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# Compliance Monthly

*The CAA Compliance staff is dedicated to providing its member institutions with comprehensive Rules Compliance Services and Support. We hope that you find the CAA monthly newsletters to be useful and we welcome your feedback and ideas for new content.*

## Coaches/Institutional Staff Members Using The “@Reply” Function on Twitter.



During the Early NLI Signing Period there was speculation as to whether or not it was permissible for coaches and institutional Twitter pages to “mention” prospects on Twitter following the signing of an NLI. It has been determined that it is permissible for coaches to use the “@reply” function with a prospect after he/she signs an NLI. Please note that the Ed Column (Recruiting - Electronic Transmissions - Microblogs, *Read On Pages 2-3*) states that you must wait until the day after the prospect signs an NLI before using the “@reply” function on Twitter.

### From Twitter

**“Coaches may follow PSAs on Twitter at any time. Coaches may not @reply with a PSA until the day after the PSA signs a NLI.”**

**Retweeted By "The Official National Letter of Intent Twitter"**



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## Education Column - April 26, 2012

### Recruiting - Electronic Transmissions - Microblogs (I)

NCAA Division I member institutions should note that it is permissible for an institution's website or an athletics department staff member's personal website (or personal page on any site) to include information related to the institution's athletics program, subject to the restrictions applicable to an institution's athletics website. Accordingly, a coach may post general informational content not created for a recruiting purpose such as game scores, team updates, facility updates or generic updates regarding the coaching staff and/or team to the extent they do not mention a specific prospect. These formats may include website posts, online personal journals such as blogs and microblogs, which are a form of blogging resulting in a stream of short blog posts that are generally limited by a total number of characters. A current example of a microblog is Twitter.

#### Microblogs and Publicity.

Institutions should note that in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 13.10.2, before the signing of a prospective student-athlete to a National Letter of Intent (NLI) 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 that the prospective student-athlete will sign with that institution.

Therefore, while it is permissible for an institutional staff member to publicly microblog (e.g., Twitter/tweets) about generic information, including locations visited (e.g., visit to a high school or town, attending a contest), institutions are reminded they are not permitted to publicize the recruitment of a particular prospective student-athlete in a manner inconsistent with the legislation. For example, it is not permissible for an institution to post the name, nickname, or other personally identifiable information (e.g., address) of a prospective student-athlete on a microblog unless it is in response to an inquiry by the media in order to confirm recruitment of a prospective student-athlete. Further, communication with or about a prospective student-athlete in the public's view (e.g., Twitter, "@replies," or "mentions") is contrary to the publicity legislation and is an impermissible form of electronic communication with a prospective student-athlete.

In addition, institutions may not publicize (or arrange for the publicity of) a prospective student-athlete's visit to campus. Further, institutions may photograph a prospective student-athlete during a campus visit but may not use the photograph until the prospective student-athlete has signed a NLI or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid and the prospective student-athlete's name or photograph is not used in any promotional items that involve the purchase or receipt of commercial advertising (e.g., season ticket advertisement in newspapers or on a billboard). Therefore, it is not permissible for an institutional staff member to post a photograph of a prospective student-athlete taken during an institutional camp, for example, to the staff member's microblog, personal website or institutional website prior to the prospective student-athlete's signing of a NLI or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid.

#### Microblogs and Electronically Transmitted Correspondence.

Institutions should note that pursuant to 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 ice hockey beginning September 1 at the beginning of the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. In men's basketball and 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.

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Further, electronically transmitted correspondence that may be sent to a prospective student-athlete is limited to electronic mail (email) and facsimiles until either after the calendar day on which a prospective student-athlete signs a NLI or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or the institution has received a financial deposit in response to the institution's offer of admission. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., Instant Messenger, text messaging) currently are prohibited.

Institutions should note that email communication is not limited to traditional email services provided by an institution, website or Internet service provider (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo! Mail). Permissible email communication extends to communication through electronic services and applications comparable to traditional email in which a message is sent directly to another individual. Accordingly, it is permissible for an athletics department staff member to send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospective student-athlete using a service that permits a private message to be sent between only the sender and recipient in a manner comparable to traditional email (e.g., Twitter/"direct message"). However, as previously noted, all other electronically transmitted correspondence through other services or applications remain impermissible, including those that may be directed to a specific individual but are accessible to other users of the service or application (e.g., Twitter, "@replies," or "mentions").

Additionally, institutional staff members may not use a service or software to convert email into a text message (or other prohibited form of electronically transmitted correspondence) when received by a prospective student-athlete. Therefore, to the extent an athletics department staff member is aware that a prospective student-athlete is receiving a permissible form of electronic communication in an impermissible format (e.g., receiving email as text messages), such electronic transmission is prohibited. However, if a coach is unaware of how a prospective student-athlete has elected to receive a particular form of communication, the coach is not responsible for sending an impermissible form of electronic correspondence. For example, if a coach is aware that a prospective student-athlete has elected to receive Twitter direct messages as text messages and the coach continues to engage in a direct message conversation as a means to circumvent the restrictions on text messages, the coach has committed a violation. However, if the coach is not aware that the prospective student-athlete has chosen to receive these direct messages as text messages, the coach has not acted contrary to the legislation.

Finally, institutions should note that in the sport of men's basketball, effective June 15, 2012, there shall be no limit to the form of electronically transmitted correspondence, provided the correspondence is sent directly to the prospective student-athlete (or his or her parents or legal guardians) and is private between only the sender and recipient.

*[References: NCAA Bylaws 13.4.1.2 (electronic transmissions), 13.4.1.2.1 (exception -- electronic transmissions after National Letter of Intent signing or other written commitment), 13.4.1.2.2 (exception -- electronic transmissions after receipt of room or tuition deposit), 13.10.2 (comments before signing), 13.10.5 (prospective student-athlete's visit), and 13.10.8 (photograph of prospective student-athlete); Division I Proposal No. 2011-99; official interpretation (3/14/07, Item No. 2) and official interpretation (7/11/07, Item No. 1)]*

### **Official Interpretation - November 8, 2012** **Special Event Participation Awards Based on Level of Achievement (I)**

The committee determined that special event participation awards may include awards that are based on a level of achievement (e.g., all-tournament award, finalist award, place-finish award) in the event, provided the awards are uniform within each level and the combined value of all awards received for participation in the particular type of special event (e.g., conference championship; other established meets, tournaments and featured individual competition) does not exceed the legislated maximum value.

*[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 16.1.2 (uniformity of awards), 16.1.4.1 (participation awards), Figure 16-1 (participation awards) and a staff interpretation (12/13/91, Item No. e)]*

## Educational Column - November 30, 2012

## Men's Basketball - Definition of a Prospective Student-Athlete for Tryouts and Camps and Clinics (I)

NCAA Division I member institutions should note that, pursuant to NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.11.1.2 and 13.12.1.1.1, for the purposes of tryouts and camps and clinics legislation in men's basketball, a prospective student-athlete is defined as an individual who has started classes for the seventh grade. This definition is not applicable to other recruiting bylaws (e.g., telephone calls, official visits and contact restrictions).

The following questions and answers are designed to assist member institutions in applying the legislation.

**Question:** Is it permissible for a men's basketball coach to provide recruiting materials, including general correspondence related to athletics, to seventh or eighth graders or their parents or legal guardians?

**Answer:** No. The legislation that defines a prospective student-athlete for purposes of the tryout and camps and clinics legislation does not change the permissible time period for providing recruiting materials to men's basketball prospective student-athletes. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.4.1, in men's basketball, it is not permissible to provide recruiting materials, including general correspondence related to athletics, to an individual or his parents or legal guardians until June 15 at the conclusion of his sophomore year in high school or, for a prospective student-athlete who attends an educational institution that uses a nontraditional calendar (e.g., Southern Hemisphere), the day after the conclusion of the his sophomore year in high school.

**Question:** Is it permissible for a men's basketball coach to place telephone calls to seventh or eighth graders?

**Answer:** No. The legislation that defines a prospective student-athlete for purposes of the tryout and camps and clinics legislation does not change the permissible time period for placing telephone calls to men's basketball prospective student-athletes. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.1.3.1.3, it is not permissible for an institutional coaching staff member to make telephone calls to a men's basketball prospective student-athlete before June 15 of the prospective student-athlete's sophomore year in high school or, for a prospective student-athlete who attends an educational institution that uses a nontraditional calendar (e.g., Southern Hemisphere), the day after the conclusion of his sophomore year in high school.

**Question:** May a men's basketball coach make in-person off-campus recruiting contacts with seventh and eighth graders?

**Answer:** No. The legislation that defines a prospective student-athlete for purposes of the tryout and camps and clinics legislation does not change the permissible time period for off-campus contact with men's basketball prospective student-athletes. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.1.1.1.1, off-campus recruiting contacts may not be made with a men's basketball prospective student-athlete or his relatives or legal guardians before the opening day of classes for the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school.

**Question:** May a seventh or eighth grader be provided an official (paid) visit?

**Answer:** No. The legislation that defines a prospective student-athlete for purposes of the tryout and camps and clinics legislation does not change the date of the first opportunity for men's basketball prospective student-athletes to receive expense-paid visits. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.6.2.2.1, it is not permissible for a prospective student-athlete to be provided an official visit earlier than January 1 of the prospective student athlete's junior year of high school.

**Question:** Is it permissible to conduct a boys basketball camp for seventh and eighth graders on an institution's campus during a dead period?

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**Answer:** No. An institutional sports camp or clinic is defined as camp or clinic that is owned or operated by a member institution, or an employee of the athletics department, and in which prospective student-athletes participate. Seventh and eighth graders are considered prospective student-athletes for purposes of the tryout and camps and clinics legislation; therefore, pursuant to Bylaw 13.12.1.3, institutional boys basketball camps and clinics for seventh and eighth graders may not be conducted during a dead period.

**Question:** May an institution conduct a boys basketball camp or clinic for seventh or eighth graders during the months of June, July or August?

**Answer:** Yes. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.12.1.1.4, an institution may only conduct an institutional boys basketball camp during the months of June, July or August.

**Question:** May an institution's men's basketball coach or noncoaching staff member with basketball-specific duties be employed at another institution's or noninstitutional boys basketball camp or clinic that includes seventh and eighth graders?

**Answer:** No. Pursuant to Bylaw 13.12.2.3.2, an institution's coaching staff member or noncoaching staff member with basketball-specific duties (other than a manager) may only be employed at his or her institution's camps or clinics.

**Question:** May a basketball coaching staff member attend noninstitutional basketball events, such as camps, leagues, tournaments in which seventh or eighth graders participate during the April or summer evaluation periods?

**Answer:** Unless the event is certified per Bylaw 13.18, no, it is not permissible for a coach to attend noninstitutional basketball events that include seventh and eighth graders during the April or summer evaluation periods.

*[References: Division I Bylaws 13.1.1.1 (time period for off-campus contacts -- general rule), 13.1.3.1.3 (exception -- men's basketball), 13.1.7.8. (basketball evaluations), 13.4.1 (recruiting materials), 13.6.2.2.1 (first opportunity to visit), 13.11.1.2 (definition of "prospective student-athlete" for tryout purposes -- men's basketball), 13.12.1.1.1 (definition of prospective student-athlete -- men's basketball), 13.12.1.1.4 (basketball), 13.12.1.5 (recruiting calendar exceptions), 13.12.1.7.1 (general rule), 13.12.2.3.2 (institutional/noninstitutional privately owned camps/clinic -- basketball) and 13.18 (summer basketball event certification -- men's basketball); an official interpretation (7/13/05, Item No. 1); and a staff interpretation (4/6/94, Item No. a)]*

## \*\*Women's Volleyball Recruiting Calendar Information

**Contact Period:** December 1 - 2

**Quiet Period:** December 3 - 11

**Dead Period:** December 12 - 31 \*(Coaches attending the AVCA annual awards banquet may have incidental contact with two-year college prospects being honored at the banquet provided no recruiting conversation occurs (Bylaw 13.02.5.4.1).)

**Evaluation Period:** Thursday of the Division I Women's Volleyball Championship through the Sunday immediately following the championship (December 13-16). An institution's authorized coaching staff members (see Bylaw 11.7.4) may evaluate on only one day and may attend only one event on that day during this period. Such an event shall occur within a 30-mile radius of the site of the championship (Louisville, Kentucky). Coaches from the same institution who attend such an event shall attend the same event on the same day. Coaches shall not attend events that occur at the same time that any intercollegiate competition in conjunction with the NCAA championship occurs.

Women's Volleyball						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Quiet Period

Contact Period

Evaluation Period

Dead Period



# December Recruiting Calendars



Cross Country/ Track & Field						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30	31					

Men's Basketball						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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30	31	All live evaluations during the academic year shall be limited regularly scheduled high/prep school and two-year college contests/tournaments, practices and regular scholastic activities involving other student-athletes enrolled only at that institution.				

Women's Basketball						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Women's Basketball staff members shall not exceed 100 recruiting person days. A recruiting person day is defined as one coach engaged in an off-campus recruiting activity of a WBB prospect on one day; two coaches engaged on the same day shall use two recruiting days				

Women's Volleyball						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Softball						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Baseball						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

\*\* See Women's Volleyball info on Pg. 5

Men's Lacrosse						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Women's Lacrosse						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Note: This is a color coded visual of the recruiting calendars, please consider this when printing.

Quiet Period

Contact Period

Evaluation Period

Dead Period