

**COYOTE CHAMPION**

APRIL/MAY 2011

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**UNCERTAIN  
WHAT TO  
DO??****Contact:**

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**NLI SIGNING PERIOD**

The NLI regular signing period for 2010-11 is April 13-August 1st. Keep in mind that a prospective student-athlete remains a prospect following the signing of a NLI. Thus, NLI signees should continue to be treated as prospects unless an exception applies.

**NLI SIGNING RULES:** Before submitting a NLI to a high school or junior college prospect they must be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center. NLI regulations require an Eligibility Center ID number as part of a valid NLI.

-When a prospect signs an NLI off campus a coach may **not** be present.

-Once a NLI is signed, coaches may make unlimited contacts and phone calls to the signee beginning the day after the prospect signs the NLI. However, dead period restrictions continue to apply.

**DI RECRUITING CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 2011****Men's Basketball**

Apr. 11-14 Dead  
Apr. 15-20 Contact  
Apr. 21-May 18 Quiet

**Women's Basketball**

Apr. 11-14 Dead  
Apr. 15-19 Evaluation  
Apr. 20-May 31 Quiet

**Softball**

Apr. 11-14 Dead  
Apr. 15-May 31 Contact

**Football**

Apr. 1-14 Quiet  
Apr. 15-May 31 Evaluation  
**\*Sundays and Memorial  
day are Quiet periods**

**Track/Cross Country**

Apr. 1-May 31 Contact

**Volleyball**

Apr. 11-14 Dead  
Apr. 15-30 Contact

**All other sports**

Apr. 11-14 Dead  
Apr. 15-May 31 Contact

**NLI PUBLICITY REGULATIONS:**

Before signing a prospect to an NLI, offer of financial aid, or offer of admission, you may comment publicly only to the extent of confirming recruitment of that prospect. You may not comment about the prospect's ability, the contribution that the prospect may make on the team, or the likelihood of the prospect's signing with the program.

-Media released by the USD may only occur after a prospect has signed a valid NLI, and the NLI is received and approved by the athletic compliance office.

-Media personnel may not be present during any recruiting contact made by an institution's coaching staff member.

**DEAD PERIOD REMINDER:** It is **impermissible** to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits. Recruiting phone calls may

## CUNNING COYOTES: COACH AND ATHLETE REMINDERS

**#1 CARA HOURS:** All Countable Athletically Related Activities are PROHIBITED one week prior to the beginning of final exams through the conclusion of the student-athlete's final exams. The week prior to final exams begins Monday, April 25th and final exams end Friday, May 6, 2010!!! (Exception: Sports still in season - Softball, Golf, Tennis, and Track)

**#2 BOOSTERS** A reminder that all student-athletes may not accept gifts from boosters, athletic representatives, or coaches. These include, but are not limited to the following: graduation, birthday, holiday or post-graduation education gifts. Student-athletes may not accept loaned money, use of a car, or reduced cost housing.

However, a student-athlete may be employed by a booster as long as they perform the actual work and are paid at a commensurate rate with the going rate for similar services in the community.

**#3 AMATEURISM** An individual loses their amateur status and will not be eligible in a particular sport IF:

- Uses his or her athletic skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
- Accepts promise of pay even if received following the completion of his or her eligibility;
- Signs a contract or commitment to play professionally;

- Receives a salary or payment beyond actual and necessary expenses, or any other form of financial assistance based on athletics skill or participation from a professional sports organization;

- Subsequent to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft; and

- Enters into an agreement (oral or in writing) with an agent.

HOWEVER: In individual sports, a SA may accept prize money that does not exceed his or her actual and necessary expenses IF the competition is an open event and the competition occurs outside the institution's declared playing and practice season during the institution's

## NCAA RULES TEST

John, a lacrosse student-athlete, attends Ocean State University, a 4-year institution, as a non-qualifier during the fall 2010 semester. John subsequently transfers to Bay State University, which is also a 4-year institution, during the spring 2011 semester. At the conclusion of the spring 2011 semester, John decides to transfer to College USA, another four-year institution, for the fall 2011 semester. Assuming that John is academically eligible, could he receive athletically related financial aid and practice during his first year at College USA, despite only spending one semester at each of the previous institutions?

**YES.** NCAA staff interpretation- 3/31/11- "4-4-4" Transfer -- Fulfillment of Non-qualifier Residency Requirement for Practice and Financial Aid (I)- states that a non-qualifier who attends two four-year institutions during his or her first year of enrollment (e.g., one semester at each, one quarter at one and two quarters at the other) may combine the terms of enrollment at the two institutions to fulfill the one-year residence requirement for practice and athletically related financial aid if he or she transfers to a third four-year institution at the beginning of the student-athlete's second year of enrollment. However, John would remain **ineligible for competition during his first year at College USA**

[References: NCAA Bylaws 14.02.13.1 (academic year of residence), 14.3.4 (residence requirement – non-qualifier), 14.5.5 (four-year college transfers), 14.5.5.1.2 (attendance for less than one academic year), 14.5.5.2.8 (return-to-original-institution without participation or minimal participation exception), and a staff interpretation (11/19/93, item a), which has been archived]

## CONGRATULATIONS COYOTES!

Coyote Men's Basketball team fell short of the GWC Championship title in a close game with UND. The final score was 77-76.

Women's Basketball was selected for post-season play in the Women's Basketball Invitational. After defeating Idaho in the first round, the women fell to CSU-Bakersfield.

Women's Track & Field athlete Emma Erickson was named GWC Female Athlete of the Week on March 30, 2011!

Coyote Softball right fielder, Mel Johnson was named GWC Female Athlete of the Week on April 3, 2011!

Freshman Golfer Nolan Schmidt shot a 75 in the final round of play at the Branson Creek Invitational to help the team tie for a 9th place finish!



## COMPLIANCE INSIGHT

### Headcounts Are Nader's Problem, Not Scholarships

March 25, 2011 By: John Infante

Ralph Nader's proposal to replace athletic scholarships with need-based financial aid is a crackpot idea. Mostly because it would be totally ineffective. The cottage industry parents use to get a college scholarship would shift to also help parents maximize financial need. And a financial aid office unprepared for this transition would be raided by college coaches seeking to maximize their scholarship dollars.

But Nader has a point. The problem is he attacks the entire athletic scholarship rather than the more specific problem: the headcount.

NCAA sports have two financial aid models: headcount and equivalency. In a headcount sport, the limit is on the number of counters: student-athletes on the team who receive any athletically-related financial aid. \$1 counts the same as a full scholarship, so typically only full grant-in-aids are awarded. In equivalency sports, the limit is on the total amount of athletically-

related aid awarded. This limit is expressed as a number of *equivalent* full grant-in-aid awards, like the 4.5 allowed in men's golf. There are also hybrid models in sports like FCS football and baseball where there are limits on both counters and equivalencies.

In a headcount sport, the coach has a binary decision: to offer aid or not. Ability to pay and academic merit count, but can quickly be overwhelmed by athletic concerns and are only baselines. Either a prospect can pay or not. A prospect can either keep up academically at the school or not. That's something of an oversimplification, but the basic point remains.

In equivalency sports, financial need and academic merit matter much more. If a coach is recruiting two prospects of equal athletic ability and one could get half their schooling paid for through academic or need-based grants, that prospect is more valuable than the other. He or she frees up half a scholarship to get another student-athlete.

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If headcounts were eliminated, particularly in the revenue sports of men's basketball and FBS football, the recruiting process would be forced to focus more on academics and financial need. A coach who awards aid irrespective of the other financial aid a student-athlete would be out of a job quickly because the team wouldn't be competitive. Academically gift or needy prospects would become more valuable in the recruiting process.

Under current rules, the effect would be limited due to the inability to mix athletic aid with other forms of institutional aid, particularly need-based aid. In lieu of developing best practices for managing the relationship between financial aid and athletics, using institutional aid to augment an athletic scholarship is largely prohibited. The rules would need to be changed to exempt all non-athletically related aid, replacing those regulations with a system for ensuring athletics stays out of the awarding of non-athletically related aid.

Deregulation in this area would more closely align the goals of the athletics department and the university. To field the most competitive team, a coach would need to recruit prospects that will be offered the most non-athletically related aid. In a modern financial aid system, that means the students the admissions office, with the help of the financial aid office, is seeking to attract. Coaches would even be motivated to assist with fundraising for the general student body, since it would mean better financial aid packages for their prospects.

Student-athletes are just that: students and athletes. Ralph Nader is correct that in recruiting for revenue sports, the athlete part has overwhelmed the student part. But it is not the rewarding of athletic merit that is the problem. The problem is requiring coaches to award this aid in such a blunt and simplistic manner. More flexibility would not just allow but essentially require football and basketball coaches to focus more on which *students* deserve and need a scholarship rather than just which *athletes* they need.

*The opinions expressed on this blog are the author's and the author's alone, and are not endorsed by the NCAA or any NCAA member institution or conference. This blog is not a substitute for a compliance office.*

To read more blog postings of John Infante's "Bylaw Blog" go to:  
<http://www.ncaa.org/blog/category/bylawblog/>