Volunteer Coaches

Like countable coaches, volunteer coaches may provide technical and tactical instruction to student-athletes and may make and assist in making tactical decisions relating to their sport. But NCAA legislation limits what volunteer coaches may receive and how they interact with prospects.

**Benefits**

- SDA may provide the following to volunteer coaches:
  - Two complimentary tickets to contests in their sports.
  - Meals incidental to team activities and during prospects’ official visits.
  - Compensation for working ASU camps or clinics.
  - SDA apparel incidental to coaching duties.
  - Reimbursement for parking associated with practice or competition.

- SDA may not provide any benefit not listed above. For example, volunteer coaches may not receive:
  - Any compensation beyond camps/clinics.
  - A cell phone or computer.
  - Complimentary tickets to other SDA contests.

**Recruiting**

- Volunteer coaches may:
  - Receive phone calls from prospects.
  - Email prospects after the permissible date (see Recruiting 101).
  - Work for local sports clubs (but only if approved by the Compliance Office).

- Volunteer coaches may not:
  - Contact or evaluate prospects off campus.
  - Make phone calls to prospects or their parents, legal guardians, or coaches (except relating to camp/camp logistics).
  - Be involved with any prospect-aged team (other than an approved local sports club).
  - Provide lessons to prospects (except in women’s golf).

In addition to the restrictions above, volunteer coaches may not scout opponents off campus.

*Note: Football and basketball may not use volunteer coaches.*

**Spot the Violation**

The University of Argon men’s fencing team uses one volunteer coach during the academic year. During the winter break, the volunteer coach wanted to earn extra spending money for Christmas presents, so he gave private lessons to high school students. A few months after the lessons, the volunteer coach was curious how the prospects were progressing, so he attended a local fencing competition to watch them.

Violations on page 2.
The University of Hawaii was recently penalized for committing Level II and III violations in men’s basketball. Specifically, a former director of basketball operations engaged in coaching activities (scouting and instruction), a booster provided an extra benefit to a student-athlete (use of a car), the former head coach failed to report possible violations and provided false information during the investigation, and a former assistant coach falsified admissions paperwork for a student-athlete and provided an extra benefit to another.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

1. If noncoaching staff members provide technical or tactical instruction to student-athletes (e.g., correcting coaches during film review) or make or assist in making tactical decisions during practice or competition (e.g., calling plays during practice), they become countable coaches, thereby causing their sports to exceed coaching limitations.

2. Coaches who fail to report potential violations are responsible for those violations and cannot rebut the presumption of head coach responsibility even if they were not aware of the violations before or at the time they occurred.

3. NCAA legislation lists examples of unethical conduct (e.g., arranging fraudulent academic credit), but the list is not exhaustive. Any dishonest conduct (e.g., falsifying documents) may be a violation of NCAA unethical conduct legislation.

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**SIBLINGS ON OFFICIAL VISITS**

NCAA legislation limits the expenses SDA may provide prospects and their families during official visits. The following chart summarizes these expenses for siblings of prospects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Any sibling (Not recruited by ASU)</th>
<th>Prospect-aged sibling (Recruited by ASU)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td>Yes, but only if there are no costs associated with the extra passengers.</td>
<td>Yes, but only if in a vehicle driven by an SDA staff member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>between campus and Phoenix Sky Harbor</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>A car service (e.g., taxi, Uber) may not be used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation around campus</strong></td>
<td>Yes, but only if in a vehicle driven by an SDA staff member.</td>
<td>Yes, but only if in a vehicle driven by an SDA staff member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meals</strong></td>
<td>Football: Yes</td>
<td>Football: Yes, but only if no recruitment during the meal occurs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All other sports: No</td>
<td>All other sports: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lodging</strong></td>
<td>Yes, but only if there is no cost for additional occupants.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Prospects Traveling to and Competing in the Area

#### General Rule
In-person contact (including during an unofficial visit) may not be made with a prospect from the moment the prospect reports on call until he or she is released by the “appropriate institutional authority” (e.g., coach), except during an off day in a tournament.

#### Basketball
An SDA basketball coach cannot have contact with a prospect during the entire day of competition (before or after).

#### Football
When a football prospect participates in an athletics event on campus outside a contact period, an SDA coach cannot contact the prospect until the calendar day after the completion of the event.

#### “On Call”
There is no exact definition of “on call” – generally the term relates to whether the prospect showed up at a location at the direction of his or her coach. Common examples include:
- Beginning travel to the competition locale at the direction of a coach/administrator;
- Receiving travel expenses from the team; or
- Arriving at the competition locale at a time set by the coach/administrator.

#### Verification of On-Call Status
To better determine a prospect’s on-call status, provide the Compliance Office with written verification from the coach/administrator as to the time the prospect will be on call and why.

#### Examples
- If an entire club team travels to Phoenix the day before competition, an SDA coach cannot contact (in-person) any prospect on the team that day.
- But if a prospect travels to Phoenix the day before competition on his or her own and not at the direction of his or her club coach, an SDA coach can contact (in-person) the prospect (except during dead periods).

#### Parents
The competition contact restrictions only apply to prospects and not to parents/legal guardians. So parents could visit ASU at any time (except during dead periods).

#### NLI Signees
All contact restrictions described above are lifted once a prospect signs an NLI with ASU.
Please note that this table has dates that run until January 31. Many of the periods run past January 31.
Visit the NCAA Recruiting Calendars website for full recruiting calendars including little nuances that will clear up any discrepancies in the dates.