



University of Richmond Department of Athletics Compliance Newsletter

MARCH 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)

NCAA EDUCATIONAL COLUMN:

Limitations on the Number and Duties of Coaches -- Responsibilities of Non-coaching Staff Members and Managers (I)

Date Published: February 5, 2009

Any individual who participates in any manner in the coaching of a sport in practice, games or organized activities directly related to that sport must be counted as a coach as stipulated in the limitations for that sport in NCAA Division I Bylaw 11.7. In addition to competitive equity, the intent of the coaching limitations is to restrict the actual coaching of student-athletes to those individuals who are identified as coaches. A strength and conditioning coach does not need to be included in the institution's coaching limitations for a specific sport provided the individual only conducts flexibility, warm up and physical conditioning activities before contests and before or during practices or other organized activities. Other athletics department staff members, including managers and non-coaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities (e.g., administrative assistants, directors of operations, quality control personnel, directors of player development, video coordinators, assistant/associate athletics directors for specific sports), do not have to be included in the institution's coaching limitations provided they do not engage in any on- or off-field coaching activities, off-campus recruiting activities or scouting of opponents. Specific prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, attending meetings involving coaching activities, analyzing videotape or film involving the institution's or an opponent's team, and participation in or observation of student-athletes in the staff member's sport who are engaged in non-organized voluntarily athletically related activities.

Managers

It is not permissible to hire a manager to perform only on-court or on-field activities (e.g., ball shagging, bounce-passing drills, throw batting practice). Nonstudent managers may not perform any on-court or on-field duties that could be considered coaching without counting in the coaching limitations stipulated in Bylaw 11.7. Student managers may perform limited on-court or on-field activities during practice, games and organized activities (e.g., ball shagging, bounce-passing drills, throw batting practice, signaling in plays at the direction of a coaching staff member) provided they also perform traditional managerial functions (e.g., run clock at practice, laundry, fill water bottles). Finally, under no circumstances may a manager provide skill instruction without being counted in the coaching limitations.

Non-coaching Staff Members with Sport-Specific Responsibilities

Non-coaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities may not perform any on-court or on-field duties that could be considered coaching during practice, games and organized activities (e.g., ball shagging, bounce-passing drills, throw batting practice, signaling in plays) without counting in the coaching limitations stipulated in Bylaw 11. For example, if a director of softball operations throws batting practice, the director of softball operations must be counted toward the coaching limitations in Bylaw 11 even if no skill instruction is provided. While non-coaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities should not be involved in any manner with practice activities, it is permissible for these individuals to observe practice without having to count toward the coaching limitations. Finally, non-coaching staff members with sport specific responsibilities may sit on an institution's bench or stand on the sidelines during an institution's contest provided the individual does not engage in any coaching activities. If an institution permits non-coaching staff members with sport specific responsibilities to sit on the bench or stand on the sidelines during games, the institution is responsible for ensuring that these individuals are not engaging in any coaching activities.

[References: Bylaw 11.7, official interpretation (2/11/93, Item No. 9), and staff interpretations (5/2/07, item 1a) and 11/19/97, item b) and 2004 Hot Topic #2 (4/9/04)]

Application and Impact of Educational Column at UR:

In order to best protect the integrity of our athletics program, the compliance staff will continue to provide the best service possible in the form of educational resources and materials, individual access for interpretive questions and meetings, and simplified monitoring tools. Our goal is to continue the progress already made in utilizing systems that are transparent, effective and efficient.

To reach the desired level of effectiveness, we depend on honest and direct feedback, functional systems of checks and balances, and the ability to measure

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 16.1.1.5)

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"??