TELEPHONE CALLS TO PROSPECTS

- All telephone calls made to and received from prospects (or the prospect’s parents, legal guardians or coaches) must be made and received by the head coach or one or more of the assistant coaches. [13.1.3.4.1]
  - After the calendar day on which a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent, a noncoaching institutional staff member may make telephone calls to or receive telephone calls from the prospect (or the prospect's parents or legal guardians). For a prospect who is not eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent (e.g., four-year college transfer), a noncoaching institutional staff member may make telephone calls to or receive telephone calls from a prospect (or the prospect's parents or legal guardians) after the calendar day on which the prospect signs the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. [13.1.3.4.1.2] [New Legislation]

- Telephone calls may not be made to a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardian(s) before July 1 following completion of the prospect’s junior year in high school. Thereafter, telephone calls are limited to once per week. [13.1.3.1]
  - Men’s Ice Hockey Exception: MSU is permitted to make one telephone call per month to a prospect [or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardian(s)] on or after June 15 at the conclusion of the prospect’s sophomore year in high school through July 31 after the prospect’s junior year in high school. Beginning August 1 prior to the prospect’s senior year in high school, MSU is limited to one telephone call per week. [13.1.3.1.4]

- Once MSU reaches the applicable limit on telephone calls to a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardian(s) for a particular time period (e.g., one per month, one per week), the coaching staff may not initiate an additional telephone call during the same time period, even if no direct conversation occurs during the additional call (e.g., voicemail message). [13.1.3.1.6]

- Exceptions for Telephone Calls:
  - Official Visit Exception: Coaches may make unlimited telephone calls to a prospect during the five days immediately preceding the prospect’s official visit to MSU. If more than one call per week occurs and a scheduled official visit is subsequently cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the prospect or the institution, MSU is required to submit a report to the Conference Office noting the cancellation and reasons for such cancellation. [13.1.3.3.1]
  - Letter of Intent Signing Date Exception: Coaches may make unlimited telephone calls to a prospect on the initial date for the signing of the NLI and during the two days immediately following the initial signing date. [13.1.3.3.2]
  - Off-Campus Contact Exception: Coaches may make unlimited telephone calls to a prospect on the day a permissible in-person, off-campus contact occurs. [13.1.3.3.4]
  - Under circumstances in which a portion of the week (measured Sunday through Saturday) occurs during a period in which an institution may make unlimited telephone calls to a prospect, the institution is permitted an additional telephone call during the remaining portion of that week during which one telephone call per week is permitted to the prospect. [3/3/94 Official Interp.]
RECRUITING PERIODS DEFINED

- A **contact period** is that period of time when it is permissible for coaches to make in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts and evaluations. [13.02.4.1]
- An **evaluation period** is that period of time when it is permissible for coaches to be involved in off-campus activities designed to assess the academic qualifications and playing ability of prospects. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall be made with the prospect or the prospect’s parents or legal guardian(s) during an evaluation period. [13.02.4.2]
- A **quiet period** is that period of time when it is permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts only on MSU’s campus. No in-person, off-campus recruiting contacts or evaluations may be made during the quiet period. [13.02.4.3]
- A **dead period** is that period of time when it is not permissible to make in-person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off MSU’s campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospects to MSU’s campus. MSU may not provide complimentary admissions to a prospect during a dead period, except for a prospect who visits an institution as part of a group that has no relation to athletics. During a dead period, a coaching staff member may not serve as a speaker at or attend a meeting or banquet at which prospects are in attendance, and may not visit the prospects’ educational institution. Coaches may write or telephone prospects during a dead period. [13.02.4.4]

CONTACTS

- A contact is any face-to-face encounter between a prospect or the prospect’s parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) and an institutional staff member or booster during which any dialogue occurs in excess of an exchange of a greeting. [13.02.3]
- Any face-to-face encounter, including a greeting, that is prearranged (e.g., coach positions himself/herself in a location where contact is possible) or takes place at the prospect’s school or site of practice/competition, between a MSU coach and the prospect or his/her family is considered a contact, regardless of whether any conversation occurs. [13.02.3]
- In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts with a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardian(s) may occur as follows:
  - In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall not be made with a prospect or the prospect’s relatives or legal guardian(s) until July 1 following the prospect’s completion of the junior year in high school. [13.1.1.1]
  - Gymnastics Exception: In-person, off-campus recruiting contacts shall not be made until July 15 following the prospect’s completion of the junior year in high school. [13.1.1.1]
  - Two-Year College Prospect: A nonqualifier may not be contacted in his or her first year at a two-year college. [13.1.1.2]
  - Four-Year College Prospect: A four-year college prospect may be contacted only after written permission is received from the institution from which the prospect is transferring. [13.1.1.3]

CONTACT LIMITS

- MSU is limited to seven recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations combined) per prospect. During the prospect’s senior year, not more than three of the seven opportunities may be off-campus contacts at any site and includes contacts with the prospect’s relatives or legal guardians. [13.1.6.1]
- Any number of contacts made during the same day (defined as 12:01 a.m. to midnight) shall count as one contact. [13.1.6.6]
- Contacts that occur with a prospect count against the permissible number of total recruiting opportunities regardless of the time period (e.g., academic year or outside the academic year). All contacts are subject to recruiting calendar restrictions. [13.1.6.5]
- Prior to visiting a prospect’s high school, preparatory school or two-year college, a coach must first obtain permission from the school’s executive officer (or authorized representative). Contacts and evaluations may only be made when permission is granted. [13.1.7.1, 13.1.5.1.1]
• Contact may not be made with a prospect at any site prior to any athletics competition on the day or days of competition, even if the prospect is on an official or unofficial visit.
  o Contact with a prospect may not occur from the time the prospect reports on call and becomes involved in competition-related activity (e.g., traveling to an away-from-home game) to the end of the competition, even if the activities are initiated prior to the day or days of competition.
  o Contact may occur on the day of competition only after the prospect’s final competition is completed (e.g., tournament) and he or she is released by the appropriate institutional authority and has departed the dressing and meeting facility.
  o It is not permissible for an MSU coach to contact a prospect by telephone while the prospect is participating in a competition-related activity. In addition, a coach may not verbally relay information to a prospect through the prospect’s coach while the prospect is participating in a competition-related activity. [6/20/01 Official Interp.]
  o Contact shall not be made with the prospect involved in competition that requires participation on consecutive days (e.g., a tournament) until after his or her final contest is completed and he or she is released by the appropriate institutional authority and leaves the dressing and meeting facility. Contact shall not be made with a prospect involved in a tournament that is not conducted on consecutive days until after his or her final contest is completed on a day before a break in the days of the tournament and he or she is released by the appropriate institutional authority and leaves the dressing and meeting facility;
  o Contact with a prospect who is on an extended road trip (e.g., traveling with a team from one contest or event to another), is permitted at the conclusion of a competition and prior to the commencement of travel to the next competition, provided he or she has been released by the appropriate institutional authority and departs the dressing and meeting facility; and
  o Coaching staff members MAY NOT send electronic correspondence to a prospect while he or she is on call for competition at the competition site (e.g., arena, stadium). Coaching staff members may send general correspondence (including electronic correspondence) to a prospect while he or she is on call and not at the competition site or while the prospect is at any location once he or she has been released by the appropriate authority, provided the general correspondence is sent directly to a prospect (e.g., the front desk of the hotel, the prospective student-athlete's personal fax machine) and there is no additional party (e.g., camp employee, coach) involved in disseminating the correspondence. [13.1.7.2]

EVALUATIONS
• An evaluation is any off-campus activity designed to assess the academic qualifications or athletics ability of a prospect, including any visit to a prospect’s educational institution (during which no contact is made) or the observation of a prospect participating in any practice or competition at any site. [13.02.6]
• Examples of an evaluation:
  o Watching a prospect practice, compete, lift weights.
  o Meeting with a prospect’s high school counselor to review transcripts.
  o Talking to a prospect’s high school, preparatory school or junior college coach or instructors at the prospect’s educational institution.

EVALUATION LIMITS
• Coaches are limited to seven recruiting opportunities per prospect. During the prospect’s senior year, not more than three of the seven recruiting opportunities may be contacts. [13.1.6.1, 13.1.8.3]
  o Evaluation Days Defined: An evaluation day is defined as one coach engaged in the evaluation of any prospective student-athlete on one day (12:01 a.m. to midnight); two coaches making evaluations on the same day shall use two evaluation days. [13.02.6.2]
In **softball**, MSU is limited to 50 evaluation days (August 1 – July 31) which do not include employment of coaches in instructional camps/clinics or the observation of prospects participating in high school softball competition. [13.1.8.11]

In **volleyball**, each institution is limited to 80 evaluation days (measured August 1 through July 31). A coach's employment activities in instructional camps/clinics do not count toward the evaluation days limitation. A coach's involvement outside the contact/evaluation period with a local sports club per Bylaw 13.11.2.3 shall count toward the limit. [13.1.8.12]

In **cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field**, MSU is limited to a total of seven recruiting opportunities (contacts and evaluations combined) during the academic year during which the prospect competes in any or all of the sports of cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field, provided not more than three of the opportunities are contacts. [13.1.8.2.1]

- Evaluations that occur during the academic year count against the permissible number of recruiting opportunities. Outside of the academic year, evaluations do not count against the annual number of recruiting opportunities. [13.1.6.5]
- Any number of evaluations or observations made during the same calendar day (defined as 12:01 a.m. to midnight) shall count as one evaluation. [13.1.8.7]
- A visit (without contact) by a coaching staff member to a prospect’s educational institution counts as an evaluation for all prospects in that sport at that educational institution. [13.1.8.1]
- If a coach makes an in-person recruiting contact at a prospect’s educational institution, all evaluations (other than observations of athletically related activities) made on that calendar day at the prospect's educational institution shall not count among the permissible number of evaluations (set forth in Bylaw 13.1.8) for any prospect at that institution in the applicable sport. [13.1.8.15]
- MSU does not use an evaluation for prospects at an educational institution if the coach observes competition at that institution between prospects who do not attend that institution. The coaching staff member cannot have any recruiting contact or participate in any evaluation activities involving the host institution. [13.1.8.1.1]
- In team sports, MSU will use an evaluation for each prospect participating in a practice or contest observed by a coach, even if a contact is made during the same day. A coach who is attending an event in which prospects from multiple educational institutions participate in drills (e.g., combine) shall use an evaluation only for each prospect participating in the event that the coach observes engaging in the drills. [13.1.8.10]
- In individual sports, a coach who is attending a practice or event in which prospects from multiple institutions participated in drills (e.g., combine) or competition on a specific day shall use an evaluation only for those participants that the coach observes engaging in practice or competition and the evaluation is counted even if a contact is made during the same day. [13.1.8.13]
- Evaluations during each day of a tournament held during the academic year shall count as a separate evaluation except as follows:
  - Evaluation of multiple contests in a tournament that occurs on consecutive days (and normally at the same site) shall count as a single evaluation.
  - Evaluation of multiple contests in a single tier of a tournament (e.g., sectional, district, regional) shall count as a single observation. If a particular tier of a tournament is subdivided into identifiable segments (e.g., conducted on different weekends), evaluation of contests in each identifiable segment counts as a single observation.
  - Evaluations at a multiple-day event (e.g., jamboree, round robin, showcase) constitute separate evaluations for each day of the event unless the event is conducted in a tournament format (i.e., a winner of the event is determined). [13.1.8.14, 13.1.8.14.1]
- The limitations on the number of evaluations are sport specific. A prospect being earnestly recruited by an institution in more than one sport may be evaluated on the permissible number of occasions in each of those sports during the academic year. Evaluations are counted against the sport of the coach making the evaluation. Contacts are counted on a per-institution basis, as opposed to a per-sport basis. [13.1.8.2]
• If a prospect is a multi-sport athlete being recruited by MSU for more than one sport, one of which is football or basketball, all staff members from MSU are permitted only one visit per week to the prospect’s educational institution and all visits must take place on the same day of the week. [13.1.5.1.4]

• On-campus evaluation activities (e.g., games in Spartan Stadium, Breslin Center, Jenison Field House) are permissible in all sports except during dead periods. In sports with legislated recruiting periods, it is NOT permissible for a coach to evaluate a prospect participating on campus outside a contact or evaluation period. All coaches (e.g., head and assistant) are permitted to evaluate prospects during on-campus events. Any on-campus evaluations that take place during the academic year count against the seven recruiting opportunities for that prospect. Contact may occur during a contact period with a contactable prospect only after the prospect has completed his/her final contest and has been released by the appropriate authority. Contact may occur with the prospect’s parents while the prospect is participating in the event. Contact with a prospect or the prospect’s parents is a countable contact and must count against the permissible number of contacts for the prospect. An official or unofficial visit may take place following the conclusion of the event after the prospect is released by the appropriate institutional authority and departs the dressing and meeting facility.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Off-Campus Recruiting
• The NCAA limits the number of coaches who may contact or evaluate prospects off-campus at any one time.
  o 2 off-campus recruiters: Baseball, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Men’s Tennis, Women’s Tennis, Cross Country/Track & Field, Volleyball, Rowing and Wrestling [11.7.4]
  o 3 off-campus recruiters: Rowing (during the summer only) [11.7.4]

• It is permissible for a coach to leave campus to engage in off-campus contact or evaluation before another coach who is off campus actually returns to campus, provided the total number of coaches recruiting on behalf of the institution at any time do not exceed the permissible number. The coach being replaced must complete his or her recruiting activities before another coach may begin any off-campus recruiting activity. Further, the replaced coach may not engage in additional recruiting activities until after he or she has returned to the institution's campus. [11.7.4.3]

Banquets, Meetings and NCAA Promotional Activities
• A coach may speak at a meeting or banquet (except for dead periods) at a prospect’s educational institution without using one of the institution’s permissible contacts or evaluations, provided:
  o The meeting or banquet is initiated and conducted by the educational institution;
  o The coach does not make a recruiting presentation in conjunction with the appearance;
  o The coach does not have any direct contact with any prospect (or the prospect’s parents) in attendance; and
  o The coach does not engage in any evaluation activities at the educational institution. [13.1.9]

• A coach may participate in NCAA promotional activities (e.g., autograph sessions, fan festivals, opening ceremonies) at NCAA championship events, provided contacts with prospects are not prearranged and recruiting activities do not occur. [13.1.9.2]

National Letter of Intent Signees
• After the calendar day on which a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent, there is no limit on the number of telephone calls by the institution with which the prospect has signed. For a prospect who is not eligible to sign a National Letter of Intent (e.g., four-year college transfer), there shall be no limit on the number of telephone calls to a prospect or the prospect's relatives or legal guardian(s) by that institution after the calendar day on which the prospect signs the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid. [13.1.3.3.3]
• After the calendar day on which a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent, there is no limit on the number of contacts by the institution with which the prospect has signed. The following conditions continue to apply:
  o No in-person, on- or off-campus contact may be made during a dead period;
  o No on- or off-campus contact (including correspondence and telephone calls) may be made by a booster except those involving permissible preenrollment activities (e.g., discussion of summer employment arrangements); and
  o Legislation regarding contact at the site of a prospect’s competition continues to apply; however, contact with the prospect’s relatives or legal guardians at the site of the prospect’s competition shall be permitted. [13.1.6.8]

• Subsequent to the calendar day on which a prospect signs a National Letter of Intent, there is no limit on the number of evaluations by the institution with which the prospect has signed. [13.1.8.17]