Countable Coach - An athletics department staff member must count against coaching limits as soon as the individual participates (in any manner) in the coaching of the intercollegiate team in practice, games or organized activities directly related to that sport, including any organized staff activity directly related to the sport. [11.7.1.1.1]

Noncoaching Activities - Institutional staff members involved in noncoaching activities (e.g., administrative assistants, recruiting coordinators, academic counselors) do not count in the institution's coaching limitations, provided such individuals are not identified as coaches, do not engage in any on- or off-field coaching activities (e.g., attending meetings involving coaching activities, analyzing videotape or film involving the institution's or an opponent's team), and are not involved in any off-campus recruitment of prospects or scouting of opponents. A noncoaching staff member with sport specific responsibilities may not participate with or observe student-athletes in the staff member’s sport who are engaged in nonorganized voluntary athletically related activities. [11.7.1.1.1]

Use of Outside Consultants – An institution may use or arrange for a temporary consultant to provide in-service training for the coaching staff, but no interaction with student-athletes is permitted unless the individual is counted against the applicable coaching limits. An outside consultant may not be involved in any on- or off-field coaching activities (e.g., attending practices and meetings involving coaching activities, formulating game plans, analyzing videotape or film involving the institution’s or opponent’s team) without counting the consultant in the coaching limitations in that sport. [11.7.1.1.4]

Strength and Conditioning Staff - A weight (strength and conditioning) coach may conduct flexibility, warm-up and physical conditioning activities prior to any game and prior to or during any practice or other organized activities without being included in the limitations on number of coaches. [11.7.4.2.1]

- An institution may contract with or hire such strength and conditioning coaches in accordance with institutional policies and procedures applicable to all employees or independent contractors, even if those policies and procedures do not require them to be considered institutional employees. [5/2/07 Staff Interp.]

Sports Psychologist - It is permissible for an institution's athletics department to employ a sports psychologist without including such an individual in the institution's coaching limitations in a particular sport, provided the individual does not engage in any on- or off-field coaching activities. Specifically, a sports psychologist:

- May engage in “mental imaging,” provided no coaching activities occur.
- May be present at practice activities for the purpose of evaluating student-athletes but may not engage in any coaching activities. The psychologist may evaluate a student-athlete during
a practice session only for the purposes of assisting the student-athlete in off-court or off-field noncoaching activities (e.g., mental imagery) directly related to the sport.

- May not review game film when meeting with a student-athlete.
- May not set up offensive or defensive alignments when meeting with student-athletes.
- May not use equipment when meeting with student-athletes.

It is permissible to provide expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, lodging) for a sports psychologist to travel with the team on away-from-home competitions provided the psychologist does not participate in any prohibited activities (see above).

If a student-athlete is **required** to meet with a sports psychologist or any other type of outside consultant, such a meeting is considered a countable athletically related activity. [7/2/03 Staff Interp., 1/8/03 Staff Interp.]

### Additional Information Regarding Outside Consultants

**Use of Outside Consultants by Student-Athletes** – Student-athletes may receive assistance from an individual outside the institution (e.g., consultant, professional instructor, choreographer) without the individual being counted in the institution's coaching limitations, provided the following:

- The institution is not involved in any way in arranging for such activity;
- Coaching staff members do not observe such activity;
- The activity does not occur at an institutional facility either during a voluntary workout or during a regular institutional practice session;
- The student-athlete must pay (at the normal rate) all fees associated with the activity; and
- The student-athlete may not receive any preferential compensation arrangements (e.g., discount rates, deferred payments) that are not available to the general public. [10/5/95 Official Interp., 8/31/95 Official Interp.]