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IMPORTANT FEBRUARY RECRUITING DATES

3 – Football (regular) initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

3 – Field Hockey, Soccer, Track & Field, Cross Country and Men's Water Polo initial signing date for National Letter of Intent

4 – SAT registration postmark date for March 13th test (SAT I only)

6 – ACT Test

18 - SAT late registration postmark date for March 13th test (SAT I only)

Financial Aid News

Are there tax implications if receiving an athletic scholarship?

There are not many tax implications since grants are not considered as income. An athletic scholarship is the same as any other grant you would receive from a school and that money is directed toward costs, so there is no income. The only indirect implication is that the more grant money you receive, the less you spend on college and the less you can deduct from future tax returns.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Jon White – Greensurg Central Catholic - Baseball

Kayla Hoffay – Montour - Soccer

Steve Schmitt – Hempfield – Football

Matt Walbert – South Park – Soccer

Katie Vasinko – Ligonier Valley – Volleyball

Luke Gindlesperger – Westmont Hilltop – Football

Samantha Struss – Seneca Valley – Lacrosse

CPOA Clients / College Decisions

Evan Kelly – Seton LaSalle will continue his Football career at the University of Richmond

Sara Scheidmantel – Beaver Area will continue her Golf career at Youngstown State University

Max Pawk – Sewickley Academy will continue his Lacrosse career at Franklin & Marshall College

Morgan Sharick – Burrell HS will continue her Soccer career at the University of Pittsburgh

Jessie Vilkofsky – Elizabeth Forward HS will continue her Soccer career at the Wheeling Jesuit University

Zachary Carter – Hampton will continue his Soccer career at Johns Hopkins University

Jenn Stefano – Connellsville will continue her Softball career at Chatham College

Chelsy Cosentino – Kiski Area will continue her Softball career at St. Francis University

NCAA News

Here's a legislative recap from the 2010 NCAA National Convention held in Atlanta last month:

NCAA Division I:

Effective August 1, 2010, Division I football schools are limited to signing a maximum of 28 players to National Letters of Intent each year. Even though rules

have long permitted schools to bring in only a maximum of 25 new recruits each year, schools commonly “oversigned” prospects (some signed 35 or 40 per year) knowing that many would not be academically eligible. Those prospects were then usually “farmed out” to junior colleges with friendly relationships with the Division I school with the idea that the player would transfer back to the four-year school later. The new limit to sign is 28, which should cut down on stockpiling prospects.

Permitted sand volleyball (aka “beach volleyball”) to become an emerging sport for women. The effective date for the new sport will be August 2011 to give schools and the NCAA time to determine the appropriate practice and season schedules along with recruiting and financial aid limits.

In men’s basketball, adopted a proposal that prohibits schools from hiring people associated with prospects for noncoaching positions during a period two years before and two years after the prospect’s enrollment. In essence, the proposal allows coaches either to recruit the prospective student-athlete or recruit the coach, but not both.

In other business, the Legislative Council approved a proposal where student-athletes may compete on a professional team (in all sports other than men’s ice hockey) so long as they do not accept payment in excess of actual and necessary expenses. They also created an organized competition rule for sports other than men’s ice hockey, tennis, swimming and diving and women’s volleyball – charging prospective student-athletes who do not enroll full-time within a year of high school graduation (six months for tennis) and participate in organized events after the specified time period with a season of competition for every year of participation. Finally, the proposal would require an academic year in residence prior to competition.

NCAA Division II:

Reduced the practice and playing seasons in all sports association-wide beginning this August with the exception of field hockey, which will come into line with the other sports in August 2011.

NCAA Division III:

Nine mostly administrative proposals were passed, none significant regarding recruiting.

“Yes” on Amateurism Questionnaire

The NCAA has done an about-face on one question on the Amateurism questionnaire required for student-athletes who register for certification. The question relates to prospects who have used a service like CPOA to market their information to college coaches. It typically reads:

· In any sport, have you ever:

1. authorized anyone (other than your parent, legal guardian or coach) to market your athletics skill or reputation?...

Previously, the NCAA told us to instruct our clients to answer "No" to this question because services like CPOA that are regulated by NCAA Bylaw 12.3.3.1 are permitted to "distribute personal information (e.g., high school academic and athletics records, physical statistics) to member institutions without jeopardizing his or her eligibility...". In effect, companies like ours were initially given a waiver.

Now our clients must this question in the affirmative. The NCAA staffer we spoke with did not know why the interpretation has changed.

We want to make sure our clients understand they have not done anything to jeopardize their eligibility by contracting with CPOA! If asked to provide details of who has helped market their information to schools, the client may need to send a copy of the CPOA Contract to the Eligibility Center to verify what services we are providing and that they fall within the range of Bylaw 12.3.3.1 (The NCAA confirms that our services definitely do!!)

Any client who has already completed the questionnaire but answered "No" to this question does not need to change the answer, but if asked to verify by the NCAA Eligibility Center, should answer "Yes" and provide the explanation stated above.

This change is bound to create confusion, but we feel it is better now for our clients. Some were apprehensive answering the question "No", though it was the right thing to do at the time. Since the client has had assistance, "Yes" has been a more comfortable answer for most.

The question is an attempt to make certain that prospects have not entered into a relationship with anyone who can jeopardize their eligibility. There is a clear distinction between a marketing service and an agent. We have never had a client who has had a problem once they have provided the NCAA with a copy of our contract. We are confident that will still be the case.

Reminders For Clients

Two important reminders for seniors regarding the NCAA Eligibility Center:

Test Scores Must Be Sent Directly

Official SAT or ACT scores must be sent directly from the appropriate testing agency to the Eligibility Center in order to certify a prospective student-athlete's

initial eligibility. Per NCAA legislation, scores for all tests a prospect has taken are required to be sent. This will aid in using the best scores from each exam in the certification of prospective student-athletes.

Prospects can be sure the scores are correctly sent by entering the code "9999" as one of their free test-score recipients in the box provided when registering for the SAT or ACT. If a prospect forgets to use the "9999" code, he or she will need to contact the testing agency directly to have the scores sent.

At times, information from the testing agency and on file with the Eligibility Center does not match (i.e., the student's name is Christopher for the test, but with the Eligibility Center he registered under the name Chris). If a student-athlete has requested his or her test scores be sent to the Eligibility Center, but the score is not showing on the account, the athlete should call the Eligibility Center to make sure the score is received. The toll-free number is (877) 262-1492.

Register With the Eligibility Center Prior to an Official Visit

Before taking an official visit, prospects must register with the Eligibility Center.

Registration must take place online at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Prospective student-athletes must complete all of the sections of the registration, including payment (or affirmation of fee waiver), to be considered registered with the Eligibility Center.

Sports Sponsorships

Duquense University, NCAA Division I in Pittsburgh, PA, is dropping four sports at the conclusion of the academic year. The four are baseball, wrestling, men's golf, and men's swimming. The Dukes athletic department is expected to save about \$1 million annually because of the reductions.

Edinboro University, NCAA Division II in Edinboro, PA, is reinstating men's and women's tennis this fall. The teams had been dropped in 2003.

Le Moyne College, NCAA Division II in Syracuse, NY, adds women's golf in the fall.

Ouachita Baptist University, NCAA Division II in Arkadelphia, Ark., adds men's wrestling and women's golf for 2010-11.

The College of Saint Rose, NCAA Division II in Albany, NY, adds men's lacrosse. The team will begin a limited varsity schedule in 2011 with full-time status expected the next year.

Barton College, Division II in Wilson, NC, adds track and field for both men and women for the 2010-11 academic year.

Bethany College, NCAA Division III in Bethany, WV, adds men's lacrosse as a club team for the upcoming school year. The team will become a varsity program in 2011-12.

Edgewood College, NCAA Division III in Madison, Wisc., reinstates men's tennis after a 10-year absence.

St. John Fisher College, NCAA Division III in Rochester, NY, received a gift of \$3 million that school officials say will allow them to build a track and field complex and add seven new sports. In addition to men's and women's track (both indoor and outdoor), the school will field a cross country team for men and women and a field hockey team. The new sports will debut in 2011-12.

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!

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 all spring 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).