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IMPORTANT JULY RECRUITING DATES

1: NCAA coaches in all sports except D I-A and IAA Football may make telephone calls to 2010 grads once per week and Women's Ice Hockey coaches may make one telephone call to a student from a foreign country who has completed her sophomore year of high school

Recruiting Topic of the Month

WAIVER OF COLLEGE ADMISSION APPLICATION FEE SUGGESTIONS

It is common practice for colleges and universities to charge an admission application fee. With the exception of those schools who historically have far more applicants than openings such as Ivy League, Stanford, MIT, Notre Dame etc. usually there is a method in place to waive these fees. Below are suggestions you can try. They are listed in the easiest order to obtain.

Apply on line versus by written form. This typically speeds the process up. Some schools will waive the admission application fee if application is on line.

Check to see if they even have a charge to apply. They may not. If they do look for printed reasons they will waive the cost and act on them.

If there are none look on the websites of all the colleges in the same conference as the one you are interested in. Check to see if ANY of them will let you apply without a fee. If they will apply to them whether you have an interest in attending

there or not. Doing so will give you leverage with all the other colleges in their conference or geographical recruiting area. They may want to do the same rather than appear to be "uncompetitive" in their admissions policies if you let them know their recruiting competitors are not requiring you to pay.

Call the Admissions Department at the college you wish to apply to that is asking you to pay an admissions application fee. **DO NOT ASK THEM IF THEY WILL WAIVE IT! ASSUME THEY WILL.** Ask them what the procedure is to obtain an "application fee waiver"? At this point they will ask why you feel it should be waived. If true, make these points to them in the order listed below:

- Other schools in their conference or geographical recruiting area have not charged you an admission application fee. Be prepared to tell them which ones if they ask.
- Every college interested in you wants you to apply. You understand the reasoning for that. You've been contacted by, or are interested in so many (list the number if you know it) it would be financially impossible to do so.
- You're not trying to get out of paying an admission application fee at the college you will attend and will sign paperwork insuring you will do so WHEN you enroll at (name of their college).
- If you have a sufficient number of CPOA COLLEGE CONTACT SHEETS completed offer to provide them as proof of how many other colleges want you to apply also. These can be shown to your Guidance Counselor to justify them providing you with a Waiver Form.
- Most colleges will agree to waive the fee if you visit their campus. Ask about this and how it works for you to apply on line now so you will already have been accepted by the time you visit with them.

IMPORTANT - Prior to contacting them look on their website for reasons to tell them you are interested in their college and athletic program. Examples might be their academic reputation, athletic history, location, they have your major, student population size, on time graduation rate for students, friends attend there, reasonable cost etc. but make sure it is a legitimate reason. Explain if you weren't truly interested in them you wouldn't be calling. **STATE THESE THINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR CONVERSATION.**

As always, contact me with any questions ASAP if you are unable to obtain the desired results. Good luck.

[RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania](#)

Jesse Hart – Baseball – Derry Area

Kylee Macura – Soccer – Valley

Mitchell Kalning – Track & Field – Greater Latrobe

Erin Mullen – Softball – Seneca Valley

Lucas Wildman – Football – Seneca Valley

Ben Murray – Baseball – Seneca Valley

NCAA News

Early Scholarship Offers May Be On Way Out

No more offering football scholarships to quarterbacks in the 8th grade? Perhaps. An NCAA committee has proposed legislation to stop early verbal offers of financial aid to prospects in all sports. As written, it would prohibit verbal offers of athletically related financial aid prior to July 1st before a prospect's senior year in high school.

Though most of the media attention surrounding early offers of aid has focused on basketball and football, coaches in other sports are not immune to the issue. In 2008, the Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association was instrumental in introducing legislation that would have accomplished the same thing in their sport only. Though that proposal was defeated, it may have paved the way for the entire recruiting model to be examined.

The committee also sponsored a proposal that would provide more flexibility to coaches calling prospects during a specific time period, essentially **applying a rule that currently exists in men's basketball to all sports except football.**

The proposal would allow institutions to make one telephone call per month to a prospect, parent or legal guardian on or after June 15 after the prospect's sophomore year in high school through July 31 after the junior year in high school. Beginning August 1 before the senior year, an institution is permitted to make two telephone calls to an individual prospect or parent or guardian per week. The proposal would also permit institutions to make one call per week to a two-year or four-year college prospect.

If this legislation is approved as proposed, habits will have to change. In late June, Ohio State football announced their first commitment for the class of 2012! He committed while attending the OSU football camp. This reminds us of Bill Conley's warning that for kids who think they are a top recruit and who attend a team camp, if they aren't offered at the camp, the school doesn't consider them a big prize. That's a shock for the prospect but it's reality. That practice could change, depending on the version of the legislation that is ultimately approved.

Also being considered, legislation that would:

*Prohibit prospects from making official visits to the institution in which the prospect has signed a National Letter of Intent or accepted a written offer of admission and/or financial aid;

*Remove all restrictions on the forms and frequency of communication with a prospect the calendar day after the prospect has either signed an NLI or accepted a written offer of admission and/or financial aid.

Many of these proposals received overwhelming support in a survey of the membership, but the changes represent only the beginning of what the cabinet expects to be a comprehensive process to unite most sports under similar recruiting rules.

All legislation proposed will be introduced into the 2010-11 legislative cycle. The Legislative Council will cast its first official votes on the proposals at the 2011 NCAA Convention in San Antonio. Proposals could be adopted in either January or April.

Better APR Numbers For Most Div. I Schools

The annual report card for scholarship athletes was the best yet this year—but there's plenty of room for improvement. This was the message that NCAA officials delivered last month in announcing their annual report on academic-progress rates (APR).

The annual analysis of the academic performance of Division I athletes, now in its sixth year, demonstrated marked improvement in several sports, including men's basketball and football. But challenges remain, particularly at institutions where resources are strained and in sports where athletes have traditionally struggled to make progress toward graduating.

The academic-progress rate measures eligibility, retention rates, and graduation rates of each of the 6,400 or so teams in Division I. Out of a total score of 1,000, a mark of 925 equates roughly to a 50-percent success rate in graduating players within six years. Teams with academic-progress rates below 925 can lose scholarships, and scores below 900 can trigger more-severe sanctions, like restrictions on practice time and postseason play. But not all teams that post low scores are penalized: This year, only 137 of the 428 teams with scores lower than 925 received some kind of sanction. Last year, by comparison, 177 teams received penalties, and two years ago, 213 teams did. And of the 10 teams this year with scores low enough to draw the harshest penalty, a ban on postseason competition, only one—the men's basketball team at Portland State University, with a four-year average of 865—received it.

Among elite men's basketball and football programs at major conferences, only a dozen posted scores lower than 925. In basketball, they included Auburn, Colorado, Georgia Tech, Indiana, Kansas State, Maryland, Purdue, Southern California, and Syracuse; in football, they were Colorado, Mississippi, and Washington State. Of those squads, only three—the teams at Syracuse and Colorado—received penalties of scholarship reductions.

NCAA officials were pleased on several fronts. The three sports that have been under their watchful eye since the report's inception continue to post higher marks every year. Football's average academic-progress rate for the four-year period of 2005-6 to 2008-9 is 944, up five points from last year; men's basketball, meanwhile, increased by seven points, to a score of 940. And women's sports continue to post very high academic-progress rates. But it was the sport of baseball about which officials were most excited. In the wake of new policies meant to address the sport's high transfer rates, officials are now seeing some results: Baseball's average academic-progress rate jumped eight points since last year, to 954.

Schools with smaller budgets and fewer resources that rank in the bottom 10 percent of Division I in terms of spending per student continue to struggle with the academic performance of their athletes, as do historically black colleges. Several of those institutions have at least one team scoring below the cutoff this year, with some having as many as eight or 10 teams failing to make the grade. The NCAA typically gives many of those programs a public warning rather than stiffer sanctions.

NAIA News

NAIA Now Has an Eligibility Center

The NAIA has established an Eligibility Center similar to the NCAA's. Unfortunately, it means many families will have to pony up more money and navigate another level of bureaucracy. It's disappointing but it's a trend.

The registration fee for the NAIA Eligibility Center is \$60.00 for U. S. students and \$85.00 USD for international students. The NAIA Eligibility Center will begin registering students September 1. Any athlete who wants to compete at an NAIA school beginning in the fall of 2011 must be certified by the Eligibility Center.

Here is more on the NAIA Eligibility Center from its new web site:

www.playnaia.org:

Who needs to register?

Every student interested in playing NAIA sports for the first time in 2011-12 or any year after that needs to register and be certified. This applies to:

- **High school seniors**
- **Transfers from two-year colleges**
- **Transfers from four-year colleges**

What happens when I register?

You'll create a personal profile with the basic facts about your academic history and sports participation to date. You'll also have the opportunity to provide more in-depth information about your experience and accomplishments, plus the type

of college you have in mind — size, location, areas of study, extracurricular activities. Then, we'll provide a list of NAIA institutions that match those interests. You can choose to have your profile sent directly to the schools – coaches and admissions offices – you choose. It's a personal connection, and you're in control!

What information will I need to provide?

You'll need your current contact information, previous residences and addresses, high schools attended and history of your sports participation during and after high school graduation. When you register for the ACT or SAT, include the NAIA Eligibility Center (9876) on the list of places test scores should be sent. Ask your high school counselors to send the NAIA Eligibility Center a final official transcript that verifies high school graduation, class rank and cumulative grade point average.

Do I need to register if I'm registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Yes. Certification of NAIA eligibility is separate from NCAA certification. The NAIA and NCAA are two separate associations, with two different sets of certification processes.

Is there an opportunity for a fee waiver?

Yes. The registration fee will be waived for students with demonstrated need. If you receive a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT test or qualify for the federal free or reduced-cost lunch program, contact your high school counselor, who can contact the Eligibility Center and verify a fee waiver. Transfer students can qualify for a fee waiver based on receipt of Federal Pell Grant funds.

The NAIA requires a student to graduate from high school and satisfy at least two of the following three requirements: A score of 18 on the ACT or 860 on the SAT, a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or graduate in the top 50% of the student's high school class.

We don't know how much pressure NAIA coaches will put on students to register. Listen to the feedback from your clients on this subject and pass it along so we can advise others. We'd like to advise families not to register immediately to save money. The NAIA web site does not state that student's must register before visiting NAIA schools so maybe mom and dad can defer registering until they're fairly sure an NAIA school is under strong consideration?

We suspect the first year of certifying students for NAIA schools will be stressful and challenging, although the NAIA's rules for eligibility are far less complex than the NCAA's so perhaps it won't be a terrific strain? Certainly the NAIA won't be certifying nearly as many student-athletes as the NCAA does since there are fewer than 300 NAIA member schools.

This is another hoop for families to jump through and for that we're sorry, but registration is a revenue stream and the NAIA has been missing the boat on that for a long time.

Sports Sponsorships

Cal State Bakersfield, which reclassified to NCAA Division II five years ago, is moving back to NCAA Division I and reinstating four sports effective this fall. Wrestling, women's tennis and men's and women's golf will be self-supporting teams with fund raising continuing to ensure the teams' survival. The Roadrunners will compete in 17 varsity sports beginning in September.

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).