future.

Test Your Knowledge

QUESTION 1

Is it permissible for a coach to participate in a press conference organized by a prospect to announce his or her signing of a NLI with Notre Dame?

QUESTION 2

What is the difference between a prospect's verbal or oral commitment to attend a particular institution and that prospect's signing of a National Letter of Intent?

QUESTION 3

Is it permissible for a prospect to sign a NLI on the Notre Dame campus in the head coach's office?

Compliance Alphabet Soup

H^{igh School Coaches:}

Notre Dame coaching staff members are limited in their opportunities to entertain high school, preparatory school, or junior college coaches both on- and off-campus. The **ONLY** permissible form of entertainment of a high school, preparatory school, or two-year college coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospect is involved (e.g., athletics director, AAU coach, club coach) **is providing a maximum of two complimentary admissions, via official pass list**, to a home athletics event at any facility within a 30-mile radius of campus. These tickets must be issued on an individual game basis. Entertainment **may not include** food, refreshments, greens fees, tickets to concerts or professional sporting events, lodging, or transportation.

I^{nitial Eligibility:}

In Division I, all prospective student-athletes who want to participate in intercollegiate competition as freshmen must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The Eligibility Center evaluates prospective student-athletes' amateur and academic records, including core courses, grade point average, and standardized test scores, to determine eligibility for practice, competition, and athletic aid during the freshman year.

J^{obs:}

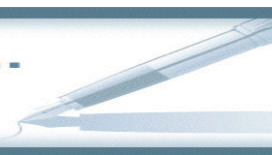
Student-athletes are permitted to work during both the academic year and summer, provided they are compensated at the going rate for work actually performed; they do not receive any benefits that are not available to all other employees in a similar position; and the compensation is not based on any value to the employer because of the athletic reputation of the student-athlete.

K^{now the Rules:}

Your commitment to understanding the importance of adhering to NCAA, Big East Conference, and University of Notre Dame rules will help to protect the eligibility of our student-athletes and maintain our tradition of excellence and integrity.



**KNOW THE RULES...
BEFORE YOU SIGN!**



2009-2010 National Letter of Intent Signing Dates

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Initial Signing Date</u>	<u>Final Signing Date</u>
Basketball (Early Period)	November 11, 2009	November 18, 2009
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 14, 2010	May 19, 2010
Football (Regular Period)	February 3, 2010	April 1, 2010
Cross Country, Soccer, and Track & Field	February 3, 2010	August 1, 2010
All Other Sports (Early Period)	November 11, 2009	November 18, 2009
All Other Sports (Regular Period)	April 14, 2010	August 1, 2010

Test Your Knowledge

Question 1:

NO. Although it is permissible for a prospect to independently announce his or her signing, there may be NO arrangement or involvement by the institution or representatives of its athletics interests (boosters).

Question 2:

A verbal or oral commitment is a prospect's announcement of the intention to attend a certain institution. This commitment is a non-binding, oral agreement between a prospect and an institution, and is not recognized by the National Letter of Intent program. A prospect may verbally or orally commit to one institution and subsequently sign a legally binding contractual NLI with another institution.

Question 3:

Possibly. It would be permissible for the prospect to sign the NLI in the coach's office during a portion of the NLI signing period that does not fall within any dead periods. However, it would be impermissible for the prospect to sign the NLI in the coach's presence at a location off of the Notre Dame campus. Similarly, it would be impermissible for the prospect to sign the NLI or even be present in the head coach's office during a dead period.

NCAA RECRUITING CALENDARS

CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK

November 1– 30, 2009: Contact Period

November 23–24, 2009: Dead Period

FOOTBALL

November 1– 28, 2009: Quiet Period

(except for 42 permissible evaluation days)

November 29– 30, 2009: Contact Period

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

November 1– 30, 2009: Evaluation Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period

BASEBALL

November 1– 8, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period

November 13– 30, 2009: Quiet Period

SOFTBALL

November 1– 25, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period

November 26– 30, 2009: Quiet Period

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

November 1 – 30, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period

MEN'S LACROSSE

November 1– 24, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12; 25–29, 2009: Dead Period

November 30, 2009: Quiet Period

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

November 1– 24, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period

November 7–8; 14–15; 21–22, 2009: Dead Period

(evaluations of PSAs in lacrosse activities permitted)

REMAINING SPORTS OTHER THAN SOCCER

November 1– 30, 2009: Contact Period

November 9– 12, 2009: Dead Period