

Compliance Newsletter

University of Wyoming

November, 2009

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT RELEASE AGREEMENTS

A revised National Letter of Intent policy prohibits addendums that allow a recruit to leave a school if his coach departs.

The change might as well be called the John Calipari Amendment.

Calipari, now Kentucky's coach, drew up addendums while at Memphis that allowed players to leave when he departed. UAB's Mike Davis tried the same tactic with DeMarcus Cousins, but his administration wouldn't allow it.

With the exception of Calipari, several SEC basketball coaches said they have no problem with the revised letter-of-intent policy. It now states that if any school or its employees "offer additional conditions, the prospective student-athletes' NLI is subject to being declared null and void along with possible institutional penalties."

Many college athletes, especially in men's basketball, choose a school based on its coach. Calipari said he thinks the absence of addendums will probably result in a lawsuit filed by a player over a broken promise from a coach.

"What will happen is a coach will say, 'I'm not leaving, I'll be the coach here, I promise you,' and then he'll leave, and the kid will say, 'I was lied to. I signed this with this assumption,'" Calipari said.

Pete Rush, a Chicago-based lawyer who has battled the NCAA before, last year told SI.com that the legality of the letter-of-intent could be challenged because it does not result from real bargaining between the parties.

Approximately 30,000 athletes sign a letter-of-intent every year, and 401 requested a release in 2007-08. Ninety percent of those requests were granted.

Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said Calipari's departure for Kentucky is the only instance he knows of involving an addendum attached to the letter-of-intent.

"I'm not an attorney, but I would assume you can't have something in your contract that's against the rule," Pearl said. "If the National Letter of Intent is a rule that the NCAA goes by, then I would think you shouldn't have anything in a contract that would violate that rule."

By Jon Soloman, al.com

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COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Question 1:

May a prospective student-athlete sign a National Letter of Intent (NLI) prior to being certified as eligible by the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Question 2:

If a prospective student-athlete does not live with a parent or legal guardian, is it necessary for a parent or legal guardian to sign his or her National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

Question 3:

What is "Grey-shirting"?

6-Hour Requirement For Eligible Student-Athletes Who Transfer During an Academic Term

Date Published: October 7, 2009- Interpretation:

The academic and membership affairs staff determined that a student-athlete who transfers to the certifying institution during the same regular academic term in which he or she was enrolled full time at the previous institution (e.g., fall semester to fall semester or quarter) is not required, upon transfer, to have completed six hours of academic credit during the same regular academic term at the previous institution.

Recruiting -- Electronic Transmissions -- Social Networking Web Sites

Date Published: October 9, 2009 - Educational Column:

NCAA Division I institutions should note that pursuant to NCAA Division I Bylaw 13.4.1.2 an institution may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete in sports other than men's basketball and men's ice hockey beginning September 1 at the beginning of the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. In men's basketball and men's ice hockey, an institution may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete beginning June 15 at the conclusion of a prospective student-athlete's sophomore year in high school. Further, electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete is limited to electronic mail (e-mail) and facsimiles until after the calendar day on which a prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., Instant Messenger, text messaging) are prohibited.

Institutions should note that e-mail is not limited to a traditional e-mail service provided by an institution, Web site or Internet service provider. Therefore, it is permissible for an athletics department staff member to send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete using a social networking Web site's (e.g., MySpace, Facebook) e-mail feature. All other electronically transmitted correspondence including, but not limited to, text messaging, Instant Messenger, chat rooms or message boards (e.g., a user's wall) within a social networking Web site or through other services or applications remain impermissible.

For example, a coaching staff member with a MySpace or Facebook account may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete's MySpace or Facebook account using the e-mail inbox feature located on that user's profile page. However, a coaching staff member may not send electronic correspondence to a prospective student-athlete via the comments feature on MySpace or the wall-to-wall feature on Facebook.

Institutions should also note that in accordance with Bylaw 13.10.2, before the signing of a prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent or an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, a member institution may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming its recruitment of the prospective student-athlete. The institution may not comment generally about the prospective student-athlete's ability or the contribution that the prospective student-athlete might make to the institution's team; further, the institution is precluded from commenting in any manner as to the likelihood of the prospective student-athlete's signing with that institution.

Accordingly, although it is permissible for a prospective student-athlete's name and/or picture to appear on an athletics department staff member's profile page of a social networking Web site to identify the prospective student-athlete as a "friend" of the athletics department staff member, staff members may not initiate or accept such requests until such time that it is permissible to send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete. Institutions should note that the identification of the prospective student-athlete as a "friend" on an athletics staff members profile page confirms only the institution's potential recruitment of that individual. However, institutions are reminded they may not make any public comments about the prospective student-athlete's ability, the contribution that the prospective student-athlete might make to the institution's team or the likelihood of the prospective student-athlete's signing with that institution.

COMPLIANCE ABC'S

Q – Quiet Period

A quiet period is a period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contact only on the institution's campus. No in-person, off campus recruiting contacts or evaluations shall be made during the quiet period.

R – Representative of Athletic Interest

A representative of athletic interests is an individual, independent agency, corporate entity or other organization who is know or should be know by a member institution's executive or athletic administration to:

- (a) Have participated in or to be a member of an agency or organization promoting the institution's intercollegiate athletics programs;
- (b) Have made financial contribution to the athletics department or booster organization of that institution;
- (c) Be assisting or to have been requested by the athletics department to assist in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.
- (d) Be assisting or to have assisted in proceeding benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families; or
- (e) Have been involved otherwise in promoting the institution's athletics program

NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT EARLY SIGNING PERIOD CHART

Sport	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball and All Other Sports Not Listed (Early Period)	Nov. 11, 2009	Nov. 18, 2009
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	Dec. 16, 2009	Jan. 15, 2010
Football (Regular Period)	Feb. 3, 2010	Apr. 1, 2010
Field Hockey, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country, Men's Water Polo	Feb. 3, 2010	Aug. 1, 2010
Basketball (Regular Period)	Apr. 14, 2010	May 19, 2010
All Other Sports Not Listed (Regular Period)	Apr. 14, 2010	Aug.1, 2010

ANSWERS TO COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS

Answer 1:

Yes- A prospective student athlete can sign an NLI before they receive their final certification determination from the NCAA Eligibility Center. Upon signing an NLI, the prospective student athlete agrees to submit the necessary information and the NCAA. If the prospective student athlete is classified by the NCAA as a qualifier, their NLI is considered valid. If the prospective student-athlete is classified as a non-qualifier, the NLI is considered null and void.

Answer 2:

Yes- If a prospective student athlete is under the age of 21, regardless of marital status, their parent or legal guardian must sign the NLI in order for it to be considered valid. If the prospective student-athlete is 21 years of age or older, it is not necessary for a parent or legal guardian to sign the document.

Answer 3:

"Grayshirting" is a term used in the recruiting process to describe situations in which a student-athlete delays initial enrollment in a collegiate institution to the winter or spring term after the traditional academic year begins. Students who "grayshirt" often use the fall to take classes part time or choose not to enroll in college at all. "Grayshirting" is not a formal designation by the NCAA or the National Letter of Intent program. If you are interested in "grayshirting" and signing a National Letter of Intent, it is important to review the applicable NLI provisions and to be aware of the informal nature of this commitment.

I would like to thank Brett Befus and Zach Chapman, compliance interns, for their help in putting together this month's newsletter.

DIVERSITY, MULTI-CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Below are some diversity, multi-cultural and professional development opportunities that may be of interest either to you, your staff or your student-athletes. If you have any questions about any of the following opportunities please contact Molly Moore at 766-4092.

November 2009						
Native American Heritage Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Money Matters, Financial Literacy & Scholarship Opportunities-4pm, Union 203	10 Verbal & Nonverbal Communication Skills-9am-11am Knight Hall, Rm 74**	11 Defensive Driving Classroom Session-3pm-5pm-Knight Hall, Rm 74**	12	13	14
15	16 Test Taking & Test Anxiety-4pm, Union 203	17 Sexual Harassment Training-10am-12pm*	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Defensive Driving Classroom Session-3pm-5pm-Knight Hall, Rm 74**	10 Sexual Harassment Training-3pm-5pm*	11	12

*Please call 766-3459 or email Jim Osborn (jimobr@uwyo.edu) to sign-up for training.

** Requires online registration. Please visit <http://uwadmweb.uwyo.edu/HRTraining/default.asp?view=1> to sign-up.

UW FACULTY/STAFF CORNER

What is the National Letter of Intent?

The NLI is a voluntary program with regard to both institutions and student-athletes. No prospective student-athlete or parent is required to sign the National Letter of Intent, and no institution is required to join the program.

By signing a National Letter of Intent, a prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year. Pursuant to the terms of the National Letter of Intent program, participating institutions agree to provide athletics financial aid for one academic year to the student-athlete, provided he/she is admitted to the institution and is eligible for financial aid under NCAA rules. An important provision of the National Letter of Intent program is a recruiting prohibition applied after a prospective student-athlete signs a Letter of Intent. This prohibition requires participating institutions to cease recruitment of a prospective student-athlete once a National Letter of Intent is signed with another institution.

The National Letter of Intent has many advantages to both prospective student-athletes and participating educational institutions:

- Once a National Letter of Intent is signed, prospective student-athletes are no longer subject to further recruiting contacts and calls.
- Student-athletes are assured of an athletics scholarship for one full academic year.
- By emphasizing a commitment to an educational institution, not particular coaches or teams, the program focuses on a prospective student-athlete's educational objectives.

If there are specific topics you would like to see covered for faculty/staff, please email Jessica Kumke at jkumke@uwyo.edu

Compliance NLI Word Search

E A M M F G Y U W K S G R V V O S Y E B D P B V M E B W L F
 E T T T D O I T S T Q R N G N E E Z G A G R R P C U S U X W
 L W E H A N U P I C O M P L I A N C E S G E B Y L A W S S E
 V K X L L A D R B L P E D T R N N B L I M S A B P R F O H I
 H D I Y H E O I Y K I M F I A Q V T L C W S X P K C S D K T
 A I N D R T T X C E X B N S N G S R O P Y C Y V Q G C I O R
 K O V Z E N A I O O A R I Q O W W A C E F O M P H K W T B K
 Z V B N L A E T C Z E R E G I K J N R N L N F E T H W W Y V
 J D A I B T D W N S B S I K I D Q S O A I F F M Q H N D O H
 W N P W M H J P I E A L I N L L G F I L F E Y X B F R L F T
 U A L G L K F D E E D I I I S L E E N T F R N Q D H U I N S
 W L D T Q A E E L R Z U D F A T Y R U Y L E Q Q V N N E T Z
 A L U E C N H E R K I N T W X B I S J R X N J F T A M W R I
 R U N L C E R W V C C O C S A C I T K M Z C H A N T C S Q P
 R N C E L N P C O F X W D A H Z S A U N S E R C I Y O X W S
 C I T P T L I S O D P G N A A J Y K J T A Y I M O T D R T J N
 L H Z H L L F S O C B A X I M K O N T R I A M W D W R B M O
 R T I M T N H Z J R B L M S N A B U A C L O G I S F K X L B
 H B P Y R C H O B G P P Y J M Y W L P A C Y N H L B P P Y L
 U E F Z N F R B N F S L F S P T O N I J E V B S M R A S E E
 B A D V R R Z I D K W Q R Q D B C D V A J E F B C B U T W M
 S X E M Z H T L M W J G H C Z V S P L W G G B O X G K V O H
 T N E T N I F O R E T T E L J T J I F O J L U J O Y E T C U
 O X Q G U H T G N I T R I H S Y A R G D S D T V Y Y F H K J
 U A W R D J D J D W H J G R U A W E H Y I J E A Z A V Q V V
 P X C K S I G N I N G P E R I O D B J N V D H N C X O J S P
 V E N N Q O Y S F T Y F J V O F F Y P C N I Q K L D R G N H
 R H U A P D E J K M P V H H M U T Z G V S H D F V N C T E Q
 H U J J P N M O N I T Y C T E U L K M G D H H S E E S J Z Q
 U D S L R I G W O C W T S W I O W R E O K N L M V G T E X Q

ATHLETICS AID
 BASIC PENALTY
 BYLAWS
 COMMITMENT
 COMPLIANCE
 COWBOYS
 COWGIRLS
 DEAD PERIOD
 ELIGIBILITY
 FINANCIAL AID
 FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONS
 GRAYSHIRTING
 JUNIOR COLLEGE

LETTER OF INTENT
 NCAA
 NULL AND VOID
 PRESS CONFERENCE
 PROSPECT
 RECRUITING BAN
 RELEASE
 SIGNING PERIOD
 STUDENT ATHLETE
 TRANSFERS
 VOLUNTARY
 YEAR IN RESIDENCE

Words can be found going in any direction, including backwards!!

Enjoy!

RECRUITING CALENDAR

Sport	Contact/ Evaluation Period	Contact Period	Evaluation Period	Quiet Period	Dead Period
Men's Basketball		September 9 - October 5	Oct. 6-Mar. 31	August 1 - September 8	November 9-12
Women's Basketball		September 16 - October 6	Oct. 7-Feb. 28	August 1 - September 15	November 9-12
Football		Nov. 29-Jan. 30	42 eval days during Sept., Oct. and Nov.	August 1 - November 28; Dec. 13(JC)	Dec. 14-17(JC)
Men's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Women's Golf	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Women's Soccer	Aug. 1-July 31				
Women's Tennis	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Swimming & Diving	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12
Track & Field/Cross Country		August 9- December 13		Dec. 14-Jan. 2	November 23 - November 24
Volleyball		August 1 - December 6		Dec. 7-15	November 9- 12; Dec. 14-18
Wrestling	Aug. 1-July 31				November 9-12

Recruiting Period Definitions

Contact Period: Permissible to make in-person, off-campus, recruiting contacts and evaluations.

Evaluation Period: Permissible to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospects. NO in-person, off-campus contacts may be made during evaluation periods.

Quiet Period: Permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts ONLY on the UW campus.

Dead Period: NOT permissible to make in-person contacts or evaluations on- or off-campus or to permit official or unofficial visits.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Compliance Office staff for further information or for answers to NCAA related questions.

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