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IMPORTANT JUNE RECRUITING DATES

7-1:

- NCAA coaches in all sports except Div. I - A and I – AA football may make telephone calls to 2006 grads.
- Men's ice hockey coaches may make one call to a student from a foreign country who has completed his sophomore year of high school.
- Div. I basketball coaches may make 3 telephone calls to 2006 grads this month, but no more than one per week.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Jordan Kozik – Football – Valley HS
Joey Serluco – Football – Burrell
Joe Mucho III – Football - Bentworth

NCAA News

- The NCAA has recently modified the breakdown on the number of core courses that student-athletes need to complete. Students were required to take 4 years of English and 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. Now students must take 3 years of English and 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science. The 14 core course rule has not changed just the way a student can reach 14 core courses.
- It has recently come to our attention that there are no restrictions as to when a Division 3 coach/staff can place a call to a high school prospect. In the past we have stated that D3 coaches were not allowed to call prospects until the completion of their junior year. In actuality, that rule applied to in-person contacts as stated here. **Time Periods for Contacts. In-person, off-campus contacts with a prospect or a prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) may not be made until the prospect has completed the junior year in high school.** It's a good bet that the NCAA believes that most D3 coaches and programs have neither the time, money, energy, staff, or

- need to abuse this rule by calling prospects much earlier than they can realistically evaluate them. In the case of the multi-million dollar world of high-level D1 athletics, it's safe to assume that many coaches and coaching staff's would be calling prospects in their freshman or sophomore year in order to tell them how great they are.
- Starting August 1, 2004, Division 1 coaches may make one phone call to a prospect during the month of March of a prospective student-athlete's junior year. It is now permissible for coaches to make one in-person off campus recruiting contact on the recruit's high school campus during the month of April of their junior year. Additional phone calls may not be made until after July 1 following the junior year, which was the standard contact time for most sports (football and basketball being the exception) at the D1 level.
 - The NCAA has recently eliminated the ability for students to redshirt at D3 institutions unless it is for medical reasons. (date unknown)

CPOA PA Topic of the Month

Making the summer college camp work for your recruiting process.

Most of the CPOA PA families this time of year are inquiring as to the effectiveness of attending college camps for the purposes of getting recruited. Some people will have you believe that college camps are a waste of money if you are trying to get recruited and others believe they are very beneficial.

Most college camps are run for two purposes (1) to generate additional income and (2) to provide coaches a chance to see several hundred players who may be interested in attending their school and playing for their program.

A summer camp for a college coach is an easy way to see several hundred players in one place over the course of a week. Not just to see them play but to meet them and learn about them as a person. The summer for a college coach is the time of the year when they are free to really recruit at camps, tournaments, summer games, and showcases and they take full advantage of the summer in any way they can.

Many kids sign up for camps at schools they have no realistic shot of playing at and they then wonder why they weren't recruited after the camp. This has a residual affect as they tell future families not to waste their money attending camps for recruiting purposes because "you won't get recruited!"

Important Steps to Follow

1. Identify this school as a school you "might" like to attend. If you honestly don't have any interest in a school, then going to that camp for the purposes of trying

to get recruited doesn't make any sense.

2. Identify whether your skills would allow you to play for this particular program in the near future. If you are a 170-pound linebacker, attending camps at Notre Dame, Michigan, and Ohio State won't get you recruited by those programs. This is a fact of life that some people don't want to accept and they keep attending camps at colleges they won't be able to play for. There are 1,100 NCAA schools and your ability to find a program where your skills match up will in the end be the most important recruiting task you can perform.

3. Communicate with the college coach. Many people simply sign up for camp, run past the coach and then expect a phone call a few weeks later from the coach. Some college camps may have 200 players or multiple sessions so if the coach doesn't know who you are or that you are interested in their program, they simply may not notice you.

If you call the coach before the camp and begin to build a relationship with them and communicate that their school is a place of interest for you, you will have a far better chance of being noticed by that coach and making the camp circuit work. But you have to do some research on the school and program first and you have to be realistic about your athletic skill. It doesn't matter if you attend one camp or 100 camps, if you cannot realistically play for that school, the camp circuit won't work for you. If you find schools and programs that better fit your skills and desires, and you communicate with the coach prior to the camp, you will have a far better chance of getting recruited via a summer camp at a college.

Being realistic you have to realize that the coach may only be recruiting 5 or 10 players a year and may already have recruits in their pipeline or committed, so the odds of you simply being discovered at a camp are not always in your favor.

There is also a hidden benefit to some camps. Many college camps have other college coaches working at the camp. A rule of thumb is that two colleges that compete for the same type of recruits will not work each others camp, but many D1 camps have D2 and D3 coaches working and vice versa. This allows you the opportunity to be seen by other coaches from other schools where you might be a better fit at and we have met several players who were discovered by coaches working at an entirely different camp.

A college camp is one step in the recruiting process and requires some research and communication with coaches on your part prior to the attending a camp. You may find you are getting many camp flyers in the mail or personal requests from college coaches you are speaking to. It doesn't mean they are recruiting you, but it's an opportunity to possibly get recruited.

View it as an opportunity to expand your skills, meet some new players, get a sense of your ability, and as a way to be seen by college coaches.

Student and Parent Loan Rates Jump Significantly

As of July 1, a sweet deal for college students and parents turned somewhat sour. After enjoying the lowest interest rates in 40 years, new and current borrowers saw rates for Stafford and PLUS loans increase by two percent.

The new interest rate for Stafford loans, those taken out by students, is 4.7%. Parent PLUS loans will now be offered at 6.1% interest.

Thousands of families beat the July 1 deadline by consolidating at the old rate and realized significant savings. A borrower with \$20,000 in *Stafford* loans would owe \$26,321 over the life of the loans if they were consolidated before July 1, and \$31,018 after that date. That's nearly a \$4,700 difference.

The Stafford and PLUS loans are the most popular of the federally guaranteed education loan programs, but there are others. College financial aid offices provide students with all of the details on how the loans may be obtained. The U. S. Department of Education reports nearly two out of every three students borrow money from governmental or private sources to help pay for college.

Meanwhile, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education has issued a report that claims students who take out loans for college and then drop out are more likely to default on their loans and face economic hardship than their counterparts who graduate with debt. "Borrowing remains a sound investment for most students, but many who borrow and then drop out appear to have lost the bet," the report says.

According to the report, one-fifth of all borrowers never receive a degree. In 2001, there were about 350,000 former students who had entered college within the previous six years but who had not graduated and still had loans to repay.

The report also found that borrowers who dropped out of college were twice as likely to be unemployed as borrowers who graduated from college, and 10 times as likely to default on their loans.

Some students are caught in a "double bind," the report says. They face economic hardships if they drop out after borrowing money. But if they try to avoid borrowing money by taking time off to work before college, or by working part time or full time while in college, they are at greater risk of failing to complete a degree and facing those same economic problems.

NCAA Board Votes for 12 Football Games

Despite some opposition, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors has voted to allow Division I-A football teams to play 12 games per season, up from 11 under current rules.

Robert E. Hemenway, chairman of the board, described the conversation on the 12th game as "energetic and lively," and insisted that the move would not lengthen the football season. Instead, he said, it would simply eliminate an off week for most teams. To play in bowls, teams playing a 12-game schedule would have to win at least seven games. The board approved the 12th game beginning in 2006.

The board also diluted membership requirements for Division I-A. A rule that was supposed to go into effect last fall, but was suspended, would have kicked colleges out of the top division if they did not attract at least 15,000 fans per home football game. In its place, the board passed a new rule requiring colleges to sell 15,000 tickets per game, on average, every other year. Colleges can count student tickets as well as tickets sold at a discount, as long as the final cost is at least one-third of the cost of the highest-priced ticket.

College and NCAA officials, including the association's president, Myles Brand, also criticized new rules issued by the U. S. Education Department in April regarding changes to the Title IX rules. One way athletics departments can comply with Title IX is to demonstrate that they are "fully and effectively accommodating the interests and abilities" of female students, and the new guidelines say that doing so requires only that a college give a survey to its student body in a way designed to elicit a high response rate.

That appears to be a retreat from earlier guidelines, which said that the department would assess participation rates at a college's "feeder" high schools and community colleges and would interview students, coaches, and administrators. The department has insisted that the new guidelines merely clarify how a college may comply without reducing any requirements.

The board is urging colleges to follow the department's older guidelines, which were issued in 1996.

Other changes approved include updates to recruiting calendars for men's and women's basketball and plans to allow coaches to conduct more practices in the off-season.

The board, which consists of college presidents, has now wrapped up its business for the academic year.

LOCAL CPOA NEWS

Martin Rock was the featured speaker at the Loyalhanna United Soccer club this past month. Many male and female Soccer players from the group attended the two-day session to learn about recruiting and the recruitment process.

CPOAPA in the News

Please check out the articles posted on the website that the Mt. Pleasant Journal and Latrobe Bulletin wrote about CPOA and Martin Rock.

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).