Contact with Prospects during Competition

Office of Compliance Services - University at Albany

General Rule

Recruiting contact may not be made with a prospect (or a prospect’s parents) prior to any athletics competition in which the prospect is participating during the day or days of the competition, even if the prospect is on an official/unofficial visit.

Prospect would like to visit the day before a tournament...

- No contact may be made from the time the prospect reports on call (at the direction of the prospect’s coach or comparable authority) and becomes involved in competition-related activity (e.g. traveling to the competition) until its completion. Thus, if an entire team travels together to the competition city the day before competition, a prospect cannot make an unofficial visit to the campus that day.
- Prospects who travel on their own (and not at the direction of the coach) to the competition city on the day before “reporting” on call, the prospect may take a visit to campus.

Prospect would like to visit the night between competitions...

- Prospect cannot make an official or unofficial visit to campus until they have completed their final contest in the competition and have been released by the appropriate authority, usually a coach. Thus, if a prospect completes on a Saturday and is eligible to compete on a Sunday, he/she cannot make a visit Saturday night.

Prospect would like to visit on “off” day...

- If competition occurs on nonconsecutive days, it is permissible to visit campus on the day. For example, if a tournament is on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, a prospect could visit campus on Friday.

Prospect would like to make a visit following the tournament...

- It is permissible for coaches to contact a prospect at an away-from-home competition site if the competition has been completed, the prospect has departed the meeting and dressing facility and the institutional authority permits the prospects to have contact with the collegiate coach during the time.
- If the competition occurs on campus, the prospect must leave campus before taking a visit. This means the prospect, at the least, must go across the street before returning to campus.

Phone Calls/Texts/Correspondence/ During Competition – Sports Other Than Basketball

- Coaches may send general correspondence to a prospect while he/she is participating in an athletics event, provided the general correspondence is sent directly to the prospect and no additional party is involved. For example, leaving correspondence with the front desk of the team’s hotel is permissible, while leaving correspondence with the prospect’s assistant coach is not.
- Recruiting contact cannot be made with a prospect prior to any athletics competition at any site. This contact includes the passing of notes by a third party, even if the prospect is on an official or unofficial visit.
- Non-general correspondence (e.g., media guide, questionnaire) may be given to a third party to deliver to prospects, but a coach may not leave a note with such items.
- It is not permissible for an institution’s coach to verbally relay information to a prospect through the prospect’s coach while the prospect is participating in a competition-related activity.
- It is not permissible for an institution’s coaching staff member to contact a prospect by telephone while the prospect is participating in a competition-related.
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Phone Calls/Texts/Correspondence/During Competition – Basketball

- In men’s basketball contact can only be made during the academic year that is a part of the student’s normal season and approved or sponsored by the state or national high school or junior college association.
- In men’s basketball, all communication with a prospect or anyone associated with the prospect is prohibited during a summer certified event or a nonscholastic event during the April contact period.
- In men’s basketball, a coaching staff member may have telephone contact with a student’s high school coach or administrator while he is participating in a summer certified event or a nonscholastic event during the April contact period provided the coach or administrator is not in attendance at that event.
- In women’s basketball, all contact is prohibited during the July evaluation periods with a student-athlete or anyone associated with the prospect.