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IMPORTANT FEBRUARY RECRUITING DATES

2-2: SAT registration postmark date for March 10th test

2-7: Football initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

2-7: Field Hockey, Soccer and Men's Water Polo initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

2-10: ACT Test

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Coty Hainsey – Soccer – Chestnut Ridge HS

Mike Godissart – Baseball – Chestnut Ridge HS

David Luke – Baseball – Greensburg Salem HS

Patrick Heskey – Football – Mt. Pleasant Area HS

Daniel Matyas – Ice Hockey – Valley HS

Evan Fuentes – Football – Pittsburgh Central Catholic HS

2007 CPOA PA College Signings

Matt Riddle – Kiski Prep – Football –University of Dayton

Elizabeth Robinson – Greensburg Central Catholic – Soccer – Duquense U.

Ryan Goodman – Greater Latrobe – Wrestling – West Virginia

NCAA News

NCAA Amateurism Questionnaire

Last month, we sent out an advisory regarding the new Amateurism Questionnaire that every student-athlete who registers with the NCAA Clearinghouse must complete. This questionnaire determines if the athlete has in any way jeopardized his or her amateur status and could affect the athlete's eligibility to compete in college.

At that time, we spoke to an NCAA representative for guidance on how athletes should complete this form, particularly one question about how students are marketed to colleges

To recap the e-mail we sent last month, one of the questions on the new form concerns using a company like CPOA to send information to schools on behalf of the student-athlete.

**Q-3: In any sport, have you ever:
authorized anyone (other than your parent, legal guardian or
coach) to market your athletics skill or reputation?**

Q-3- (Frequently Asked Questions):

“My family paid a recruiting service company to send out information about me to several colleges and universities to help improve my chances of getting an athletics scholarship. Should I answer “yes” to this question?”

Answer: The answer you provide depends on the terms of the agreement. If the fee paid to the recruiting service was not based upon your placement and receipt of institutional financial aid at a specific collegiate institution, you may answer “no” to this question.

Since our service fits this description - we do not base our fee on placement and receipt of institutional financial aid - then clients should answer “No”. The “No” answer will be better for our clients because it will not raise a red flag about potentially working with a service that doesn't operate like CPOA

NCAA Convention Recap

The 101st NCAA Convention held last month in Orlando, Fla., was uneventful in that no controversial legislation was passed.

In Division I, an attempt to limit text messaging to prospects was defeated, however, a separate plan to do away with all types of electronic communication between coaches and athletes except faxes and e-mails was forwarded to the Management Council for further consideration. If approved, text messaging, Internet chat room exchanges and any other e-messaging would be eliminated. Some athletic administrators, and even some students, feel a number of coaches go overboard by text messaging kids at 2:00 AM or circumvent phone call rules by communicating via chat rooms.

Division I reversed a rule passed last year that allowed graduate students with athletic eligibility remaining to transfer and play in the same year, regardless of sport. Grad students in sports like football and basketball will now have to sit out a year on a lateral or “upward” transfer to a Division I school, just like undergrads do, however students who transferred prior to January 15 will be grandfathered in under the old rule.

Ironically, Division II passed the grad student transfer rule but did not include any residency restrictions by sport. So a football or basketball grad student with eligibility remaining that transfers within Division II may play without sitting out a year.

Division III deferred a decision pending further review on whether male athletes are allowed to practice with female players. The reasons this rule is being considered are concern for competitive advantage for teams that let men practice with women and that it limits practice opportunities for female players and therefore conceivably violates Title IX law.

D-III delegates defeated a proposal that would have permitted redshirting, currently not available at the Division III level. They also discussed but took no action on limiting membership in the NCAA's largest division.

Princeton Freezes Tuition for First Time in 4 Decades

Princeton University will not increase tuition next year. It is the first time in 40 years that the Ivy League school has frozen tuition and is sure to put pressure on other highly selective institutions to hold down their own cost of attending.

Tuition for undergraduate study at Princeton in the 2007-8 academic year will remain at \$33,000. The overall cost of attending will rise 4.2 percent over this year, to \$43,980, because the university will raise fees for room and board.

Princeton's decision is likely to prompt its Ivy League peers and other selective public and private colleges to consider similar action, if they can afford it. Many elite institutions followed Princeton's decision, in 2001, to replace loans with grants for students who receive need-based financial aid.

The decision to freeze tuition, though, is likely to make Princeton a more desirable destination for affluent students as well, not just needy ones.

In its statement announcing the decision, Princeton acknowledged that strong investment returns on its endowment, the fifth largest in higher education last year, were one of the conditions that made its tuition freeze possible. The university's endowment is now worth more than \$13-billion.

The national average for tuition and fees at private, four-year college rose 5.9 percent, to \$22,218, in the current academic year, according to data from the College Board. If room and board are also considered, the total average cost at private colleges is \$30,367.

Sports Sponsorships

Ohio University, NCAA Division I in Athens, OH, is eliminating four programs at the completion of the school year. The teams being dropped are men's indoor and outdoor track, men's swimming and diving, and women's lacrosse. The school will still offer 16 varsity teams, the minimum required for membership in Division I.

University of Maryland Baltimore County is dropping its Division I women's field hockey program at the end of the current academic year.

Butler University in Indianapolis is discontinuing two sports effective June 1, 2007. Men's swimming and lacrosse will be dropped from the list of sponsored sports at the Division I school.

CPOA PA Topic of the Month

Facts about Recruiting

- Hundreds of college coaches right now need athletes, but do not have the staff and money to locate them
- Any high school senior who is not getting telephone calls from college coaches is not seriously being recruited.
- High school athletes who are not getting recruiting material in the mail from college coaches, most likely are unknown and lack exposure.
- Student athletes cannot expect to play in college unless many coaches know who they are and how to make contact.
- College coaches contact many prospects for each open position but they will only recruit one athlete.

- High school coaches want to help but most don't have the time or money to properly market their athletes.
- A college coach usually goes to a camp specifically to watch someone already on his or her list, not to "discover" new talent.
- The recruiting process is well underway by the time an athlete becomes a senior.
- Letters from parents and athletes are usually the very last source of recruiting information used by coaches for obvious reasons. An objective source presenting your skills and accomplishments has more credibility.
- Bluechip, a major recruiting magazine, surveyed over 300 NCAA Division I and II college coaches in early 1998 about their recruiting practices. The findings showed that, "30% said they begin tracking high school prospects as Freshman, 45% start tracking prospects when they are Sophomores, and 25% said they wait until the student-athlete is a Junior. No coaches said they wait to track HS prospects in their Senior year."
- This same survey also found that 49% of Division I and II coaches, "relied on personal player profiles from recruiting services to learn about prospects." Only 8% of coaches use the Internet to find prospects and none of the coaches found letters/calls from parents valuable.
- An article on Athletics & Admissions in the 1998 magazine of the Consortium of Private Colleges & Universities recommends recruiting services: "Students who are not heavily recruited may find these services effective as do colleges that don't have large recruiting budgets."
- NCAA Division I powerhouse, the University of South Carolina, recommends that its prospects consider using recruiting services to get noticed by college coaches. "Don't limit yourself to 1 or 2 possible schools -- they may not have a need for a particular position that year."
- A recent article in The NCAA News says: "It is up to the student-athlete to actively market himself or herself to colleges . . . to pursue athletic scholarships by attracting attention of college coaches."
- Colleges will give admissions and financial aid preference to students with talents that they desire.
- It is up to the student – athlete to actively market himself or herself to colleges... to pursue athletic scholarships by attracting attention of college coaches.
- Colleges are competitive businesses who use sophisticated marketing techniques to fill classes.
- The process and standards for admission are flexible at all colleges.
- Academic achievement below a colleges published norm may be admitted based on other achievements, circumstances and skills.
- Scholarship athletes are a small fraction of recruited athletes.
- Only 10% of athletes that compete at the college level are awarded full scholarships.
- Colleges need more than 300,000 athletes each year to replace losses
- Good athletes do not get recruited because college coaches do not know about them.
- Most college recruiting programs lack money for recruitment for non-revenue sports, except DI and DII Football and Basketball.

- CPOA has assisted over 40,000 potential overlooked athletes to achieve their dream of participating at the next level.
- CPOA provides exposure to athletic programs in all NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA Divisions.
- CPOA is in contact with almost 2,000 colleges and universities on a monthly basis.
- CPOA is in contact with 15,000 college coaches on a monthly basis.
- CPOA currently has a nationwide success rate of 92% placement.

CPOA PA News – Speaking Circuit

- Martin Rock will be the featured speaker at Tom Alper's Kicking Academy Clinic on March 17th at the Robert Morris University Bubble from 10AM – 11AM
- Mr. Rock will also be speaking at the Greater Latrobe Ice Breakers Indoor Soccer Tournament on March 3rd and 4th.
- Mr. Rock will lead a recruiting Q&A session at the Strength Fitness and Speed facility in Irwin on February 21st and at the Pleasant Hills facility on February 22nd.

CONTACT SHEETS

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at martin.rock@cpoapa.com if you need additional copies!

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

Every CPOA PA Student-Athlete has received a NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete as part of the STUDENT PACKET you received when you joined the program. In this guide, you find instructions on how to apply for your NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse Number. Eligibility is based on what core courses have been completed, SAT scores and overall GPA in core courses. NCAA approved core courses, by high school, can be found at <http://actrs7.act.org/ahs>.

STUDENTS APPLY FOR THEIR NCAA ECN AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW ELIGIBILITY AS EARLY AS THE SOPHOMORE YEAR TO ENSURE THE CORRECT COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED! For more information about the process, email martin.rock@cpoapa.com for a NCAA Guide or call 888-ASK-CPOA (CPOA Program Members Only).

INTERNET UPDATES

If you have update information for your Internet profile, please forward to martin.rock@cpoapa.com. Remember that you automatically receive (2) two free updates per year. If you've upgraded your program to receive unlimited updates you can send updates every day/week if you'd like. Updates take approximately 72 hours to be made online.

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at martin.rock@cpoapa.com and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$50 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention fall sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are **now overdue**. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

RECRUITING SEMINARS

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).