



Football Compliance Monthly



University at Albany University of Delaware James Madison University University of Maine
University of New Hampshire University of Rhode Island University of Richmond
Stony Brook University Towson University Villanova University College of William and Mary

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Recognition of Accomplishments in a Particular Contest or Event

Question

Michael Smith is a football student-athlete at Compliance University. During the Saturday afternoon game, Michael scored five touchdowns during the game against one of the best teams in the conference. The head coach would like to give Michael the game ball for his great performance in the game. Would this be permissible for the head coach to do?

Answer

Yes, this would be permissible for the head coach to do.

NCAA Staff Interpretation (9/3/13) Recognition of Accomplishments in a Particular Contest or Event states that an institution may provide a memento of nominal value (e.g., game ball, t-shirt, hat, etc.), which may not include cash or cash equivalents, to a student-athlete in recognition of an accomplishment in a particular contest or event as a benefit incidental to participation.

[References: 16.1.4 (types of awards, awarding agencies, maximum value and numbers of awards) and a staff interpretation (11/27/96, item a), which has been archived]



October 2013 FCS Recruiting Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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		

Evaluation Period



* Evaluation period– Not exceeding a period of 42 evaluation days (54 for U.S. service academies) during the months of September, October and November selected at the discretion of the institution and designated in writing in the office of the director of athletics; authorized off-campus recruiters shall not visit a prospective student-athletes educational institution on more than one calendar day during this period. All other dates shall be considered a quiet period.

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



Email to Text Software NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.2

The Football Coaches at Compliance University have purchased software that will convert emails to text messages. They would like to use this software when sending information to prospects and current student-athletes. Can they use it when communicating with prospects.

No, unless it is permissible for a particular prospect to receive a text message from one of the football coaches (e.g., prospect that has committed to the institution). **NCAA Staff Interpretation- 9/9/13- Use of Service or Software that Converts Electronic Mail into a Text Message — Sports Other Than Basketball (I)** – states that, in sports other than basketball, it is not permissible for institutional staff members to use a service or software that converts electronic mail (e.g., email) sent by an institutional staff member into a text message when received by the prospective student-athlete.

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.4.1.2 (electronic transmissions) and 13.4.1.2.2 (Electronic Transmissions After Commitment and an official interpretation (7/11/07, Item No. 2) which has been archived

Per Bylaw 13.4.1.2.2 The term commitment is defined as:

- (a) The prospective student-athlete signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI) or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid; or
- (b) The institution receives a financial deposit in response to the institution's offer of admission.

Football Evaluations

Evaluation Days NCAA Bylaw 13.1.7.9.3

In football, each institution is limited to 42 evaluation days (see Bylaw 13.02.7.2) during the fall evaluation period and 168 evaluation days during the spring evaluation period. **[D]** (*Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 8/14/02, 2/21/05, 5/1/05, 12/15/06, 2/22/08 effective 8/1/08, 4/14/08, 1/16/10 effective 8/1/10*)

Scholastic and Nonscholastic Activities -- Championship Subdivision Football. FCS 13.1.7.9.5

In championship subdivision football, live athletics evaluations may be conducted at scholastic or nonscholastic athletics activities, provided there is no institutional involvement in arranging or directing such activities. An institutional staff member may attend a recruiting event (other than a permissible live athletics event) in which information (e.g., athletics or academic credentials, highlight video) related to prospective student-athletes is presented or otherwise made available. **[D]** (*Adopted: 1/16/10 effective 8/1/10, Revised: 1/15/11*)

Evaluation Activities During Contact Period -- Football. FBS/FCS 13.02.4.1

In football, a visit to a prospective student-athlete's high school, preparatory school or two-year college, or an evaluation at any site that occurs during a contact period shall constitute a contact (for all prospective student-athletes in that sport at the educational institution) for that particular week even if no contact is made with a prospective student-athlete. (*Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94, Revised: 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95*)

Attendance Outside a Contact or Evaluation Period- 13.1.8.3

In football a coach is not permitted to attend a banquet or meeting that is designed to recognize prospective student-athletes and that occurs outside a contact or evaluation period, unless the coach has been asked to speak at the function. (*Adopted: 1/19/13 effective 8/1/13*)

13.14.3.1 Basketball and Football Recruiting or Scouting Services

In basketball and football, an institution may subscribe to a recruiting or scouting service involving prospective student-athletes, provided the institution does not purchase more than one annual subscription to a particular service and the service: **[D]** (*Adopted: 1/1/02, Revised: 8/5/04, 1/16/10, 4/13/10, 1/14/12, 10/9/12*)

- (a) Is made available to all institutions desiring to subscribe and at the same fee rate for all subscribers;
- (b) Publicly identifies all applicable rates;
- (c) Disseminates information (e.g., reports, profiles) about prospective student-athletes at least four times per calendar year;
- (d) Publicly identifies the geographical scope of the service (e.g., local, regional, national) and reflects broad-based coverage of the geographical area in the information it disseminates;
- (e) Provides individual analysis beyond demographic information or rankings for each prospective student-athlete in the information it disseminates;
- (f) Provides access to samples or previews of the information it disseminates before purchase of a subscription; and
- (g) Provides information regarding each prospective student-athlete in a standardized format that ensures consistent distribution to all subscribers. Live or individualized oral reports do not satisfy this requirement.

Official Interpretation

Subscription to Recruiting or Scouting Services that Provide Oral Reports Related to Prospective Student-Athletes (I)

Date Published: September 20, 2013
Item Ref: 1

Interpretation:

The committee confirmed that an institution is not permitted to subscribe to a recruiting or scouting service that provides oral reports related to prospective student-athletes regardless of whether the service also disseminates information related to prospective student-athletes in any other manner (e.g., published reports, online profiles, video, etc.).

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.14.3 (recruiting or scouting services), 14.13.1 (basketball and football), 13.14.3.1.1 (video-only services), 14.13.3.2 (sports other than basketball and football) and 13.14.3.3 (subscription limited to approved services – basketball and football)]

