Newest Interps on Camps, Contacts, & Exams

**Institutional Camps During July Evaluation Period – Women’s Basketball.** In women’s basketball, institutional camps may occur during the July evaluation periods. Also, telephone calls to a prospect (or parents, legal guardians, relatives, coaches) that relate solely to camp issues may occur during the July evaluation periods provided no recruiting conversation or solicitation of particular individuals to attend a camp occurs.

**Recruiting Conversations at Camps.** A camp is considered an athletics competition or event. Therefore, an institution’s coach may not engage in recruiting activities other than conversations with prospects participating in the institution’s camp until after completion of the camp. Any recruiting activities after the camp are subject to the recruiting calendar.

**Medical Exams Conducted by a Professional Team.** Medical exams conducted by a professional team constitute a tryout designed, in part, to measure the athletics ability of a student-athlete. An institution is permitted to conduct these examinations as permissible medical expenses and provide the results to a professional sports organization.

**Part-Time Student Serving as Host.** A student must be enrolled in at least a full-time course load at the institution at the time he or she acts as a student host unless the student meets an exception to or is granted a waiver of the full-time enrollment requirements for competition.

**Contact at a Prospect’s Educational Institution – Men’s Basketball.** In men’s basketball contact with a prospect at the prospect’s high school, prep school, or two-year college may not occur from the time the educational institution’s first class begins until the final class of the institution’s academic day concludes.

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**April Signing Day is Coming…**

On April 17 the spring signing period begins. Please get your NLI requests in to Kristi Pierce as quickly as possible. A Southern Miss financial aid agreement must be included with an NLI.

An NLI cannot be sent to a prospect that does not appear on our “Institutional Request List” with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Please remind your prospects that they must sign their NLI within fourteen days of the issuance date or it becomes invalid. Once they sign the paperwork they need to have it returned to us as quickly as possible for processing and to be forwarded to the conference office. No publicity can be released on any signees until the compliance office has verified we have a valid signed NLI in hand.

The last day for a basketball prospect to sign an NLI is May 15th. The last day for all other sports signing this period is August 1st.
The “Compliance Educator” is an informational publication of the University of Southern Mississippi office of athletic compliance. This is to be used as a tool to keep its readers abreast of pertinent NCAA and athletic compliance related topics on both the national and institutional scene.

Any questions regarding its content or other NCAA related topics please contact the USM Compliance office. It is the responsibility of all athletic department staff members and representatives of athletics interests to “ask before you act”.

![Jason Gray](image1)

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## Violations Involving the Letter of Intent

### Impermissible Telephone Calls by a Non-Coaching Staff Member

The Director of Football Operations had impermissible contact with a prospective student-athlete transferring from a non-NCAA institution. The Director of Operations contact the prospect by telephone to obtain information in order to prepare the prospect’s National Letter of Intent for the signing period. The prospect was declared ineligible until reinstatement was sought and a rules education session was done with the Director of Operations.

### Extra Benefit to Prospective Student-Athlete

A prospect obtained an institutionally-issued shirt, not available for purchase by the public. Specifically the prospect took the shirt from the residence of another student-athlete during an official visit. The prospect wore the shirt at his NLI signing event. The prospect was declared ineligible and reinstatement was not sought by the institution.

### Contact During a Dead Period

A prospect and her father hand delivered her signed letter of intent to the institution without prior warning to the coaching staff during the dead period surrounding signing day. The wrestling staff is prohibited from making recruiting calls for two weeks.

### Off-Campus Recruiting During Dead Period

Women’s basketball staff conducted off-campus evaluation of two prospects during dead period. Coaches said they were unaware dead period started 48 hours before signing day. The staff lost two recruiting opportunities.

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## Highlights of Central Florida’s Major Case

The recent major infractions case involving the University of Central Florida centered on the involvement of outside third parties with prospects and student-athletes in the sports of football and men’s basketball. The violations centered on: impermissible recruiting activity by outside parties; impermissible benefits to prospects and student-athletes; impermissible recruiting inducement and unethical conduct.

Specifically, two outside individuals inserted themselves into the recruiting process for Central Florida. Their active recruiting was known by the athletics department coaches and administration and thus the institution was responsible for their actions. They both contacted prospects and encouraged them to attend Central Florida. Also, one of the representatives did attempt to assist a prospect’s mother with finding a job in Orlando, with the help of the Athletic Director, who was fired for his actions. The representatives also provided cash and tuition payments, and purchased a laptop for various student-athletes at UCF and education expenses for several prospects as well.

Penalties included: postseason bans in both football and men’s basketball; loss of five scholarships in football and two in men’s basketball; a $50,000 fine, and five years’ probation.