



# The Huskie Compliance Corner

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Northern Illinois University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

## RECRUITING CALENDARS

Sport	Dates	Recruiting Period
Baseball Softball Volleyball	Sept. 14- Oct. 31	Contact*
Men's Basketball	Sept. 9 - Oct. 5  Oct. 6-31	Contact  Evaluation
Women's Basketball	Sept. 16- Oct. 6  Sept. 28-30  Oct. 7-31	Contact  Evaluation**  Evaluation
Football	Sept. 15- Nov. 24	Quiet***
All Other Sports	Sept. 15- Oct. 31	Contact/Evaluation

\*Sept. 4-Oct. 11 is a Contact Only period with no evaluations for Women's Softball.

\*\*Evaluation permitted at non-scholastic women's basketball events.

\*\*\*Except for six (6) days during September, October, and through November 24 selected at the discretion of the institution that may be Evaluation days. (An authorized off-campus recruiter may visit a particular educational institution only once during this evaluation period.)

## RECRUITING PERIOD DEFINITIONS

**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.

## Compliance Questions of the Month

**Question 1:** Who is considered a prospective student-athlete (prospect)?

**Question 2:** What is the difference between a secondary and major violation?

**Question 3:** Is it permissible for a booster to visit a prospect's MySpace or Facebook account and leave messages encouraging the prospect to come to Northern Illinois University?

**Question 4:** Is it permissible for a prospect to use a scouting service to distribute personal information (e.g., academic records, physical statistics, athletic records) to colleges?

**Question 5:** Is it permissible for a coach to drive a prospective student-athlete and his parents from their home to the NIU campus during an official visit?

## **CURRENT INFRACTIONS**

### **University of Louisiana at Lafayette penalized by NCAA**

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette football program was penalized by the NCAA for violating NCAA voluntary summer workout rules.

The NCAA Committee on Infractions accepted some of the University's self-imposed penalties and modified others, while also levying additional sanctions.

The penalties include: a public reprimand and censure, two years of probation, and reduced countable hours in football from 20 to 15 hours for one week during either the Spring 2007 or Spring 2008 semester.

The violations occurred during the summers of 2002 through 2005. They included a former strength coach providing written and oral information to the football coaches about the absence, performance, and progress of specific student-athletes who participated in the workouts. The football coaches then provided information to their student-athletes about the absences of their teammates. Additionally, two assistant football coaches called student-athletes to inquire about participation in informal scrimmages organized by the student-athletes. These summer workouts were also occasionally observed by the football coaches who spent time in the weight room while the student-athletes lifted weights. The coaches also observed on-field conditioning and training activities at various times.

The University chose not to appeal the NCAA findings and has accepted all penalties. In a statement, the Athletic Department highlighted the fact that "the NCAA committee explicitly stated that there was no finding of the university intentionally violating any NCAA rules."

### **NCAA Penalizes University of Oklahoma Football Team**

The NCAA has penalized the University of Oklahoma football program for violations involving

three players who were paid approximately \$17,000 for work not actually performed. The penalties include vacating the team's wins from the 2005 season and loss of two scholarships for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. Oklahoma must also vacate the records of the involved players and amend Head Coach Bob Stoops's career record to reflect these changes.

Two years of probation will be added to the term currently being served by the institution, extending probation to May 2010. Oklahoma is currently serving probation for violations involving hundreds of improper recruiting calls made by former Head Men's Basketball Coach Kelvin Sampson.

The three football student-athletes had been employed and paid by a Norman, Oklahoma car dealership without performing any work. The players were also being paid for time during which they were at practice or at games. Upon discovery of these violations, the University dismissed two of the players from the team prior to the start of 2006 preseason practice.

During its investigation, the NCAA determined that the employment of several student athletes, including other football players, was not properly monitored. The University's failure to monitor the employment of its student-athletes allowed these violations to occur for several months.

### **Ball State University**

Ball State is currently engaged in an internal investigation of NCAA rules violations by its Men's Basketball coaching staff. The institution has hired an outside attorney, Myra Selby, a former Indiana Supreme Court Justice, to review the investigation.

The violations occurred in summer 2006 and in May 2007. Head coach Ronny Thompson and members of his staff monitored athletes during voluntary open gyms and weight room sessions in violation of NCAA rules, before lying about their involvement in the infractions.

On July 12, 2007, Thompson resigned from his position, citing the ongoing investigation as a reason for his departure. Thompson's contract includes a provision that would require him to pay a penalty if he voluntarily left the school before the expiration of the contract in March 2011.

It remains unclear as to whether Thompson will agree that he left his position voluntarily, leaving open the possibility of litigation between Thompson and the institution.

### **Answers to Compliance Questions of the Month**

**Answer 1:** A prospect is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. Students enrolled in preparatory schools and two-year colleges are also considered prospects. An individual remains a prospect until one of the following occurs:

A) The individual officially registers and enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in any term of a four-year collegiate institution's regular academic year (excluding summer);

B) The individual participates in a regular squad practice or competition at a four-year collegiate institution that occurs before the beginning of any term;

or

C) The individual officially registers and enrolls and attends classes during the summer prior to initial enrollment and receives institutional athletics aid.

**Answer 2:** A secondary violation is a violation that is isolated or inadvertent in nature, provides or is intended to provide only a minimal recruiting, competition or other advantage, and does not include any significant recruiting inducement or extra benefit. Secondary violations are classified as either Level I or Level II. Level I violations include any intentional violations, repeated violations of the same legislation in the same sport during the academic year, and violations that are not isolated or limited to a single occurrence. Level II violations are violations that are isolated and inadvertent.

Violations that provide an extensive recruiting or competitive advantage are classified as major violations. Multiple secondary violations may be considered collectively as a major violation.

**Answer 3:** No. Boosters are prohibited from contacting (via telephone, correspondence, or in-person) prospects or their relatives. Prohibited written communication for boosters includes general correspondence, e-mail, fax, Instant Message, text, chat rooms, MySpace, and Facebook.

**Answer 4:** Yes. A prospect may allow a scouting service or agent to distribute personal information to institutions without jeopardizing his or her eligibility, provided that any fee paid to the agency is for the compilation and distribution of the prospect's information. A prospect's eligibility would be in jeopardy if the fee paid to the agency was based on whether the agency could place the prospect in a collegiate institution as a recipient of an athletics scholarship. Any individual, agency, or organization that represents a prospect for compensation in placing the prospect in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid shall be considered an agent or organization marketing the individual's athletics ability or reputation.

**Answer 5:** No. While it is permissible for a coach to transport a prospective student-athlete from his or her home to the NIU campus by automobile during an official visit, it is not permissible for the prospect's parents or guardians to receive those same travel expenses. Additionally, if this method of transportation is used by a coaching staff, the 48-Hour time period for the prospect's Official Visit starts when the coach begins transporting the prospect, rather than when the prospect arrives on campus.



## COMPLIANCE ABC'S

### *N - Nonqualifier*

A nonqualifier is a prospect who did not meet the minimum core course, grade point average, and standardized test score requirements established by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. As a nonqualifier, the prospect may not practice, compete, or receive athletics aid during his or her first academic year in residence.

### *O - Outside Competition*

During the academic year, student-athletes may not compete for a team that does not represent Northern Illinois University's athletics program without jeopardizing their eligibility. However, student-athletes may compete for an Olympic or National team during the academic year.

### *P - Playing and Practice Seasons*

In the interest of student-athlete welfare and competitive equity, the NCAA has established daily and weekly limits on athletics participation. For the length of a team's playing season, student-athletes may not be required to participate in athletically related activity for more than four hours a day and 20 hours a week. Student-athletes must also receive at least one day off each week. Outside of the playing season, student-athletes are limited to eight required hours of weight-training, conditioning, and skill instruction per week, with a minimum of two days off each week.

### *Q - Qualifier*

A qualifier is a prospect who has met the minimum core course, grade point average, and standardized test score requirements established by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. A qualifier is eligible to practice and compete during his or her first academic year in residence and may receive athletics aid.

## 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>

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