


RALPHIE'S HOT TOPIC



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PROTECT
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Meals and Lodging while in Transit to Official Visit

The Do's and Don'ts.....

Meals and Lodging while in Transit to Official Visit (I)

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Educational Column:

- ⦿ In accordance with NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.6.4, 13.6.6, 13.6.7.1.1, 13.6.7.7, 13.6.8, and 13.6.9, institutions should note the following **in regard to an institution providing meals and lodging to a prospective student while in transit to an official visit:**
- ⦿ **a.** A PSA may receive lodging in the locale of the institution without beginning the 48-hour official visit period in instances in which he/she arrives in the locale too late to begin the official visit that day. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the PSA on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period, including the cost of additional occupants in the same room.
- ⦿ **b.** A PSA may receive a meal at or in the vicinity of his/her place of lodging without beginning the 48-hour official visit period in instances in which he/she arrives in the locale of the institution too late to begin the official visit that day, provided no athletics department staff members or student-athletes are present during the meal. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the PSA on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse, children) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period.

- ⦿ **c.** A PSA may receive a drive-thru or "to-go" meal while in transit with an athletics department staff member from the major airport or bus or train station nearest the institution without beginning the 48-hour official visit period. Such expenses may not be provided for any other individual who is accompanying the PSA on the official visit (e.g., parents, spouse, children) prior to the start of the 48-hour official visit period.
- ⦿ **d.** A PSA may receive a "sit-down" meal at the major airport or bus or train station nearest the institution while accompanied by an athletics department staff member at the time of his or her arrival for an official visit or a "sit-down" or "drive-in" meal enroute to the institution's campus with an athletics department staff member, even if such a meal occurs outside a 30-mile radius of the institution's campus; however, such a meal begins the 48-hour official visit period. Under these circumstances, the PSA's parents (or legal guardians), spouse and/or children may also receive such a meal.

The following case studies are designed to assist member institutions in applying the legislation.

Case Study No. 1

Mary, a PSA, and her parents will arrive in the locale of CU at 6 p.m. on the night before the start of her official visit. CU has arranged a hotel room at the St Julien for Mary and a separate room for her parents.

- ◎ **Question:** Is it permissible for CU to provide expenses for the hotel rooms to Mary and her parents?
- ◎ **Answer:** No, it is only permissible for Mary to receive the lodging. Her parents must pay the expenses for their own room since the 48-hour period has not yet started. If expenses are provided to Mary's parents, the 48-hour period begins.
- ◎ **Question:** Is it permissible for Mary's parents to stay in her hotel room?
- ◎ **Answer:** Yes; however, Mary's parents would have to pay any additional costs as expenses may only be provided for the PSA.

Case Study No. 2

Bill, a PSA, arrived at 7 p.m. the night before his official visit. Coach Edwards picked up Bill at DIA. As they were walking through the airport to collect Bill's luggage, Coach Edwards a "to-go" meal for Bill to take with him on the drive to the St Julien Hotel.

- ⦿ **Question:** Does the receipt of this meal begin the 48 hour official visit period?
- ⦿ **Answer:** No, the 48 hour period does not begin with Bill's receipt of the to-go meal as this meal is considered to be received while in transit.
- ⦿ **Question:** If Bill's father accompanied him, is it permissible for Coach Edwards to also purchase a "to-go" meal for Bill's father?
- ⦿ **Answer:** Yes, but the provision of a "to-go" meal to Bill's father would start the 48-hour official visit period. Therefore, the coach should not purchase a "to-go" meal for Bill's father if they do not want the 48-hour period to start.

Case Study No. 3

Julie, a PSA, arrived for his official visit at 11 a.m. at DIA. Coach Franklin picked up Julie at the airport. Julie and the Coach Franklin stopped to eat lunch at a "sit-down" restaurant in the airport since it is a 40 minute drive back to campus.

- ⦿ **Question:** Does the provision of a meal begin the 48-hour official visit period?
- ⦿ **Answer:** Yes, 48-hour official visit period begins when Coach Franklin and prospect stop to eat the "sit-down" meal at the airport.
- ⦿ **Question:** If Julie's father accompanied her, could Coach Franklin also provide a meal to Julie's father?
- ⦿ **Answer:** Yes, Coach Franklin may provide a meal to Julie's father because the official visit already began with the provision of a meal to Julie.

Case Study No. 4

Katie, a PSA, arrived at 10 p.m. the night before her official visit. Coach Hennican picked up Katie at DIA & took her to the Omni Interlocken Hotel. Coach Hennican informed Katie that she could order a meal from room service after she had departed, if she was hungry.

- **Question:** Does receipt of a room service meal begin the 48-hour official visit period?
- **Answer:** No, the 48-hour period does not begin when Katie receives the room service meal, provided Coach Hennican is not present during the meal as this meal is considered to be received while in transit.
- **Question:** If Katie's mother accompanied Katie on the visit, would it also be permissible for CU to provide a room service meal to her?
- **Answer:** Yes, but the receipt of a room service meal by Katie's mother would start the 48-hour official visit period. Therefore, CU should not provide a room service meal to Katie's mother if they do not want the 48-hour period to start.

References:

NCAA Division I Bylaws 13.6.4.1 (48-hour period defined),

13.6.6 (accommodations on official visit),

13.6.7.1.1 (meals and lodging while in transit),

13.6.7.7 (meals on official visit),

13.6.8 (entertainment on official visit for spouse, parent or legal guardian of prospective student-athlete) &

13.6.9 (lodging for additional persons); official interpretations (12/20/88, Item No. 18) and (3/26/09)]