



NCAA Recruiting Definitions

Prospective Student-Athlete: You become a “prospective student-athlete” when you start ninth-grade classes or before your ninth-grade year, a college gives you, your relatives or your friends any financial aid or other benefits that the college does not provide to students generally.

Recruiting Materials: An institution may provide prospective student-athletes, their parents/legal guardians, or coaches athletically-related recruiting materials (including electronic mail and facsimiles) beginning September 1 of the prospective student-athletes junior year in high school.

Contact: A contact occurs any time a coach has any face-to-face contact with you or your parents off the college's campus and says more than hello. A contact also occurs if a coach has any contact with you or your parents at your high school or any location where you are competing or practicing.

Evaluation: An evaluation is an activity by a coach to evaluate your academic or athletics ability. This would include visiting your high school or watching you practice or compete.

Contact Period: During this time, a college coach may have in-person contact with you and/or your parents on or off the college's campus. The coach may also watch you play or visit your high school. You and your parents may visit a college campus and the coach may write and telephone you during this period.

Evaluation Period: The college coach may watch you play or visit your high school, but cannot have any in-person conversations with you or your parents off the college's campus. You and your parents can visit a college campus during this period. A coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Quiet Period: The college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents off the college's campus. The coach may not watch you play or visit your high school during this period. You and your parents may visit a college campus during this time. A coach may write or telephone you or your parents during this time.

Dead Period: The college coach may NOT have any in-person contact with you or your parents at any time in the dead period. The coach may only write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Official Visit: Any visit to a college campus by you and your parents paid for by the college. You are NOT permitted to take any official visits until after the first day of classes your senior year of high school. The college may pay the following expenses such as:

- Your transportation to and from the college;
- Room and meals (three per day) while you are visiting the college; and
- Reasonable entertainment expenses, including three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest.

Before a college may invite you on an official visit, you will have to provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript and SAT, ACT or PLAN score and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Unofficial Visit: Any visit by you and your parents to a college campus paid for by you or your parents. The only expense you may receive from the college is three complimentary admissions to a home athletics contest and the institution may provide you with one meal in the institution's on-campus dining facility. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like and may take those visits at any time. The only time you cannot talk with a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

Tryouts: An institution may conduct a tryout of prospective student-athletes only on its campus or at the site which it normally conducts practice or competition and only under the following conditions:

- No more than one tryout per prospective student-athlete per institution per sport is permitted;
- The tryout
- Prospective student-athlete is required to undergo a medical examination within six months prior to participation in the tryout;
- Tryout may include test to evaluate the prospective student-athlete's strength, speed agility and sports skills. The tryout may include competition;
- Competition against the institution's team is permissible provided it occurs during the academic year and is considered a countable athletically related activity;
- The time of the tryout shall be limited to the length of the institution's normal practice period in the sport, but in no event shall it be longer than two hours; and
- The institution may provide equipment and clothing on an insurance-and-retrieval basis to a prospective student-athlete during the tryout period.

Verbal Commitment: This phrase is used to describe a prospective student-athlete's commitment to a school before he or she signs (or is able to sign) a National Letter of Intent. A prospective student-athlete can announce a verbal commitment at any time. While verbal commitments have become very popular for both prospective student-athletes and coaches, this "commitment" is NOT binding on either the prospective student-athlete or the school. Only the signing of the National Letter of Intent accompanied by a financial aid agreement is binding on both parties.