



## Official Visit Tip Sheet

**Official Visit Details:** An official visit is a visit to a member institution by a PSA when expenses are paid for by the institution.

- In sports other than football, the first opportunity for official visits begins September 1 of the prospect's JUNIOR year of high school. (Effective August 1, 2018)
  - In football, a prospect may begin taking official visits on the first day of classes his senior year.
  - In men's basketball, a prospect may begin taking official visits on August 1 the summer before their junior year in high school. (Effective August 15, 2018)
  - In women's basketball, a prospect may begin taking official visits the Thursday immediately following the Women's Final Four of her junior year in high school. (Effective August 1, 2013)
- During a dead period, there may be **NO** official or unofficial visits.
- *Women's Basketball:* **NO** official or unofficial visits permitted during the July evaluation periods.
- *Men's Basketball:* **NO** unofficial visits permitted at anytime during the month of July.
- If a coach makes in-person, off-campus contact with the prospect or prospect's parents during a permissible contact period prior to transporting the prospect, the prospect is charged with a countable contact.

### Academic Requirements, Forms & Registrations

- ALL high school and prep. school prospects must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center & be placed on the institutional request list (IRL) in order to take an official visit.
- A prospect must provide an academic transcript to an institution's athletics department, the institution's Office of Admissions OR to the NCAA Eligibility Center in order to take an official visit.
- A prospect does **NOT** have to provide a required test score (PSAT, SAT, PLAN, OR ACT) in order to take an official visit. However, it is advisable that a PSA provide the institution an ACT or SAT score prior to a visit so an accurate evaluation of his or her academic standing can be performed. (Effective 01/2016)

### Telephone Calls (Effective August 1, 2017)

- A non-coaching staff member who does NOT count toward the numerical limitations on head/assistant coaches may make telephone calls to a PSA (or those individuals accompanying PSA) during the five (5) days preceding the PSA's official visit.
  - Promotes increased efficiency as academics personnel or any other individual in the athletics department would be permitted to make unlimited calls about necessary documentation (e.g., transcripts, enrolled classes, etc.) prior to the official visit so institution can be fully prepared.
  - It is permissible for a manager to make these phone calls.

## Amount of Visits

- Official visit limitations annually run from August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Football: A maximum of 56 official visits
- **Men's Basketball: A maximum of 28 official visits in a rolling two-year period (Effective 08/15/2018). The yearly calendar runs from August 1 – July 31.**
- Women's Basketball: A maximum of 24 official visits in a rolling two-year period (Effective 08/2017). The yearly calendar runs from August 1 – July 31.
  - Once the second year under the legislation begins, the rolling 2-year period will include the current year and the previous year, rather than separate two-year periods. For example, if an institution provided 10 official visits in 2017-18, the institution would be permitted to provide up to 18 in men/14 in women official visits in 2018-19. If the institution were to provide the 14 permissible official visits for 2018-19, then the institution would be permitted to provide up to 14 in men/10 in women official visits for 2019-20. The 2019-20 would not start a new separate 2-year period in which the institution could provide up to 28/24 official visit.
- **Baseball:** Maximum of 25 official visits annually; from August 1 – July 31
  - **Per Prospect**
    - ◆ Sports other than men's basketball:
      - Limited to 5 expense-paid visits while in high school and 5 additional visits beginning October 15 after the completion of high school.
    - ◆ **Men's Basketball (Effective August 15, 2018):**
      - **Five visits between Aug. 1 and end of junior year of high school.**
      - **Five visits between end of junior year and Oct. 15 after high school graduation.**
      - **Five visits between Oct. 15 after high school graduation and remainder of college eligibility.**
    - ◆ Limited to 1 visit to a single institution in sports other than men's basketball, regardless of number of sports.
    - ◆ **In men's basketball, a PSA can visit a school once per year.**
    - ◆ Visits can be 48 hours in length (time begins when the PSA arrives ON campus, when entertainment is initiated or when transportation from the PSA's home is given by a coach).

## Publicity & Activities

- An institution shall NOT publicize (or arrange for publicity of) a PSA's visit to its campus.
  - A coach may NOT retweet an article from a media outlet that is publicizing a PSA's visit to campus
  - However, if the PSA retweets the post by the media outlet, then a coach/staff member may retweet/like the PSA's tweet as long as it wasn't generated by a recruiting/scouting service. The post publicizing the visit has to be generated by the PSA. Simply retweeting a media outlet's news that a PSA is on a visit is technically NOT a post generated by the PSA. You can only retweet a PSA's post.
  - **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!** – Do you really want everyone to know that you have a PSA on campus? Retweets are more public than favorites.
- A PSA may not participate in team activities that would make the public or media aware of the PSA's visit to its campus (e.g., running out of the tunnel with the team, celebratory walks to or around the stadium/arena, on-field pregame celebrations). [Bylaw 13.10.2.4]

- **NO** miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aids (e.g., personalized jerseys, personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations), or game-day simulations (e.g., running on the field with the team during pregame introductions) are permitted during an official visit.
- **An institution may decorate common areas in athletics facilities for an official or unofficial visit provided the decorations are not personalized and the common areas are not accessible or visible to the general public while they are decorated.**
- An institution may not introduce a visiting PSA at a function (e.g., the institution's sports award banquet or an intercollegiate athletics contest) that is attended by media representatives or open to the general public. [Bylaw 13.10.2.5]
- An institution may produce and arrange personalized audio/video presentations to show to or play for, but not provide to, a PSA after he/she has signed a NLI/financial aid agreement or received a deposit in response to institution's offer of admission. (*Staff Interpretation-February 27, 2015*)
- An institution MAY provide a PSA a photograph of him/her that is taken during a campus visit for the purpose of the institution's permissible publicity and promotional activities. (Effective August 1, 2017)
  - This legislation provides consistency with recruiting materials legislation.
  - The recruiting materials legislation regarding size and other restrictions continue to apply, however the simple act of providing a photograph of the PSA to the PSA should not be considered publicity of his/her visit to campus.
  - A frame may NOT be provided with the photograph.
  - The photograph may be provided during an official visit or an unofficial visit.
  - The recruiting materials legislation still applies. Therefore, it is permissible to provide a photograph as of the same date it is permissible to provide recruiting materials in each sport. Thus, no photographs to current freshman or sophomores in high school.
  - The photograph can be no larger than 8.5 X 11.
  - The institution MAY provide more than one photograph.

## Transportation

- **May provide reimbursement for a prospect's actual round trip transportation costs to campus from any location, as long as the prospect returns to the original point of departure or travels to his/her home, educational institution or site of competition.**
- Prospects' friends, relatives or legal guardians may receive cost-free transportation ONLY by accompanying the prospect when he/she travels by automobile to campus.
- In men's and women's basketball, an institution may pay actual round trip costs for a prospect's parents or legal guardians (up to two people) to accompany prospect on his visit. (*Effective August 1, 2013 for WBB*)
- **An institution transporting a PSA and those individuals accompanying a PSA around campus during an official visit may use institutional vehicles normally used to transport prospective students or the institution's athletics teams.**
  - **NOT PERMISSIBLE:**
    - ◆ Use of a limousine or helicopter

- ◆ Providing PSA or student host with an automobile, or use of one during the official visit
- ◆ Transportation to off-campus contests outside of a 30-mile radius of campus
- ◆ Transportation for a prospect to campus for enrollment

## Entertainment (Tickets, Meals, Lodging, Student Host & Recreational Activities)

### ➤ Tickets

- Max of 6 complimentary admissions via a pass list for the exclusive use of the prospect & those persons accompanying the PSA to a regular season event within a 30-mile radius of campus & only for seating in the general seating area. (*Effective 08/01/2016*)
- An institution may reserve tickets only for the use of immediate family members accompanying a PSA during an official visit and for seat locations adjacent to the complimentary seats being provided to the PSA. These tickets must be purchased at face value.
- **NO** complimentary or reduced-cost admissions are permitted for ANY NCAA championships (all rounds) or any other postseason contest (including conference tournaments).

### ➤ Meals

- Meals and entertainment may be provided to the PSA and up to 4 family members accompanying the PSA within a 30-mile radius of campus.
- May **NOT** exceed three paid meals per day.
- A reasonable snack (e.g., pizza, hamburger, etc.) may be provided to the PSA and up to 4 family members at any time.
- Must be comparable to those provided to student-athletes during the academic year.
- ONE meal may be provided at the coach's home or other institutional staff members home, if the meal is not excessive and comparable to those provided to S-A's during the academic year.
- In sports other than men's basketball, it is permissible to pay for the prospect's actual costs for reasonable expenses such as meals and lodging while traveling to and from campus for official visit. (*Effective August 1, 2013*)
- In men's and women's basketball, an institution may pay actual costs for meals and lodging for a prospect and his/her parents/legal guardians (expenses up to two people) incurred while traveling to and from campus to accompany the PSA for his/her official visit. (*Effective August 1, 2013-WBB*)

### ➤ Student Host

- A student host may be provided up to **\$75 for each day** (24-hour period) to cover all costs of entertaining a prospect, and up to 4 family members during an official visit. [*Effective August 1, 2018 —autonomy legislation*]. The entertainment allowance may **NOT** be used for the purchase of souvenirs, such as t-shirts or other mementos.
- It is permissible to provide the student host with up to an additional **\$40 each day** for hosting additional prospects.
- If an athletics department staff member serves as the PSA's host, his or her entertainment costs must be included in the entertainment allowance.

- A nonqualifier or an academic redshirt may NOT serve as a student host during his/her first year in residence. (Effective August 1, 2016)

### ➤ Entertainment

- It is permissible for an institution to provide or arrange entertainment for a PSA's visit, if the cost of the entertainment is paid with student host money. Specifically, during an official visit, it is permissible for the athletics department to provide entertainment that would otherwise be considered a special addition to an event or area as entertainment (e.g., carnival games, gaming recreational vehicles) if the cost of the entertainment is paid for with student host money. However, it is not permissible to arrange for the appearance or performance of a mascot, cheerleading squad, dance team or band as entertainment even if there is no cost associated with the appearance. Such activities would constitute celebrating the campus visit.
- The entertainment restrictions for official visits are not intended to limit a prospect's use of items of nominal value (e.g., Frisbee, bag toss game) that are traditionally used at campus events such as tailgates or picnics.

### ➤ Recreational Activities

- A PSA visiting an institution may participate in physical workouts or other recreational activities during a visit to campus, provided such activities:
  - Are NOT organized or observed by members of the athletics department coaching staff; and
  - Are NOT designed to test the athletic abilities of the PSA.
- When a PSA is on an OFFICIAL visit, the itinerary should not include a statement such as "run with the XC team, play pick-up in the arena, etc." A better statement would be "Free Time with Student-Athletes."
- A PSA may participate in recreational activities (during an official or unofficial visit) in a facility (on- or off-campus) that is not open to the general public (e.g., campus recreation center, golf course, swimming pool), provided such activities are not organized or observed by members of the athletics department coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and are not designed to test the athletics abilities of the PSA. Further, in situations in which there is a fee associated with the use of the facility (e.g., guest fee at a private facility used by the institution for practice or competition, admission fee for open swim session at the institution's recreation center), a PSA shall pay the going rate associated with the use of the facility. (*Staff Interpretation – May 13, 2001*)

### Interaction with Former Student-Athletes (Effective August 1, 2017)

- It is permissible for a former student-athlete to have contact with a PSA, his/her relatives (traditional or non-traditional) or legal guardians and/or other individuals accompanying the PSA. Former student-athletes are some of the best suited individuals to share their personal experience with PSAs to help them make informed decisions. (Effective August 1, 2017)
  - A former SA is defined as an individual who was a SA at the institution but is no longer a SA.
  - It is permissible for the PSA to have contact with a former SA who is a representative of athletics interests.
  - Recruiting conversations may occur between the former SA and the PSA.

- Contact may NOT occur between a former SA's parents and a PSA or the PSA's parents.
- Contact may occur at a regular home facility that is located off-campus.
- An institution may arrange contact between a former SA and a PSA.
- An institution may NOT provide expenses to a former SA for any purpose. An institution may provide expenses to a former SA to attend an event in which he/she is being honored.
- A former SA may participate in recreational activities with a PSA during an official or unofficial visit. The former SA's participation in recreational activities may NOT be organized or directed by the athletics department coaching staff. The former SA may NOT report back to the athletics department coaching staff regarding the PSA's participation in the recreational activity.