

**NEW NCAA SIGNING MODEL
QUESTION AND ANSWER DOCUMENT
(Originally Released: October 7, 2024)
(Last Updated: October 29, 2024)
Updates are highlighted in yellow**

This document contains questions and answers designed to assist the membership in understanding the application of NCAA Division II Proposal No. NC-2025-30, which transitioned elements of the National Letter of Intent (NLI) Program to NCAA legislation, as specified, and specifies that an athletics staff member or booster of an institution shall not communicate or make contact with a prospective student-athlete who has signed a written offer of athletics aid with another NCAA Division I or Division II institution, or any individual associated with the student-athlete (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly. The proposal's effective date is immediate.

NOTE: The NLI portal and NLI website will remain operational to preserve the records and to work through the previous signing classes for all NLI processes (e.g., release requests, null and void requests). If a prospective student-athlete signed a 2024-25 NLI and deferred enrollment, the prospective student-athlete would be subject to the NLI provisions of the 2024-25 NLI. If the institution with which an individual signed would like to have the prospective student-athlete sign a 2025-26 athletics aid agreement, the new NCAA legislation would apply.

CELEBRATORY SIGNING

Question No. 1: Does the contact on the day of signing legislation prohibit phone calls, text messages, direct messages (DMs), emails or virtual attendance (e.g., streaming) at activities related to the prospective student-athlete's signing of a commitment?

Answer: No. The contact prohibition is limited to in-person contact that occurs on- or off-campus on the day of signing. A coach may virtually attend an activity related to a prospective student-athlete's signing of a commitment.

Question No. 2: Does the in-person contact on the day of signing legislation apply to four-year college prospective student-athletes as well as high school, preparatory school and two-year college prospective student-athletes?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: Is it permissible for a coach to hand deliver the athletics aid agreement to the prospective student-athlete on- or off-campus, such as during a campus visit, if the prospective student-athlete will not sign the agreement on that day?

Answer: Yes. The delivery of the athletics aid agreement by a coach is permissible provided the agreement is not signed on the same day.

Question No. 4: Is it permissible for a coach to attend, in-person, an activity related to the prospective student-athlete's commitment if the prospective student-athlete previously signed the athletics aid agreement?

Answer: Yes, provided the prospective student-athlete previously signed an institutional athletics aid agreement during the appropriate signing period and the coach follows other recruiting rules as they apply to the signed prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 5: Does the dead period on the initial signing date still apply?

Answer: Yes. The period 48 hours before 7 a.m. on the date of signing in the applicable sport will still apply.

SIGNING PERIODS

Question No. 6: Is it permissible to provide an athletics aid agreement to a prospective student-athlete prior to the initial signing date?

Answer: Yes. The signing date restriction only applies to when the athletics aid agreement may be signed. NCAA Division II Bylaw 13.6.4 (offer of aid before signing date) permits an institution to indicate in writing to a prospective student-athlete that an athletically related grant-in-aid will be offered by the institution.

Question No. 7: Is a prospective student-athlete precluded from signing the athletics aid agreement prior to the initial signing date?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 13.6.4 prohibits the signing of an athletics aid agreement prior to the initial signing date for the sport.

Question No. 8: Which time zone applies to when a prospective student-athlete may first sign an institutional athletics aid agreement on the first day of the applicable signing date period?

Answer: A prospective student-athlete may sign an institutional athletics aid agreement at or after 7 a.m. in the time zone in which the prospective student-athlete is located when signing the athletics aid agreement. If the prospective student-athlete will be signing the aid agreement in a time zone that is earlier than that of the institution (for example, the prospective student-athlete lives in the Pacific time zone and the institution is located in the Eastern time zone), the prospective student-athlete must wait until 7 a.m. in the prospective student-athlete's time zone to sign the athletics aid agreement on the first day of the applicable signing period.

Question No. 9: Are there end dates to signing periods?

Answer: No. There is not a legislated end date to signing periods. The end date is based on an institution's policy.

Question No. 10: When may an NCAA four-year college prospective student-athlete sign an athletics aid agreement?

Answer: A four-year college prospective student-athlete at an NCAA institution may sign an institutional athletics aid agreement at any time, provided the individual's name has been permissibly entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal and can continue to sign provided the individual's transfer portal record remains active.

Question No. 11: When may a non-NCAA four-year college prospective student-athlete sign an athletics aid agreement?

Answer: A non-NCAA four-year college prospective student may sign an athletics aid agreement at any time.

Question No. 12: When may a midyear enrollee sign an athletics aid agreement?

Answer: A football midyear two-year college prospective student-athlete is subject to the applicable midyear signing period. An NCAA four-year college prospective student-athlete may sign at any time provided their name is entered in the Transfer Portal. Other bona fide midyear enrollees are subject to the applicable signing period outlined in Bylaw 13.02.10-(c) (institutional athletics aid agreement signing dates).

PROHIBITION ON CONTACT AFTER SIGNING

Question No. 13: Will the prohibition on contact after signing an athletics aid agreement apply to prospective student-athletes who have signed an athletics aid agreement before the legislation is adopted?

Answer: Yes. If the legislation is adopted, the prohibition on contact will apply to a prospective student-athlete (e.g., four-year college prospective student-athlete, midyear enrollee) who previously signed an athletics aid agreement during fall 2024.

Question No. 14: Does the prohibition on contact after signing an athletics aid agreement prohibit athletics staff and boosters from communicating with a prospective student-athlete's family members or other individuals associated with the prospective student-athlete?

Answer: Yes. The contact prohibition extends to any direct or indirect communication with any individual associated with the prospective student-athlete (e.g., family member, scholastic or nonscholastic coach, advisor).

Question No. 15: How will an institution know that a prospective student-athlete has signed an athletics aid agreement with another institution?

Answer: The institution with which the prospective student-athlete signs the athletics aid agreement will designate the prospective student-athlete's record as signed on the IRL for high school, preparatory school and two-year college transfer prospective student-athlete and in the NCAA Transfer Portal for NCAA four-year college prospective student-athletes.

Question No. 16: Is there a deadline for the signed status designation to be entered in the NCAA portals?

Answer: No; however, as a best practice, an institution should enter a prospective student-athlete's signed status in the appropriate NCAA application as soon as possible so other institutions have notice the contact prohibition applies.

Question No. 17: Is an institution also responsible for removing the signed status designation and is there a deadline for this action?

Answer: Yes. An institution will have seven business days to remove the prospective student-athlete's signed status from the appropriate NCAA application when an event occurs that lifts the contact prohibition.

Question No. 18: Will the prospective student-athlete receive an email when the signed status is entered or removed?

Answer: Yes. The prospective student-athlete will receive an email when the record is updated. The email will also include links to educational materials.

Question No. 19: Will compliance administrators and coaches receive an email for a prospective student-athlete on their IRL or Transfer Portal watch list who signs with another institution?

Answer: Yes. An email will be sent to all compliance administrators for whom the prospective student-athlete is on their institutions' IRLs when the status changes to signed. The compliance administrator may forward the message to the institution's coaches. For four-year college transfers, the email will be sent to all users (e.g., coaches) if the student-athlete is on their transfer watch list.

Question No. 20: May a prospective student-athlete sign an athletics aid agreement with multiple institutions at any one time?

Answer: If another institution attempts to sign a prospective student-athlete who is actively indicated as signed on another institution's IRL or within the Transfer Portal, an impermissible contact violation would occur, with penalties determined through the NCAA infractions program. Contact (including providing an athletics aid agreement) with a signed prospective student-athlete would not be permissible until action is taken to lift the contact prohibition associated with the athletics aid agreement the individual previously signed. As a best practice, institutions should use the online workflows that identify the date and time of a prospective student-athlete's signature.

Question No. 21: Does the contact prohibition apply if a prospective student-athlete signs an athletics aid agreement but wants to speak to coaches at another institution for a different sport?

Answer: Yes. Once a prospective student-athlete has signed an athletics aid agreement, the contact prohibition applies to coaches of other institutions in all sports.

Question No. 22: Is a parent or legal guardian's signature required on the athletics aid agreement if a prospective student-athlete is under a specified age?

Answer: Although NCAA legislation would not require that a parent or legal guardian's signature be included on the athletics aid agreement, an institution should determine whether such a signature is required based on state law and/or institutional policy.

Question No. 23: Is there a legislated deadline for a prospective student-athlete to sign the athletics aid agreement for the offer to remain valid?

Answer: No. The legislation does not outline a deadline for signing the athletics aid agreement; however, institutional policy would apply.

Question No. 24: Is the contact prohibition required to be included in the institution's athletics aid agreement?

Answer: No. Other than the requirement to give the recipient a written statement of the amount, duration, conditions and terms of the award, there is no NCAA prescribed language to be included in an athletics aid agreement. However, it may be beneficial to include NCAA rules as references in athletics aid agreements (e.g., contact prohibition). For example, an institution may include nonathletically related conditions that may result in canceling the athletics aid agreement.

Question No. 25: Is the conference office involved in monitoring member institutions' athletics aid agreements?

Answer: The conference office's involvement is not outlined in NCAA legislation. A conference may institute its own rules or policies.

Question No. 26: Should a potential violation of the contact prohibition after signing be reported to NCAA enforcement staff?

Answer: Yes. Any potential violations of the contact prohibition should be reported to NCAA enforcement staff.

Question No. 27: Is a signed prospective student-athlete's eligibility impacted if the individual attends another NCAA institution without any communication with coaches or athletics staff prior to attendance?

Answer: No. If a prospective student-athlete does not communicate with coaches or athletics staff before enrolling and attending classes or reporting for an intercollegiate squad at another institution, the individual's eligibility would not be impacted.

REMOVAL OF THE CONTACT PROHIBITION – CANCELLATION OF ATHLETICS AID

Question No. 28: May a signed prospective student-athlete, prior to triggering student-athlete status, request to have the contact prohibition lifted in order to have permissible recruiting contact with other institutions' athletics staff?

Answer: Yes, a signed prospective student-athlete may request in writing to be released from the contact prohibition. If the institution grants the request and once the release is noted in the appropriate NCAA application, other institutions would be permitted to have recruiting contact with the prospective student-athlete.

Note: Granting a signed prospective student-athlete's request for a release only lifts the contact prohibition. In order to also cancel the prospective student-athlete's athletics aid agreement, the institution must still comply with Bylaw 15.5.4.1 (reduction or cancellation permitted).

Question No. 29: Is the institution required to cancel the athletics aid if the prospective student-athlete indicates they will not attend the institution and requests a release from the contact prohibition?

Answer: No. The institution may determine whether to cancel the athletics aid, provided a condition

of Bylaw 15.5.4.1 is met. Once the prospective student-athlete requests to voluntarily withdraw their written offer of athletics aid, the institution shall respond to the prospective student-athlete in writing within 14 consecutive calendar days from receiving the request, granting or denying their request.

Question No. 30: If an institution chooses to cancel a prospective student-athlete's athletics aid agreement, does the hearing opportunity requirement apply?

Answer: Yes. Bylaw 13.1.1.2.2 (hearing opportunity) requires that the prospective student-athlete be notified in writing of the opportunity for a hearing.

Question No. 31: Does the removal of the contact prohibition also apply if the athletics aid is reduced?

Answer: Yes. If the athletics aid is reduced from the original amount for which the athletic aid agreement was signed, the contact prohibition no longer applies. The institution will need to remove the signed status designation in the appropriate NCAA application within seven business days of receiving the release request.

Question No. 32: Is the contact prohibition automatically removed if the head coach departs after the prospective student-athlete signs?

Answer: No. However, a signed prospective student-athlete may request in writing that the institution remove the contact prohibition after a head coach's departure is announced but the removal will not be automatic. Institutional discretion will dictate whether the contact prohibition is removed once the request is received from the signed prospective student-athlete. The institution must respond to the prospective student-athlete's request within 14-consecutive calendar days from receiving the request. If the release is granted, the institution must update the signed prospective student-athlete's status in the appropriate NCAA application within seven business days of providing the release; allowing other institutions to contact the prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 33: Is the contact prohibition removed if the prospective student-athlete does not attend the institution or delays enrollment?

Answer: The contact prohibition is removed if the prospective student-athlete does not attend class as a full-time student during a regular term of the academic year and is disenrolled pursuant to institutional policy.

Question No. 34: May an institution cancel a prospective student-athlete's athletics aid agreement if it is discovered that the prospective student-athlete signed athletics aid agreements with other institutions?

Answer: Yes.