



# The Huskie Compliance Corner

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Northern Illinois University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

## RECRUITING CALENDARS

Sport	Dates	Recruiting Period
Baseball	Month of December	Quiet Period
Men's Basketball	Month of December	Evaluation Period
	24-26	Dead Period
Women's Basketball	Month of December	Quiet/Evaluation* Period: *subject to 85 Recruiting- Person Days
	24-26	Dead Period
Football	Month of December	Contact Period
	12/17	Quiet Period
	12/18-1/4	Dead Period
Softball	Month of December	Quiet Period
	6-10	Dead Period
Volleyball	12/4-12	Quiet Period
	12/13-31	Dead Period
All Other Sports	Month of December	Contact/Evaluation Period

## RECRUITING PERIOD DEFINITIONS

The following is a list of definitions of the various recruiting periods found in NCAA Division I Recruiting Calendars.

**Contact Period:** Permissible to make in-person, off-campus, recruiting contacts and evaluations.

**Evaluation Period:** Permissible to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospects. NO in-person, off-campus contacts may be made during evaluation periods.

**Quiet Period:** Permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts ONLY on the NIU campus.

**Dead Period:** NOT permissible to make in-person contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or to permit official or unofficial visits.

### Permissible Interaction with NLI Signees

**Coaches:** *two interpretations by the NCAA have provided insight into some permissible forms of interaction with prospective student-athletes after they have signed a National Letter of Intent with NIU.*

Any necessary preenrollment information, including information in a video format, regarding orientation, conditioning, academics and practice activities may be provided to a prospective student-athlete, provided the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent or financial aid agreement or has been officially accepted for enrollment. *Mar 30, 2006*

A prospective student-athlete who has signed a NLI may participate in voluntary weight lifting or conditioning activities on campus in the presence of a strength and conditioning coach, provided such activities are not prearranged, the strength coach is performing normal duties, and he/she does not work directly with the student-athlete. *May 18, 2005*

## COMPLIANCE ABC'S

### *D – Degree Requirements*

A student-athlete must maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for competition. This requires student-athletes to complete a minimum number of credit hours per semester and per academic year as well as maintain a minimum grade-point average each term. Beginning with the student-athletes' third year, they must also satisfy a percentage of degree requirement annually.

### *E – Exhausted Eligibility*

In Division I, a student-athlete has five years from his or her initial full-time enrollment at any institution to compete in up to four seasons of intercollegiate competition. After the student-athlete has used all of his or her seasons of competition eligibility, the student-athlete has exhausted his or her eligibility.

### *F – Financial Aid*

A student-athlete may receive institutionally administered financial aid, such as an athletics grant-in-aid or academic scholarship. Financial aid cannot exceed the value of the cost of attendance at NIU.

### *G – Gambling*

In any sport sponsored by the NCAA, student-athletes, coaches, and Department of Athletics staff are prohibited from soliciting or accepting bets on intercollegiate or professional athletics contests. This includes wagers for money or any other tangible item of value. Also, it is impermissible to provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics.

## NCAA AND PLAYER MISCONDUCT

As many of us witnessed during the MAC Men's Soccer Tournament here at NIU, fighting and other instances of player misconduct are not entirely absent from intercollegiate competition. However, following the widely publicized brawl during the University of Miami and Florida International University football game in October, the NCAA is considering greater involvement with schools and conferences to develop standards and policies to decrease on-field violence. Possible suggestions include restricting post-game celebrations, such as planting school flags on an opponent's field, in addition to fighting. The NCAA still wants universities and conferences to determine appropriate sanctions for player misconduct, but the Miami-FIU brawl has the NCAA willing to get more involved with both schools and leagues.

## Compliance Questions of the Month

**Question 1:** A student-athlete transferred to NIU from another institution after his/her previous coach quit. After serving a year of residence (i.e., sitting out of competition for two terms), the student-athlete suffers an injury that will prevent him/her from competing for another year. Can this student-athlete get an extension of the five-year clock?

**Question 2:** Is it permissible for boosters to contact a prospective student-athlete once he/she has signed a National Letter of Intent with NIU?

**Question 3:** According to the NCAA, what is an extra benefit?

**Question 4:** May a team's graduate assistant pick up a prospective student-athlete from the airport and have a meal or coffee with the prospect directly after his/her arrival?

**Question 5:** If a coach is asked whether a prospective student-athlete has verbally committed to NIU, how much information can he/she share in response?

**Question 6:** May NIU provide complimentary tickets for a game to a prospective student-athlete's parents if the prospect cannot attend?

## EXTRA BENEFITS UPDATE

### OU Quarterback must sit out year, lose year of eligibility

Former Oklahoma starting quarterback Rhett Bomar was ruled ineligible to play for Sam Houston State during the 2006 season, while also losing a year of eligibility. The NCAA's ruling followed Bomar's dismissal from the Sooner football team after committing an NCAA violation by accepting excess payments over an extended period of time for summer work that was never actually performed. The NCAA's ruling also requires Bomar to give the extra money he earned from the car dealership, totaling \$7,406.88, to a charity of his choice. According to the NCAA, Bomar was paid for work he claimed that he had performed during "times when he was attending class, eating dinner or at football practice."

### University of Louisiana accused of violations

The University of Louisiana is accused of four violations including improper certification of the eligibility of a former men's basketball player and football coaches improperly giving players t-shirts based on their performance in games and drills. The university is in the process of recommending self-imposed penalties.

## **EXTRA BENEFITS, Continued**

### **ISU Center Banned for Improper Benefits**

An Iowa State basketball player is not able to play in the first six games for accepting improper benefits. He is required to repay \$1,688 to a charity of his choice to regain his eligibility. The extra benefits included food, a pair of pants, and the use of a car from a businessman he met at Marshalltown Community College. The individual had Iowa State season football tickets and in the 1980s donated money to the school, which qualified him as a booster of the institution, thus banning him from providing assistance to any athletes.

### **Rent agreement violation of NCAA rules**

USC football players, Matt Leinart and Dwayne Jarrett, shared an apartment during the 2005-2006 academic year, but the rent was not shared equally. Leinart's father paid \$2,566 of the monthly rent, while each student-athlete paid only \$650 in rent. Jarrett was ruled ineligible for receiving an extra benefit and was reinstated after paying \$5,352 to a charity of his choice.

### **LSU Probing Housing for Baseball Players**

Louisiana State University is investigating whether its baseball players received improper housing benefits under two former coaches. The investigation surrounds questions about players receiving discounted rent at area apartment complexes during the tenures of the former coaches, whether those same players received benefits not available to the general student population, and whether the housing arrangements were part of LSU's recruiting strategy. One former player told a Baton Rouge newspaper that he used a \$125 monthly housing stipend from his scholarship to pay for rent at either of two local apartment complexes.

### **Kansas Probation Extended to 2009, scholarships cut**

The NCAA extended the self-imposed penalties at Kansas University through 2009, extending the school's two years' probation to three years, while cutting three football scholarships and one men's basketball scholarship for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 academic years. The investigation revealed multiple violations, including a former graduate assistant providing test answers to two prospective junior college transfers who were taking a correspondence course exam in his dorm room. The committee on infractions also found that a basketball booster provided improper benefits to two players, one of whom was a recruit when the relationship began.

## **NEW AMATEURISM CLEARINGHOUSE**

Effective immediately, the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse will now review the amateur status of all prospective student-athletes who are planning to enroll for the first time at an NCAA Division I or Division II institution in fall 2007 or later. Prospective student athletes need to complete the amateurism certification process in order to receive financial aid and/or participate in Division I or Division II athletics. Online registration is required while the registration fee will not increase. During the registration process, prospective student-athletes will need to provide demographic and academic information as well as answer questions about athletic participation, prize money, expense money received, and any contact the applicant may have had with agents or professional teams. All of this information will be reviewed and a preliminary amateurism status report will be issued to help institutions in the recruiting process. In April 2007, all registered prospects with preliminary amateurism reports who are set to enroll in the fall of 2007 are required to update their form and confirm all information they provided. A final certification will be issued that can be accessed by member institutions. Note: institutions are responsible for certifying amateur status in the time after final certification and before enrollment. Prospects who have registered before the opening of the amateurism certification component of the clearinghouse will be contacted and asked to complete the new portion.

## **GAMBLING, REVISITED**

In the first issue of the Huskie Compliance Corner, we discussed the proliferation of offshore online gambling sites and the potential ramifications for coaches, student-athletes, institutions and staff members. We also mentioned the increased interest of the federal government in addressing this problem. In fact, since our first publication, the United States Government has taken action. On October 13, 2006, President Bush signed a bill banning Internet gambling, including all forms of sports wagering. The legislation specifically bans individuals from using their credit cards, checks, and electronic-fund transfers to settle their online wagers.

The NCAA released the following statement after President Bush signed the bill: "The passage of the legislation to prohibit Internet gambling is another positive step in combating the negative effects of sports wagering. The NCAA commends federal lawmakers for their leadership on this important issue and providing law enforcement with the tools needed to eliminate illegal Internet gambling. The Association has long been opposed to legal and illegal wagering on college sports. Sports wagering undermines the integrity of the games and threatens the well-being of student-athletes and college sports in general."

## Compliance Questions of the Month

**Answer 1:** NO. Waivers of the five-year clock are granted only when a student-athlete misses at least two seasons for reasons beyond his/her control. According to Bylaw 30.6.1.2, sitting out a year due to transfer regulations is a circumstance within the student-athlete's control.

**Answer 2:** No. A prospect remains a prospect even after he/she signs a National Letter of Intent with NIU. Boosters are prohibited from contacting a prospect on- or off-campus and may not call or write prospects.

**Answer 3:** An extra benefit is defined as any special arrangement by an institutional employee or booster to provide a student-athlete or the student-athlete's relatives or friends with a benefit not expressly authorized by the NCAA.

Examples of extra benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Special discounts, payment arrangements or credit on a purchase or service.
- Cash or like items (e.g., gift certificates).
- An automobile or use of an automobile.
- Free or reduced cost services, rentals or purchases of any type.
- Loan of money, signing or cosigning of loans or guarantee of bond.
- Tangible items (e.g., clothing, cars, jewelry).
- Free or reduced cost entertainment services from commercial agencies (e.g., movie tickets, dinners, use of car, reduced admission to community events).
- Free or reduced cost housing.

**Answer 4:** Yes, a graduate assistant may provide transportation from the airport as well as receive a meal with the prospective student athlete during their official visit. The 48-hour period would begin when the meal takes place.

**Answer 5:** A coach is only allowed to confirm that their school is recruiting the prospective student athlete and may not comment any further. Coaches are subject to this rule in responding to media, boosters, or anyone else from the general public.

**Answer 6:** No. Complimentary tickets are for the exclusive use of the prospect and any persons accompanying the prospect. If the prospect is not attending the game, NIU may not issue the complimentary tickets to the parents.

## Need More Information?

Please contact the Compliance Office staff for further information or for answers to NCAA related questions.

<http://niuhuskies.cstv.com/compliance/niu-compliance.html>

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STAFF

Bobbie Cesarek  
Associate Athletics Director - Compliance  
[bcesarek@niu.edu](mailto:bcesarek@niu.edu)  
(815) 753-9474

Ed Pasque  
Assistant Athletics Director - Compliance  
[epasque@niu.edu](mailto:epasque@niu.edu)  
(815) 753-9494

Brent Moberg  
Director of Compliance  
[bmoberg@niu.edu](mailto:bmoberg@niu.edu)  
(815) 753-8290  
(815) 690-3273

Brent Moberg publishes the Huskie Compliance Corner monthly. All comments, questions, or submissions should be directed to Brent at (815) 753-8290 or [bmoberg@niu.edu](mailto:bmoberg@niu.edu)