Updated: July 30, 2026

Division II Coaches Off-Campus Recruiting Guide 2026–27

Please note 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.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE

Recruiting Materials:

Athletically related recruiting materials may be sent at anytime.

AFTER JUNE 15, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING JUNIOR YEAR

Official Visits:

After June 15, immediately preceding a prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. **There are no limits on the following recruiting functions for prospective student-athletes entering their junior year:**

- In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts.

TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Official Visits:

At any time outside of a dead period or the signing date dead period. If a prospective student-athlete has previously visited the institution, a second visit may not occur until Sept. 1 following a prospective student-athlete's completion of high school. An institution may finance one additional official visit for a prospective student-athlete after a new head coach is hired when the prospective student-athlete previously received an official visit to the institution. **There are no limits on the number or frequency of the following recruiting functions for two-year college transfers:**

1. Athletically related recruiting materials.
2. Communication (e.g., email, text messaging, instant messages, telephone calls).
3. In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Official Visits:

At any time outside of a dead period or the signing date dead period. If a prospective student-athlete has previously visited the institution, a second visit may not occur until Sept. 1 following prospective student-athlete's completion of high school. An institution may finance one additional official visit for a prospective student-athlete after a new head coach is hired when the prospective student-athlete previously received an official visit to the institution.

If the prospective student-athlete's institution is an NCAA Division II institution, a visit may occur only after a student-athlete completes the transfer educational module, provides written notification of transfer to their current institution and the student-athlete's information is entered into the NCAA Transfer Portal. Before making contact, directly or indirectly, with a student-athlete from an NCAA Division I or Division III institution, an athletics staff member or booster shall comply with the rule of the applicable division for making contact with a student-athlete.

1. Communication (e.g., email, text messaging, instant messages, telephone calls).
2. In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts.

EVALUATIONS AND CONTACTS

1. On- and off-campus contacts with prospective student-athletes are subject to the dead period or signing date dead period restrictions.
2. Contacts are restricted at the prospective student-athlete's practice/competition site until the competition has concluded for the day and the prospective student-athlete has been released by the appropriate authority.
3. An institutional staff member is permitted to have on-campus contact prior to competition with a prospective student-athlete and/or their relatives or legal guardians, provided the competition is taking place on the institutional staff member's campus.

AFTER INSTITUTIONAL ATHLETICS AID AGREEMENT SIGNING OR OTHER WRITTEN COMMITMENT

Contact restrictions with the prospective student-athlete and/or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians at the prospective student-athlete's practice/competition site are no longer applicable. However, once a prospective student-athlete signs a written offer of athletics aid with another Division I or Division II institution, an athletics staff member or booster may not communicate with the prospective student-athlete or anyone associated with the prospective student-athlete (e.g., family member or nonscholastic coach, advisor), directly or indirectly.

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DEFINITIONS

Contact

A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or booster during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. Any such face-to-face encounter that is prearranged (e.g., positions themselves in a location where contact is possible) or that takes place on the grounds of the prospective student-athlete's educational institution or at the site of organized competition or practice involving the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete'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 booster who is approached by a prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardian(s) at any location shall not use a contact, provided the encounter was not prearranged and the staff member or booster 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 prospective student-athlete, including any visit to a prospective student-athlete's educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or the observation of a prospective student-athlete participating in any practice or competition at any site.

Official Visit

An official visit to a member institution by a prospective student-athlete is a visit financed in whole or part by the member institution.

Unofficial Visit

An unofficial visit to a member institution by a prospective student-athlete is a visit made at the prospective student-athlete's own expense. The provision of any expenses or entertainment by the institution or booster shall require the visit to become an official visit, except for expenses or entertainment permitted per Bylaw 13.4.2. Payment of any other transportation expenses, other than those permitted in Bylaw 13.4.3, shall be an institutional violation but shall not cause the visit to become an official visit provided the prospective student-athlete makes restitution.

Prospective Student-Athlete

A prospective student-athlete is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until one of the following occurs (whichever occurs earlier):

1. The individual officially registers and enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in any term of a four-year collegiate institution's regular academic year (excluding summer); or
2. The individual participates in a regular-squad practice or competition at a four-year collegiate institution.

CONTACTS, EVALUATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

Signed Prospective Student-Athletes

An athletics staff member or booster 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.

Duration of Contact Prohibition

Contact with a prospective student-athlete who has signed an athletics aid agreement with another institution is prohibited until:

1. The prospective student-athlete requests the institution grants a release from the contact prohibition;
2. The prospective student-athlete's athletics aid is reduced or canceled;
3. The prospective student-athlete is rendered academically ineligible for intercollegiate competition and all opportunities for appeal have been exhausted;
4. The prospective student-athlete does not attend class as a full-time student in a regular term of the academic year and is officially disenrolled pursuant to institutional policy; or
5. An institution publicly announces its closure or the discontinuation of the prospective student-athlete's sport.

Communication

Communication with a prospective student-athlete or their relatives or legal guardian(s) shall be made at anytime. Communication may include multiple institutional staff members and/or prospective student-athletes or their relatives or legal guardian(s) at any time.

Off-Campus Recruiters

An institutional staff member is not permitted to recruit off-campus until they have been certified on an annual basis as to knowledge of applicable recruiting rules per Bylaw 11.6.1.1. However, institutional staff members (e.g., faculty members) may contact prospective student-athletes for recruiting purposes on campus or within the locale of the institution's main campus during the prospective student-athlete's official visit.

PRACTICE OR COMPETITION SITE

Recruiting contact may not be made with a prospective student-athlete at any site, except if the prospective student-athlete's athletics competition is taking place on the institution's campus, prior to any athletics competition in which the prospective student-athlete is a participant on a day of competition, even if the prospective student-athlete is on an official or unofficial visit. Contact includes the passing of notes or orally relaying information to a prospective student-athlete by a third party on behalf of an institutional staff member. Contact may occur after the prospective student-athlete's competition concludes for the day and the prospective student-athlete has been released by the appropriate authority. Recruiting contact may be made with the prospective student-athlete and/or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians at a prospective student-athlete's athletics competition as follows:

1. An institutional staff member is permitted to have on-campus contact prior to competition with a prospective student-athlete and/or their relatives or legal guardians, provided the competition is taking place on the institution's campus.
2. With a prospective student-athlete and/or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians at any site on a day of competition, provided a prospective student-athlete has signed a written offer of admission and/or athletically related financial aid with the coach's institution.

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