



SPIDER COMPLIANCE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August / September 2007

Recruiting Calendar

BASEBALL

Aug. 1 – Aug. 31...Contact Period
Sep. 1 – Sep. 13...Quiet Period
Sep.14 – Nov.11 ...Cont./Eval. Period

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Aug. 1 – Sep. 8...Quiet Period
Sep. 9 – Oct. 5...Contact Period

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Aug. 1 – Sep. 15...Quiet Period
Sep. 16 – April 22...Contact Period*
* 85 recruiting-person days.

* Those days not designated as part of the 85 shall be considered Quiet.
*Sep. 28-30...Evaluations permitted at non-scholastic women's basketball events.

FOOTBALL

Aug. 1 – Nov. 24...Quiet Period *
* Except for 42 evaluation days during the months of Sep., Oct. and through Nov. 24, selected at the discretion of the institution and designated in writing in the office of the Director of Athletics.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Aug. 1 – Aug. 31... Quiet Period*
*Except for seven contact-only days (No Evaluations!) selected at the discretion of the institution and designated in writing in the office of the Director of Athletics.
Sep. 1 – Nov. 20...Cont./Eval. Period*
*Except for Nov. 12-15...Dead Period

Cross Country/Track

Aug. 1 – Aug. 11... Quiet Period
*Rest of August and all of September is a Contact Period.

ALL OTHER SPORTS

Aug. 1 – Sep. 30...Cont./Eval. Period

OFFICIAL VISITS

Clearinghouse Registration...New this year, there are a couple of additional steps which must be completed before a prospective student-athlete may come on campus for an official visit. The hope is that this process will encourage prospects to register with the clearinghouse early, and help speed up the certification process.

The following requirements must be met before a prospect makes an official visit:

- 1) A high school prospect must present the institution with a valid score from a PSAT, SAT, PLAN or ACT. The score must be presented through a testing agency document, an official or unofficial transcript or through the applicable testing agency's automated-voice system. Foreign prospects who require special administration of a standardized test may present such a score after the approval of the appropriate NCAA body.
- 2) A prospect must present the institution with an academic transcript.
- 3) High school prospects must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
*A prospective student-athlete will be considered to be registered with the clearinghouse once the individual has successfully submitted the clearinghouse Student Release Form (SRF) electronically on the clearinghouse website.
- 4) The institution must place the prospect on the institutional request list (IRL) with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Important Reminders:

- Please give at least 3 day's notice to the compliance office when a prospective student-athlete is coming on an official visit.
- Remind your players of their responsibilities and the expectations which accompany hosting prospects on an official visit.
- Personalized recruiting aids are not allowed.
- Prospects may not be involved in team activities which would alert the media of the prospects visit to the institution.
- It is impermissible to allow a prospect to participate in any game-day simulations during a visit.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Text Messaging... As you all know, beginning August 1, 2007, Bylaw 13.4.1.2 has eliminated the use of text messaging, instant messaging and chat rooms in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes. The NCAA Board of Directors met on August 9, 2007 and declined to reconsider this electronic communications ban. This means that the only permissible forms of electronic communication with a prospect are e-mail and faxes.

One question which seems to keep coming up is, "If I receive a text message from a prospect, can I at least write them back and tell them that I'm not allowed to text them anymore?" Text messaging is not allowed under any circumstances, so it would not be permissible to text the prospect back, even if they initiated contact.

Because the Board of Directors declined to reconsider the text messaging ban, the legislation will come to a membership vote at the January 2008 Convention. A five-eighths majority vote will be required to override the rule. Nothing will change between now and January, so continue to be mindful of the restrictions on electronic communications with recruits.

Note Cards... Another piece of legislation which went into effect at the beginning of this month was the restrictions on note cards. Any institutional note card provided to a prospective student-athlete may not exceed 8 ½ x 11 inches when opened in full. Additionally, the cards may only contain the institution's name and logo or an athletics logo on the outside. The inside of the card must be blank on the inside when produced and may include only handwritten information.

A recent interpretation provided by the NCAA extended the same restrictions to envelopes used to send the note cards. Therefore, an envelope used to send a note card may contain only the institution's name and logo on the outside (in addition to the postage, return address and addressee information), must be blank on the inside and may not exceed 8 ½ x 11 inches.

Practice Hours... As students arrive back on campus and team activities begin, there are some things to consider when running practices.

Daily and weekly time limitations on countable athletically related activities:

IN-SEASON

- 4 hours per day
- 20 hours per week
- 1 required day-off

OUT-OF-SEASON

- 8 hours per week
- No more than 2 hours of skill instruction
- 2 required days-off



Skill Instruction Reminder... The following conditions went into effect beginning August 1, 2006.

- During any out-of-season time that falls between:
 - The first day of classes and September 14, no more than four student athletes may be involved in skill instruction at any one time in any facility.
 - September 15 and April 15, there is no limit on the number of student-athletes who may be involved in skill instruction at any one time in any facility.
 - April 16 and the end of classes, no more than four student-athletes may be involved in skill instruction at any one time in any facility.
- The amount of time spent on skill instruction may not exceed 2 of your permissible 8 weekly hours.
- All athletically-related activities are prohibited beginning one week prior to the start of the final exam period until the end of each student-athletes final exams, unless your championship season overlaps an exam period.



Compliance Reminders...



1. Squad Lists

- The Compliance Office will have all NCAA squad lists completed prior to each sport's first contest.
- The squad lists will be distributed to each head coach.
- The coach is responsible for verifying that all student-athletes are properly listed and certified as eligible. Only those student-athletes with a "Y" in their Eligibility Column will be allowed to compete.

2. Team Compliance Meetings

- Team compliance meetings must be held prior to your first practice.
- NCAA rules prohibit a student-athlete from engaging in practice activities prior to signing the proper forms.

3. Declaration of Coaches

- All coaches must be properly declared on the Coaches Designation Form prior to engaging in on- or off-field coaching activities.
- Any additions or deletions from the staff must be submitted in writing to the Compliance Office.

4. Playing Season Declarations

- Pursuant to Bylaw 17.1.3, all coaches must officially declare their playing season in writing using the Playing Season Declaration Form that was distributed on August 1, 2007.
- These declarations are due back to the Compliance Office by August 27, 2007.

5. Practice Logs

- New Practice Log forms will be distributed to the head coach (or assistant coach designated as the compliance liaison) at the beginning of each month.
- These logs must be kept up-to-date and submitted to the Compliance Office on a monthly basis.

6. Telephone Logs

- Telephone logs must be maintained and submitted to the compliance office at the end of each month.

Signing Dates for the 2008-09 National Letter of Intent

Sport	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball (Early Period)	November 14, 2007	November 21, 2007
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 16, 2008	May 21, 2008
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 19, 2007	January 15, 2008
Football (Regular Period)	February 6, 2008	April 1, 2008
Field Hockey, Soccer	February 6, 2008	August 1, 2008
All Other Sports(Early Period)	November 14, 2007	November 21, 2007
All Other Sports(Regular Period)	April 9, 2008	August 1, 2008

In the News...

Nebraska baseball investigation involves 5 players



Lincoln, NE - Nebraska's ongoing investigation into whether some members of the Huskers' 2007 baseball team committed an NCAA secondary violation by trying to exchange school-issued bats for credit at a local sporting goods store involves five players.

So said two people Saturday with ties to the squad.

The two were read a list of players and asked if it included everyone involved in the matter, and both gave positive responses.

The names they heard are:

Senior outfielder Andy Gerch, senior catcher Mitch Abeita, senior designated hitter Jeff Tezak, senior infielder Craig Corriston and Jeff Lanning, a catcher who has transferred to the University of New Orleans.

Tezak was a second-team All-Big 12 Conference performer in 2007, while Corriston and Abeita earned honorable-mention tags.

Through multiple interviews conducted since June, the Journal Star learned that at the conclusion of the season the players made their transactions at Scheel's in South Pointe Pavilions mall. Someone then alerted the coaching staff of what had happened and Anderson — coming off a season in which he suspended four players for alcohol-related incidents and dismissed two from the squad — took care of the situation within 24 hours.

At that time, assistant athletic director Gary Bergen, who handles the school's NCAA compliance issues, was notified of the matter. But it's remained unclear whether the school felt it would have to send a report to the governing body.

Reached Saturday, Gerch, who in 2005 became the only NU player named to a College World Series all-tournament team, spoke in a somewhat embarrassed tone.

"It happened. In no way, shape or form did I ever mean to make anybody look bad or do anything wrong," he said. "I apologize to Coach Anderson and all the fans."

On Friday, the athletic department acknowledged that it was reviewing alleged improprieties. Despite that, neither Anderson nor Bergen have returned messages requesting information on the matter. Scheel's representatives also are taking a "no-comment" stance.

Bergen said last month that Nebraska officials had made a determination about whether violations had occurred, but wouldn't divulge what that decision was. Friday's announcement by the school would make it appear that the NCAA will eventually be sent a report.

What might come of that? Possibly nothing. Or possibly the NCAA handing out some sort of suspension to the players and giving the school a stern lecture about adhering to rules.

In five years with Anderson as coach, Nebraska has filed two secondary violation reports to the NCAA for procedural errors, and never been penalized.

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