



CAA COMPLIANCE MONTHLY

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SOCIAL NETWORKING WEB SITES

Educational Column—Jul 24, 2008

Recruiting

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 beginning September 1 at the beginning of the prospective student-athlete's junior 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 Mes-

senger, 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, 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. 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.

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CAA UPDATE:

A new form titled **"Coaches Outside Income Reporting Form"** has been added to the **Compliance Corner** section of www.caasports.com. This optional form is intended to help with the annual reporting of athletically related income that is received from sources outside the institution.

Review—CAA Nonqualifier Rule

Since the median of each institution's freshman class academic profile far exceeds the NCAA minimum standards for freshman eligibility, if a recruited nonqualifier enrolls at a member institution directly from high school, the individual will not be eligible to represent the institution in a CAA sport. The institution, through its chief executive officer, may appeal in instances of special circumstances for relief from this legislation. [Adopted: May 1994].

CUMULATIVE GRADE-POINT AVERAGE CRITERION TO EXEMPT ACADEMIC HONOR AWARDS FROM EQUIVALENCY COMPUTATIONS-ED COLUMN 8-13-08

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.5.3.2.1.1 academic honor awards that are part of an institution's normal arrangements for academic scholarships, based solely on the recipient's high school records and awarded independently of athletics interests and in amounts consistent with the pattern for all such awards are exempt from the team's equivalency computation provided the student-athlete meets one of the following criteria:

1. Ranked in the upper 10 percent of the high school graduating class;
2. Achieved a minimum ACT sum score of 105;
3. Achieved a minimum SAT score of 1200 (based only on the mathematics and critical reading sections); or
4. Achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.500 (based on a maximum of 4.000). NCAA Proposal No. 2007-74 amended the minimum grade-point average requirement of the academic honor award legislation. The grade-point average requirement is now based on the prospective student-athlete's cumulative grade-point average as calculated by the high school rather than the individual's core course grade-point average as calculated by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

For high schools that do not use a four-point scale to calculate the cumulative grade-point average the following questions and answers may assist institutions in applying the exception based on the new legislation.

- Q: If the high school uses a scale other than a four-point scale to calculate cumulative grade-point average, can institutions use the minimum 3.500 cumulative grade-point average criteria to determine if the academic honor award can be exempt?
- A: Yes, provided the student-athlete's high school courses and grades have been converted to a four-point scale.
- Q: How does the institution determine whether the student-athlete has a minimum 3.500 cumulative grade-point average?
- A: The institution should convert the student-athlete's high school courses and grades to the four-point scale using the grade conversion that the high school provided the Eligibility Center. This may be accessed via the Eligibility Center's Web site.
- Q: May the institution use all classes earned by the student-athlete to calculate the converted grade-point average, including courses that are not core courses?
- A: The institution must use all courses the high school used in calculating the student-athletes cumulative grade-point average including failed courses if applicable.
- Q: Who at the institution should be responsible for calculating the student-athlete's cumulative grade-point average based on the conversion scale?
- A: The legislation does not specify the responsible party. Thus, the institutional staff member(s) normally responsible for certifying that a student-athlete meet the academic honor award exception would be an acceptable option.
- Q: May the institution use weighted grades?
- A: If the high school designated the conversion for weighted courses in accordance with Bylaw 14.3.1.2.6 and the grade conversions for weighted courses have been provided to the Eligibility Center, then the institution may use weighted courses in calculating the student-athlete's cumulative grade-point average based on the grade conversion provided to the Eligibility Center. The high school's grade conversion is available via the Eligibility Center Web site.

RECRUITING CALENDAR

Cross Country/Track & Field
Sept 1-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period

Men's Basketball
Sept 1-Sept 8 ~ Quiet Period
Sept 9-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period

Women's Basketball
Sept 1-Sept 15 ~ Quiet Period
Sept 16-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period
Sept 16-Sept 30 ~ Evaluation Period

Baseball
Sept 1-Sept 11 ~ Quiet Period
Sept 12-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period

Softball
September 1 ~ Contact Period
Sept 2-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period*
*No Evaluation

Women's Volleyball
Sept 1-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period

Men's Lacrosse
Sept 1-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period*
*No Evaluations

Women's Lacrosse
Sept 1-Sept 30 ~ Contact Period

Football, Championship Division
Sept 1-Sept 30 ~ Quiet Period*
*42 Evaluation days during
September, October, and November



CAA Tip: Remind your coaches to keep track of their recruiting contacts and evaluation days that are allotted to their respective sports. NCAA rules require these records to be maintained on campus for seven years.