



**NCAA Division I Proposal Nos. 2018-93 Recruiting Model –
Sports Other Than Baseball, Basketball, Football and Men's Ice Hockey and
2018-94 Recruiting Model – Men's Ice Hockey
-Question and Answer Document-**

This document contains questions and answers designed to assist the NCAA membership in its understanding of NCAA Division I Proposal Nos. 2018-93 (recruiting – recruiting model – sports other than baseball, basketball, football and men's ice hockey) and 2018-94 (recruiting – recruiting model – men's ice hockey).

VISITS TO CAMPUS.

Question No. 1: What is an athletics department staff member permitted to say to an individual (and those accompanying him or her) who shows up on-campus for an unofficial visit prior to the permissible date?

Answer: The athletics department staff member may confirm the individual's grade/age and explain that contact with athletics department staff is not permitted. The athletics department staff may not engage in any recruiting conversations with the individual. Although it is permissible for the athletics department staff to direct the individual to admissions, or the institutional authority outside of the athletics department designated to provide campus tours, it is not permissible for athletics department staff to arrange a campus tour on behalf of the individual.

Question No. 2: Does the visit unrelated to recruitment legislation remain applicable to an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 3: May an institution (e.g., noncoaching staff member, coach, faculty member) provide complimentary admissions to a home athletics event to a group (e.g., scholastic or nonscholastic team, boys or girls club, YMCA) visiting for reasons unrelated to recruitment for athletics, if that group includes individuals not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics involvement?

Answer: Yes. However, no recruiting activities (e.g., facility tour, access to field) or conversations shall occur with any individual not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement.

Question No. 4: May an institution (e.g., noncoaching staff member, coach, faculty member) provide complimentary admissions to a home athletics event to a specific segment of a group (e.g., juniors and seniors on a scholastic or nonscholastic team, particular members of a boys or girls club) visiting for reasons

unrelated to recruitment for athletics, if one or more of the individuals are not permitted to take an unofficial visit?

Answer: No. If the group visiting, for reasons unrelated to recruitment for athletics, includes an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement, it is only permissible to provide complimentary admissions to the entire group.

Question No. 5: May a family member (e.g., younger sibling) who is not permitted to receive an official or unofficial visit accompany a prospective student-athlete on an unofficial or official visit?

Answer: Yes. The family member may receive complimentary admissions and access to accompany the prospective student-athlete; however, no recruiting conversation with the family member may occur.

Question No. 6: May an individual receiving an official or unofficial visit assign one of the three permissible complimentary admissions to a teammate or friend who is not permitted to receive a visit?

Answer: Yes. It is permissible for the individual's teammate or friend to receive one of the three complimentary admissions to a home athletics event. However, the institution's athletics staff may not direct or request the attendance of a teammate or friend who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit. Additionally, no athletics recruiting activities (e.g., facility tour, access to field) or conversations may occur with any individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit.

Question No. 7: May a child of a booster, who is not permitted to receive an official or unofficial visit with athletics department involvement, receive access to the field, court or other restricted areas while attending an athletics contest?

Answer: Yes. However, the benefits provided to the individual must be consistent with institutional policy regarding benefits available to all boosters and their family members. Additionally, no recruiting conversations may occur with a booster's child.

Question No. 8: May admissions, or the institutional authority outside of the athletics department designated to provide campus tours to prospective students, provide a campus tour which includes institutional athletics facility to a team that includes individuals who are not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes, provided institutional athletics facilities are part of the regular tour for all prospective students.

Question No. 9: May the chancellor, president or a member of a board of governors or board of regents direct athletics department staff to provide a tour of institutional athletics facilities to an individual and his or her child who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes, provided the visit is unrelated to athletics recruitment and no recruiting conversations occur.

Question No. 10: May an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement meet with an academic advisor, who is an athletics department employee, during a visit to campus?

Answer: No.

Question No. 11: May an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement meet with an academic advisor, who is not considered an athletics department employee, but has duties that are specific to athletics?

Answer: Yes, provided meeting with prospective students (not just prospective student-athletes) is included in the advisor's job responsibilities, the meeting does not include recruiting conversations related to athletics and the meeting is not arranged by an athletics department staff member.

CAMPS AND CLINICS.

Question No. 12: During an institutional camp or clinic, may an athletics department staff member provide a campus tour if the group includes individuals who are not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes, if a campus tour (including institutional athletics facilities) is available to all camp participants; however, no recruiting conversations may occur.

Question No. 13: During an institutional camp or clinic, may an athletics department staff member conduct an informational session about the recruiting process and/or the student-athlete experience with an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes. A general informational session (e.g., initial eligibility, amateurism, recruiting rules) for all campers would be permissible; however, no institution-specific recruiting information may be presented at the informational session.

Question No. 14: May an institution host a camp that does not include a physical component for individuals who are not permitted to receive unofficial visits with athletics department involvement?

Answer: No. A camp that includes individuals who are not permitted to receive unofficial visits must include physical, sport-related skill instruction. However, it would be permissible to combine other sport-related instruction (e.g., nutrition, guest speakers) with physical skill-instruction. Camps and clinics should not be used to circumvent unofficial visit legislation. A camp or clinic should be distinguishable from an unofficial visit.

TELEPHONE CALLS.

Question No. 15: May an institution's coach make telephone calls to an individual who is not otherwise permitted to receive a telephone call to discuss camp and clinic logistics?

Answer: Yes. The content of the telephone call must be limited to camp and clinic logistics and may not include recruiting content.

Question No. 16: If an individual who is not permitted to receive a telephone call initiates a call with an institution's coach, what is the coach allowed to say to the individual?

Answer: The coach may confirm the individual's grade/age, explain the recruiting rules and then must end the call. The coach may not engage in any recruiting conversations with the individual.

OFF-CAMPUS CONTACTS.

Question No. 17: Are there restrictions on where permissible off-campus contact may occur?

Answer: In sports other than basketball, football and lacrosse (if lacrosse is removed from the application of Proposal No. 2018-93), there are no location restrictions (e.g., home, educational institution) associated with permissible off-campus contact.

Question No. 18: Is an institution's coach allowed to have three off-campus contacts with a prospective student-athlete during both the junior and senior years of high school?

Answer: Yes. An institution is permitted a maximum of seven total recruiting opportunities per prospective student-athlete per year (August-July), three of which may be off-campus contacts.

ORAL OFFERS.

Question No. 19: What is considered an oral offer?

Answer: An oral offer is an athletics department staff member orally informing an individual of an offer of athletics or nonathletics financial aid, admission to the institution or a roster spot on a team.

Question No. 20: May a nonathletics department staff member extend an oral or written offer (e.g., admission, nonathletics aid) to a prospective student-athlete before August 1 of the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school?

Answer: Yes. At any time, a nonathletics institutional faculty or staff member may extend an oral or written offer to a prospective student-athlete in accordance with institutional policies, provided it is not at the direction of an athletics department staff member.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Question No. 21: In sports other than baseball, basketball and football, is the first permissible date for telephone calls, off-campus contact, recruiting materials and electronic correspondence with a prospective student-athlete the same for a prospective student-athlete who attends a school that uses a nontraditional academic calendar (e.g., Southern Hemisphere) as it is for a prospective student-athlete who attends a school that uses a traditional academic calendar?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 22: May an institution's coach have evaluative conversations (e.g., regarding athletics ability) with a prospective student-athlete's high school and or club coach prior to the permissible date for communication with a prospective student-athlete?

Answer:

Yes. However, these conversations should not be used to indirectly send recruiting messages (e.g., oral offer of aid) to a prospective student-athlete.

Examples of permissible evaluative conversation topics with a high school and or club coach:

1. High school and/or club coach's evaluation of the prospective student-athlete's academics, athletic skills, speed, agility, personality, character, work ethic, coachability, etc.
2. Institution's coach expression of general interest in the prospective student-athlete (e.g., *we are interested in [name]*).

Examples of evaluative conversation topics with a high school and or club coach that are not permissible:

1. Confirming if the prospective student-athlete is on institution's recruiting list, including his or her ranking on that list (e.g., "prospective student-athlete is on our A-list/B-List," "prospective student-athlete is a top [#] prospective student-athlete for us," "prospective student-athlete is our top goalie prospective student-athlete," etc.).
2. Institution's coach providing an evaluation of the individual to the high school and or club coach.
3. Requesting the high school or club coach to relay a message to the individual, including asking the individual to:
 - a. Send transcripts, report cards and or test scores to the college coach and or staff; and/or
 - b. Attend a camp where the college coach and or staff will be present.
4. Asking if the prospective student-athlete is interested in the school, including the level of interest.
5. Any discussion with high school and/or club coach of potential financial aid or athletic scholarship offers.
6. Setting up future phone calls or visits for the prospective student-athlete.

Question No. 23: May an institution's coach have an evaluative conversation with a high school or club coach while an individual who is not permitted to make or receive recruiting telephone calls is listening to the conversation?

Answer: No.

Question No. 24: May an institution's athletics department participate in a campus initiative organized and conducted by a department outside of athletics designed to recruit prospective students who are not yet permitted to be recruited?

Answer: Yes, provided the institution can demonstrate the involvement of the athletics department is not designed to solicit the enrollment of the prospective student-athletes to participate in athletics.

Question No. 25: May an institution rent an athletics facility to a group that includes individuals who are not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: Yes, provided during the facility rental the institution does not engage in any recruiting activities or conversations involving individuals who are not permitted to receive an unofficial visit.

Question No. 26: During a neutral site contest, may an institution provide complimentary admissions to an individual who is not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement?

Answer: No.

Question No. 27: Prior to the first permissible date to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement, may an institution provide complimentary admission to an individual who has no reasonable expectation of participating in athletics?

Answer: Yes. Consistent with the NCAA staff interpretation [Reference: 11/01/10] related to a prospective student-athlete with no reasonable expectation of participating in intercollegiate athletics, the restrictions in NCAA Bylaw 13 do not apply.

Question No. 28: May an institution's coach invite a team that includes individuals not permitted to attend an open practice if there will be no contact between a coach and the team?

Answer: Yes, if an event (e.g., practice) is open to the public, individuals who are not permitted to receive an unofficial visit with athletics department involvement may attend the event. However, no recruiting conversations or recruiting activities (e.g., special access, facility tour) may occur.

Question No. 29: If adopted, how will Proposal Nos. 2018-93 and 2018-94 affect institutional coaches who are also parents of prospective student-athletes?

Answer: An institutional coach who is also the parent of a prospective student-athlete may continue to interact with his or her child, child's friends and child's teammates (or their family members); however, no recruiting conversations may take place with the child's friends or teammates (or family members) prior to the first permissible date for recruiting contact.

Question No. 30: Are the early recruiting proposals intended to restrict marketing and promotional activities by the department of athletics that do not involve prospective student-athletes?

Answer: No. This legislation is not intended to change previous guidance on visits to campus for non-prospective student-athlete aged individuals that are not for recruiting purposes.

For example, it would be permissible for non-prospective student-athlete aged individuals to continue to participate in marketing or promotional activities such as having a non-prospective student-athlete aged team attend a home athletics contest and compete at halftime for marketing or entertainment purposes. However, to minimize risk associated with these activities, it is recommended that institutions develop policies and procedures for such events and that coaches and sport specific staff members are not involved in:

1. The selection of the teams;
2. Soliciting the enrollment or participation of any of the participants;
or
3. Testing the athletics ability of the pre-prospective student-athletes.

The key in the analysis is to ensure that the flexibility provided in these types of situations is not used to circumvent the early recruiting legislation, when the true purpose is to provide an individual an unofficial visit.