

# The Interpreter

November 2002

## National Letter of Intent

The fall National Letter of Intent signing period is from November 13, 2002 until November 20, 2002. This signing period affects all of our sports except football and soccer.

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) was started in 1964. The purpose of the NLI is to provide certainty in the recruiting process. By utilizing the NLI, institutions agree to provide a prospective student-athlete athletics aid for one academic year in exchange for the prospect's agreement to attend the institution for one academic year. Furthermore, participating institutions agree not to recruit a prospective student-athlete once he/she signs a NLI with another institution. A prospective student-athlete who signs a NLI no longer is subjected to recruiting contacts and calls and is ensured an athletic scholarship for one academic year.

With this in mind, let's take the opportunity to further familiarize ourselves with the "do's" and "don'ts" associated with the NLI signing period.

**Bylaw 13.1.6.2.1** states that the NLI (and accompanying grant-in-aid) may be delivered by express mail, courier service, regular mail or facsimile machine (i.e., no personal delivery). After the calendar day on which the prospect signs the NLI, **Bylaw 13.1.3.3.3** states that there will be no limit to the number of telephone calls by the institution with which the prospect has signed.

After signing the NLI, **Bylaw 13.1.6.3** states that there will be no limit to the number of contacts by the institution. However, the following conditions continue to apply:

- a) No contact may be made during a "dead period";
- b) Any contact at the prospect's educational institution in Division I football and basketball shall be confined to the permissible contact period and shall not exceed one visit per week; and
- c) Contact at the site of a prospect's competition shall continue to be governed by the provisions of **Bylaw 13.1.7.2**, except that contact with

## Graduation Rates Reach

60%



The entering Division I class of 1995 has set a new standard for graduation rates. According to the latest NCAA research, Division I student-athletes in the 1995 cohort posted a graduation rate of 60 percent, the highest total since the NCAA began calculating rates with the entering class of 1984.

The 60 percent keeps Division I student-athletes 2 percent higher than their student-body counterparts and is 2 percent higher than the 1994 cohort.

### Football, Basketball rising

Division I football players graduated at a rate of 52 percent, up from 49 percent for the 1994 class. Male basketball players graduated at a rate of 43 percent, up from 40 percent from the 1994 class.

Although their rates are up, the poorest performance continues

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## NLI (cont.)

the prospect's relatives or legal guardians at the site of the prospect's competition shall be permitted.

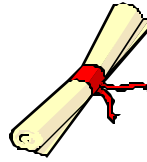
**Bylaw 13.11.8** states that communication of any signing is limited to those media forms normally used by the institution. An institution is permitted to make an announcement of signed prospects to the media as long as it is a one-time announcement and no prospects are in attendance during the announcement.

And in conclusion, it is important to remember that all signees remain prospects until the first day of practice or the first day of classes, whichever comes first.

## Grad Rates (cont.)

to be in Division I-A basketball.

**Women's rates still up**



Graduation rates for female student-athletes from the 1995 class were 69 percent, compared to 61 percent for the Division I female student body.

The NCAA graduation-rates study is available on-line at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Those interested should click on "News & publications" on the left hand side of the front page and then click the "view online" option.



## "Brand" New President

The NCAA hired Indiana University president Miles Brand as its president and chief executive on October 10, 2002.

Brand will assume his new duties January 1, 2003 and his contract will run through 2007.

The NCAA interviewed 11 candidates for the position. Brand was one of the three finalists interviewed. The NCAA did not disclose the identities of the other finalists, but said at least one was a minority.

Brand, 60, has been president of Indiana University since 1994 and was the man who oversaw Bob Knight's firing as the school's basketball coach.

## From the Interpretation File

### Camp Brochures

An institutional or privately owned summer camp may use a student-athlete's name, picture and institutional affiliation only in the summer camp counselor section in its summer camp brochure to identify the student-athlete as a staff member.

A student-athlete's name or picture may not be used in any other way to directly advertise

or promote the camp.

Any pictures and information included in the camp brochure must relate to the camp. In that regard, it would not be permissible for institutions to include pictures of former student-athletes in the brochure unless the pictures relate specifically to camp events and activities.



### Certified Events (Basketball) Bylaw 17.5.5.3

An institution shall be permitted to participate in not more than one certified event during a given academic year and not more than two certified events every four years.

Beginning with the 2000-01 academic year, the four-year cycle is a continuous cycle (that is, an institution may not participate in more than two certified events in any given four-year period).



# In the News.....

## Colorado on Probation

The NCAA Committee on Infractions has placed the Colorado football program on two years probation, reduced the number of football scholarships and limited the number of recruiting opportunities the program can use. The violations stemmed from impermissible contact during non-contact periods.

Former head coach Rick Neuheisel, who is currently the head coach of Washington, is barred from recruiting off-campus until May 31. Neuheisel was the head coach when 51 of the 53 violations occurred.

## Huskie Basketball Coach Suspended

University of Washington assistant basketball coach Cameron Dollar has been suspended without pay for one month, banned from off-campus recruiting for the rest of the academic school year and had his pay reduced by 20 percent until April 2003 for roughly two dozen violations.

The violations included improper evaluations of prospects, phone calls and face-to-face contact with prospects and their family members.

## Michigan Booster to be Sentenced

The sentencing of former Michigan booster Ed Martin has been moved from October 8 to February 20. Martin has said he took gambling money, combined it with other funds and lent it to former Michigan standout Chris Webber and other former players and their families. Martin has pled guilty to conspiracy to launder money in May.

## NCAA Investigates Gamecocks again

The NCAA is investigating the recruitment of Derek Watson by South Carolina. Investigators are checking whether any South Carolina coaches were present with Watson on the day that he signed his National Letter of Intent. It is not permissible for a coach to be present when a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent.

## TSU Tigers Investigated

Tennessee State Athletics Director confirmed that a member of the NCAA enforcement staff has been on campus regarding possible rules violations in the men's basketball team. The NCAA will issue the school an official letter of inquiry in a few weeks.

# NOVEMBER RECRUITING CALENDAR

## Men's Basketball

Nov 1-Nov 10.....Quiet Period  
Nov 11-Nov 14.....Dead Period  
Nov 15-Nov 20.....Quiet Period  
Nov 21-Mar 15...Eval/Quiet Period

## Women's Basketball

Nov 1-Nov 10.....Eval/Quiet Period  
Nov 11-Nov 14.....Dead Period  
Nov 15-Feb 28...Eval/Quiet Period

## Football

Nov 1-Nov 30....Quiet/Eval Period

## Softball

Nov 1-Nov 10....Cont./Eval Period  
Nov 11-Nov 14.....Dead Pe riod  
Nov 15-Nov 27..Cont./Eval Period  
Nov 28-Jan 1.....Quiet Period

## Volleyball

Nov 1-Nov 10....Cont./Eval Period  
Nov 11-Nov 14.....Dead Period  
Nov 15-Dec 1.....Cont/Eval Period

## Other Sports Except for Soccer

Nov 11-Nov 14.....Dead Period



## PHONE CALLS DURING THE NLI

All sports except football and soccer will have unlimited telephone calls during the signing of the National Letter of Intent from **Wednesday, November 13** until **Friday, November 15**.

After a prospect signs a NLI with Florida State, there will be no limit on the number of telephone calls an institution has with that prospect, his or her relatives or legal guardians.



## Interpreter On-Line

The Interpreter can be found on-line at [www.seminoles.com](http://www.seminoles.com) by clicking onto "on-campus", and then "compliance". The Interpreter icon is at the top of the page. Past issues are archived here and contain more detailed information that space prohibits in the newsletter form.

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