



MEMORANDUM

March 17, 2017

TO: Men's Ice Hockey Student-Athletes
with Remaining Eligibility.

FROM: Mark Hicks
Managing Director of Enforcement.

Kris Richardson
Director of Academic and Membership Affairs

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

We understand that you may have remaining intercollegiate eligibility, but are also eligible to be drafted in the upcoming 2017 National Hockey League (NHL) Draft scheduled June 23 and 24, 2017. To assist you in making the best possible decision, the following document has been developed to help you sort through some of the issues that you, your parents and institution may confront.¹

You will attempt to gauge your readiness for competition at the next level through a variety of methods, including tryouts with professional teams, and you will 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 the 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."

¹ It should be noted that NCAA bylaws are subject to change. This document is intended for educational purposes only and does not usurp or supersede the current rules of the NCAA. All student-athletes with specific questions relating to their NCAA eligibility should contact the NCAA compliance officer at their respective institution to ensure an accurate and correct interpretation of NCAA bylaws. Any questions related to NHL rules, which are also subject to change, should be directed to the NHL.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who is eligible for the NHL Draft?

[See NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement

All players age 18 or older are eligible for claim in the entry draft, except:

- a. A player on the reserve list of a club, other than as a tryout.
- b. A player who has been claimed in two prior entry drafts.
- c. A player who previously played in the NHL and became a free agent pursuant to the NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- d. A player age 21 or older who has not been selected in a previous entry draft and played hockey for at least one season in North America when he was age 18, 19, or 20 and shall be eligible to enter the NHL as an unrestricted free agent pursuant to the NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- e. A player age 22 or older who has not been selected in a previous entry draft and shall be eligible to enter the NHL as an unrestricted free agent pursuant to the NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement.

2. What if I was not signed by an NHL team?

A player not signed by his NHL team within two years of being drafted can re-enter the draft, as long as he is 20 years old or younger at the time of the subsequent draft. Players over 20 become unrestricted free agents.

NCAA players are an exception. In most instances, an NCAA student-athlete or someone who becomes an NCAA student-athlete in the sport of men's ice hockey prior to June 1, after being drafted in the NHL Draft, will have his contract rights retained by his drafting club until August 15 following the graduation of his college class as long as he remains in school. Even if that drafted student-athlete were to leave school before his class graduates, his drafting club would hold rights to sign him until June 1 of the year four years after he was drafted.

[See NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement]

If a player drafted at age 18 or 19 is a bona fide college student at the time of his selection in the entry draft, or becomes a bona fide college student prior to the first June 1 following his selection in the entry draft, and remains a bona fide college student through the graduation of his college class, his drafting club shall retain the exclusive right of

negotiation for his services through and including the August 15 following the graduation of his college class. (If he) does not remain a bona fide college student through the graduation of his college class, his drafting club shall retain exclusive rights for the negotiation of his services until (1) the fourth June 1 following his selection in the entry draft or (2) thirty days after NHL Central Registry receives notice that the player is no longer a bona fide college student, provided that if the player ceases to be a bona fide college student on or after January 1 of an academic year and the player: (a) is in his fourth year of college and has commenced his fourth year of NCAA eligibility or (b) is in his fourth year of college and is scheduled to graduate from college at the end of his fourth year. In the circumstances described in (a) or (b), the club shall retain the exclusive right of negotiation for such player's services through and including the August 15 following the date on which he ceases to be a bona fide college student.

3. *Can my college coach assist with the arranging and scheduling of a professional team workout/tryout on or off campus during the academic year?*

YES! It is permissible for a student-athlete's institutional coach to assist in the arranging for a student-athlete to engage in a professional tryout that occurs on or off campus; however, it is not permissible for a coach to assist in conducting or be present at such workouts/tryouts.

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

YES! A full-time student may tryout with an NHL team during the academic year as long as you do not miss class. In addition, you may tryout with an NHL team at any time during the summer. You may receive actual and necessary expenses from the NHL team in conjunction with one 48-hour tryout per 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 in order to receive return transportation expenses.

5. *Can I attend the NHL Scouting Combine?*

YES! If you are invited to participate in the NHL scouting combine, you may attend and accept actual and necessary travel and room and board expenses from the NHL, regardless of the duration of the combine. It is important to note that participation in the NHL combine will constitute your one expense paid tryout for any team that is represented in the combine.

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

NO! Unless an NHL 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.

7. *Can I pay for my own private workouts/tryouts with NHL teams?*

YES! A tryout may extend beyond 48 hours if you self-finance additional expenses, including return transportation. A self-financed tryout may be for any length of time, provided you do not miss class.

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

Per Bylaw 12.02.1, an agent is a person who directly or indirectly represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain or seeks to obtain any type of financial gain or benefit from securing a prospective student-athlete's enrollment at an educational institution or from a student-athlete's potential earnings as a professional athlete.

9. *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").

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

An oral agreement occurs if you verbally agree to have an agent perform any services (e.g., providing any expenses related to tryouts, arranging disability insurance, etc.) on your behalf OR you have knowledge that an agent is performing such services.

11. *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 NHL team.

12. *Can my family members or other individuals who are associated with me as a result of playing hockey (e.g., high school coach, nonscholastic 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.

13. *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.

14. Is an agent allowed to provide me any benefits?

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

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

YES, provided the advisor does not market you to NHL teams. However, it is not permissible for the advisor to contact teams on your behalf. [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.]

16. 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.

Four 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. Outside the rules for participate in the NHL Scouting Combine as outlined above, if you participate in a tryout with an NHL team that lasts longer than 48 hours, which you have not personally financed.
4. If you tryout with a professional team during the academic year and miss class.

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 athletic ability (e.g., contacting NHL teams).
- If you do not have knowledge of who arranged your tryout, you have a responsibility to find out who did.
- You should remain in school and complete your academic courses while you "test the waters."
- If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Mark Hicks, NCAA managing director of enforcement, at 317/917-6284 or mhicks@ncaa.org.

MH/SS:jcd