

NCAA Rule of the Month

October 2012

Recruiting Coordination Functions

NCAA Bylaw 11.7.1.2 defines Recruiting Coordination Functions. All recruiting coordination functions must be performed by the head coach or an assistant coach. This may seem odd as one might think recruiting coordination functions (RCF) should be performed by recruiting coordinators, but as we all know, everything doesn't necessarily make sense in the NCAA Manual.

The NCAA Manual defines two specific RCFs that can be performed by coaches only. One is the evaluation of and selection of prospective student-athletes. The second RCF is making telephone calls to prospect, their parents/legal guardians or coaches.

So, this allows our head and assistant coaches to go off-campus to contact and evaluate prospects, but any other staff member cannot participate in off-campus recruiting. This also means if a coaching staff receives videos of prospects, only the coaches should be evaluating the prospects' ability and selecting who to further recruit to CU. However, this does not limit other staff members from interacting with prospects while they are on campus for an official or unofficial visits.

The NCAA's definition of RCFs also means only head and assistant coaches should be placing telephone calls to prospects, their parents and their coaches. There are a few exceptions that allow other staff members to place calls, but these are very specific exceptions.

Camp Exception- Staff members may return or place camp-related phone calls in regards to camp logistics. This does not mean staff members can place phone calls to invite prospects to camp.

Academic Coordinators Exception- Academic coordinators can return phone calls to prospects of a permissible age, but that phone call must count towards that sport's limitations.

Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator Exception- ADs and SWAs can return phone calls to prospects of permissible age, but that phone call must count towards that sport's limitations.

Luckily, this does not limit noncoaching staff members from emailing prospects. Noncoaching staff members can email a prospect of a permissible age. In sports other than men's basketball, emails may be sent beginning September 1st of their junior year in high school and in men's basketball emails may be sent beginning June 15th following their sophomore year in high school. If you are a noncoaching staff member and you met with a prospect while they were on their official visit in their senior year, you could email them following the visit, but could not place a telephone call to the prospect, until they sign a NLI to attend CU.

Future Proposal: The NCAA currently has a proposal to eliminate the definition of RCFs, which would be effective for *August 1, 2013*. If adopted, this proposal would allow noncoaching staff members to place permissible calls and evaluate or select prospects for the coaches to recruit.

If you have any questions regarding Recruiting Coordination Functions, please feel free to contact compliance.