

NCAA Rule of the Month

January 2010

Recruited vs. Non-recruited

The NCAA Manual makes a distinction between “recruited” prospective student-athletes and “non-recruited” prospective student-athletes. Why would it matter? If a prospective student-athlete remains “non-recruited” there may be advantages to sport programs which would otherwise not be available. For example, if a PSA remains non-recruited in the sport of Track & Field and the PSA received a generous scholarship/financial aid package from CU through the University’s regular awarding process, it is quite possible the aid would not have to count in the Track & Field team’s scholarship equivalencies. Further, if he/she received an outside scholarship from an organization and the criteria was that his/her participation in HS athletics was a major criterion for the award, it may still be possible to keep the aid from counting against team limitations by keeping him/her non-recruited.

If we were talking about a sport like Football, the awarded aid would still count toward their scholarship limit of 85, but could count forward as an initial counter if the student-athlete were non-recruited. Even though Football is limited to 25 initial counters in a normal year, this would take the team to 26 initials.

What makes someone “recruited?”

To become a **recruited** prospective student-athlete, **one** of the following occurs:

- Providing the prospective student-athlete with an **official** visit to CU
- Having an **arranged**, in-person, off-campus encounter with the prospective student-athlete or the prospective student-athlete's parents, relatives or legal guardians
- Initiating or arranging a telephone contact with the prospective student-athlete, the prospective student-athlete's relatives or legal guardians **on more than one** occasion for the purpose of recruitment
- Issuing a National Letter of Intent or the institution's written offer of athletically related financial aid to the prospective student-athlete.

Once recruited status is triggered, it cannot be undone. The PSA retains that status permanently. The main notable advantage to keeping a PSA as “non-recruited” is in the terms of his/her financial aid and whether or not this aid must count against your team scholarship limits.