

# SACRED HEART NEWS

Athletics Compliance

For Coaches and Athletics Staff

February 2006

## **EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS**

If an institutional coach owns or operates a local sports club, the club must be engaged in competitive activities (i.e., not formed only to provide instruction to prospects, except in women's golf and equestrian, per Bylaw 13.11.3.8); however, if the coach is merely an employee, then the club need not engage in competitive activities in order to be permissible. NCAA Bylaw 13.11.2.3 states: "In sports *other than basketball*, an institution's coach may be involved as a participant or in instructional or coaching activities in the same sport for a local sports club or organization located in the institution's home community, provided all prospects participating in said activities are legal residents of the area (within a 50-mile radius of the institution)." It is critical to note that a prospect participating in local sports clubs must not just live or reside within a 50-mile radius of the institution. Specifically, prospects in local sports clubs must be *legal residents* within the 50-mile radius. In the past, failing to note this distinction has led NCAA coaches to violate this rule. "In *all sports*, an institution's coach may be involved as a participant or in instructional or coaching activities in a sport other than the coach's sport for a local sports club or organization located in the institution's home community, provided all prospects participating in said activities are legal residents of the area (within a 50-mile radius of the institution)." "Further, in club teams involving multiple teams or multiple sports, the 50-mile radius is applicable only to the team with which the institution's coach is involved; however, it is not permissible for the coach to assign a prospect who lives outside the 50-mile area to another coach of the club." Finally, coaches may be involved in activities with non-prospects regardless of where such individuals reside. Please adhere to these guidelines. Penalties for failure to do so have included letters of reprimand, withholding student-athletes from practice and competition and limiting off-campus recruiting.

## **BEWARE OF TRYOUTS**

Local Sports Clubs are an exception to the tryout rule. Therefore, coaches must pay close attention to the NCAA restrictions on local sports clubs to avoid a serious violation of NCAA bylaws. Bylaw 13.11.1 states that "A member institution, on its campus or elsewhere, shall not conduct (or have conducted on its behalf) any physical activity (e.g., practice session or test/tryout) at

which one or more prospects reveal, demonstrate or display their athletic abilities in any sport except as provided in Bylaws 13.11.2 and 13.11.3." Previous violations of the tryout rule that have involved local sports clubs are factually diverse, but have similarities: unexpectedness and misunderstandings. For example, a coach was working with his local sports club and a prospect that was not a member asked to participate and did so as the coach supervised him and directed his activity. That is a violation because the prospect was not a member of the club. Also, a local club coach invited an institutional coach to watch his team and the institutional coach instructed the prospects in various activities. That is a violation because the institutional coach was not an official staff member of the club. Occasionally, coaches have also violated the tryout rule because of a failure to understand the limited scope of local sports clubs as an exception. Local sports clubs' prospects are members and its coaches are staff. There are procedures for becoming a member or a club coach. Some coaches have incorrectly thought that the local sports clubs exception permitted them to work out with any prospect in the community. To lessen the likelihood of violations, coaches involved in local sports clubs have instituted procedures including but not limited to the following: (1.) Potential members must complete an application in which they specify their legal residence and (2.) No prospect or non-prospect may participate in the club unless s/he has completed the application and been accepted as a member.

**23** of the **33** local sports club  
secondary infractions on record with the  
NCAA were due to prospects in clubs  
having a residence beyond the 50  
mile radius.

## **NO INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORSHIP OF LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS ALLOWED**

NCAA Bylaw 13.11.2.3.1 prohibits any member institution's sponsorship of a local sports club. Specifically, the Bylaw states that "Neither an institution's athletics department nor an institution's athletics booster group may sponsor a local sports club that includes prospects."

However, "It is permissible for a department of the institution that operates independent of the athletics department (e.g., physical education department, recreation department) to sponsor a local sports club that includes prospects, provided no athletics department staff member is involved with the club team."

The obvious question then is: what constitutes "institutional sponsorship"? Examples include: an institution renting space to a club at a discount; an institution providing free accounting services to a club; an institution paying a coaches travel expenses with a club when he also performed recruiting duties on the same trip.

To avoid institutional sponsorship violations: (1.) Maintain a clear line of demarcation between your role as an institutional coach and a club coach (e.g., discounts you receive because of institutional affiliation may not be received by the club and (2.) Ask before you act! Contact the Office of Athletic Compliance if you have any questions.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETES IN LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS:**

#### *Potential for Violations in Countable Hours and Financial Aid*

When student-athletes become involved in local sports clubs the opportunity for violations of NCAA rules increases. Institutional coaches must remain aware of the following information. Countable hours violations may result if an institutional coach owns, operates or coaches at a local sports club that includes student-athletes as members or employees. Recently the membership services staff determined that a student-athlete's employment in a local sports club or organization owned or operated by a coaching staff member in his or her sport does not, in and of itself, constitute a countable athletically related activity. Therefore, it is permissible for an institution's coaching staff member who owns or operates a local sports club or organization to employ a student-athlete, who is a member of his or her team, in the club or organization outside the institution's playing season, provided no countable athletically related activities (per NCAA Bylaw 17.02.1) occur as a result of the employment. An institutional coach cannot provide instruction to his or her team's student-athletes as club members because institutional coaches may not coach their student-athletes on outside teams except Olympic, Olympic developmental teams and, during the summer, in individual sports other than equestrian. Similarly,

violations of financial aid limits can occur within the same scenario as described before. If the coach owns or operates the club *or* if the coach intervened on the student-athlete's behalf in securing the employment, then for (a.) student-athletes in their initial year of residence, all earnings would be countable in team limits and (b.) for student-athletes after their initial year of residence, all earnings over \$2,000 would be countable in team limits.

## **Serious violations of NCAA rules on countable hours and financial aid limits could result in reductions of countable hours and financial aid.**

### **RECRUITING & AMATEURISM**

#### **Recruiting Issues**

During the academic year, the institution does not use one of its permissible evaluations for any prospect participating in any competition against the local team the institutional coach coaches. Any other contests observed by the coaching staff member involving prospective student-athletes (e.g., scouting future opponents for the club team) must count as an evaluation for each prospect participating in the contest. In women's volleyball during a dead or quiet period, institutional coaching staff members may not coach a local sports club team at an off-campus competition where prospects are present. However, it is permissible for an institution's coach to coach his or her own local sports club team in practice activities.

Finally, the NCAA noted that a coach involved with a local sports club (either during or outside a contact/evaluation period) is not included in the permissible number of coaches who may recruit off campus at any one time.

#### **Amateurism Issues**

A student-athlete loses amateur status for receiving expenses from an outside sponsor or organization for dues to a local sports club. A sports club may waive membership dues for participants in the club, provided the club has an established policy that includes selection criteria unrelated to athletics

# FYI . . .

## RECENT INTERPRETATIONS

Pursuant to NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.1.7.2, recruiting contact may not be made with a prospect prior to any athletics competition in which the prospect is a participant during the day or days of competition, even if the prospect is on an official or unofficial visit. Contact includes the passing of notes to a prospect by a third party on behalf of an institutional staff member. Such contact shall be governed by the following:

- a. Contact shall not be made with the prospect at any site prior to the contest on the day or days of competition;
- b. Contact shall not be made with the prospect from the time the prospect reports on call (at the direction of the prospect's coach or comparable authority) and becomes involved in competition-related activity (e.g., traveling to an away-from-home game) to the end of the competition even if such competition-related activities are initiated prior to the day or days of competition;
- c. Contact shall not be made after the competition until the prospect is released by the appropriate institutional authority and departs the dressing and meeting facility;
- d. Contact shall not be made with the prospect involved in competition that requires more than one day of participation (e.g., a basketball tournament) until after the prospect's final contest is completed and he or she is released by the appropriate institutional authority and leaves the dressing and meeting facility; and
- e. In sports other than basketball, coaching staff members may send general correspondence to a prospect while the prospect is participating in an athletics event, provided the general correspondence is sent directly to a prospect (e.g., the front desk of the hotel, the prospect's personal fax machine) and there is no additional party (e.g., camp employee, coach) involved in disseminating the correspondence (Bylaw 13.4).

Further, during its June 20, 2001, meeting, the former NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Legislative Review/Interpretations determined that it is not permissible for an institution's coaching staff member to contact a prospect by telephone while the prospect is participating in a competition-related activity. The subcommittee also determined that it is not permissible for an institution's coach to verbally relay information to a prospect through the prospect's coach while the prospect is participating in a competition-related activity.

### NCAA releases further clarification of permissible coaching activities of managers and administrative assistants.

First, it is possible to distinguish permissible duties for student managers and professional staff members who have sport specific duties (e.g., administrative assistants, director of basketball operations). Pursuant to the February 11, 1993, official interpretation, 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). These managers must also perform traditional managerial functions (e.g., run clock at practice, laundry). Finally, under no circumstances can a manager provide skill instruction without being counted in the coaching limitations in Bylaw 11.

### Noncoaching Staff Members with Sport-Specific Responsibilities:

These individuals may not perform any on-court or on-field duties that could be considered coaching (e.g., ball shagging, bounce-passing drills, throw batting practice) without counting in the coaching limitations in Bylaw 11. For example, it is not permissible for an administrative assistant to throw bounce passes to a post player during a drill even if the administrative assistant provides no skill instruction. The duties of these individuals were intended to be addressed with the adoption of Proposal No. 65. Thus, they should not be involved in any manner with practice activities unless the institution counts them in the coaching limits. Although one could argue that practice could be considered a "meeting involving coaching activities," the NCAA agreed that it is permissible for these staff members to observe practice.

### Participation in Practice (e.g., as practice players):

Pursuant to Bylaw 14.1.8.1 an individual may be eligible to practice if they are enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies leading to a baccalaureate degree. Notwithstanding current interpretations related to alumni and former student-athletes, no individual other than those who are certified as eligible to practice should participate as practice players in an organized institutional practice.

## NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

The dates for the Spring Signing Period are fast approaching. Please see Kim **BEFORE APRIL 10th** if you are planning on any activity during this time!

## SUMMER CAMP ADVERTISING AND BROCHURES

Sports should confine the use of a student-athlete's name, picture, and institutional affiliation to the camp counselor section in a summer-camp brochure for the purpose of identifying the student-athlete as a staff member. No sport may use a student-athlete's name or picture in any other way to directly advertise or promote the camp.

Second, if a sport is interested in advertising a summer camp or clinic in a recruiting publication, then, in order for such advertising to be permissible, the publication (actual or online) must include a camp directory where in: the advertisements' size (not to exceed one-half page) and form are identical and multiple listings of summer camps exist within the directory (i.e., at least two summer-camp advertisements of the same size must appear on each page). Furthermore, please note that it is not permissible to place an institutional camp or clinic advertisement in high-school or two-year college game programs or other forms of media present at high school or two-year college competitions (e.g., billboards at stadiums). Third, the preceding restrictions related to advertisements of an institution's sports camps and Clinics in recruiting publications; they do not apply to sports camp and clinic advertisements in nonrecruiting publications (e.g., a member institution's game program). Finally, for sports that have yet to complete camp brochures, remember that departmental policy now requires approval by Athletic Compliance before printing. Similarly, the office of Athletic Compliance will be available to review any advertising for a camp or clinic. Always remember to ask before you act!

## GAMBLING

With March Madness approaching, please be advised that student-athletes and athletic staff members are

strictly prohibited from placing wagers of any kind on the NCAA Men's or Women's basketball tournaments. This includes prohibiting staff members from completing tournament brackets where the winner receives any type of prize or item. This would also preclude staff members from entering such contests on-line (espn.go.com or cnsi.com) or wagering through legal means in Nevada.

## UNLIMITED CALLS

For sports other than Football, there are very few exceptions to the one call per week rule outlined in Bylaw 13.1.3. These exceptions are:

- ❖ Five days immediately preceding the prospect's official visit.
- ❖ On the day an in-person, off-campus contact occurs.
- ❖ On the initial date for the signing of the NLI and two days after
- ❖ Subsequent to the prospect signing a NLI with SHU.

## **HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

### NEW LEGISLATION – EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Several proposals have been adopted by the Board of Directors that will take effect immediately. Listed below are a few that affect recruiting and eligibility. For a complete listing of the legislation, go to [http://www1.ncaa.org/eprise/main/administrator/lstdbi/DI\\_Conf\\_Page.html](http://www1.ncaa.org/eprise/main/administrator/lstdbi/DI_Conf_Page.html)

#### Recruiting

Proposal 2005-75 eliminates the telephone call to a prospect during his or her junior year in high school, as well as the off-campus recruiting contact during the Junior year for sports other than Football and Basketball. Proposal 2005-154 allows an institution to pay for transportation costs from any location, as long as the prospect returns to the original point of departure, or, if the cost is less, to the prospect's home or educational institution.

Proposal 2005-159 permits an institution to provide meals for a prospect's children during an official visit. Proposal 2005-172 requires an institution to provide prospects and their parents with information contained in its academic progress rate and graduation disclosure report.

#### Eligibility

Proposals 2005-81, 2005-83, and 2005-84 deal with transfer eligibility. All allow a transfer student to receive an exception to the residence requirement that they qualify for as long as they did not participate in intercollegiate athletics beyond a 14 day tryout period.

This includes the nonrecruited exception, return to original institution, and the 2-year nonparticipation exception.

## **NCAA RECRUITING PRACTICE TEST NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

The practice test is available at:

<https://goomer.ncaa.org/wdbctx/LSDBi/LSDBI.home>

We will be administering the test in late May.

## **LATE ADDITIONS TO TEAM ROSTERS**

Please use the form that has been distributed to all coaches regarding late additions to rosters. Please note that all students not initially listed on the team roster that was reported last fall must complete this form. Students not attending the initial compliance and medical meetings that occur each fall will be required to walk this form through the necessary steps in order to participate on an athletics team at SHU. It is necessary to confirm that each student meets the basic enrollment, academic, and physical/health requirements for participation. **The student will not be allowed to receive equipment nor practice until he or she has been approved for practice through this process!**

**For deletions, please complete the form in its entirety, providing as much detail as possible as to the reason the athlete is leaving. We must have detailed explanations AS TO WHY THE STUDENT-ATHLETE IS LEAVING YOUR TEAM!**

Both forms are available on the website, at <http://sacredheartpioneers.ocsn.com/compliance/saht-compliance.html>

**SHU**  
**ATHLETICS**

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**Compliance Staff:**

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<b>CURRENT RECRUITING CALENDAR</b>	
<u>Softball</u>	
Jan. 2 – July 31	Contact/Evaluation Period
Except For:	
April 10 – 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
May 29 – June 9	<b>Dead Period</b>
<u>Men’s Basketball</u>	
Nov. 20 – Mar. 29	
Designated 130 person days	Evaluation Period
Mar. 16 – Mar. 22	Contact Period
Except for:	
March 30 - April 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
April 14 – April 30	Contact Period
May 5 – June 30	Quiet Period
<u>Women’s Basketball</u>	
Oct. 8 – Feb. 28	*Evaluation Period
Mar. 1 – March 30	Contact Period
All other days are	Quiet Period
Mar 31 – April 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
April 14 – April 18	*Evaluation Period
April 19 – June 30	Quiet Period
*[85 recruiting person days]	
<u>Football</u>	
Feb. 3 - April 14	Quiet Period
April 15 – May 31	*Evaluation Period
<u>All Other Sports Except for Soccer and Field Hockey</u>	
<u>Hockey</u>	
April 10 – April 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
<u>Men’s Ice Hockey</u>	
April 5 – April 8	<b>Dead Period</b>
April 10 – April 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
<u>Women’s Ice Hockey</u>	
March 23 – 26	<b>Dead Period</b>
April 10 – 13	<b>Dead Period</b>
<u>Women’s Volleyball</u>	
Jan 1 – July 31	Contact Period*
Except for:	
April 10-13	<b>Dead Period</b>
*[80 evaluation days]	
<u>Soccer and Field Hockey</u>	
Jan 30 – Feb 2	<b>Dead Period</b>



**LUCKY THE DAWG SAYS “ASK  
BEFORE YOU ACT!!”**