



The Compliance Chronicle



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The University of Tennessee

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Recruiting Calendar

BASEBALL

Sept. 1-11 Quiet Period
Sept. 12-Nov. 9 Contact Period

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sept. 1-8 Quiet Period
Sept. 9-Oct. 5 Contact Period

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sept. 1-15: Quiet Period
Sept. 16-April 21 Evaluation Period
Sept. 16-Oct. 6 Contact Period

FOOTBALL

Sept. 1-Nov. 29: Quiet Period
Except: 42 days: Evaluation Period

CROSS COUNTRY/ TRACK & FIELD

Sept. 1-Dec. 14: Contact Period

SOFTBALL

Sept. 2-Nov. 27 Contact Only Period
Except: Oct. 10-Nov.2 Contact Period

VOLLEYBALL

Sept.1-Dec.7: Contact Period



Reminders

Identification and Seating for Prospects

Please be reminded individuals using the complimentary admission must present identification to the ticket personnel at Gate 21A. Please make sure your recruits and their families are aware of this regulation. In addition, seating of prospects must be in the general seating area during the conduct of the game (including intermission).

Occasional Meals

It is permissible for UT staff members or boosters to provide student-athletes meals on an occasional basis. These "occasional meals" are subject to certain restrictions and must be approved by the Compliance office in advance of the meal. The SEC defines occasional as 1 meal per month during the academic year and two during the summer vacation period. Please be reminded, occasional meals must be approved by Kevin Avery (Men's Athletics) or Tara Brooks (Women's Athletics) prior to receipt of the meal.

Pending Status

For 2008-09, recruited and nonrecruited student-athletes are permitted to engage in countable athletically related activities, except for competition, beyond the 14-day and 45-day windows. Student-athletes who have requested final amateur certification and who are on the institution's Institutional Request List (IRL) may engage in countable athletically related activities, **except for competition**, until a final amateurism certification is completed, provided the student-athlete is otherwise eligible to practice (e.g., meets initial-eligibility requirements).

National Letter of Intent Signing Dates 2008-09

	Initial Signing Date	Final Signing Date
Basketball (Early Period)	November 12, 2008	November 19, 2008
Football (Midyear JC Transfer)	December 17, 2008	January 15, 2009
Football (Regular Period)	February 4, 2009	April 1, 2009
Field Hockey, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country, Men's Water Polo (Regular Period)	February 4, 2009	August 1, 2009
All Other Sports (Early Period)	November 12, 2008	November 19, 2008
All Other Sports (Regular Period)	April 8, 2009	August 1, 2009
Basketball (Regular Period)	April 15, 2009	May 20, 2009

FAQ Regarding Computer Recruiting Presentations

UT may produce a computer recruiting presentation (e.g., using presentation software) to show a prospect during any permissible on- or off-campus contact. This presentation may also be posted on the UT web site. However, this presentation must be produced by UT and may not be personalized to include a prospect's name, picture, or likeness. A computer recruiting presentations may not include any video/audio component (except as permitted in Bylaw 13.4.2) or any features (e.g., sound effects, animation) that are not included with the presentation software program. Therefore, any highlight film/videotape/audio tape incorporated into a computer recruiting presentation may not include clips of activities that are indirectly related to the contests (e.g., team travel, team meals, entertainment activities, practice activities, institutional facilities). However, a computer recruiting presentation may include clips of actual athletics contests and activities that occur on the day of the contest that are directly related to the contest (e.g., pregame player introductions, half-time band and cheerleader performances, locker-room talks, crowd reactions, sideline coaching staff activities, post-game on-field award presentations). Lastly, a computer recruiting presentation may include still photographs of activities not directly related to a contest in the recruiting presentation.

The following questions and answers will assist in the application of Bylaw 13.4.2.4.

Q: The legislation states that computer recruiting presentations cannot be created by an entity outside the institution. Who may produce the computer recruiting presentation at the institution?

A: Any UT employee may produce the computer recruiting presentation, including noncoaching athletics department staff members (e.g., academic advisor, director of operations). Developing a computer recruiting presentation is not intended to place additional costs on the institution. As such, UT may not arrange for an outside entity to prepare the presentation as a gift-in-kind to UT as this would be contrary to the legislation.

Q: May a computer recruiting presentation be sent to a prospective student-athlete?

A: Although the presentation may be posted on UT's web site, it may not be sent to a prospect because it would be considered an impermissible attachment to general correspondence. Permissible attachments to general correspondence may include only information that is not created for recruiting purposes.

Q: If there is a nonathletics video (e.g., virtual tour of campus) on UT's web site, is it permissible to include a hyperlink to the nonathletics video in the computer recruiting presentation so that it may be shown during the presentation? In addition, could UT insert the nonathletics video directly into the computer recruiting presentation?

A: It is permissible to include a hyperlink to a nonathletics video that is posted on UT's web site provided it meets one of the legislated exceptions to Bylaw 13.4.2 (for example, official academic admissions and student services information produced by UT and available to all students). In addition, it is permissible to include in the computer recruiting presentation a hyperlink to general informational video content related to UT's athletics programs, provided such content is generally accessible to the general public and is not created for recruiting purposes. Finally, it is permissible to insert a nonathletics video that is available to all students in the computer recruiting presentation.

Q: May the computer presentation include a permissible highlight film?

A: It is permissible to insert an actual highlight film (or video/audio tape) into a computer recruiting presentation provided it meets the parameters for a highlight film/video/audiotape outlined in Bylaw 13.4.2.1.

Q: Is it permissible to use features (e.g., sound effects, animation) that are included with the presentation software program in the computer recruiting presentations?

A: It is permissible to use only those features that are included with the presentation software program. It is not permissible to insert any additional items that alter the features of the program to personalize it for UT or prospects. For example, it is permissible to include animated clip art or noise effects that are part of the software program. However, it is not permissible to insert an animated version of UT's mascot or a sound clip of UT's fight song into the computer recruiting presentation.

Q: Is it permissible for a prospective student-athlete to view the computer recruiting presentation on a television or monitor?

A: It is permissible to connect the computer to a television or monitor for viewing. You also may show the computer presentation in a classroom setting with a projector/projection screen or on the wall. When considering how to show the presentation using different devices (e.g., television, projections screen), it is important to note a computer must be used as the source of the presentation when shown.

Recent Interps

Coaches Use of Facebook/MySpace

UT may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospect beginning September 1 at the beginning of the prospect's junior year in high school. This is limited to e-mail and facsimiles until after the calendar day on which a prospect signs an NLI. All other forms of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., Instant Messenger, text messaging) are prohibited.

E-mail is not limited to a traditional e-mail service (e.g., T-mail), UT Web site or Internet service provider. Therefore, it is permissible for UT staff member to send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospect using a social networking Web site's (e.g., MySpace, Facebook) e-mail feature. All other electronically transmitted correspondence including, but not limited to, text messaging, Instant Messenger, chat rooms or message boards (e.g., a user's wall) within a social networking Web site or through other services or applications remain impermissible.

For example, a coaching staff member with a MySpace or Facebook account may send electronically transmitted correspondence to a prospect's MySpace or Facebook account using the e-mail inbox feature located on that user's profile page. However, a coaching staff member may not send electronic correspondence to a prospect via the comments feature on MySpace or the wall-to-wall feature on Facebook.

As you are aware, prior to a prospect signing and NLI with UT, we may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming its recruitment of the prospect. UT may not comment generally about the prospect's ability or the contribution that the prospect might make to UT's team; or to the likelihood of the prospect signing with UT.

Accordingly, it is permissible for a prospect's name and/or picture to appear on the UT staff member's profile page of a social networking Web site to identify the prospect as a "friend" of the athletics staff member. The identification of the prospect as a "friend" on a UT staff members profile page confirms only UT's potential recruitment of that individual. However, be reminded we may not make any public comments about the prospect's ability, the contribution that the prospect might make to UT or the likelihood of the prospect signing with UT.



Completion of One Additional Core Course After High School Graduation (I)

It is not permissible for a prospect to use a core-course, including an online course, completed after high school graduation to satisfy initial-eligibility requirements if the prospect is enrolled in the course while concurrently receiving athletically related financial aid to attend UT's summer term.

Prospects at Play

During an official or unofficial visit a prospect may participate in recreational activities in a facility that is not open to the general public (e.g., facility reserved for student-athletes to participate in voluntary activities), provided such activities are not organized or observed by members of the UT coaching staff (including strength and conditioning coaches) and are not designed to test the athletics abilities of the prospect.

Fantasy World

If a student-athlete's name is used, without the student-athlete's knowledge or permission, in a fantasy sports game operated by an outside entity or agency, the student-athlete (or the UT acting on his or her behalf) is required to take steps (e.g., issue a cease and desist letter) to stop the activity in order to retain his or her eligibility for intercollegiate athletics.

Meals in Conjunction with Away Competition

If a coach chooses the discretionary meals option for meals in conjunction with away-from-home competition, UT may provide a meal or cash, not to exceed \$15 (but not both), to student-athletes at the time of their release from team-related activities.

BACK TO THE BASICS



TELEPHONE CALLS

Telephone calls to prospects are limited generally to one call per week. Once the limit on permissible calls has been reached, UT is prohibited from initiating another call during that same time period, regardless of whether direct conversation occurs during the additional call. Therefore, once a coach has made the permissible number of calls to a prospect during a particular time period, the coach is not permitted to leave a voice message or have direct communication with the prospect regardless of the length of the message or conversation.

Countable Calls

It is important to consider the content of the call, not the call duration. For example, if a coach calls a prospect and is told he/she is unavailable, the call is not countable provided the coach ends the conversation without discussion of recruitment. However, if a coach calls a prospect and is told the prospect is unavailable, but the coach leaves a message regarding the merits of the program, the call is countable as recruitment has occurred regardless of the length of the call. Further, the use of automated or prerecorded voice messaging services by institutions is considered a countable call. Therefore, if a coach uses an automated or prerecorded voice messaging service to call prospects and the voice messaging service leaves a message for a prospect, the call is countable.

Dropped Calls

If a call is dropped inadvertently and/or for reasons beyond control of UT or the prospect, and a second call is made, it is the burden of the institution to have contemporaneous documentation on hand showing the additional call was a continuation of the original call. By maintaining contemporaneous documentation UT would not have to report a violation.

Videoconferencing and Videophones

These are considered telephone calls. If a prospect initiates and pays the expenses of a telephone call (or videoconference), the call is not considered a countable telephone call. However, if a coach conducts a videoconference with a prospect at the prospect's high school and the prospect uses the high school videoconference equipment at no cost, even if the prospect initiates the call to the coach from the high school, the videoconference is considered a countable telephone call because the prospect is not paying for the expense of the videoconference.



EXTRA BENEFITS

An extra benefit is any special arrangement from the institution, its staff or its boosters to provide a benefit to student-athletes or their friends or family unless that benefit is (1) provided to the institution's students generally or (2) specifically permitted by NCAA rules.

Examples of Impermissible Extra Benefits:

- The use of an automobile
- Discounts on services, like dry cleaning or car repair
- The use of a cell phone or phone card
- Giving a loan or helping to secure a loan
- Discounts on purchases, such as clothing or airline tickets
- Receipt of services from businesses, like movie tickets or dinner

Examples of Permissible Benefits the institution may provide:

- Athletics scholarships
- Travel expenses for competition
- Awards to recognize their participation and achievement
- Academic support services
- Appropriate equipment for practice and competition
- Complimentary admissions to their contests for family and friends
- Medical treatment

These are only some examples of impermissible and permissible benefits. The area of extra benefits is very complex and we do not want our student-athletes to inadvertently do something that jeopardizes their eligibility. That is why we encourage them to talk to us before accepting a benefit if they have any question about whether or not it is permissible.

NCAA Accuses FSU of Neglecting Report That Could Have Uncovered Cheating

Andrew Carter. Orlando Sentinel. 9.13.08

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida State University failed to monitor its department of Athletic Academic Support Services, two former university employees behaved unethically and one provided athletes with extra benefits, according to the notice of allegations that the NCAA submitted to the university in June.

FSU on Friday released both the NCAA's notice of allegations and the university's 86-page response, which FSU on Wednesday sent to NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis. The documents serve as the latest components of an academic fraud case that has loomed over Florida State for more than a year.

Randy Spetman, the Florida State athletic director, had said in recent weeks that the NCAA's notice of allegations contained no "surprises." It did, however, include an allegation of failure to monitor.

The NCAA, according to its notice of allegations, found that FSU "failed to monitor certain aspects of its Athletics Academic Support Services (AASS) area and took insufficient steps to ensure that appropriate academic protocols were not breached." The NCAA also accused FSU of failing to review an internal report that might have uncovered the academic fraud much sooner.

FSU's case has centered on an online music course, "Music of World Cultures." The university found that 61 athletes had engaged in various degrees of academic fraud, most all the instances related in some degree to the online music course.

Florida State discovered in the spring of 2007 that two former university employees within FSU's office of Athletic Academic Support Services -- former "Learning Specialist" Brenda Monk and an unnamed tutor -- had enabled and at times encouraged athletes to cheat.

The NCAA charged Monk with both unethical conduct and with providing extra benefits. She provided test answers for the online music course and typed and edited the papers of athletes whom she believed had learning disabilities.

Further, the NCAA found that Hilliard Goldsmith, a former academic adviser in the AASS department, instructed the unnamed tutor to provide athletes with answers to the online music course.

Florida State had never previously publicly identified Goldsmith to be involved in the case. In its response, FSU wrote, "The institution believes insufficient information exists to determine that Goldsmith instructed the tutor to provide answers. The tutor is the only individual who reported information that indicated that Goldsmith told him to provide the answers."

In its notice of allegations, the NCAA wrote that Florida State "failed to review a contemporaneous report generated by the registrar's office for the 2006-07 academic year, which reflected that the grades obtained by student-athletes in the online course were higher on average than grades obtained by non student-athletes in this course."

Florida State in its response wrote that the university "agrees with the information in the allegation and that this information constitutes a violation of NCAA legislation."

Thomas Yeager, the chairman of the NCAA's Committee on Infractions from 2001-04, said failure to monitor is a lesser but similar charge to lack of institutional control, the most serious accusation the NCAA can levy against a school.

"Usually if [the transgressions are] widespread, it's a lack of institutional control," said Yeager, now the commissioner of the Colonial Athletic Association. "A failure to monitor means there were red flags that should have been caught. . . . That's less than a lack of institutional control charge but it's still serious."

Florida State President T.K. Wetherell in a statement released Friday by the university praised both FSU's months-long internal investigation, which concluded in February, and the university's response to the NCAA.

"We are pleased that the NCAA found no new allegations after completing its on-campus investigation," Wetherell said. "We believe that ours was a thorough and exhaustive inquiry, including extensive examinations of computer records and files to search for any evidence of impropriety regarding NCAA or university rules."

The next step for Florida State is to appear on Oct. 18 before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions in Indianapolis.

For that meeting, the NCAA has requested the presence of Spetman, Brian Battle, FSU's associate athletic director for compliance, Joseph Beckham, FSU's faculty athletics representative, and Mark Meleney, the former director of FSU's office of Athletic Academic Support Services.

FSU will learn after that meeting whether the NCAA agrees with the university's self-imposed penalties.

Among them, Florida State is imposing a reduction in scholarships across 10 sports, including a loss of five football scholarships -- two during the 2008-09 academic year and three during the 2009-10 academic year.

In addition to the scholarship reductions, FSU also submitted earlier this week to the NCAA a detailed and expanded list of punitive actions and corrective measures, including an overhaul of the university's athletic academic support department and a closer monitoring system for online courses involving athletes.

Athletes implicated in the case originally were subject to losing a year of eligibility but Florida State and the NCAA agreed to penalize those involved athletes with suspensions for 30 percent of their seasons.

By the time the probe was finished, 61 athletes -- including 25 football players -- came forward and admitted they'd committed some degree of academic fraud.

Because of that, Florida State argues it shouldn't be subject to the kind of drastic penalties that sometimes come with using ineligible athletes during competition -- penalties like forfeiting games or records, for instance.

Asked by the NCAA whether it should be subject to vacating records, FSU in its response wrote that it "believes it is unfair to convince the student-athletes to be forthcoming with the promise of a 30 percent reduction in games and then penalize the university for using an ineligible student-athlete earlier that season."

Though FSU officials will meet before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on Oct. 18, Yeager, the former chair of the committee, said it's likely that several weeks -- perhaps even months -- will pass before the FSU learns its fate. "Within the university," Yeager said, "I know they're very tense weeks."

Off-Campus Recruiting Limitations

"At any one time"

It is permissible for a coach to leave campus to engage in off-campus contact or evaluation before another coach who is off campus actually returns to campus, provided the total number of coaches recruiting on behalf of UT at any time do not exceed the permissible number. The coach being replaced must complete his or her recruiting activities before another coach may begin any off-campus recruiting activity. Further, the replaced coach may not engage in additional recruiting activities until after he or she has returned to the institution's campus.

Transportation delay

If the maximum number of authorized coaches is recruiting off campus and another coach is scheduled to depart for recruiting purposes when one of those coaches returns, that coach may depart at the scheduled time if the incoming coach encounters a transportation delay (e.g., flight difficulties), provided the departing coach does not leave prior to the time that the incoming coach is scheduled to return to the home transportation site (e.g., airport terminal, bus terminal), and the coach who is encountering the transportation delay does not engage in any additional recruiting activities on that trip.

Recruiting travel combined with other travel

A coach who combines nonrecruiting travel (e.g., vacation, speaking engagement) with a recruiting trip may be replaced for purposes of recruitment with another authorized coach, provided the coach being replaced does not engage in additional recruiting activities until after he or she has returned to UT's campus. The coach leaving the campus may depart not earlier than the time the replaced coach normally would return to the home transportation site (if the coach had been returning to campus).

Observing son or daughter in contest

A UT coach who observes his or her son or daughter in a contest does not utilize one of the four permissible evaluations for any participant in the contest and the coaching staff member is not counted in the limitations on the number of coaches who may be off campus for purposes of recruitment at any one time.

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Compliance is an institutional responsibility and we need your help to protect The University of Tennessee from violations of

NCAA Regulations, so remember:
VOLS PLAY BY THE RULES!

Out of Season Practice Limitations: Sports Other than FB

Aug. 20-Sept. 14, 2008
(Jan. 7 to 15, 2009 for baseball only)

8 hrs/wk of strength & conditioning
2 of 8/hrs may be individual skill instruction
Limit 4 sa's at any one time
Required 2 days off per week

Sept. 15-April 15, 2009

8 hrs/wk of strength & conditioning
2 of 8/hrs may be individual skill instruction
More than 4 sa's may be involved
Required 2 days off per week

Nov. 26-Dec. 11, 2008

All practice activities are prohibited
All athletically related activities outside the declared playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the final exam period through the conclusion of each student-athletes final exams.

April 20-May 5, 2009

All practice activities are prohibited
All athletically related activities outside the declared playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the final exam period through the conclusion of each student-athletes final exams.