



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Rachel Newman Baker
Director of Agent, Gambling and Amateurism Activities

Steve Mallonee
Managing Director of Academic and Membership Affairs.

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the 2010 Major League Soccer (MLS) Super Draft.

We understand that you may have remaining intercollegiate eligibility, but may also have a desire to obtain a greater understanding of what opportunities might exist for you to play professional soccer, or perhaps "test the waters" as it relates to your pursuit of a potential professional soccer career. Whether it is with an international or domestic club, 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 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 navigate this process.

Key Dates:

MLS Combine: January 8 to 13, 2010.

Notification Date for Generation Adidas Selections: January 14, 2010.

Date of MLS Super Draft: January 14, 2010.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

An association of more than 1,200 members serving the student-athlete
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Frequently Asked Questions:

Generation Adidas

1. *What is the Generation Adidas program?*

Generation Adidas is a joint venture between MLS and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) aimed to raise the level of young soccer talent in the United States.

2. *When would I be notified by MLS that I am being considered for selection to Generation Adidas?*

Officials from MLS and/or USSF generally will notify underclassmen that they are being considered for selection to Generation Adidas after the conclusion of the Division I Men's College Cup. MLS uses a network of scouts and player personnel administrators to identify the top soccer student-athletes across the country for consideration in the program.

3. *How will I be notified that I am being considered for selection to Generation Adidas?*

An official from MLS or the USSF will notify you that you are being considered for selection to the program, and will provide you with more detailed information regarding the process, and allow you to make an informed decision on whether you want to forego your remaining NCAA eligibility to participate in the program. A student-athlete must decide whether he wishes to accept the Generation Adidas contract offer or maintain his amateur status at an NCAA institution.

4. *What do student-athletes chosen for Generation Adidas receive?*

Student-athletes chosen for the Generation Adidas program will generally be offered a guaranteed contract from MLS, which will not count against the salary cap of the MLS team that drafts them. The contract will also include an offer for MLS to pay the remainder of your college educational expenses.

5. *Once I sign a contract with Generation Adidas what happens to my amateur status?*

Entering into the Generation Adidas program automatically classifies a player as professional under NCAA rules, and he is therefore ineligible to compete in NCAA soccer.

6. *How many student-athletes are generally chosen for Generation Adidas each year?*

The number of student-athletes that opt to participate in Generation Adidas will vary from year to year. However, generally, no more than eight to 12 student-athletes have been chosen to participate in the program each year.

MLS Super Draft

7. *Can I be selected in the MLS Super Draft if I am an underclassman, but have not been selected to be part of the Generation Adidas program?*

NO! MLS teams are only allowed to draft NCAA student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility, unless that student-athlete has chosen to be a part of Generation Adidas.

8. *Am I allowed to enter the MLS Super Draft as an underclassman?*

NO! MLS does not allow underclassman to "opt-in" for the MLS draft unless they have been selected to be a part of the Generation Adidas program.

Tryouts with Professional Teams

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

YES! You may tryout with a professional soccer team during the academic year if you are enrolled full-time so long as you don't miss class; the tryout does not exceed 48 hours; and you have not received more than actual and necessary expenses from the team. (Note: Similar restrictions apply during the summer.)

10. *Can professional soccer teams pay for my private workouts/tryouts?*

YES! You may receive actual and necessary expenses from the professional 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 transportation expenses.

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

NO! You and your family are responsible for paying all expenses associated with any professional team tryouts as they are incurred.

Agents

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

An individual would be considered an "agent" if the individual markets your athletics skills to any professional soccer team or league (e.g., contact MLS or English Premier League teams to discuss your skills, set up tryouts with European clubs, etc.).

13. *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").

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

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

15. *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 any professional soccer team.

16. *Can my family members or other individuals who are associated with me as a result of playing soccer (e.g., high school club soccer 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.

17. *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.

18. *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. However, benefits may also include, but are not limited to, activities such as tryout arrangements with a professional team and coordinating tryout schedules.

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

YES, you are allowed to hire someone to advise you regarding this process, provided the advisor does not market you to any professional teams. However, it is not permissible for an advisor to contact any team 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.)

20. *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.

Six 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. If you participate in a tryout with a professional team that lasts longer than 48 hours, which you have not personally financed.
4. If you tryout with a professional team and miss classes.
5. If you sign a contract with a professional team, whether that team is based in the United States or internationally.
6. If you enter a professional draft AND are drafted by a professional team.

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 professional teams, setting up tryouts with professional teams).
- If you do not have knowledge of who arranged your tryout, you have a responsibility to find out who did.
- If at all possible, 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 agent, gambling, and amateurism activities staff at 317/917-6866 or newman@ncaa.org.

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.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Printed Name

Institution

Head Coach

Date

Compliance Officer

Date

RNB/SM:esb