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IMPORTANT JANUARY RECRUITING DATES

5 – ACT Registration postmark date for February 6th test

15 - Football (mid-year JC transfer) final signing date for National Letter of Intent

15 – ACT late registration postmark date for February 6th test

23 – SAT Test

Financial Aid News

Client FAFSAs in January

Early filing of the FAFSA is crucial. Schools are routinely requesting that the Student Aid Report (SAR) arrive ASAP. We do not want any of our clients to miss an important financial aid deadline. Let this serve as a reminder that you **do not need to wait for your 2009 income taxes to be completed before filing the FAFSA!**

CPOA clients should call our corporate office if they have any questions about the FAFSA. The process can be intimidating, but we will take the time to assure parents of the importance of going through the FAFSA process, even if they realize that they are not going to be eligible for need-based financial aid. Then why do it? Because almost all colleges require the FAFSA in order to consider the student for all types of financial aid, including athletic or merit-based awards.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Sarah Metarko – Seneca Valley – Volleyball

Corey Bickert – Riverview – Basketball

Andrew Rumburg – Goodlin – Knoch – Football

Ryan Sherry – Bethel Park - Football

NCAA News

“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

Hofstra University, which competed in the Football Championship Subdivision (the old Division I-AA), dropped its football program in early December after 73 years of competition. The Board of Trustees at Hofstra decided to redirect the money the school spent on football toward its 17 other varsity sports.

Wingate University, NCAA Division II in Wingate, NC, is adding men's and women's track and field to begin competing in the spring of 2011.

Marywood University, NCAA Division III in Scranton, PA, is building a new aquatics center. When completed, it will be the home of men's and women's swimming and diving teams that will become varsity programs starting in the fall of 2010.

Thiel College, NCAA Division III in Greenville, PA, adds lacrosse and tennis for men and women, boosting the number of sports it sponsors to 24.

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).