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Recruiting 101

Who can recruit for the University of Notre Dame?

Participation in the recruiting process is limited to **authorized athletics department staff members**.

Therefore, all in-person on- and off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) shall be made only by those authorized institutional staff members. The NCAA requires that all coaches that will participate in recruiting must be certified by passing the NCAA Recruiting Certification Exam on an annual basis.

All recruiting functions must be performed by the head coach or one or more of the assistant coaches who count toward the numerical limitations set forth by the NCAA for each sport. Recruiting functions include: in-person on- or off-campus **contacts** with prospects, their relatives or their guardians, activities involving athletics **evaluation** and/or selection of prospects, **telephone calls** to prospective student-athletes (or prospects' parents, legal guardians or coaches), and

preparation of general recruiting **correspondence** to prospective student-athletes (or prospects' parents or legal guardians).

General Exceptions

(1) Off-campus recruiting contacts may be made by an institution's regular **admissions program representative** and directed at all prospective students, including nonathletes.

(2) Contacts made with a prospective student-athlete by an **established family friend or neighbor** may be made, 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.

(3) **A spouse of an institutional staff member** may make on-campus contact with a prospect. A spouse of an athletics department staff member may make contact during a 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.

(4) 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 (i.e., high school, preparatory school, two-year college or all-star team), is not made for the purpose of recruitment of the prospective student-athlete, and involves only normal civility.

(5) Contacts may occur between a prospective student-athlete and an athletics representative regarding **permissible pre-enrollment activities** (e.g., a discussion of summer-employment arrangements that occurs subsequent to the prospective student-athlete's signing of the National Letter of Intent).

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Recruiting 101 continued...

When can a coach contact a prospect?

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect's parents, relatives or legal guardians and an institutional staff member during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. In all sports other than basketball, off-campus recruiting contacts may not be made with a prospect (nor their relatives or guardians) until **July 1 following the prospect's completion of the junior year** in high school. In basketball, contacts may not be made until the opening day of classes of the prospect's senior year in high school.

When can a coach call a prospect?

The general rule regarding the time period for telephone calls states that in sports other than football and basketball, telephone calls to a prospective student-athlete may not be made until

July 1 following the completion of the student-athlete's junior year in high school, and the calls may be made only once per week. Both men's and women's basketball along with football have various restrictions on the time period for placing telephone calls to prospects. If you are interested in reading these restrictions, check out the NCAA Manual on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org) and look for Bylaw 13.1.3.1.

When can a coach write to a prospect?

In sports other than men's basketball, a member institution may not provide recruiting materials or general correspondence (including email) to a prospect until **September 1 at the beginning of the prospect's junior year** in high school. In men's basketball, recruiting materials and general correspondence (including email) may be provided June 15 at the conclusion of the prospect's sophomore year in high school.

How can Notre Dame faculty and staff help in the recruiting process?

At times, faculty and staff members are asked to assist in the recruitment efforts of prospects due to their academic expertise and enthusiastic support of our athletics program. Faculty members may contact prospects on-campus for recruiting purposes in all sports or within 30 miles of campus during a prospect's official visit. Unavoidable off-campus contact is permissible, provided no discussion relevant to athletics takes place.

Representatives of Athletics Interests (boosters)

Boosters are not permissible recruiters and therefore may not have any recruiting contacts with prospects or their relatives. This includes telephone calls, letters, emails, and facsimiles, along with any face-to-face contact either on or off-campus.



Legislative Update

The Division I Management Council approved a measure that eliminates the use of text-messaging in recruiting prospective student-athletes. The legislation now goes before the Division I Board of Directors for approval at its April 26 meeting in Indianapolis.

The proposal, sponsored by the Ivy Group, was one of two proposals related to the use of technology in recruiting. The other proposal, which would have put limits on the practice, was defeated in January.

Anna Chappell, former University of Arizona student-athlete and chair of the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, spoke in favor of the Ivy proposal. Chappell reminded Management Council members that while recent media reports called the Association "stuffy" and accused it of ignoring new technology, it was the student-athletes she represents that expressed a desire to eliminate text messaging as a form of recruiting.

"It's intruding on their lives and creating inappropriate relationships with coaches. If you

don't stop it now, what roads are you going to have to cross later on?" Chappell said. "If you want to 'keep up with the times' and 'keep up to speed with student-athletes,' you forget that student-athletes as a whole said they wanted the elimination of text-messaging."

Shane Lyons, Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner, said eliminating the practice would also eliminate loopholes that allowed coaches to use text-messaging to prod prospects to initiate telephone calls that would have been impermissible if

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NCAA Interpretation: Institutional and Staff Members' Personal Web Sites

On March 14, 2007, the NCAA staff issued the following official interpretation:

It is permissible for an institution's Web site or an athletics department staff member's personal Web site (or personal page on any site) to include information related to the institution's athletics programs, subject to the restrictions applicable to an institution's athletics Web site. For example, to include any recruiting material, highlight videos or information related to prospects on an athletics department staff member's personal site, it must be permissible to include such material and information on the institution's athletics Web site. Further, it is not permissible for an institution's Web site or an athletics department staff member's personal Web site (or personal page on any site) to include

a hyperlink to the Web site of a recruiting/scouting service or a non-institutional publication that reports primarily on the institution's athletics program. Finally, it is permissible for general informational video content related to an institution's athletics programs to appear on institutional Web sites (athletics and non-athletics) and personal Web sites of athletics department staff members, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public (for example, not included in a separate recruiting section) and is not created for recruiting purposes.

If you have questions about permissible material on your website, please contact the Athletic Compliance Office.

Legislative Update continued...

initiated by the coach.

The Council also approved a proposal that would increase the maximum number of contests or dates of competition in which a student-athlete can participate and still qualify for a hardship waiver. The current rule allows for two or 20 percent of the scheduled or completed contests, and the proposal increases that maximum to three or 30 percent, whichever benefits the student-athlete.

Also forwarded to the Board of Directors:

* A proposal that would allow student-athletes with eligibility remaining to try out with a professional athletics team once after enrollment without jeopardizing his or her eligibility, provided the student-athlete does not miss class time. The proposal also allows the professional team to pay expenses for a 48-hour tryout.

* Legislation requiring prospects to be registered with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse/NCAA Eligibility Center and on an institutional request list before an official visit or a written offer of athletically-related financial aid can be made.

Recruiting Definitions to Know...

Recruiting – any solicitation of a prospective student-athlete or a prospective student-athlete's relatives (or legal guardian(s)) by an institutional staff member or by a representative of the institution's athletics interests for the purpose of securing the prospective student-athlete's enrollment and ultimate participation in the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

Recruited Prospective Student-Athlete – actions by staff members or athletics representatives that cause a prospective student-athlete to become a recruited prospective student-athlete at that institution are: (a) Providing the prospective student-athlete with an official visit; (b) Having an arranged, in-person, off-campus encounter with the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's parent(s), relatives or legal guardian(s); (c) Initiating or arranging a telephone contact with the prospective student-athlete, the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardian(s) on more than one occasion for the purpose of recruitment; or (d) Issuing a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of athletically related financial aid to the prospective student-athlete. Issuing a written offer of athletically related financial aid to a prospective student-athlete to attend a summer session prior to full-time enrollment does not cause the prospective student-athlete to become recruited.

April Recruiting Calendar

Baseball

- April 1-8 – Contact/Evaluation Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 - Contact/Evaluation Period

Men's Basketball

- April 1-5 (noon) – Dead Period
- April 5 (12:01pm) – 8 – Contact Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 – Contact Period

Women's Basketball

- April 1-5 – Dead Period
- April 6-8 – Quiet Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-17 – Evaluation Period
- April 18-30 – Quiet Period

Football

- April 1-14 – Quiet Period
- April 15-30 – Evaluation Period

Men's Lacrosse

- April 1-8 – Contact/Evaluation Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 - Contact/Evaluation Period

Women's Lacrosse

- April 1-8 – Contact/Evaluation Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 - Contact/Evaluation Period

Softball

- April 1-8 – Contact/Evaluation Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 - Contact/Evaluation Period

Volleyball

- April 1-8 – Contact/Evaluation Period
- April 9-12 – Dead Period
- April 13-30 - Contact/Evaluation Period

All other sports, with the exception of men's and women's soccer, have a dead period from April 9-12 due to the late period National Letter of Intent Signing beginning on April 11, 2007.

Test your knowledge...

An institution's Women's Tennis Coach is at an event watching a particular prospect compete. Because of a family emergency, the coach had to leave the event prior to the prospect competing in the finals. The coach wanted to let the prospect know why she was leaving, so the prospect wouldn't be upset when she didn't see the coach in the stands.

Can the coach communicate this information to the prospect during the event? If so, is the coach limited in the way the information can be communicated to the prospect?

Yes, the coach can communicate this information. However, there are restrictions. **NCAA Bylaw 13.1.7.2(e)** states that in sports OTHER than basketball, coaching staff members may send general correspondence to a prospect while the prospect is participating in an athletics event, provided the general correspondence is sent directly to a prospect (e.g., front desk of the hotel, prospect's personal fax machine) and there is no additional party (e.g., camp employee, coach) involved in disseminating the correspondence.



Looking back 30 years ago...

1977 (April) — The University of Notre Dame edges defending champion New York University in the first team fencer-off in the 33-year history of the National Collegiate Fencing Championships. It marks the fourth time teams were tied at the end of the title meet, but the first since a new tie-breaker rule was established after the 1971 championships.

If you have anything you would like to see addressed in The Irish Interpreter, please email [Nina Stephan](mailto:Nina.Stephan@nd.edu)
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