



## MEMORANDUM

November 30, 2016

TO: NCAA Division I Football Student-Athletes with Remaining Eligibility.

FROM: Chris Howard  
NCAA Director of Enforcement.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the 2017 National Football League (NFL) Draft, Tryouts and Agents.

We understand that you may have remaining intercollegiate eligibility, but may also have a desire to "test the waters" as it relates to your pursuit of a potential professional football career. You may attempt to gauge your readiness for competition at the next level through a variety of methods, including tryouts with professional teams, and you may undoubtedly rely on a number of individuals to assist in the decision-making process.

At the end of this process, you may in fact reach the conclusion that it is not in your best interest to pursue a professional career at this time, but rather to continue athletics participation at the intercollegiate level while pursuing your academic degree.

Involvement in activities during this process can affect your intercollegiate eligibility. The following information is designed to help you protect your eligibility while you "test the waters."

### **Key Dates:**

- College Advisory Committee evaluation request deadline (to ensure an evaluation is completed): December 16, 2016.
- College Advisory Committee evaluation request final deadline (with no guarantee that an evaluation will be completed): January 2, 2017.
- Early-entry deadline for underclassmen: January 16, 2017.
- Early-entry withdrawal deadline for underclassmen (72 hours after early-entry deadline): Midnight January 19, 2017.
- NFL Combine: February 28 through March 6, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2017 NFL Draft: April 27-29, 2017, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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National Collegiate Athletic Association

*Supporting student-athlete success on the field, in the classroom and for life*

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Entering the draft**

#### ***1. Am I allowed to enter the NFL Draft early?***

**YES!** You may enter the NFL Draft one time during your collegiate career without jeopardizing your eligibility; provided you are not drafted by any team and you declare your intention to resume intercollegiate participation within 72 hours following the NFL's draft declaration date. This declaration of intent must be in writing to your director of athletics. Student-athletes who enter the NFL Draft early are required to sign and have notarized a petition for special eligibility with the NFL, which renounces all remaining collegiate eligibility unless revoked within 72 hours of the draft declaration date.

#### ***2. May I request information from the NFL about my potential draft status without jeopardizing my eligibility?***

**YES!** If you are seriously considering petitioning for special eligibility to enter the NFL Draft, you may request a confidential draft evaluation from the NFL without jeopardizing your eligibility. The NFL has a College Advisory Committee comprised of high-level personnel evaluators from the NFL's clubs and the League's two sanctioned scouting organizations. Through this program, student-athletes who are at least three years out of high school may receive a limited assessment of their potential to be drafted by objective, experienced professionals who have no financial interest at stake. Student-athletes who are "just curious" of their potential draft status or who are interested in obtaining an evaluation for insurance reasons are not eligible for this service. Student-athletes will be advised by the College Advisory Committee of one of the following: (a) that you have the potential to be drafted as high as the first round, (b) that you have the potential to be drafted as high as the second round, (c) that you should remain a student-athlete maturing as a potential professional prospect while continuing your education. The College Advisory Committee's evaluation is a nonbinding best estimate and does not guarantee that an athlete will be drafted in a specific round or at all. This evaluation will not include strengths, weaknesses or how an athlete may improve. Student-athletes may request an evaluation upon the conclusion of their regular collegiate football season. To ensure that an evaluation is completed, requests should be received by the College Advisory Committee no later than Friday, December 16. Though requests will be accepted through Friday, January 2, there is no guarantee that an evaluation can be completed for requests received after December 16. A representative of the commissioner's office will contact the student-athlete and his head coach with the projected draft round. Results are not given to agents, family members, media or NFL clubs.

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NFL Combine and Tryouts

**1. *Am I allowed to participate in the NFL Combine in February and maintain my eligibility?***

**NO!** The NFL Combine occurs from February 28 through March 6, which is after the deadline for withdrawing from the NFL Draft. Only student-athletes who have committed to entering the NFL Draft can participate in the NFL Combine.

**2. *Can I participate in on-campus "pro days" for NFL teams if school is still in session?***

**YES!** Participation in on-campus "pro days" for NFL teams is considered participation in a tryout for an NFL team. If you are enrolled as a full-time student at the institution, you may participate in these workouts provided that you do not miss any class time.

**3. *Can I participate in private workouts/tryouts with professional teams if school is still in session?***

**YES!** You may tryout with a professional football team (or participate in a combine including that team) during the academic year if you are enrolled full-time, so long as you do not miss class, the tryout does not exceed 48 hours and you do not receive more than actual and necessary expenses from the team. (Note: Similar restrictions apply during the summer.)

**4. *Can professional football teams pay for my private workouts/tryouts?***

**YES!** You may receive actual and necessary expenses from the NFL team in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per team (or combine including that team). The 48-hour tryout period begins when you arrive at the tryout location. At the completion of the 48-hour period, you must depart the location of the tryout immediately to receive return transportation expenses.

**5. *Can I pay for my own private workouts/tryouts with professional football teams?***

**YES!** A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if the individual self-finances additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided you do not miss class and the workouts are entirely self-financed.

**6. *Can any other individual (e.g., agent, runner or "advisor") pay for my private workouts/tryouts with professional teams?***

**NO!** It is not permissible for any other individual (e.g., agent, runner or advisor) to pay for your expenses in conjunction with any tryout or workout with a professional team. Unless an NFL team pays for your expenses in conjunction with a private workout or tryout, you and your family are responsible for paying all expenses associated with any tryouts as they are incurred.

Agents

**1. *What is an "agent" according to NCAA rules?***

An individual would be considered an "agent" if the individual markets your football skills to any NFL team or other professional teams (e.g., contacts NFL teams to discuss your skills, sets up tryouts with NFL teams) or seeks to obtain any financial gain or benefit from **your** potential earnings as a professional athlete.

**2. *Am I allowed to have contact with an agent?***

**YES!** The NCAA does not prohibit contact between a student-athlete and an agent as long as the student-athlete and his family and friends do not have an agreement for representation with the agent and do not receive any benefits from that agent or any of the agent's representatives.

**3. *What is the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) rule regarding agent contact?***

In June 2012, the NFLPA eliminated the "junior rule" and now allows for an NFLPA certified agent to have contact with student-athletes. However, the no contact rule still applies to individuals who are not themselves certified by the NFLPA for recruiting prospective players, including individuals who work with the certified agent's business, "runners"/recruiters, financial advisors and marketing representatives.

**4. *Am I allowed to have any type of agreement with an agent?***

**NO!** You are not permitted to have a written or oral agreement with an agent or anyone who is employed by or acting on behalf of an agent or sports agency (i.e., "runner").

**5. *What is an "oral agreement" with an agent?***

An oral agreement occurs if you verbally agree to have an agent market your football skills on your behalf OR if you have knowledge that an agent is performing such services.

**6. *Is an agent allowed to contact teams on my behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts?***

**NO!** You cannot have an agent arrange a private workout/tryout with an NFL team.

**7. *Can my family members or other individuals who are associated with me as a result of playing football (e.g., high school coach, summer football coach, etc.) have an agreement with an agent to perform services on my behalf?***

**NO!** Family members and other individuals are not permitted to enter into any agreements with an agent on your behalf.

**8. *Am I allowed to have an agreement with an agent if it is for future representation?***

**NO!** You are not permitted to agree to a future representation agreement with an agent.

**9. *Is an agent allowed to provide me any benefits?***

**NO!** You, your family or your friends are not permitted to receive any benefits from an agent. Examples of material benefits include money, transportation, dinner, clothes, cell phones, jewelry, etc. Please note that benefits may also include, but are not limited to, activities such as tryout arrangements with a professional team and coordinating tryout schedules.

**10. *Am I permitted to have an advisor during this process?***

**YES!** Provided the advisor does not market you to NFL teams, you are permitted to have an advisor during this process. However, it is not permissible for the advisor to contact teams on your behalf to arrange private workouts or tryouts. (Note: If you receive assistance from an advisor, you must compensate the advisor in an amount equal to the value of the services he or she provides you; furthermore, you may not receive such services at a free or reduced rate without jeopardizing your eligibility, regardless of whether the advisor does not typically charge clients for such services.)

***11. May a sports agent or booster play a role in securing a loan to pay for disability insurance?***

**NO!** Do not allow a third party (including a sports agent or a booster) to be involved in any arrangement for securing a loan to pay for disability insurance. However, an institution's president or chancellor (or his or her designated representative from outside the department of athletics) may designate an institutional staff member (or staff members) (e.g., professional sports counseling panel) to assist you with arrangements for securing the loan and insurance.

***12. Can an institution cancel my athletics scholarship if I have an agreement with an agent?***

**YES!** An institution is permitted to rescind your athletics scholarship if you have an agreement with an agent.

**Five Points to Remember:**

You will lose your eligibility IF:

1. You agree orally or in writing to be represented by an agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).
2. You accept any benefits from an agent, a prospective agent or any individual acting on behalf of the agent (e.g., runner).
3. You participate in a tryout with a professional team that lasts longer than 48 hours, which you have not personally financed.
4. You tryout with a professional team during the academic year and miss class.
5. You enter the draft AND do not take the appropriate steps to withdraw and declare your intention to resume intercollegiate participation.

**Helpful Tips:**

- You should keep your head coach and compliance coordinator informed of all activities during this process.
- Be careful who you associate with during this process. Do it all yourself or work through your head coach. You may receive the assistance of your family members, provided they are not working with any individual who is marketing your athletics ability (e.g., contacting NFL teams, setting up tryouts with NFL teams).

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- If you do not have knowledge of who arranged a tryout, you have a responsibility to find out who did.
  
- The NFL's College Advisory Committee has had success serving in a limited advisory capacity for underclassmen seriously considering early entry into the NFL Draft. Student-athletes who are planning to petition for special eligibility should first request an evaluation by the College Advisory Committee for an objective, realistic evaluation of draft potential. Between 1994 and 2012, 1,829 student-athletes were evaluated by the College Advisory Committee and 69.2 percent of the student-athletes evaluated elected to remain in school. Since 2007, 85.7 percent of underclassmen who were evaluated as having draft potential lower than the third round or not likely to be drafted at all, chose to remain in school. The NFL's College Advisory Committee can be reached at the following address:

College Advisory Committee  
Attention: Player Personnel Department, National Football League  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10154  
Phone: 212/450-2215

- You should remain in school and complete your academic courses while you "test the waters."
  
  - If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the NCAA enforcement staff at 317/917-6599 or [choward@ncaa.org](mailto:choward@ncaa.org).
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**SIGNATURE**

**Please sign your name and date below, which confirms that you have reviewed and understand this form and the information contained therein. I understand that if I am found to be in violation of the provisions of any of the information mentioned above, I may be declared ineligible for further intercollegiate competition.**

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Student-Athlete Signature

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Date

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Printed Name

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Institution

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Head Coach

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Date

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Compliance Officer

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Date