

FAQ – Recruiting/Scouting Service

***The following information applies to NCAA institutions in all three divisions.**

1. May an NCAA institution use the services of a recruiting service which conducts a combine to gain information about prospective student-athletes (e.g., 40-yard dash time, bench press)?

Yes, provided the prospects do not receive any expenses to attend the combine (except from individuals whom the prospect is legally dependent). The recruiting service is not required to charge a fee for participation in the combine. However, if the prospects are provided any material benefits for their participation (e.g., t-shirt, shoes), the cost of such benefits must be included in a fee charged to all participants

2. May a recruiting service conduct a combine on an NCAA college campus?

Yes, provided the institution's athletics department staff or the institution's boosters are not involved in the conduct, promotion or administration of the combine. Further, NCAA coaches could not attend such a combine unless representatives from all institutions or conferences are invited to attend the combine and it occurs during a permissible evaluation period.

3. May a recruiting service videotape a combine and send it to college coaches?

Institutions are permitted to use video services so long as only regularly scheduled (regular season) high-school or two-year college contests are involved. Thus, it would not be permissible for an institution to subscribe to a service that videotapes staged activities involving the prospect demonstrating his or her athletics skills. Such a tape must be returned specifically to the prospect, who may then send such a tape to any institution at his or her discretion. Further, institutions may not subscribe to a recruiting service that places video clips of staged activities on a web site.

4. Does a recruiting service have to charge a prospective student-athlete to use its service?

If the recruiting/scouting service is provided to high-school students free of charge, it must be provided free of charge to any high-school student who has a desire to use the service.

5. May a recruiting service provide a discounted subscription rate to certain prospective student-athletes?

No. It is not permissible to provide certain prospective student-athletes with a discounted subscription rate. NCAA amateurism regulations indicate that an individual would jeopardize his or her amateur status if he or she receives preferential treatment, benefits or services because of his or her athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete, unless such treatment, benefits or services specifically are permitted under NCAA legislation. Thus, in this case, if an objective standard is established (e.g., financial need analysis) and is applied consistently to all individuals wishing to use the scouting/recruiting service, providing a reduced rate would not be contrary to NCAA regulations.

6. Do NCAA coaches have to pay for information sent by a recruiting service?

Although a fee is not required, if a fee is charged, the same fee must be charged to all subscribers. Institutions may subscribe to regularly published scouting services involving prospects, provided the service is made available to all institutions desiring to subscribe, and if a fee is charged, at the same fee rate for all subscribers.

7. What are recruiting services permitted to send to NCAA coaches about the high-school athletes?

Recruiting or scouting services may distribute personal information (e.g., high-school academic and athletics records, physical statistics) to institutions without jeopardizing the prospect's eligibility, provided any fee paid to such an agent or service is not based on placing the prospect in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid. It is not permissible for a recruiting or scouting service or employees of such services to act as an intermediary between a prospect and an NCAA institution (e.g., assist in arranging recruiting contacts, relaying information other than personal information).

8. May a recruiting service call NCAA coaches to give them information on high-school athletes?

No. It is not permissible for NCAA coaches to receive verbal information from recruiting or scouting services. Coaches may only receive information from published services.

9. May an NCAA institution use a recruiting service that posts information about high-school athletes on a Web site that is only accessible to NCAA coaches?

It is permissible for a recruiting service to charge a fee to high-school students for the production and maintenance of a Web page that includes the prospective student-athlete's

personal information and is available only to NCAA coaches, provided the fee does not guarantee that the student will be placed in a collegiate institution as a recipient of institutional financial aid. While advertisement of the Web site service is permissible, a recruiting service could not advertise or market a specific student-athlete or a student-athlete's Web page.

10. May an NCAA coach endorse a recruiting service?

It is not permissible for athletics department staff members to endorse, serve as consultants or participate on advisory panels for a recruiting or scouting service involving prospects. Thus, it is not permissible for an NCAA institution to provide a hyperlink (i.e., direct link) to the Web site of a recruiting service. Further, a NCAA institution may not permit a recruiting service to provide a hyperlink from its Web site to the institution's Web site, inasmuch as this would constitute assistance in the recruiting of prospective student-athletes on behalf of the institution.

11. May an operator of a recruiting service be an agent and run a separate recruiting/scouting service for high-school and junior-college athletes?

NCAA regulations do not preclude you from serving as an agent to individuals who pursuing professional careers while also having a distinct and separate business that performs the traditional activities of a recruiting/scouting service. Further, an individual's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA institution would be jeopardized if you provide him or her (or his or her relatives or friends) transportation or other benefits. Pursuant to NCAA amateurism regulations, an individual is ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if he or she has agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation in that sport. The distribution of personal statistics by a recruiting or scouting service is a permissible exception to the agent prohibition written. Finally, an individual shall be ineligible if he or she enters into a verbal or agreement with an agent for representation for future professional sports negotiations that will take place after the individual has completed his or her eligibility in that sport.

12. Does the NCAA endorse or certify recruiting services?

No. The NCAA does not endorse or certify any recruiting or scouting services. It is the responsibility of each institution to apply NCAA legislation correctly.

DEFINITION:

Prospective student-athlete - A prospective student-athlete ("prospect") is a student who has started classes for the ninth grade. In addition, a student who has not started classes for the ninth grade becomes a prospective student-athlete if the institution provides such an individual (or the individual's relatives or friends) any financial assistance or other benefits that the institution does not provide to prospective students generally. An individual remains a prospective student-athlete until one of the following occurs (whichever is earlier):

- (a) The individual officially registers and enrolls in a minimum full-time program of studies and attends classes in any term of a four-year collegiate institution's regular academic year (excluding summer); or
- (b) The individual participates in a regular squad practice or competition at a four-year collegiate institution that occurs before the beginning of any term.