



University of Richmond Department of Athletics

Compliance Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

Recruiting Calendars:

Cross Country/ Track & Field

Feb. 1 ~ Contact Period
Feb. 2-5 ~ Dead Period
Feb. 6- 28 ~ Contact Period

Men's Basketball

Feb. 1- 28 ~ Evaluation Period

Women's Basketball

Feb. 1- 28 ~ Evaluation Period
*Not to exceed 100 recruiting person days.

Baseball

Feb. 1-28 ~ Quiet Period

Women's Lacrosse

Feb. 1-28 ~ Contact Period

Football, Championship Division

Feb. 1 ~ Quiet Period
Feb. 2-5 ~ Dead Period
Feb. 6-28 ~ Contact Period



What's due?

- ✓ January Phone logs
- ✓ January Practice logs
- ✓ Recruiting logs/activity to date (contacts/evals)
- ✓ Official/unofficial visit paperwork
- ✓ [Occasional meal forms](#) (if planning a meal, or have provided a meal to your team)

If you haven't already done so, please provide any item listed above to either Melissa or Jill

Visits by prospective student-athletes:

Because we are in a day and age where prospects are visiting campuses earlier in their high school careers, coaches must maintain an awareness of the characteristics and timing of any visit to campus made by a prospect. Any time a coach meets with a prospect on UR's campus, it should be documented. Below are some general reminders regarding both types of visits ...

Official Visits (follow all steps of [official visit procedure](#)):

- ✓ By definition, an official visit is financed in whole or in part by UR – so all procedures must be followed, even if the visit occurs late in the recruiting cycle
- ✓ Requests and documentation
 - Submit tests scores and transcripts for an admissions evaluation
 - Use the new [official visit request form](#) and complete/submit to the compliance office **3 working days** prior to the visit
 - Prospects must be registered with the clearinghouse in order to make an official visit. Late submissions can be problematic if the prospect's not registered
 - Make sure that you know/document who is accompanying the prospect during the visit, especially if it is someone other than a parent, or legal guardian (Aunt, sibling, etc.)
 - Ensure hosts and prospects read and sign appropriate documentation
 - Host – student host form
 - Prospect – official visit prospect declaration
- ✓ Meals and entertainment
 - We can only provide meals to the prospect, their parents/legal guardians, spouse or children – if anyone else is present, they must pay for their meal
 - Only one student host (per prospect) may receive the benefit of meals during the window of an official visit
 - Exception – the team is being provided with an occasional meal(*) and that is where the prospect is receiving that particular meal (*Should be discussed with compliance prior to taking place)
 - The \$30/day entertainment money must cover all actual costs of entertaining the host, prospect and their parents/legal guardians; the cash may not be provided to the prospect
 - Entertainment must take place within a 30 mile radius of campus
 - There cannot be any contact between representatives of our interests and prospects during their official visit (on, or off-campus)
- ✓ Canceled visits are documented by the A-10 and CAA, so please let us know anytime a prospect cancels their official visit
- ✓ If there are any alterations to the visit as requested (arrival, departure, itinerary, host, entertainment plans, etc.) please alert either Jill or Melissa via email/phone

Unofficial Visits:

- ✓ Can occur at any time other than a dead period
- ✓ An [unofficial visit request form](#) should be completed prior to any scheduled or pre-arranged visits
- ✓ Any informal "drop-in" unofficial visits should be informally documented somewhere in each coaches database, recruiting logs, or even a simple email to the compliance staff
- ✓ The only benefit that we can provide a prospect on an unofficial visit is a complimentary admission to a regular season home athletic event
- ✓ Planning for prospect days, or "junior days" should be discussed in detail with the compliance staff during the planning stages (prior to sending out invitations)



**Official Interpretation re:
Content of Athletics Department Staff
Members' Personal Websites and non-Athletics
Institutional Websites**

Date Published: March 14, 2007

The committee confirmed that it is permissible for a 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, in order 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-athletic) and personal Web sites of athletics department staff members, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public (e.g., not included in a separate recruiting section) and is not created for recruiting purposes.

WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON?

Real questions from division I coaches across the country dealing with topics/issues they face day-to-day on their campuses

Our local newspaper ran a "video" story on their web site chronicling the lives of freshmen at our institution; some of the videos are about student-athletes, may we have a link to this story on our web page?

Yes, because the news story was created by the newspaper as a news story, your institution may have a link to the videos or web site on your institutional website. However, coaches may not send the videos directly to prospects. (NCAA 12.5.1.1, 12/5/14)

May we provide free parent admission to an end-of-season banquet if no meal will be served? We traditionally haven't allowed free admission for parents because they are sit-down meals. This banquet will be slightly different as there is no meal provided, but there will be "heavy" hors d'oeuvres.

Parents may be provided free admission to the "banquet" if it is just finger food and drinks that will be served, with the definition of snacks left up to your discretion but realizing that the manual indicates "snacks and drinks." (NCAA 16.6.1.5)

May an alum use the occasional practice rule to join a skill instruction session rather than a full team practice?

Yes, skill instruction may be considered a practice activity that would allow an alum to occasionally practice per the 1992 NCAA interpretation. Just be sure to remind coaches and alums that the alumni may not participate in any coaching activities. (NCAA 14.1.6.1, Interp 12/3/92)

How is the term "occasional" viewed or defined, so that we know how often we can provide our team with an occasional meal?

There should not be a pattern of regularity to occasional meals and a good general rule is two, or three per term. In the case of celebrating, or recognizing a championship, it would be permissible because it is deemed a special occasion. (NCAA 16.11.1.5)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Can a UR coach contact a student-athlete at another four-year NCAA collegiate institution?

ANSWER:

Yes, but, before contact is made we must comply with Bylaw 13.1.1.3, which states: an athletics staff member or other representative of our athletics interests shall not make contact with the student-athlete of another NCAA or NAIA four-year collegiate institution, directly or indirectly, without first obtaining the written permission of that institution's athletics director (or an athletic administrator designated by the athletics director) to do so, regardless of who makes the initial contact.

Before any contact is made we must receive this permission, but if the prospective collegiate student-athlete is at a 2-year school (JUCO, etc.) instead of a 4 year school, we would not need permission to contact him or her. Four-year college contact rules apply to prospect's relatives as well, and there's no "relaxing" of these rules just because we may know an individual from past recruiting, coaching, camps and such.

Remember - once permission is granted to contact a transfer, we must treat that individual as a "High School Senior" in that we are only permitted ONE countable call per week to him/her. (ALL sports have only one call, even those who can call seniors twice a week or more). No texting is permissible. Written correspondence is the same as for a H.S. senior and if it's after October 15th of their college freshman year, they can come on an official visit - with the appropriate documentation that is. JUCO Non-Qualifiers can neither officially visit nor be contacted during their first year at the two-year college. Document all activity please - and let us know names and numbers as always. Also, think about that highlighted bit.....is talking to this individual's coach considered "indirect contact"??