



NCAA Recruiting Rules Comparison: A Resource for Coaches, Recruited Student-Athletes, and Parents

The NCAA rules regarding recruiting are complex, and there are many differences between Division I and Division III rules. Each College Squash Association (CSA) member institution enforces the recruiting rules according to the relevant bylaws of its Division, along with the relevant rules of its conference, if applicable. Conference bylaws may be more restrictive than NCAA bylaws, so coaches should confer with institutional compliance coordinators for complete guidance. While there is no difference in quality between Division I and Division III schools, recruits and parents should always ensure that they know which school belongs to which division.

The table below is a summary comparison of how noteworthy standards and rules are applied in each NCAA division. This comparison is not exhaustive, providing only broad guidance, and any questions that arise from the summary should be answered using the full NCAA manuals, preferably in consultation with an NCAA rules expert or coach.

Before progressing through the comparison table, it is important to understand the definitions of key terms that appear in the NCAA verbiage:

Definitions

- “PSA” – Prospective Student-Athlete: any student-athlete who has started classes in the 9th grade or equivalent
- “Non-traditional calendar” – this term generally refers to academic calendars in the Southern Hemisphere that often do not line up with American or European academic calendars.
- “Contact” - Any face-to-face encounter between a PSA or the PSA’s family members and an institutional staff member or athletics representative during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting.
- “Evaluation” - Any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a PSA, including any visit to a PSA’s educational institution (during which no contact occurs) or the observation of a PSA participating in any practice or competition at any site.

Comparison

	Division I	Division III
Coach Sending Questionnaires, Camp Information, NCAA Materials, and Nonathletics Publications	Allowed anytime	Allowed anytime
Coach Sending Recruiting Materials	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year

Coach Sending Private Electronic Correspondence (text messages, instant messages, direct messages, and emails)	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year; correspondence must be private (only between coach and PSA) until PSA provides written commitment to institution	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year; correspondence must be private (only between coach and PSA) until PSA provides written commitment to institution
Telephone Calls Initiated by PSA at Their Expense	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year (Coach may not speak with a PSA who calls them before this date)	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year (Coach may not speak with a PSA who calls them before this date)
Coach Making Telephone Calls to PSAs	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year (Coach may not speak with a PSA before this date)	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year (Coach may not speak with a PSA before this date)
Having Off-Campus Contact with PSAs	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year
Evaluations and Contacts	7 recruiting opportunities (evals and contacts combined) per PSA between Sept. 1 and May 31. During PSA's senior year, not more than 3 of 7 opportunities may be contacts	No number limit on off-campus recruiting opportunities after Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year
Coach Contact with PSA at Practice or Competition Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No recruiting contact with PSA before competition when PSA is a participant during the day or days of competition - Contact allowed after PSA is released by proper authority (e.g. coach, parent) for that day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No recruiting contact with PSA before competition when PSA is a participant that day (may have campus contact prior to competition if PSA isn't competing that day) - Contact allowed after PSA is released by proper authority (e.g. coach, parent) for that day - No telephonic or electronic communications with PSA at site of competition
Coach Contact with Relative/Guardian of PSA at Practice or Competition Site	Allowed at site of practice/competition, including during the competition	Allowed at site of practice/competition, including during the competition
Unofficial (Unpaid) Visits	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year; Visits to campus prior to Sept. 1 must be coordinated through the college admissions office, like any other prospective student. PSAs may not have interactions with coaches on campus before this date.	Allowed beginning Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year; Visits to campus prior to Sept. 1 must be coordinated through the college admissions office, like any other prospective student. PSAs may not have interactions with coaches on campus before this date.

<p>Official (Paid) Visits</p>	<p>Allowed beginning Jan. 1 of PSA's junior year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one visit allowed per PSA per institution (PSA allowed 5 total official visits to Division I schools) - coach must confirm an invitation (PSA may inquire) - expenses for travel, lodging, and meals may be paid by institution 	<p>Allowed beginning Jan. 1 of PSA's junior year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one visit allowed per PSA per institution - coach must confirm an invitation (PSA may inquire) - expenses for travel, lodging, and meals may be paid by institution
<p>Tryouts Involving PSAs</p>	<p>Coach may not initiate, conduct, or observe activity designed to test athletic ability of PSA</p>	<p>Coach may not initiate, conduct, or observe activity designed to test athletic ability of PSA</p>
<p>Camps and Clinics</p>	<p>No recruiting conversations during camps before Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year</p>	<p>No recruiting conversations during camps before Sept. 1 of PSA's junior year</p>