

# NCAA Rule of the Month

April 2010

When does a “prospective student-athlete” become a CU student-athlete?

Signing with CU does not make these kids full-fledged CU student-athletes...yet. Even though these kids are locked into attending CU by signing their National Letter of Intent, they are still considered “prospective student-athletes” by NCAA rules. Therefore, coaches must still adhere to recruiting rules, albeit loosened and less restrictive ones, when keeping in contact with these kids.

Things to remember regarding kids who have signed with CU:

- Dead periods are still in effect
- If a kid wants to spend time at CU during his/her Spring Break, it is permissible as an unofficial visit.
  - Unofficial visit rules apply...no providing any expenses at all.
  - Practices/meetings are closed to the PSA if they are closed to the public
- Boosters/donors are still prohibited from having any contact with the signees
- Phone calls can be made by ANYONE on CU’s staff to anyone who has signed an NLI with CU.
- It is permissible to text an NLI signee starting the calendar day after he/she signs with CU.
- It is permissible to text a walk-on to CU upon confirmation of enrollment or payment of tuition/housing deposit starting May 1 (but not before!).

There are also some things to remember regarding off-campus contact and evaluation of these prospective student-athletes after they sign National Letters of Intent with CU:

- On the calendar day after signing contacts are unlimited, **except for dead periods** and sport-specific prohibitions.
  - Football- contacts made with signees that occur at the PSA’s school count as one of the two spring evaluations of that school. We are not given an unlimited number of evaluation opportunities at the signee’s school due to the fact that we signed a PSA from there
  - Men’s Basketball- contacts made with signees that occur at the PSA’s school count as the once-per-week visit to the school.
  - Women’s Basketball- unlimited contacts and communication with PSAs who have signed with CU can only occur if she has graduated from high school

How does an incoming student-athlete get rid of these restrictions? The limits stay in place until one of three things happens:

- The recruit officially registers and enrolls as a full-time student at CU. To satisfy this requirement, the student needs to begin school...not simply sign-up for classes
- The recruit participates in a regular practice or competition that occurs before the beginning of any term. For example, when football, soccer, volleyball, or cross country begins their season prior to the start of school, their incoming student-athletes become full-fledged Buffs at the point they start “training camp” rather than when school starts.
- The recruit officially registers and enrolls and attends classes during the summer prior to enrolling full-time at CU

Bylaws we are referencing: 13.1.6.5, 13.1.6.8, 13.1.6.8.1, 13.1.6.8.2, 13.02.11