

Educational Column - 1 Educational Column

Title:

Campus Visits (I)

Item Ref: 1

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Educational Column:

In response to several high profile recruiting incidents that occurred during the 2003-04 academic year, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors created a Task Force on Recruiting to address the application of recruiting standards. The task force was charged with conducting a thorough review of recruiting legislation and practices.

The findings of the Task Force on Recruiting noted that visits to campus are designed to provide a prospective student-athlete the opportunity to evaluate the campus environment in order to assess academic and athletics compatibility. The evaluation allows a prospective student-athlete to make an informed decision about attendance at the institution and participation in the athletics program. Specifically, the task force noted that official and unofficial visits should be used to promote the academic and athletics mission of the institution and ensure integrity in the recruiting process while placing accountability on the institution. The intent of the legislation regarding campus visits is to provide an experience for prospective student-athletes during the recruiting process that is similar to what they can expect if they enrolled as a student-athlete. An institution is expected to provide a reasonable and acceptable environment for campus visits, as opposed to creating an experience that is designed to bring attention to individual prospective student-athletes.

As a result, current legislation adopted in 2004 by the Division I membership in response to the task force findings is intended to prohibit the excesses, entitlement and celebrity associated with campus visits.

Division I institutions should note that the following provisions continue to apply to all campus visits:

1. NCAA Bylaws 13.6.6 and 13.6.7.7 require that lodging and meals provided to a prospective student-athlete during an official visit are comparable to those received by enrolled student-athletes during the regular academic year. Lodging must be standard and may not include any upgrades or special amenities not generally available to guests (e.g., Jacuzzis, suites);
2. Bylaws 13.6.7.9 and 13.7.3 state that during official or unofficial visits, a prospective student-athlete is not permitted to engage in any game-day simulations. Further, an institution may not arrange miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aides including, but not limited to, personalized jerseys and personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations. This provision also prohibits the use of decorative items and special additions to any location the prospective student-athlete will visit (e.g., locker room, hotel room, coach's office, arena) regardless of whether or not the items include the prospective student-athlete's name or picture. The areas a prospective student-athlete may visit should be maintained as they would normally appear;
3. Bylaw 13.10.5 states that a prospective student-athlete may not participate in team activities that would make the public or media aware of the prospective student-athlete's visit to the institution, including but not limited to, wearing game jerseys while observing practice or competition activities, running out of the tunnel with the team, celebratory walks to/around the stadium/arena, and on-field pregame celebrations. A prospective student-athlete may, however, be present in the locker room prior to or subsequent to competition and may stand on the sidelines during pregame activities prior to being seated in regular seating areas during competition;
4. Bylaw 13.6.1 states that an institution is required to have written policies regarding official visits that apply to student-athletes, student hosts, coaches and other athletics administrators that are approved by the institution's chancellor/president and kept on file at the institution and conference office. Further, the institution is required to have its written policies evaluated by an outside entity once every four years; and
5. Bylaw 13.6.7.5 states that a student host must be either a current student-athlete or a student designated to provide campus tours or visits to prospective students in general. In this regard, individuals are considered hosts if they are involved in traditional hosting duties such as tasks that require specific interaction with the prospect (e.g., entertaining, escorting, etc.). Individuals who are involved solely in administrative functions (e.g., stuffing envelopes, collecting unofficial visit money, handling complimentary admissions etc.) would not be considered student hosts.

[References: NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.6.1 (institutional policies), 13.6.7.5 (student hosts), 13.6.6 (accommodations on visit), 13.6.7.7 (meals on official visit), 13.6.7.9 (activities during official visit), 13.7.3 (activities during unofficial visit and 13.10.5 (prospective student-athlete's visit)]]

Notice about Educational Columns: Educational columns and hot topics are intended to assist the membership with the correct application of legislation and/or interpretations by providing clarifications, reminders and examples. They are based on legislation and official and staff interpretations applicable at the time of publication. Therefore, educational columns and hot topics are binding to the extent that the legislation and interpretations on which they are based remain applicable. Educational columns are posted on a regular basis to address a variety of issues and hot topics are posted as necessary in order to address timely issues.

References

Legislative References		
Div.	Number	Title
I	13.10.5	Prospective Student-Athlete's Visit.
I	13.6.6	Accommodations on Official Visit.
I	13.6.7.7	Meals on Official Visit.
I	13.6.7.5	Student Host.
I	13.6.1	Institutional Policies.
I	13.6.7.9	Activities During Official Visit.
I	13.7.3	Activities During Unofficial Visit.

Other
References Educational Columns: 0
Educational Columns: 0
Proposals: 0