

## Separation of NCAA Coaches

NCAA event certification permits NCAA Division I basketball coaches to attend events to **EVALUATE** participating prospects. Division I coaches are prohibited from recruiting contacts while in attendance. Because the purpose of the Division I coach attendance is **evaluation only**, NCAA-certified events should be conducted in a manner that allows NCAA coaches to attend the event and evaluate prospects with minimum opportunities for contact violations.

### **EVENT OPERATORS**

NCAA-certified event operators are required to provide NCAA coaches with a “free zone” in which they can attend the event with minimum opportunities for contact violations, allowing the coach to focus on evaluations. If you will operate an NCAA-certified event, minimum standards for precautionary measures to be implemented at NCAA-certified events include the following:

#### **REQUIRED:**

1. Signage identifying all separate NCAA coaches' areas;
2. Operators are expected to have a system in place to distinguish NCAA Division I coaches from other attendees;
3. Separate College Coach Seating. Event operators are required to provide NCAA coaches with a designated seating section that is free of those individuals with whom they are not permitted to have contact. This includes:
  - a. Prospects.
  - b. Relatives of Prospects.
  - c. NonScholastic Coaches. Nonscholastic coaches ARE “individuals associated with the prospect” regardless of whether their team is or is not participating in your event.
  - d. Two-Year College Coaches. Two-year college coaches ARE “individuals associated with the prospect” regardless of whether their team is or is not participating in your event.
  - e. Scouting Services. Individuals associated with a scouting service ARE “individuals associated with the prospect”.

Operator are responsible for having staff/volunteers to enforce the separate seating areas and for clearing out any prospects, individuals associated with the prospect, and general spectators from the designated NCAA coaches section.

Event operators are required to provide NCAA coaches with opportunities to avoid contact violations and are responsible for having staff/volunteers to monitor and enforce the separate seating areas. Event staff are expected to remove participants and attendees from the designated NCAA Coaches areas.

It is not, however, the event operator’s responsibility to monitor NCAA coach behavior. If an NCAA coach chooses to involve himself/herself in conversations with these individuals and/or participate in NCAA violations, the event operator is not responsible for the coach’s behavior. ECAG encourages operators to remind NCAA coaches of their responsibilities and of the enhanced penalties for contact violations at certified events, but are not expected to enforce NCAA requirements on individuals in the NCAA membership.

#### **ENCOURAGED:**

1. Separate entrances;
2. Separate check-in location;
3. Separate bracket postings;
4. Separate bathrooms;
5. Separate concessions;
6. Etc.

**PARTICIPATING NONSCHOLASTIC COACHES**

As a coach, it is your responsibility to make sure that your athletes and their families know that they are not to sit in the designated NCAA coaches section and to protect the eligibility of the athlete, they should not engage in any communications with NCAA Division I coaches.

**Related Legislation**

**Related Guidelines**