

**NCAA DIVISION I FOOTBALL RECRUITING GUIDE**  
**Effective August 1, 2021**

Freshman/Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Two-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes (PSA)	Four-Year College Prospective Student-Athletes (PSA)	Evaluations and Contacts
<p><b>Recruiting Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaires, camp brochures, nonathletic institutional publications, and NCAA educational material published by the NCAA only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Telephone Calls Initiated by an Individual at his Expense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional staff member may receive telephone calls at any time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recruiting Materials and Electronic Transmissions</b> (all forms of private communication permitted).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Telephone Calls from Coach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 2021-22 academic year, calls may be made to juniors beginning the Sunday after the American Football Coaches Association Convention (i.e., January 16, 2022).</li> <li>• In January, one call per week.</li> <li>• No calls in February.</li> <li>• In March, one call per week.</li> <li>• In April and May, calls may be made at the institution's discretion.</li> <li>• In June and July, one call per week.</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissible April 1 through the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday in June.</li> <li>• Official visits may not occur in conjunction with participation in a camp or clinic.</li> <li>• Maximum of five during high school enrollment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Telephone Calls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once per week after September 1 of the senior year.</li> <li>• Unlimited during contact period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Off-Campus Contact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 1 prior to senior year (limited to contact periods).</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permissible September 1 of PSA's senior year.</li> <li>• August of PSA's senior year, official visit may be provided 48 hours before through 48 hours after institution's home contest.</li> <li>• Maximum of five during high school enrollment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Telephone Calls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once per week.</li> <li>• Unlimited during contact period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacts permissible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonqualifier or Academic Redshirt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No in-person, off-campus contact at an institution's campus until after completion of first year of enrollment at the two-year college.</li> <li>• Off-campus contact may only occur at PSA's institution during first year of enrollment at the two-year college.</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of five beginning October 15 following PSA's completion of high school.</li> <li>• No official visits for nonqualifiers or academic redshirts until after completion of first year of enrollment at the two-year college.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Telephone Calls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once per week provided PSA is in the NCAA Transfer Portal or institution has permission to contact.</li> <li>• Unlimited during contact period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transfer from NCAA Institution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact permitted when listed on the NCAA Transfer Portal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transfer from Other Four-Year Institution</b> (Division II, III or NAIA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have written permission to contact.</li> <li>• Entry in the NCAA Transfer Portal constitutes permission to contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of five beginning October 15 following PSA's completion of high school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 56 evaluation days (68 for U.S. service academies) during fall evaluation period.</li> <li>• 168 evaluation days (216 for U.S. service academies) during the spring evaluation period.</li> <li>• Limit of three evaluations during academic year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One evaluation during fall.</li> <li>• Two evaluations - April 15 through May 31 (one evaluation to assess athletics ability and one evaluation to assess academic qualifications).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Not more than six off-campus contacts per PSA at any site.</li> <li>• Coaching staff members may have recruiting conversations with PSAs participating in camps/clinics.</li> <li>• Practice/competition site restrictions (see other side).</li> </ul>

\*Please note that this document should not be used as a substitute for the NCAA Manual. Coaches are encouraged to contact the athletics compliance office for additional information.

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**DEFINITIONS**

**Contact.**

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospective student-athlete (PSA) or the PSA's parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged (e.g., staff member positions himself/herself in a location where contact is possible) or that takes place on the grounds of the PSA's educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the PSA or the PSA's high school, preparatory school, two-year college or all-star team shall be considered a contact, regardless of whether any conversation occurs. However, an institutional staff member or athletics representative who is approached by a PSA or the PSA's parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) at any location shall not use a contact, provided the encounter was not prearranged and the staff member or athletics representative does not engage in any dialogue in excess of a greeting and takes appropriate steps to immediately terminate the encounter.

**Evaluation.**

Evaluation is any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a PSA, including any visit to a PSA's educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or the observation of a PSA participating in any practice or competition at any site. Any evaluation that occurs during a contact period by a coaching staff member is a countable contact rather than a countable evaluation.

**Evaluation Days.**

An evaluation day is defined as one coach engaged in the evaluation of any PSA on one day (12:01 a.m. to midnight); two coaches making evaluations on the same day shall use two evaluation days. The combined total of such days for all staff members shall not exceed 210 (270 for U.S. service academies) [56 during the fall evaluation period (68 for U.S. service academies) and 168 during the spring evaluation period (216 for U.S. service academies)].

**Recruited PSA.**

Actions by staff members or athletics representatives that cause a PSA to become a recruited PSA at that institution are:

- a. Providing the PSA with an official visit;
- b. Having an arranged, in-person, off-campus encounter with the PSA or the PSA's parent(s), relatives or legal guardian(s); and
- c. Issuing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) or the institution's written offer of athletically related financial aid to the PSA (excluding summer term awards prior to initial full-time enrollment).

**Telephone Calls.**

All electronically transmitted human voice exchange (including videoconferencing and videophones) shall be considered telephone calls. All electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., electronic mail, facsimiles) shall not be considered telephone calls.

**CONTACTS, EVALUATIONS AND TELEPHONE CALLS**

**Off-Campus Recruiters.**

An institutional staff member is not permitted to recruit off campus until he or she has been certified on an annual basis as to knowledge of applicable recruiting rules.

**Telephone Calls During Conduct of Institution's Athletics Contest.**

Telephone calls to a PSA (or the PSA's relatives or legal guardians) may not be made during the conduct of any of the institution's intercollegiate athletics contests in that sport until the competition has concluded and the team has been dismissed by the coach.

**Telephone Calls -- Institutional Staff Members -- General Rule.**

All telephone calls to a PSA (or the PSA's parents, legal guardians or coaches) must be made by the head coach or one or more of the assistant coaches who count toward the numerical limitations in football. In bowl subdivision football, such calls may be made and received by a graduate assistant coach, provided the coach has successfully completed the coaches' certification examination.

**Visits to a PSA's Educational Institution.**

Institutional staff members may visit a PSA's educational institution on not more than one occasion during a particular week within a contact period, regardless of the number of PSAs enrolled in the institution or whether any PSA is contacted on that occasion. During a contact period, such a visit counts as a contact for all contactable PSAs that attend the educational institution.

**PSA's Educational Institution.**

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Any staff member desiring to contact a PSA at the PSA's educational institution during that portion of the day when classes are being conducted for all students, first shall obtain permission for such contact from that institution's chancellor or president (or the chancellor's or president's authorized representative).

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**Head Football Coach Restrictions -- Off-Campus Contact -- Football Bowl Subdivision.**

The head coach may make in-person, off-campus contact with a PSA or the PSA's relatives or legal guardian(s) only during one calendar day. It is permissible for this contact to occur both at the site of the PSA's educational institution and away from the institutional grounds. During such contact, the head coach may be accompanied by an assistant(s) who otherwise is required to observe the restrictions contained in the bylaws.

**Assistant Coach Publicly Designated as Institution's Next Head Coach - Football Bowl Subdivision.**

An institution's assistant coach who has been publicly designated by the institution to become its next head coach shall be subject to the recruiting restrictions applicable to the institution's head coach.

**Visits During Contact Period.**

One contact per PSA is permitted during each week of the contact period either at the PSA's educational institution or any other location (e.g., PSA's home). A visit to the PSA's educational institution and any other location (e.g., PSA's home) during the same calendar day shall be considered one contact. In addition, institutional staff members may visit a PSA's educational institution on not more than one occasion during a particular week, regardless of the total number of PSAs enrolled in the institution.

**Practice or Competition Site.**

It is permissible to make phone calls or send electronic correspondence to a PSA (or a PSA's parents or legal guardians) while the PSA has reported on call for competition and competition-related activities, provided the PSA is otherwise permitted to receive phone calls or electronic correspondence. Recruiting contact may not be made with a PSA at any site prior to any athletics competition (including a noninstitutional private camp or clinic, but not an institutional camp or clinic) in which the PSA is a participant on a day of competition, even if the PSA is on an official or unofficial visit. Contact includes the passing of notes or orally relaying information to a PSA by a third party on behalf of an institutional staff member. Contact may occur after the PSA's competition concludes for the day and the PSA has been released by the appropriate authority (e.g., coach).

**Communication After Commitment.**

The restrictions on the forms and frequency of communication shall no longer apply after: (1) the PSA signs an NLI or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid; or (2) the institution receives a financial deposit in response to the institution's offer of admission.

**Athletics Events Outside Contact Period.**

In-person contact with a PSA shall not be made on or off the member institution's campus at the site of practice or competition or for any athletics event in which the PSA participates outside the permissible contact periods. When a PSA participates in an athletics contest or event (including a noninstitutional, private camp or clinic) on a member institution's campus outside of a contact period, it is not permissible for an authorized institutional staff member to have contact with the PSA until the calendar day following his or her release from the competition. Further, if a PSA is visiting an institution's campus immediately before or after participating in an athletics contest or event on the institution's campus, the PSA must depart the locale of the institution the calendar day before or after the contest or event.

**Limitations on Number of Evaluations.**

Institutional staff members shall be limited to three evaluations during the academic year during which the PSA competes or practices on any team. Not more than one evaluation may be used during the fall evaluation period and not more than two evaluations may be used during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period. An authorized off-campus recruiter may use one evaluation to assess the PSA's athletics ability and one evaluation to assess the PSA's academic qualifications during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period. If an institution's coaching staff member conducts both an athletics and an academic evaluation of a PSA on the same day during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period, the institution shall be charged with the use of an academic evaluation only and shall be permitted to conduct a second athletics evaluation of the PSA on a separate day during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period.

**Spring Evaluations.**

Institutional staff members may not visit a PSA's educational institution on more than two calendar days during the spring evaluation period. It is permissible during the evaluation period to visit a PSA's educational institution on two calendar days during the same week. A visit to the PSA's educational institution that only includes contact with a signed PSA during the spring evaluation period shall be considered one of the institution's two permissible days at the institution. In bowl subdivision football, the head coach shall not engage in off-campus recruiting activities, participate in off-campus coaching clinics, visit a PSA's educational institution for any reason, or meet with a PSA's coach at an off-campus location during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period.

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**Scholastic and Nonscholastic Activities -- Football Bowl Subdivision.**

In bowl subdivision football, all live evaluations shall be limited to the following:

- a. Regularly scheduled high school, preparatory school and two-year college contests and practices;
- b. Regular scholastic activities involving PSAs enrolled only at the institution at which the regular scholastic activities occur; and
- c. Events that are organized and conducted solely by the applicable state high school athletics association, state preparatory school association, or state or national junior college athletics association.

Institutional staff members shall not attend a recruiting event (other than those permitted above) in which information (e.g., athletics or academic credentials, highlight or combine videos) related to PSAs is presented or otherwise made available.

An institutional staff member shall not attend an all-star contest or other activities associated with such a contest (e.g., practice, banquets, coaches clinics, etc.).

**Scholastic and Nonscholastic Activities - Football Championship Subdivision.**

In championship subdivision football, live athletics evaluations may be conducted at scholastic or nonscholastic athletics activities, except for all-star contests and associated activities other than practice (e.g., banquets, coaches clinics, etc.), 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 or combine video) related to PSAs is presented or otherwise made available.

An institutional staff member shall not attend an all-star contest or activities, other than practice, associated with such a contest (e.g., banquet, coaches clinics, etc.).

**Commitment to the Institution.**

After an individual has signed a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid or after the institution has received a financial deposit in response to its offer of admission, the individual is no longer subject to the restrictions of NCAA Bylaw 13.1. There shall be no limit on the forms and no restrictions on the publicity of electronically transmitted correspondence sent to a PSA (or the PSA's relatives or legal guardians) after a PSA commits to the institution.

**Attendance During a Quiet or Dead Period.**

During a quiet period or a dead period, a coaching staff member may attend a meeting or banquet where PSAs are in attendance provided

- a. The event is not organized to recognize PSAs;
- b. The event is initiated by an entity outside the institution;
- c. The event is open to the general public; and
- d. The coach does not evaluate, make a recruiting presentation or have direct contact with any PSA (or PSA's family member) in attendance.