



## NPF/NCAA Commonly Asked Questions Concerning Draftees and Future Draftees

**\*\* Note – The following information was taken from the 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual. Article numbers as well as legislation can change from year to year so make sure you obtain the current information. The 2013-2014 Division 1 Manual can be downloaded at [www.ncaapublications.com](http://www.ncaapublications.com). You can also contact the NCAA Home Office at 317-917-6222 and NCAA Compliance at 317-917-6008.**

**Can a Coach, General Manager, or Owner of a team in the National Pro Fastpitch League talk with a player or player’s parents or coach about playing in the Pro League? Yes.**

- **(Article 12.2.4.1 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual) INQUIRY** - An individual may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for professional-league player draft or request information about the individual’s market value without affecting his or her amateur status. **P.65**  
**(Archived Interpretation March 29, 1989)**

**Can current NCAA and NAIA athletes contact the League Office, Owners, General Managers, Coaches, and Players about playing in the Pro League without going through their coach or school? Yes.**

- **(Article 12.2.4.1 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** An individual may inquire of a professional sports organization about eligibility for professional-league player draft or request information about the individual’s market value without affecting his or her amateur status. **P.65**  
**(Archived Interpretation March 29, 1989)**

**Can professional teams in the NPF discuss money with athletes they are interested in drafting? Yes**

- **(Article 12.2.4.3 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual) – NEGOTIATIONS** - An individual may request information about professional market value without affecting his or her amateur status. Further, the individual, his or her legal guardians or the institution's professional sports counseling panel may enter into negotiations with a professional sports organizations without the loss of the individual's amateur status. An individual who retains an agent shall lose amateur status. **P.66** (Adopted 1/10/92)

**What can a member of the NPF do if a coach is unsure of the rules, does not want to jeopardize the athlete's eligibility, etc. and does not want the NPF to talk to their players?**

- It is recommended that the NPF representative call that particular institution's Compliance Officer, discuss the situation and get clearance so that the coach and player will feel more comfortable. It is the duty of the institution's compliance office to protect the student athlete and ensure their eligibility.
- **(Article 12.3.4 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** – It is permissible for an authorized institutional professional sports counseling panel to:
  - a) Advise a student-athlete about a future professional career;
  - b) Assist a student-athlete with arrangements for securing a loan for the purpose of purchasing insurance against a disabling injury or illness and with arrangements for purchasing such insurance; (Adopted 1/16/93, Revised: 1/16/10)
  - c) Review a proposed professional sports contract
  - d) Meet with the student-athlete and representatives of professional teams
  - e) Communicate directly (e.g., in-person, by mail or telephone) with representatives of a professional athletics team to assist in securing a tryout with that team for a student-athlete; (Adopted: 1 /11/94)
  - f) Assist the student-athlete in the selection of an agent by participating with the student-athlete in interviews of agents, by reviewing written information player agents send to the student-athlete and by having direct communication with those individuals who can comment about the abilities of an agent (e.g., other agents, a professional league's players' association); and (Adopted: 1/11/94)
  - g) Visit with player agents or representatives of professional athletics teams to assist the student-athlete in determining his or her market value (e.g., potential salary, draft status). (Adopted: 1/11/94) **P. 67.**

**What situation could cause the player to lose their eligibility?**

- **(Article 12.1.2 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** – An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition in a particular sport if the individual:
  - (a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
  - (b) Accepts a promise of pay even if such pay is to be received following completion of intercollegiate athletics participation;
  - (c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.5.1: *(Revised: 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10)*
  - (d) Receives, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organizations based on athletics skill of participation, except as permitted by NCAA rules and regulations;
  - (e) Competes on any professional athletics team per Bylaw 12.02.4, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received, except as permitted in Bylaw 12.2.3.2.1; *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/29/10 effective 8/1/10)*
  - (f) After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, enters into a professional draft (see Bylaw 12.2.4); or *(Revised; 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/02)*
  - (g) Enters into an agreement with an agent. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02) P.59, P66.*
- **(Article 12.2.4.2– 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** – After initial full-time collegiate enrollment, an individual loses amateur status in a particular sport when the individual asks to be placed on the draft list or supplemental draft list of a professional league in that sport, even though: *(Revised: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02) P. 65*

**The key to the above Article 12.2.4.2 is that the athlete cannot ask to be put on draft list. They can inquire about their marketability, inquire about eligibility for a professional-league player draft or let people know they would like to play professional sports, but they cannot ask to be put on a draft list.**

- **(Article 12.2.5 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** – An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if she has entered into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement. *(Revised: 1/10/92) P.66.*
- **(Article 12.3.1 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual)** An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if she ever agreed (orally or in writing) to be represented by an agent for the purpose of marketing his or her athlete’s ability or

reputation in that sport. Further, an agency contract not specifically limited in writing to a sport or particular sports shall be deemed applicable to all sports, and the individual shall be ineligible to participate in any sport. **P.66.**

### **How should teams in the League refer to the student-athletes that were drafted by the NPF?**

- **The NPF and its teams should refer to the student-athletes who were drafted as “draftees” until they have exhausted their college eligibility per the following article.**
- **(Article 12.2.5 – 2013-2014 NCAA Division 1 Manual) – An individual shall be ineligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if she has entered into any kind of agreement to compete in professional athletics, either orally or in writing, regardless of the legal enforceability of that agreement. **P. 66.****

### **Can the League Office, General Managers, Owners, and/or Coaches in National Pro Fastpitch attend a game and/or talk to a future or current draftee? Yes.**

- **There is no current legislation on this particular question however common sense should prevail here in reference to all of the Articles already discussed in this document. (Article 12.2.4.1). P.65**

### **Can the League Office, General Managers, Owners, and/or Coaches in National Pro Fastpitch send practice gear, equipment, and uniforms to the institution for draftee player sizing? Yes.**

- **There is no current legislation on this particular question however common sense should prevail here in reference to all of the Articles already discussed in this document. The athlete will not be able to keep the items sent for sizing. All items sent for sizing must be returned ASAP and not used.**
- **The NPF strongly suggest the following order for contact with the institution as it relates to player sizing if needed.**
  - **– College Coach**
  - **–Compliance Office**
  - **–Equipment Manager for Softball**