



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

October 18, 2007

TO: Directors of Athletics at NCAA Division I Football-Playing Institutions.

FROM: Rachel Newman Baker, Director of Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities

Dennis Poppe, Managing Director of Football and Baseball.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the 2008 National Football League (NFL) Draft and Agents.

The NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee has determined that information should be provided to all Division I football-playing institutions to share with student-athletes who have remaining intercollegiate eligibility, but also may have a desire to consider a professional football career.

Please review the attached documents that outline issues these student-athletes should be aware of as they attempt to gauge their readiness for professional football. Please distribute this information to your student-athletes with eligibility remaining who are considering a professional career. One attached document provides information regarding the 2008 NFL Draft, participation in tryouts and interaction with agents. The other document reviews the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) regulation regarding contact between NFLPA certified contract advisors and underclassmen.

It is suggested that you and key members of your staff meet with the student-athlete to review these documents in person. As you will note, the document regarding the draft encourages the young man to keep the head coach and compliance coordinator informed of all activities during his decision-making process.

At the end of this process, the student-athlete may in fact reach the conclusion that it is not in his best interest to pursue a professional career at this time, but rather to continue athletics participation at the intercollegiate level while pursuing his academic degree. Since the involvement in activities during this process can affect his intercollegiate eligibility, the enclosed information has been designed to help protect his eligibility status.

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Newman Baker, director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities (317/917-6866 or rnewman@ncaa.org) or Dennis Poppe, managing director of football and baseball (317/917-6509 or dpoppe@ncaa.org).

RNB/DP:esb

Attachments

cc: Selected NCAA Staff Members

National Collegiate Athletic Association

An association of more than 1,200 members serving the student-athlete

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

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1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive

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www.ncaa.org



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TO: Football Student-Athletes with Remaining Eligibility.

FROM: Rachel Newman Baker
Director of Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities

Steve Mallonee
Managing Director of Membership Services/Division I Governance
Liaison.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the 2008 National Football League (NFL) Draft,
Tryouts, and Agents.

We understand that you may have remaining intercollegiate eligibility, but may also have a desire to "test the waters" as it relates to your pursuit of a potential professional football career. You will attempt to gauge your readiness for competition at the next level through a variety of methods, including tryouts with professional teams and you will undoubtedly rely on a number of individuals to assist in the decision-making process.

At the end of this process, you may in fact reach the conclusion that it is not in the best interest to pursue a professional career at this time, but rather to continue athletics participation at the intercollegiate level while pursuing your academic degree.

Involvement in activities during this process can affect your intercollegiate eligibility. The following information is designed to help you protect your eligibility while you "test the waters."

Five Points to Remember:

You will lose your eligibility IF:

1. You agree orally or in writing to be represented by an agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent [e.g., runner].
2. You accept any benefits from an agent, a prospective agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent [e.g., runner].
3. If you participate in a tryout with an NFL team that lasts longer than 48 hours, which you have not personally financed. .
4. If you tryout with a professional team during the academic year and miss class.
5. If you enter the draft AND do not take the appropriate steps to withdraw and declare your intention to resume intercollegiate participation.

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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Key Dates:

- College Advisory Committee evaluation request deadline: January 4, 2008.
- Early-entry deadline for underclassmen: January 15, 2008.
- Early-entry withdrawal deadline for underclassmen: 72 hours after early-entry deadline (midnight, January 18, 2008).
- NFL Combine: February 20 to 26, 2008 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2008 NFL Draft: April 26 and 27, 2008 in New York.

Frequently Asked Questions

Entering the Draft

1. *Am I allowed to enter the NFL draft early?*

YES! You may enter the NFL draft one time during your collegiate career without jeopardizing your eligibility; provided you are not drafted by any team and you declare your intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 72 hours following the NFL's draft declaration date. This declaration of intent must be in writing to your director of athletics. Players that enter the NFL draft early are required to sign, and have notarized, a petition for special eligibility with the NFL, which renounces all remaining collegiate eligibility unless revoked within 72 hours of the draft declaration date.

2. *May I request information from the NFL about my potential draft status without jeopardizing my eligibility?*

YES! You may personally request information from the NFL about your potential draft status without jeopardizing your eligibility. The NFL has a College Advisory Committee, which is comprised of 12 general managers/personnel directors of NFL clubs and the directors of the NFL's two scouting combines. Under this program student-athletes that are at least three years out of high school, may receive a general assessment of their draft potential. The committee will provide the player its best estimate of the highest round in which he has the potential to be drafted. The committee's evaluation is non-binding and does not guarantee or assure a specific round, but it does provide an underclassman with an unbiased opinion of where they may stand in the draft. The College Advisory Committee is a method where knowledgeable people, with no financial interest in the matter, can give a student-athlete an informed assessment of his draft chances. The period for applying for an evaluation from the College Advisory Committee is between the end of the regular football season and January 4, 2008. A representative of the commissioners' staff will respond to the involved player, and the NFL and the player are to keep the evaluation confidential.

NFL Combine and Tryouts

3. *Am I allowed to participate in the NFL combine in February and maintain my eligibility?*

NO! The NFL combine occurs from February 20 to 26, which is after the deadline for withdrawing from the NFL draft. Only players who have committed to entering into the NFL draft are allowed to participate in the NFL combine.

4. *Can I participate in private workouts/tryouts with NFL teams if school is still in session?*

YES! You may tryout with an NFL team (or participate in a combine including that team) during the academic year if you are enrolled full-time as long as you don't miss class. You may also tryout with an NFL team during the summer provided that the tryout does not exceed 48 hours and you have not received more than actual and necessary expenses from the team.

5. *Can I participate in on-campus "pro days" for NFL teams if school is still in session?*

YES! Participation in on-campus pro days for NFL teams is considered participation in a tryout for an NFL team. If you are enrolled as a full-time student at the institution you may participate in these workouts provided that you don't miss any class time.

6. *Am I allowed to receive a medical examination from the NFL scouting bureau if school is still in session?*

YES! A single scouting bureau recognized by the NFL is permitted to conduct one medical examination during the academic year without jeopardizing the student-athletes' eligibility, provided that examination does not occur off campus.

7. *Can NFL teams pay for my private workouts/tryouts?*

YES! You may receive actual and necessary expenses from the NFL team in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per team (or combine including that team). The 48-hour tryout period begins when you arrive at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period you must depart the location of the tryout immediately in order to receive transportation expenses.

8. *Can I pay for my own private workouts/tryouts with NFL teams?*

YES! A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided you don't miss class.

9. *Can any other individual (e.g., agent, runner, or "advisor") pay for my private workouts/tryouts with NFL teams?*

NO! Unless an NFL team pays for your expenses in conjunction with a private workout or tryout, you and your family are responsible for paying all expenses associated with any tryouts as they are incurred.

Agents

10. *What is an "agent" according to NCAA rules?*

An individual would be considered an "agent" if the individual markets your football skills to any NFL team or other professional teams (e.g., contact NFL teams to discuss your skills, set up tryouts with NFL teams).

11. *Am I allowed to have any type of agreement with an agent?*

NO! You are not permitted to have a written or oral agreement with an agent, or anyone who is employed by or acting on behalf of an agent or sports agency (i.e., "runner").

12. *What is an "oral agreement" with an agent?*

An oral agreement occurs if you verbally agree to have an agent perform any services (e.g., providing any expenses related to tryouts, arranging disability insurance, etc.) on your behalf OR you have knowledge that an agent is performing such services.

13. *Is an agent allowed to contact teams on my behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts?*

NO! You cannot have an agent arrange a private workout/tryout with an NFL team.

14. *Can my family members or other individuals who are associated with me as a result of playing football (e.g., high school coach, summer football coach, etc.) have an agreement with an agent to perform services on my behalf?*

NO! Family members and other individuals are not permitted to enter into any agreements with an agent on your behalf.

15. *Am I allowed to have an agreement with an agent if it is for future representation?*

NO! You are not permitted to agree to a future representation agreement with an agent.

16. *Is an agent allowed to provide me any benefits?*

NO! You, your family, or your friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent. Examples of material benefits include money, transportation, dinner, clothes, cell phones, jewelry, etc. However, benefits may also include, but are not limited to, activities such as tryout arrangements with a professional team and coordinating tryout schedules.

17. *Am I permitted to have an advisor during this process?*

YES, provided the advisor does not market you to NFL teams. However, an advisor will be considered an agent if they contact teams on your behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts.

18. *Can an institution cancel my athletics scholarship if I have an agreement with an agent?*

YES! An institution is permitted to rescind your athletics scholarship if you have an agreement with an agent.

19. *What is the National Football League Player's Association (NFLPA) rule regarding agent contact?*

An NFLPA certified agent, or any representative or person affiliated with an NFLPA certified agent, including "runners"/recruiters, financial advisors and marketing representatives is prohibited from speaking to individual prospective players or presenting to groups of prospective players who are ineligible for the NFL draft.

20. *What will happen to me if an agent contacts me in violation of the NFLPA rule regarding agent contact?*

Under the NFLPA rule, an agent is not allowed to contact prospective players that are ineligible for the NFL draft. However, the NCAA does not prohibit this contact, and a student-athlete would not be punished for communicating with an agent while ineligible for the draft, as long as the student-athlete, and his family and friends, do not have an agreement for representation with the agent, and do not receive any benefits from that agent or any of his representatives.

Helpful Tips:

- You should keep your head coach and compliance coordinator informed of all activities during this process.
- Be careful who you associate with during this process. Do it all yourself or work through your head coach. You may receive the assistance of your family members, provided they are not working with any individual who is marketing your athletics ability (e.g., contacting NFL teams, setting up tryouts with NFL teams).

- If you do not have knowledge of who arranged a tryout, you have a responsibility to find out who did.
- The NFL has had a great amount of success counseling underclassmen through its College Advisory Committee. Student-athletes should not be hesitant in utilizing this service because it provides unbiased information from the same people who will be evaluating talent for the draft. Between 1994 and 2006, 862 players were evaluated by the College Advisory Committee and 64 percent of the players evaluated elected to remain in school. The NFL's College Advisory Committee can be reached at the following address: College Advisory Committee, Attention: Player Personnel Department, National Football League, 280 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017, Phone: 212/450-2215.
- You should remain in school and complete your academic courses while you "test the waters."
- If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the NCAA agent, gambling, and amateurism activities staff at 317/917-6866 or newman@ncaa.org.

SIGNATURE

Please sign your name and date below, which confirms that you have reviewed and understand this form and the information contained therein. I understand that if I am found to be in violation of the provisions of any of the information mentioned above, I may be declared ineligible for further intercollegiate competition.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Printed Name

Institution

Head Coach

Date

Compliance Officer

Date